

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

ISSUE 52 - August 2021



OH
CANADA

£3

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



@thewomensfootiemag



@womensfootiemag



@womensfootiemag

Welcome

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Writers

Marissa Thomas

Simon O'Neill

Charlotte Stacey

Jamie Davies

Photography

Sports Press Photos

@GOTB

Stephen Flynn

Martin Rowe-Willcocks

Website designer

Will Ibbetson

Advertising assistant

Simon O'Neill

Business manager

Martin Rowe-Willcocks

For any enquiries email:
helen@thewomensfootballmagazine.com

The views and comments expressed in this magazine are personal views and comments of the individual writers and not necessarily those of The Women's Football Magazine. Every effort has been made to trace the source of information and to ensure that copyright has not been infringed.

©TheWomensFootballMagazine

Company number: 12839197



Hello and welcome to Issue 51!

The countdown is on to the Tokyo Olympics and it seems like the men are getting us in the mood, good luck to the England men tomorrow night!

Anybody else fully invested in the "it's coming home party?"

Hard not to be when it's the fifth semi-final England (men and women!).

Anyway back to the issue!

We have some brilliant articles to read.


Jamie Davies takes a look at 365 days to go until the Women's Euros, Charlotte Stacey talks us through the Team GB squad and Ammo is back with her latest antics.

Marissa Thomas discusses the new Arsenal boss and we are back with the second instalment with Marco Floreale.

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

 @helenrw11

CALLING ALL WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S FOOTBALL TEAMS

Do you want to promote your team and inspire your players?



Our new season ticket is for you!

You'll receive:

- ♣ 25 annual subscriptions for players and coaches
- ♣ A team article in The Women's Football Magazine
- ♣ The opportunity to promote your club through our website

All for an amazing price of £50

For more information go to:

www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com/seasonticket

#InspireWithTWFM

Contents

The Olympic Games: Tokyo 2020

- 7 **Canada Triumph: An Olympic Diary**
By Jamie Davies
- 14 **Great Britain 2-0 Chile**
By Joshua Bunting
- 16 **Japan 0-1 Great Britain**
By Joshua Bunting
- 17 **Canada 1-1 Great Britain**
By Joshua Bunting
- 20 **Great Britain 3-4 Australia**
By Joshua Bunting
- 22 **Hege Rise and Leah Williamson share
disappoint after Tokyo defeat**

Women's Super League

- 25 **WSL back with a bang**
Fans ready to go back to matches in the WSL
- 26 City sign Sigsworth
Nobbs injured in pre-season friendly
- 28 **Meet the managers**
By Ali Rampling
- 34 **INTERVIEW: Natasha Flint**
By Marissa Thomas
- 38 **Transfers in the WSL**
By Jamie Davies
- 42 Wardlaw signs professional contract
Ale leaves Aston Villa

Championship

- 45 Pond joins FA Women's Board
Transfers
- 48 Thatchers Cider continue to support Bristol City
Liverpool pay respect to Andrew Devine

Women's National League

- 52 **INTERVIEW: Jordan Wimpenny**
Part to of our chat to Hudds Town boss

- 58 Burnley welcome new facts
Oxford United sign King

Grassroots

- 61 **INTERVIEW: Marco Floreale**
Discussing all things women's football
- 64 **Shortlist made for FA's Coin of
Respect campaign**
- 66 **Ammo's Antics**
Read all the latest from her month

Cups

- 69 Conti Cup draw
FA Cup latest

Home Nations

- 73 **England to face Northern
Ireland at Wembley**
- 74 **U19s squad for friendly against
Czech Republic**
- 76 Scottish FA launch new women and girls
strategy
- 78 Scotland announce new boss
Wales international wins gold

Euro 2022

- 81 **Euro 2022 on track to break**

Around the World

- 85 **All the news from around the
world**
- 88 **Simon Says**

THE OLYMPIC GAMES: TOKYO



Canada triumph in Tokyo:

An Olympic Diary



By Jamie Davies

It was Canada who unlocked the chain to their first ever gold medal in women's football since the contest was formed at the 1996 Olympics.

Their previous two Olympic outings in London 2012 and Rio 2016 saw the Canucks take bronze but they went two higher to become the Olympic champions after a dramatic penalty shootout win over Sweden.

Julia Grosso's winning penalty made sure Sweden would, for the second Olympics in a row, finish runners-up with a silver medal.

The nerve whacking penalty shootout of a major final summed up what was a dramatic fortnight of women's football at the highest level.

We take a look back at the highlights of each stage of the tournament that saw ups and downs for all nations that took part. There was joy, there was tears and there were some breath-taking moments that we witnessed in Japan. Just a shame there were no fans who could witness those moments in the flesh.

Group Stages Competing (16):

Group E: Great Britain, Canada, Japan & Chile.

Group F: Netherlands, Brazil, Zambia & China

PR.

Group G: Sweden, USA, Australia, New Zealand.

Wednesday July 21st

The opening ceremony was still being rehearsed just two days before the biggest show in the world was to take centre stage in Tokyo.

But while that was happening, the women's football had kicked off for all 16 nations competing. The men's version of the tournament would start the day after.

