

# THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



ISSUE 5

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# Welcome

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# Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of The Women's Football Magazine.

The start of the Women's Super League season is upon us and we could not be more excited here. There has been so much excitement leading up to the first weekend of games that we are like children on Christmas Eve.

There have been lots of late signings and loans across the WSL leagues and all those changes can be found later on in the issue.

It was great to see every club represented at the FA WSL Media Launch. There was a buzz about the place as players from across the leagues spoke excitedly about how their summer training had been going. Many clubs have seen an increase in interest since the Euros so it really is an exciting time to be part of the women's game.

Think you know who is going to do well and who is going to struggle? Tweet us your thoughts [@womensfootiemag](#)

Helen Rowe-Willcocks  
Editor

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# About My Month

Well I am well and truly counting down the days to the 22nd September! The opening WSL1 game is going to be a great one, what could be better than a first game of Everton Ladies v Liverpool Ladies?

This month it has been all about the preparations ahead of the season starting. We were lucky enough to be invited to the FA's WSL media day and it was great to be able to talk to a number of players from the WSL leagues on how their pre-season's have been going and their hopes for the season.

Straight from this I ran to the FA Women's Football Awards which was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel. It

was a perfect way to acknowledge the wonderful achievements from the Lionesses and down the leagues. It was a brilliant night and great to see everyone dressed up as well as catch up with old friends and see some of our writers too.

We have lots of exciting things ahead at WFM and I cannot wait to share them all with you!

We are always on the lookout for people to join our team so if you are interested, please get in touch!

Enjoy the issue!  
Helen x



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UEFA  
**WOMEN'S  
EURO 2017**  
THE NETHERLANDS



# **The Women's Football Magazine is proud to sponsor Ella Rutherford of Millwall**



Here at the W0men's Football Magazine, we are proud to support the women's game.

This season we decided to sponsor a young player in the WSL and after a lot of consideration we chose Millwall Lionesses star Ella Rutherford.

The England under-17 midfielder signed a new contract with the Women's Super League 2 club after a successful Spring Series. Rutherford is a graduate of the Lionesses' Centre of Excellence and made her debut for Milwall in April on the week of her 16th birthday.

With the new season fast approaching, the midfielder is looking to build on a strong performance in the FA Women's Super League Spring Series when she finished at the club's joint top goal scorer with three goals in six appearances.

**Proud to support the women's game**



— The FA —  
**WSL**★

# The Big Story: The Women's Super League

@womensfootiemag



# 10 minutes with FA WSL1 Players Player of the Year, Jordan Nobbs

Arsenal and England midfielder Jordan Nobbs has been a key member of both squads for a number of years.

After playing an important role at the 2017 Women's European Championships, Nobbs is now focusing on the new Women's Super League One season where Arsenal are one of the favourites to win the league.

Over the summer Arsenal Ladies have become Arsenal Women, an important change for the club and Nobbs believes it is the next important step for the women's game.

Before being named as the Player's player of the year at the FA Women's Football Awards, Nobbs chatted to the

WFM about the future of the game.

## How much has the sport changed since you first got involved?

I got into football through my dad, he used to play. Unfortunately I never got to see him play but I took on some of his talent I think and from the age of 7 I joined a team. It has been a great experience and I am really glad I decided this was the way I wanted to go. It is hard to describe how much the game has changed. I think starting at a young age, I never thought it would be possible to get a professional career out of it and when I first joined Arsenal it is nowhere near what it is like today. The facilities we get to use now are incredible. It is just the best



## Jordan Nobbs statistics

Position: midfielder

Arsenal appearances: 77

Goals for Arsenal: 26

Arsenal debut: In Serbia as a second-half substitute in a 3–1 UEFA Women's Champions League win over ZFK Masinac in 2010.

England appearances: 46



and it is the only way we are going to improve the women's game. To say I am a professional footballer is a dream come true.

**Arsenal have changed their title over the summer, why do you think this is an important change?**

I think it is our way of going to the next level. We don't want to forget what we achieved as Arsenal Ladies but we also want to contribute to the future of the women's game. The unity between all teams is really important. We are ready to start showing that we are a powerful set of women.

**Despite the disappointment of not reaching the final at Euro 2017, how much has the**

**competition prepared you for the WSL season?**

We are disappointed with what happened at the Euros but overall it was a positive thing for the women's game. Experience is something we have all gained from the competition. It was an emotional rollercoaster but to play that many games in that short space of time and to play some of the best players in Europe is so important for developing individually and developing as a team. The only reason the Lionesses have risen so strongly is because the strength in the WSL is improving year on year. It is competitive and it is creating an environment where both the players and the fans excited for the games. It is pushing is forward on so many levels.



# "Hope Powell is going to make such a difference" - Vicky Ashton-Jones

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WSL2 side Brighton and Hove Albion are hoping to challenge for the title and captain Vicky Ashton-Jones believes the new signings are the difference they need

Brighton finished the Spring Series sixth in the league but with a new manager taking over the squad after being appointed in August, the Seagulls captain is hopeful of a positive future.

Speaking at the FA WSL media day, the 30-year-old defender spoke about the club's changes since the finish over the Spring Series.

## **How has the pre-season been going?**

We have been busy building platforms and learning as we have been going. It has been important to get the new players settled in to the Brighton way of playing and trying to get ready for the first game. A lot of pre-season is getting ready for that first game and the reward is when you get to the start of the season. I think now we just want to get started. We want to test what we have learnt over the summer.

## **You mentioned the new signings, what have they brought to the squad?**

They have strengthened the side greatly. I have been training both with them and against them in pre-season and it pushes me in training. There is a great quality we have been brought in. In our last pre-season game we could see the difference that they have made.

## **Brighton appointed Hope Powell as head coach in August. Have things started to change even though she has not officially started yet?**

Hope starts with us in the coming weeks. She has been liaising with our assistant manager Amy Merricks and they have had plenty of conversations during the pre-season so that we are all on the same page. Hope has an idea for the direction she wants us to go in and we are building towards what she wants. She is going to be a massive asset to us as a club and as a team.





### **Powell has a fantastic coaching career in the game, how excited were you when you found out about the appointment?**

We are all so excited for her to join the club. There is an opportunity there to develop and learn and she has a wealth of knowledge and experience which is only going to benefit us massively.

### **Has their success into getting into the Prem had a positive effect on the women's sides too?**

Because we enjoyed our celebrations of being promoted alongside the men, we got to go the parade day and it was very much a joint celebration. The club is very much one squad. The board are about making one club with different teams under one brand and it is really

is a special place. I have been playing for such a long time now and I really wish I was in my 20s now. The potential and growth over the last 10 years have been incredible. Players can achieve great things now, the access is so improved. There is still a way to go but we are close.

### **What targets have you set for the season?**

I have personal targets for each game but overall it is making sure in the one-on-one situations, I am winning as often as I can. I like to organise the squad on the pitch and it is important for me to make sure all the players are happy and healthy. As a squad we are aiming to challenge for that title. We believe we can and we want to go out there and prove it!

# WSL1 Previews: The Predictions



**By Jess Pratt**

*Excitement builds for first ever autumn start to the Women's Super League*

With the Merseyside derby set to kick-start the new WSL 1 season in less than a week, we decided to preview the ten clubs competing. Read on for some predictions for the first cycle to follow the traditional English football calendar, taking place from autumn to spring whilst spanning two calendar years.

## **Arsenal Women**

As the most successful women's club in England, Arsenal will undoubtedly be gunning for more silverware this year. Despite not winning the league since 2012, Pedro Martínez Losa's side are sure to be serious contenders to finish top of the championship this season.



Arsenal have some of England's finest talent at their disposal, such as striker Jodie Taylor who scored a record breaking hat-trick in the first game of England's Euros campaign and subsequently went on to win the tournament's Golden Boot. Taylor has since been crowned England Player of the Year at the Football Association's Women's Football Awards, succeeding her Arsenal teammate and fellow nominee Jordan Nobbs, who took home the WSL 1 Player's Player of the Year and Goal of the Spring Series.

No strangers to the transfer market, the club has been busy once again this summer, capturing the services of Scottish winger Lisa Evans, Swedish right-back Jessica Samuelsson and former defender Josephine Henning. Their stand out signing is unquestionably Euro 2017 winner Vivianne Miedema, who joins from Bayern Munich. The 21-year-old striker boasts an impressive collection of medals for her age and has an equally incredible scoring record to match; having netted 45 goals in 57 games for the Netherlands. Although they often favour playing with a lone striker - partnering the two top scorers from this summer's European Championships, Miedema and Taylor, could potentially fire Arsenal to their first title in six years.

***Predicted Finish: 1<sup>st</sup>***

***One to watch: Vivianne Miedema***

## **Birmingham City Ladies**



Last season's FA Cup runners up were frustratingly inconsistent in the WSL 1 Spring Series, notching just one victory and finishing a meagre seventh in the table. It was a stark contrast to the blues' back-to-back second place finishes in 2011 and 2012 and seemed a backwards step for a team that finished fourth in 2016. Marc Skinner, who joined as manager in late 2016, will be hoping to see his team fighting for top spot again and can take an array of positives from their successful FA Cup run - where they beat Arsenal and Chelsea en route to the final at Wembley.

Despite a 4-1 loss in to Manchester City on the day, Skinner will be hoping the squad can replicate some of their cup form in their league performances this season.

Having experienced Champions League football in the past, the club are aiming for an ambitious top two finish this season but they will need to address their consistency issues if they are to achieve such a feat. They haven't made too many changes in personnel this summer after the January signings of Ellen White and Sarah Mayling, but they did finally secure the signature of Maddy Cusack recently, who joins from Aston Villa.

***Predicted Finish: 4<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Sarah Mayling***

## **Bristol City Women**

The Vixens were founding members of the WSL 1 in 2011 and after relegation in 2015 they made sure they were only gone for one season, securing immediate promotion back to the top flight after finishing second in the WSL 2 on goal difference.



However, their performances in the Spring Series were poor and they finished second-from-bottom with only one victory - a 3-2 win over Yeovil in May. Since then Bristol have enjoyed summer training sessions led by former Manchester United coach René Meulensteen and have secured the services of Belgian left-back Lorca van de Putte, who has Champions League experience and was one of Willie Kirk's top targets.

Another exciting new addition is Carla Humphrey, who has joined from Arsenal in the hunt for more playing time. The 20-year-old has enormous potential and could be the difference for a young squad looking to avoid being relegated for a second time.

***Predicted Finish: 8<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Carla Humphrey***

# Chelsea Ladies

Chelsea won an entertaining Spring Series on goal difference and were entertaining throughout, scoring for fun with fit-again striker Fran Kirby rejoining the team midway through the season and finishing top goalscorer. The blues were clinical in front of goal and organised at the back, scoring 32 and conceding just three goals in their eight games.



Although the majority of their key signings came before the Spring Series, with talents like Crystal Dunn, Ramona Bachmann and Maren Mjelde joining the ranks, the club have invested again this summer recruiting Norwegian defender Maria Thorisdottir and Sweden international Magdalena Eriksson. Whilst the teams around them have also strengthened this summer, it's hard to look past Chelsea for the title and I predict a top two finish for them again this season.

***Predicted Finish: 2<sup>nd</sup>***

***One to watch: Fran Kirby***

## Everton Ladies FC



Everton were named as the team to replace Notts County Ladies in the 2017-18 WSL after the Football Association invited applications for the vacant spot left by Notts, who folded back in April. Everton won the WSL 2 Spring Series in May but promotions weren't scheduled for the interim season. Luckily for Andy Spence and his team, they were the preferred choice and their successful bid sees them rejoin the top tier after three years

years away following relegation in 2014.