Throughout the tournament all matches would be on the same day especially the group stages.

There is a thing of pre-match nerves especially when a tournament is about to begin and it's fair to say the favorites going into the competition of the United States, filled with winning faces and experienced names of Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan and Tobin Heath, surprised us on the opening day as they were pushed out of the park by Sweden.

A dominant 3-0 win by the Rio 2016 silver medallists left USWNT with some thinking to do. In the last issue of the Women's Football Magazine, I pointed out this fixture being the perfect revenge match for the US with their

with their previous exit coming from Sweden in Brazil five years ago. Oh how they messed up that opportunity.

In the words of Rapinoe... 'We got our asses kicked!'

It was a day full of goals in Japan but the biggest score line of the entirety was the Netherlands thumping Zambia by 10 goals to 3 with Vivienne Miedema providing 4 goals.

The Dutch forward would go on to be the top scorer with a total of 10 goals. Something for the Arsenal fans to get excited about on her return.

Japan was going to be a big challenge for Hege Riise's side with members still from that World Cup win over the US 10 years ago. It was a close and very tight battle but White's brave header in front of the Japan goalkeeper proved to be the winning goal with 16 minutes left to play. Two wins out of two for Team GB.

The wounded US squad finally got their campaign going and they had certainly woken themselves up with a 6-1 win over New Zealand. Yes, the Kiwis were one of the lowest ranked in the competition but this was still a statement from

chance for unsecured teams to fight for the remaining spots that would take them to the Quarter-Final stages.

Japan secured an important win over Chile (0-1) with the only goal of the game coming from Mina Tanaka on the 77th minute to advance to the knockouts and finish third in group E. Canada and Team GB tied at 1-1 which would see Riise's team finish top with 2 wins and a draw while the Canadians had to settle for 2nd.

Group F already had the Netherlands and Brazil looking



Saturday July 24th

The second round saw Great Britain take on the hosts Japan after what had been a great start for the British group by beating Chile 2-0 thanks to a brace from Ellen White.

Team GB's appearance at Tokyo 2020 was their first at Olympic football since going out in the Quarter-Finals at London 2012. But nine years later despite all the politics involved, we finally saw a Great British team strapped together once more.

the world champions.

But the real highlight from the 2nd round of the group stages was the Netherlands and Brazil. Two of the biggest teams in the world fought to display the potential of one of them taking the Olympic gold. A 3-3 draw was the only way it could be settled after Marta's side turned it around from 1-2 to 3-2 but their 3rd goal was cancelled out by Dominique Janssen.

Friday July 27th

The final day of the group stages which also means a final

to go through after both had four points going into their final games with China and Zambia. Another high scoring affair from the Dutch saw them beat the Chinese 8-2 with braces from Miedema, Lieke Martens and Lineth Beerensteyn. Brazil also won their game but only put one past Zambia early on in the first half. Zambia and China's defeats saw them bow out so early on.

Sweden's impressive start to the tournament continued on in their final game of the group stages with a comfortable 2-0

win over New Zealand to secure top spot and without doubt looked the best team going into the quarters.

Meanwhile, the US struggled yet again and showed the lack of threat up front they displayed against Sweden. But this time their defence of O'Hara and Sauerbrunn made sure they didn't concede either.

0-0 it ended with both US and Australia joining the Swedes.

Quarter-Finals

- Canada v Brazil
- Great Britain v Australia



- Sweden v Japan
- Netherlands v USA

Friday July 30th

There was no looking back now for the final eight teams who all knew defeat would result in a flight back home without an opportunity of fighting for one of the three medals.

The most talked about tie was always going to be the Netherlands taking on USA in what was a repeat of the 2019 World Cup final. A 2-0 win for the USA two years ago sealed their 2nd world title in a row

and it left much heartbreak for the likes of Miedema and Martens in that final in France.

Two years on and there was an open door for the Dutch to kick out the US to help cover up their scars from that World Cup final.

Holland started well as Miedema found the net for a 9th time in Tokyo to put them ahead after just 18 minutes. A nice twist in the box fooled her opponents to give her a free shot at goal.

But it only took 10 minutes for the world champions to respond as Samantha Mewis'



header got them the equalizer. The US were hungry and turned the score line round quickly as they went 2-1 up after 31 minutes – Lynn Williams with the goal.

All of a sudden the old US team looked to be back – the early doubts they showed to themselves seem to have been thrown out of the window.

The Dutch knew they had to respond with the next goal being so crucial and it was Miedema that got them another goal to mark 10 Olympic goals for the Arsenal striker.

Miedema's low footed strike outside the box was arguably saveable for USA's Alyssa Naeher but she couldn't keep it out. 2-2 going into extra time and neither side could find a late winner which led both nations to a penalty shootout.

It was the US who held firm and looked so confident on the penalty spot. Rose Lavelle, Alex Morgan, Christen Press followed by Megan Rapinoe scored all four pens for the US as Miedema and Aniek Nouwen's errors cost the Netherlands.

The defeat for the Oranje meant it was the head coach's

final game in charge before Sarina Wiegman travels to England to manage the Lionesses.