Everton were one of the founding members of the WSL when it was formed in 2011 and there is no doubt that they will be eager to prove their worth, especially in their opener against city rivals Liverpool. Everton are coming

into the league confident on the back of winning the WSL 2 Spring Series and they have since added some experienced new blood to the squad, including the top scorer in the WSL 2 Spring Series Courtney Sweetman-Kirk, Wales international Angharad James and Dutch duo Siri Worm and Marthe Munstermann.

***Predicted Finish: 3<sup>rd</sup>***

***One to watch: Courtney Sweetman-Kirk***



## **Liverpool Ladies FC**

As the teams around them have become more competitive, Liverpool have struggled to maintain their stronghold on the league since they won successive titles in 2013 and 2014. Finishing a disappointing fifth in 2016 and just one place higher in the Spring Series, they will have to mount a strong challenge this year if they are to compete with the likes of Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal. Their opening game is the first Merseyside derby in the league for three years after opponents Everton successfully secured their return to the top

flight.

Personally, I don't foresee Liverpool challenging for top spot this year as their attack has been weakened by the departure of forward Shanice van de Sanden, a key member of the Dutch team that won this summer's Euros. Van de Sanden has since signed for Champions League winners Lyon.

Liverpool still have talented players to call upon, including seasoned England international Jess Clarke, new loan signing Bethany England and exciting young winger Niamh Charles, but I predict a steady season for them rather than a spectacular one.

***Predicted Finish: 7<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Niamh Charles***

# Manchester City Women



After being pipped to the Spring Series title by Chelsea on, an albeit far superior, goal difference back in June – City are still searching for their second WSL title. Nick Cushing will take encouragement from a successful debut Champions League campaign where his side reached the semi-finals and lost narrowly over two legs to overall winners Lyon. City impressed in the away leg, winning 1-0 in France, but a 3-2 aggregate loss meant that it was the French who headed to the final in Cardiff.

Since then, there has been several outgoings for City with their top scorer in the Spring Series Toni Duggan the first to announce a high-profile move away from Manchester, as she opted for a move to Barcelona. Duggan was followed out of the club by irreplaceable left-back and 2016 FA WSL 1 Players' Player of the Year Lucy Bronze, who joined European Champions Lyon. That deal saw City acquire the services of young winger Pauline Bremer from Lyon but it was no like-for-like switch and, with Arsenal winning the race to sign potential replacement right-back Jessica Samuelsson, City's defence could suffer this season.

In further outgoings, American star Carli Lloyd returned to her parent club Houston Dash in the summer and Kosovare Asllani was another forward to depart, as she returned to her first club Linköpings after a largely unsuccessful spell in the North West. Former Bristol forward Claire Emslie joins Bremer as one of few new additions to City's squad for this season. With so many outgoings and not many direct replacements, I think City could struggle to replicate their impressive form of recent years.

***Predicted Finish: 5<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Pauline Bremer***

# Reading FC Women



The Royals successfully survived their first season in the WSL 1 in 2016 and finished a satisfying sixth in this year's Spring Series. They will be hoping to build on that this season and see if they can turn some draws into wins and potentially take some points off the top four.

With England Player of the Year Nominee Jade Moore

signing a contract extension and Mandy Van Den Berg returning to the club after captaining the Netherlands to European glory on home soil in the Euros, Reading have the personnel to continue their rise in the league.

The signing of England stalwart and record cap holder Fara Williams, who adds a wealth of experience and strength to the midfield, is further proof of Reading's ambitions to make their mark on the WSL this season.

***Predicted Finish: 6<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Jade Moore***

## Sunderland AFC Ladies

Sunderland almost matched their best finish in the WSL 1 in this year's Spring Series, finishing one place lower in fifth. Former striker Beth Mead's 12 goals ensured Sunderland made the top four back in 2015 and after she moved to Arsenal in January, the Lady Black Cats did well to cope with her absence - even managing a 0-0 draw against Mead's new club.

Melanie Reay has overseen six new signings this summer in an effort to add more quality ahead of the new season as they face champions Chelsea early on – a team that thrashed them 7-0 in the Spring Series. The new signings include experienced French-American midfielder Zaneta Wyne, Austrian forward Simona



Koren and midfielder Kasia Lipka, signed from Doncaster Rovers Belles. Sunderland begin their campaign away to Reading next weekend, before hosting the champions at their new home of Mariners Park, South Shields. It's been a tumultuous time off the pitch this summer with this relocation, and the team switching from full-time to part-time status to help cut costs after the men's team were relegated. The women's team are no longer able to share training facilities with the men's first team at the Academy of Light, which has been named as a logistical decision due to the introduction of the winter season rather than cost cutting. I think the loss of Beth Mead might be more evident this season and with all the changes off the pitch, it will be interesting to see if the new signings can make an impact.

***Predicted Finish: 10<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Simona Koren***

## Yeovil Town Ladies FC



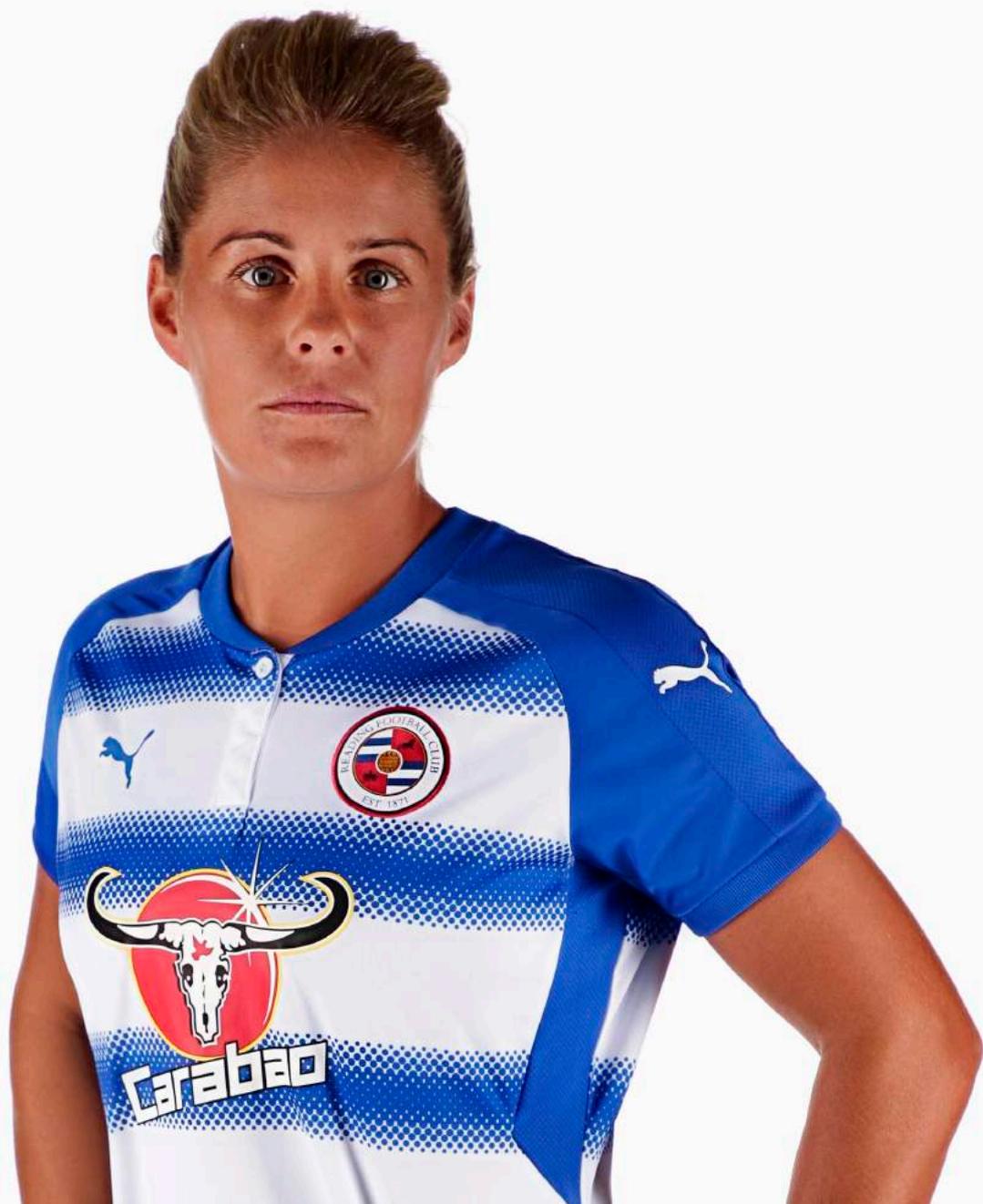
Yeovil's first taste of the top-flight came in the Spring Series after they won the WSL 2 and were promoted in 2016. Luckily for them, there was no chance of relegation this year as the club only managed a point from their eight games and finished bottom of the table.

Their recent signings include Welsh quartet Gemma Evans, Chloe Lloyd, Hannah Miles and Laura O'Sullivan, who all have international experience. O'Sullivan is the number one goalkeeper for Wales whilst fellow internationals Evans and Lloyd have recently returned from representing Great Britain at the World University Games in Taiwan.

Despite not having the biggest budget in the league, Yeovil have completed some shrewd business this summer and I expect them to improve upon their performances in the Spring Series.

***Predicted Finish: 9<sup>th</sup>***

***One to watch: Laura O'Sullivan***



# 10 minutes with Kirstie McGee

@womensfootiemag



Reading footballer Kirsty McGee, who captained the side to the WSL2 title in 2015, has seen plenty of changes since she joined the club.

Signing from Portsmouth in 2014, McGee joined the club when the players were still part-time.

With a few weeks of pre-season remaining, the WFM got chance to catch up with McGee to discuss her late start to the game and her hopes for the season ahead.

**Hi Kirsty, how has the pre-season been going?**

Really well, but cannot wait to start the season now.

**When you started playing football as a child, did you ever think there would be a time when you could play as your career?**

I was quite a late starter to the game. I used to play with my brother at home but I did not join a team until I was 16. When I went to college, there was a girls' team there and they said about going to training. I went along and it went from there.

**Did you ever think that you would follow the sport and make it your career?**

No, never. It was never something I thought about. I started playing to make friends and keep fit.

**Since joining Reading in 2014 how much have you seen change in women's football at the club?**

The game has grown massively. At Reading I think it is down to the men's teams and those associated with the



### Have you set any individual targets for the season?

For me it is to try and play as many games as possible. I want to score more goals from the back. As a team our aim is to finish in the top four.

mens' side of the club putting in a lot of support and effort. When I joined it was part time, we trained twice a week. When you look at that compared to now, wow what a difference. We are now full time and are at the club pretty much every day. When you look at the sport as a whole, there is more competitiveness in the leagues as well which is great.

### How much of a difference has it made going to full time?

It has meant there have been quite a few sacrifices. I have gone from coaching in a full time job to putting that to one side and going full time in football. There is a lot of travelling for me as well as I do not stay up in

Reading, I commute.

### Opening game against Sunderland – are you excited about the league being in the winter?

We have been back in pre-season and the game is almost here. We just want to start! I am excited for the consistency of the games. In the summer there were a lot of gaps. We would play one game and then have a few weeks off. At one point we had three mini pre-seasons just to keep our skill levels high. When you win and play well, you do not want to stop but at the same time when you lose you want to get back out there Consistency of games will be the biggest change.



# TRANSFERS

## WSL 1 TRANSFERS

### ARSENAL



#### TRANSFERS IN:

Vivianne Miedema (FC Bayern)  
Gabby Ravenscroft (Oxford United)  
Lisa Evans (FC Bayern)  
Miriael Taylor (Chelsea Ladies)  
Ellie Perkins (London Bees)  
Grace Neville (Millwall)  
Jessica Samuelsson (Linkopings)  
Josephine Henning (Olympique Lyonnais)

#### TRANSFERS OUT:

Laura Hooper (Seattle Uni Redhawks)  
Tinaya Alexander (LSU Soccer)  
Chiara Ritchie-Williams (LSU Soccer)  
Lotte Wubben-Moy (UNC)  
Anna Patten (FSU)  
Carla Humphry (Bristol)  
Jorandan Littleboy (Hofstra Uni)  
Molly Peters (West Ham Ladies)  
Rianna Dean (Millwall Lionesses)  
Chloe Brunton-Wilde (Charlton)  
Sian Rogers (Aston Villa)  
Charlotte Devlin (Millwall Lionesses)  
Chloe Kelly (Everton - loan)  
Fara Williams (Reading)

### BIRMINGHAM



(No New Signings)

Sophie Baggaley (Bristol - loan)  
Ellie Brazil (Fiorentina)

### BRISTOL



WOMEN

Yana Daniels (RSC Anderlecht)  
Danique Kerkdijk (FC Twente)  
Carla Humphrey (Arsenal)  
Sophie Baggaley (Birmingham - loan)  
Charlie Estcourt (Reading - loan)  
Julie Biesmans (Standard Liege)

Claire Emslie (Manchester City)  
Megan Alexander (Millwall Lionesses)  
Lily Agg (1 FFC Frankfurt)  
Katie Jones  
Paige Sawyer (Yeovil)  
Jordie Brett (Everton)  
Hayley Ladd  
Frankie Brown

# WSL 1 TRANSFERS

## EVERTON



Siri Worm (FC Twente)  
Marthe Musterman (FA Twente)  
Lizzie Durrack (Harvard Uni)  
Angharad James (Yeovil)  
Megan Finnigan  
Jodie Brett (Chelsea)  
Chloe Kelly (Arsenal - loan)

Lauren Davies (AFC Fylde)  
Emily Hollinshead  
Amber-Keegan Stobbs (West Ham)  
Sasha Rowe (Liverpool Feds)  
Fern Whelan (Brighton)  
Aileen Whelan (Brighton)

## LIVERPOOL



(No New Signings)

Danielle Gibbons  
Katie Zelem (Juventus FC)  
Shanice Van de Sanden (OL)

## MAN CITY



Mie Jans (Brondby IF)  
Claire Emslie (Bristol)  
Pauline Bremer (OL)

Toni Duggan (Barcelona)  
Kosovare Asslani (Linkopings)  
Lucy Bronze (OL)

## READING



Fara Williams (Arsenal)

Kayleigh Hines (Oxford)  
Anissa Lahmari (Paris FC)  
Charlie Estcourt (Bristol - loan)  
Hannah McKenzie (Spurs Ladies)  
Kylie McCarthy (Watford)

## SUNDERLAND



Rachel Laws (Durham)  
Ellie Stewart (Blackburn)

Stephanie Bannon (retired)  
Hilde Gunn Olsen (Ayia Nypia)

## YEOVIL TOWN



Paige Sawyer (Bristol)  
Chloe Lloyd (Cardiff City Ladies)  
Gemma Evans (Cardiff City Ladies)  
Laura O'Sullivan  
Hannah Miles

Sarah Wiltshire (Spurs Ladies)  
Angharad James (Everton)  
Nathalie Haigh (Coventry)  
Hannah Short  
Steph Williams (Oxford)  
Molly Clark (Portsmouth)  
Nia Jones  
Charlotte Haynes

# WSL 2 TRANSFERS

## ASTON VILLA



### TRANSFERS IN:

Sian Rogers (Arsenal)

### TRANSFERS OUT:

Mollie Rouse (Louisville Cardinals)  
Grace Smith (West Virginia Mountainers)  
Lucy Porter (Hofstra)  
Lucy Shepherd (Hofstra)  
Claire Skinner (Oxford United)  
Destiny Toussaint (London Bees)

## BRIGHTON WOMEN



Danielle Buet  
Uni Umotong (Oxford)

Hollie Olding (Uni of Kentucky)  
Alessia Russo (UNC)  
Amy Taylor (Lewes Ladies)  
Lisa Fulgence (Lewes Ladies)  
Charlotte Young  
Emma Bryne (retired)  
Charley Hoswell  
Faye Baker

## DONCASTER BELLE



Jules Draycott (Sheffield)

Bethan Davies (Guiseley Vixens - loan)  
Nicola Hobbs (London Bees)

## DURHAM W.F.C



Abbi Cottam  
Kathryn Hill  
Nicola Worthington (Uni of Bridgeport)  
Ellis Dagiiesh (Celtic Women)

Rachel Laws (Sunderland)

## London Bee's



Rosie Lane (Oxford)  
Rosie Kmita  
Nicola Hobbs (Doncaster)  
Chelsea Weston  
Destiny Toussaint (Aston Villa)

Mollie Burgess (MK Dons)  
Ellie Perkins (Arsenal)

## Millwall Lionesses



Rianna Dean (Arsenal)  
Megan Alexander (Bristol)  
Charlotte Devlin (Arsenal)

Ashley Cheatley (Ashford)

## Oxford United



Danielle Carlton (Spurs Ladies)  
Kayleigh Hines (Reading)  
Claire Skinner (Aston Villa)  
Emily Allen (Cardiff)  
Steph Williams (Yeovil)  
Hannah Short (Yeovil)

Gabby Ravenscroft (Arsenal)  
Rosie Lane (London Bees)  
Uni Umotong (Brighton)

## Sheffield United



Melissa Johnson (Derby County)

Billie Murphy  
Danielle Lea (Fylde Ladies FC)  
Natasha Flint (Fylde Ladies FC)  
Lagan Makin (Fylde Ladies FC)  
Olivia Fuller (Fylde Ladies FC)  
Jules Draycott (Doncaster Belles)  
Emma Lipman (ASM Verona)

## Spurs Ladies



Sarah Wiltshire (Yeovil)  
Ashley Neville (Coventry)  
Lauren Pickett  
Hannah McKenzie (Reading)

Megan Lynch (Crystal Palace)  
Nikita Whinnett (Crystal Palace)

## Watford Ladies



Fran Kitching (Chelsea Ladies -  
loan)  
Sarah Jones (Crystal Palace)  
Helen Ward (Yeovil)  
Kylie McCarthy (Reading)  
Laura May-Walkley (London  
Bees)

Lauren Jordinson



## Captain Anneka Nuttall is ready to show the world they are serious

Watford Ladies captain believes her side are really going to surprise not only the fans, but the other clubs as well.

After finishing the WSL2 Spring Series in eighth, the London based club have made a number of signings including Welsh international duo Kylie McCarthy and Laura May Walkley.

Before the Spring Season, there were a number of concerns for the club that it might be struggling with funds and there were even rumours the club could fold but the Hornets have risen from the problems and are now ready to compete for the WSL2 title as they start their campaign against Millwall

Lionesses.

Before the season kicked off our editor Helen met up with Anneka to find out how Watford's pre-season had been going.

### **How has pre-season being going?**

It has been going really well. We are very excited about this season. We started pre-pre-season. We only had three weeks off. It has been really full on but we can see the change in the squad already.

### **How much of an impact have the new signings had on the squad?**

There has been a wealth of experience



come in with the new players. We have been very selective about who we have signed. It is not just about bringing in numbers it is about quality.

We have really looked at the positions we need to strengthen and it shows in training. It is really competitive now. Players know they really have to play for their place, no one is safe and that is just from bringing in these new players. It has been really great at training. Everyone is really hard working and they know they have to do their best.

**With so much change over the summer, are you excited to get the campaign started?**

I cannot wait! We are going to stun people. People are already seeing that we are a totally different team.

**What individual targets have you set for yourself this season?**

To be the best I can. Consistency is

really important for me. Being the captain of the club you have to be supportive so my main focus is making sure that the youth players who are coming up into the squad have the support they need going into the first team of the club.

Do you think the gap between the youth sides and the first-team squad is getting smaller at the club now?

Absolutely. The standard that our development squads play at is really good. The players are always on the brink. Young players are getting recognised for their ability now not just their age. If you are good enough, you have the technical ability and you are mentally strong enough, you will be in the first team.

**With the Lionesses doing so well at the Euros, do you think you will see an increase of fans at domestic games?**

Regularly now I get people, colleagues and friends who are talking about the game. Women's football is everywhere now and it can only bring good things for us.

*:: The FA Women's Super League season kicks-off on the weekend of the 22-24 September. For more information on both leagues and to purchase tickets, visit: [www.FAWSL.com](http://www.FAWSL.com)*



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Disney





## Jodie Taylor named England Player of the Year

Jodie Taylor was named the England Player of the Year at the FA Women's Football Awards on September 8.

The ceremony which celebrates the achievements of individuals and clubs from the Lionesses to the Women's Premier League was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel. The annual ceremony celebrated an exciting year for women's football and recognised the achievements of clubs, players, staff and the excellent work done at the grassroots level of the game.

The awards also highlighted the success of The FA's Gameplan for Growth, launched earlier in 2017, which aims to double participation and the fanbase of the women's game by

2020 and create sustained success at elite international level.

Speaking at The FA Women's Football Awards Taylor said, "No way did I think I was going to win this at all. I think the others deserve it over me. To be standing here with England player of the Year is just amazing. I think once I go home and it sinks in – to go on the journey I have had to this – it is unbelievable. It is an honour to play for England and winning this just tops it off.

"I think starting the first game [at Euro 2017] with a hat-trick, it was a hard one to celebrate because the tournament had only just started and we had not achieved anything yet.



I kind of put it to the side to focus on the next one. To win the golden boot was great. People were telling me that I was in contention from game one but there were so many things ahead, I was not concentrating on me but the team as a whole. It is such a long tournament, anything can happen. I am just glad that we were so strong.”

:: FA Women’s Football Awards credit-Jodie Taylor was speaking at The FA Women’s Football Awards. For the latest news and content from the women’s game visit [thefa.com/forgirls](http://thefa.com/forgirls)



# Lauren Hemp awarded Young England Player of the Year



Lauren Hemp was named Vauxhall England Young Player of the Year at The FA Women's Football Awards in London.

Hemp beat competition from Grace Fisk, Ellie Brazil and Aoife Mannion to win the award at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

The 17-year-old played an integral role in qualifying for the UEFA Women's U17 Championship, scoring her first goal at a major tournament against the Republic of Ireland. Hemp was hailed as one of the most exciting players of the competition.

Speaking at The FA Women's Football Awards, Hemp said: "It feels amazing, I can't believe it. I feel like all the help I have got from my coaches and the hard work I've put in myself has paid off. I just want to keep impressing and keep getting better."

"I can't believe it. Just being here, in front of my role models, I'm just trying to take it all in. There are so many people who I look up to, and it shows all of my hard work is paying off. I'd like to thank everyone who voted, as well as my team mates – if it wasn't for all of them then I would not be receiving this. I'll put it somewhere safe in my room that I can look to all day!"

"I just want to progress now and keep getting good results and performing well. I am here with my mum she was so happy when the result was read out, she could not believe it."

"I am now focused on the league season. We have had a couple of months of pre-season and I am at that point now where I just cannot wait to get started."

Baroness Sue Campbell, Head of Women's Football at The Football Association said: "It has been a landmark year for women's football in England. We've seen the Lionesses capture the imagination of the nation, a record crowd at the SSE Women's FA Cup Final, the excitement of a final day decider in The FA WSL Spring Series and growing participation numbers. All of this has been underpinned by the announcement of FA's new women's strategy Gameplan for Growth, which we believe will transform the future of the women's game."

:: FA Women's Football Awards credit-Lauren Hemp was speaking at The FA Women's Football Awards. For the latest news and content from the women's game visit [thefa.com/forgirls](https://thefa.com/forgirls)

# The Women's Football Awards

## The Winners



**FA WSL 1 -Players' Player of the Spring Series, Jordan Nobbs**

**FA WSL 1 -Goal of the Spring Series 2017, Jordan Nobbs**

**FA WSL 2 -Players' Player of the Spring Series, Michelle Hinnigan**

**FA WSL -Head Coach of the Spring Series- Andy Spence**

**FA WSL 1 Spring Series -Top Goal Scorer, Fran Kirby**

**FA WSL 2 Spring Series-Top Goal Scorer, Courtney Sweetman-Kirk**



**FA WSL 1, Club of the Season, Manchester City Women**

**FA WSL 2 Club of the Season, Durham Women**

**FA WPL Div One -Players' Player of the Year, Nikki Berko**

**FA WPL Prem Div -Players' Player of the Year, Kate Mallin**

**FA WPL -Manager of the Year, Karen Hills**

**FA WPL Southern Div -Top Goal Scorer, Gemma Bryan**

**FA WPL Northern Div -Top Goal Scorer, Bianca Owens**

**FA WPL Div One North -Top Goal Scorer, Nikki Berko**

**FA WPL Div One Mids -Top Goal Scorer, Cara Newton**

**FA WPL Div One SE -Top Goal Scorer, Felecity Gibbons**

**FA WPL Div One SW - Top Goal Scorer, Natasha Knapman**





**Vauxhall England Player of the Year, Jodie Taylor**



**Vauxhall England Young Player of the Year, Lauren Hemp**

**FA WPL Club of the Year - Tottenham Hotspur Ladies**

**Best Participation Initiative - Didsbury Girls FC and Mums & Recreational Football**

**Unsung Hero - Harriet Miller**

**Special Award - Dick Kerr Ladies Football Club**





# Off Pitch Perfect

by Mark Bradley

On Saturday October 7th we celebrate Non-League Day: an opportunity to promote the huge community contribution made by small, often volunteer-run local community clubs and a chance for supporters of 'higher league' professional clubs to re-engage with football in its purest form.

Non-League Day, founded by James Doe in 2010, is now responsible for often doubling and tripling attendances, once a year, at grounds whose names you've never heard of. The Dripping Pan, The Moat Ground, The Nanpantan Sports Ground or the Plain Ham Ground (answers on a postcard ...): all ringing with associations, characters and memories only known to the privileged few.

The Non-League Day website helpfully provides a list of ideas, all capable of being easily put into action, aimed at attracting a bigger crowd and helping our smaller clubs to prosper.

But how would it be if those 'first timers' came back?

But what I'm hearing is that, while the desired boost in attendances is always achieved, to a greater or lesser extent at every club on that day, it seldom endures beyond 'spike' status. So how do clubs use this extra injection of support to grow crowds more steadily and over a longer period?

What a fantastic opportunity for women's clubs around the country.

After all, the whole initiative wouldn't be in place if it weren't for the reasons to return (reasons that usually define the USP of the women's game). Because, in our game – and especially at the grass roots end of it - we offer the freedom to:

- Walk around the pitch
- Change ends at half time
- Drink within view of the pitch
- See football played purely for the love of the game

- Pop into the bar for the half time scores
- Let our kids off the leash and not force them to sit still for 2 hours
  - Chat to players after the game, get selfies with them and autographs
  - Discuss tactics with the manager
  - Listen to what the referee is saying
  - Get food served to you by the people who made it
  - Sit down and have a nice snack or meal in a club house or social club (that isn't called 'corporate hospitality' and doesn't cost an arm and a leg)
  - Learn about the game with enthusiastic volunteers and hosts

Our work has highlighted that, unlike many larger professional ones, our smaller clubs, by and large, have fewer challenges once the new fan passes through the turnstiles. It's true; the smaller crowds in the men's game often mean you can more clearly hear a rich array of cursing, along that entertaining spectrum from unimaginative to fantastically creative (for example, how does a South Derbyshire fan abuse a North Staffordshire rival player? Simply this 'Sit down and eat your oatcakes!').

Joking apart, this can restrict a club's ability to encourage parents to bring their kids along, but the bigger issue is getting people to the turnstiles in the first place. Thus, the challenges are less to do with 'half time entertainment' and more to do with strengthening the local profile of the club and promoting its differences, since after all, if all you want is 90 minutes of football, you might simply make your match choices based on a team's current league position.

For me, there are several key strategic areas that clubs need to focus on to be able to drive up awareness, develop identity and, ultimately, grow attendances and generate extra revenue streams.

Firstly, grow the volunteer base. Durham Women are but one (among many) examples from the women's game of a club whose volunteers are a big part of the reason I keep going back. It's clear they love the club, cherish it and the people who attend matches there. But you need these volunteers in the first place.

So, what are small women's clubs doing? Which are creating links with local colleges and universities, where young students with a love of sport are looking for experiences that will help develop their business, marketing, media, communications and technology skills?

How do you develop an identity? To be fair, most of the small clubs I have visited could all claim to have the same USP: friendliness, so that's a great starting point. But how many promote this through their websites?

If this is the factor that makes people come back, surely, it's as important, if not more so, when it comes to airtime, than the football.

Develop an identity, articulate it as a series of principles, beliefs or even values and then think about how to promote your games. I like what I'm seeing from AFC Unity – the self-styled 'indie women's club' (based in Sheffield). They wear their identity proudly and, as a result, they immediately look and feel different to the potential first time fan. Check them out here <https://afcunity.org>

As anyone in grass roots football will tell you, everything has to be fought for: every penny, every young emerging player, every grant, every tiny piece of facilities funding and every devoted supporter. And yet on 7th October, very little effort will be needed: new fans will turn up (if you invite them) and you'll get the biggest crowd in at least a year.

The women's game has so many 'head starts' and 'open goals' when it comes to engagement, it would be a pity if complacency defeated our attempts to grow.

Let's use the 7th October as our opportunity to take a confident first step.

**NON**  
**NON**  
**LEAGUE DAY**  
**07.10.17**

# 10 Questions with Swansea's Katie Davies



## 1) What is your pre-match food?

Normally we eat sweets in the changing room to give us some last-minute energy, one of the favourites are Haribo jellymen

## 2) Who is your sporting hero?

I think Lucy Bronze is a great player and someone I look up to, she's now signed for OL and it shows how hard work can pay off.

## 3) What is your best football memory to date?

Cardiff City game from last season, ending the first half 3-1 down and coming off the bench to score the winner in a 4-3 win was a great feeling.

## 4) Who encouraged you to play football?

My grandpa, he played football around the UK in his youth and was the reason I gained an interest in football at a young age.

## 5) If you weren't a footballer what would you be?

I played hockey all the way through school alongside football and made it to a county level, so I probably would've pursued that.

## 6) What has been the hardest part of your career?

Coming back from injury last season, damaging both my knees within the space of a month was a difficult recovery.

## 7) Who is your best friend in football?

Unfortunately, I spend a lot of my time with Emma Beynon, she's ok I suppose.

## 8) What advice would you give someone who is wanting a career in football?

Girls football is finally gaining mass popularity in the UK meaning there more girls clubs than ever, joining a local club will create many opportunities.

## 9) Do you have any pre-match rituals/ superstitions?

I actually don't, I just try to keep as calm as possible and focus on the task in hand.

## 10) What is your first football memory?

Around 3 years old, playing in my back garden with my brother in huge plastic goals and falling over the ball lots.



Lionesses keen to put  
Euro 2017 semi-final  
disappointment  
behind them



As the England players meet up for the first time since the Women's European Championships there is a very clear message – the only way is forward.

Talking to the players it is clear to see that disappointment is still a clear feature amongst the players but they all know that now they have to focus on their next goal.

The Lionesses face Russia September 19 in their first 2019 World Cup qualifier and whilst the Euro semi-final defeat against the Netherlands is still very fresh in the minds of everyone involved with the squad, there is also an excitement to get back to playing their best.

There has been a number of players changing domestic squads with Lucy Bronze and Toni Duggan flying back from Olympique Lyon and Barcelona respectively but the squad are looking forward to starting a new campaign.

The Lionesses success in the

Netherlands this summer has had a massive impact in a number of areas. Women's Super League sides are hoping for an increase in support at matches, the semi-final game saw four million people tune in and England have moved up to third in the world rankings overtaking France and Canada.

Speaking after being awarded the England Player of the Year at the FA Women's Football Awards at the Grosvenor House Hotel on September 8, Jodie Taylor admitted that she was still disappointed at how they left the competition in August. The Arsenal forward said: "We were disappointed. We genuinely believed we could win the tournament especially as the games were going. We really believed that it was our time. To get beat by Holland, they deserved it, but it was hard. The fact that we went away from that so disappointed shows how far we have come. In the World Cup we were happy to get the semi-final, now we want more."

Looking forward to Russia and there have been a number/ couple of squad changes made by manager Mark Sampson. All but two of the 23-player Euro 2017 squad have been named by Sampson. Goalkeeper Karen Bardsley misses out through injury – the 32-year-old fractured her fibula in the quarter-final win over France – and Alex Scott announced her retirement last week.

As well as the 21 players who travelled to Holland there are also call-ups for Liverpool captain Gemma Bonner, Arsenal striker Danielle Carter, Birmingham City defender Jessica Carter, Reading goalkeeper Mary Earps and Manchester City forward

**"The team will take a lot of belief from the results and learn from what was a fantastic experience."**

Melissa Lawley.

Euros golden boot winner Jodie Taylor, who was recently named England Player of the Year, is expected to start up front and it is unlikely Sampson will make any major changes from the squad which faced the Netherlands back in August.

Sampson said: "The Euros were a great learning experience for us, with four wins, one defeat and reaching a second consecutive major championship semi-final. The team will take a lot of belief from the results and learn from what was a fantastic experience.

"Now we look forward to our World Cup qualification campaign.

As we begin against the second seeds in the group, it's a tough start. We will prepare well next week with the aim of getting off to a winning start against Russia in Tranmere."

The Lionesses will also face Bosnia & Herzegovina at Banks's Stadium, Walsall (Friday 24 November), Kazakhstan at Weston Homes Community Stadium, Colchester (Tuesday 28 November) and Wales (date TBC) in their World Cup qualifying campaign, with the 2019 finals to be held in France.

::Lionesses play Russia on September 19 at Prenton Park, Tranmere (7pm KO) Tickets can be bought via [www.TheFA.com/Tickets](http://www.TheFA.com/Tickets)



Goalkeepers: Siobhan Chamberlain, Mary Earps, Carly Telford  
Defenders: Laura Bassett, Gemma Bonner, Millie Bright, Lucy Bronze, Jessica Carter, Alex Greenwood, Steph Houghton, Demi Stokes, Casey Stoney  
Midfielders: Isobel Christiansen, Jade Moore, Jordan Nobbs, Jo Potter, Jill Scott, Fara Williams  
Forwards: Karen Carney, Danielle Carter, Toni Duggan, Fran Kirby, Melissa Lawley, Nikita Parris, Jodie Taylor, Ellen White



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