Netherlands-USA was not the only tie to be decided by penalties.

Canada and Brazil's 0-0 draw resulted in penalties and it was the Canucks that held their nerves thanks to goals from Jessie Fleming, Ashley Lawrence, Adriana Leon and Vanessa Gilles despite a miss from Christine Sinclair early on.

Great Britain bowed out of the quarter-finals at their last Olympics at London 2012 and they sadly faced a repeat this time in Kashima after what was a dramatic game of football between GB and Australia.

Australia opened the scoring from Alanna Kennedy on the 35th minute but the fantastic goal scoring form of Ellen White continued as she turned it around for GB by scoring a brace before the game had reached 70 minutes.

But it wasn't to wrap up there as Chelsea's Sam Kerr found a late equalizer to spoil the Great

finish, a 3-1 win for them sealed a spot in the semis with Australia.

Semi-Finals

- USA v Canada
- Australia v Sweden

Monday August 2nd

All four remaining teams knew that they were one win away from a guaranteed medal, a defeat would leave them fighting for bronze in a third place play-off match.

The semis would host a North American derby while the most likely gold medal winners of

game in normal time in the run up to the semis.

Again the USWNT didn't show much desire, they instead looked tired while Canada were not much in a better position. The game was a strange one but the longer it went on, the more of an upset was on the cards for Canada. Christen Press was put on from the bench which helped America commit a lot more forward and Canada started to struggle.

But then a freak moment saw Canada's Rose get tripped inside the edge of the box, a foul made by Davidson as the team in red were awarded a



Britain party as the Aussie was completely unmarked in front of goal.

In extra time though Great Britain had won a penalty which was not taken by White. It was instead taken by Caroline Weir who had her penalty saved. It got worse for Team GB as Mary Fowler got Australia back in front and Sam Kerr struck the net yet again. White did at the end get her hat-trick but it was only to be a consolation goal.

Sweden knocked out the hosts Japan as they controlled their quarter-final tie from start to

Sweden would be challenged by Australia.

The first match of the day started in Kashima as the sun was coming down and a Ukrainian referee of Kateryna Monzul would blow the whistle for kick-off as Canada began a very difficult task of trying to knock the USA off their throne.

Canada head coach Bev Priestman, who is from Consett in England, knew there was a possibility of taking on a much weaker US side compared to the ones they have faced in the past. The US had only won one

penalty. Fleming sent the goalkeeper the right way but Franch couldn't reach it.

Canada defended like hell for the lead and it paid off at the final whistle as they beat the USA for the first time in 20 years.

The US missed out on gold once again. Bronze medal match coming up for them.

The 2nd semi-final had Canada waiting to see who they would face in the gold medal match. Who would join them? Australia? Or Sweden?

Sweden were favorites going into it with all their games so far at the Olympics going their way and they looked very convincing.

Australia showed fighting spirit in their group clash with USA and fighting back to beat Team GB in the previous round.

All that mattered though was the next result between the two.

Just like the first semi-final, both teams were not giving much away as there was a lot at stake.

It was Sweden that played their

to swallow but it also gives you one more chance to not go home empty handed.

A bronze medal was on the line for the Americans to actually improve from their last Olympics that saw them bow out in the quarters to Sweden on penalties in Rio 2016.

After having a look online, Australia don't seem to have any Olympic medals in women's football.

Just like most of the games have been in Tokyo, this was another cracker to add to the list as we witnessed another high scoring affair.

Olympics with 10 goals, surpassing Abby Wambach.

The US were 4-1 up and looked to be bowing out with a medal after all.

However, Caitlin Foord got one back for Australia on the 54th minute but it would be the only goal until the 90th minute when Emily Gielnik scores a wonder goal from 35 yards.

Gold Medal Match

- Sweden v Canada

Friday August 6th

The final day of the women's Olympic football tournament



cards right as straight from the kick-off for the start of the 2nd half, Fridolina Rolfo scored from a rebound after a corner was not dealt with by the Aussie defence.

Australia couldn't find a response throughout that 2nd half as Sweden had setup a final date with Canada.

Bronze Medal Match

- Australia v USA

Thursday August 5th

A defeat in your 5th match at the Olympics can be a hard one

This match had a total of seven goals as Rapinoe opened the scoring within just 8 minutes of the first half as the lead was cut short just nine minutes later with Kerr finding an equalizer.

Rapinoe went in front of goal again this time with a superb placed volley into the top corner of the net. She's still got it at the age of 36.

We then saw another fellow old face finding the net not once but twice as Carli Lloyd became the highest goal scorer for the US women's team at the

was to end in Yokohama at the International Stadium. A stadium famous for hosting the 2002 FIFA World Cup final between Germany and Brazil. It hosted Ronaldo's brace past Oliver Kahn for the South Americans to win their 5th World Cup.

Nearly 20 years on and it would be the venue to decide who would be the latest to become Olympic champions in women's football, Sweden or Canada?

Out of the two sides, the Scandinavians looked to be the favourites to take home the Olympic gold as their run in looked way more convincing than Canada's. But this was a final where the only result that mattered was the score line at the end of it.

The Swedes struck first with a shot inside the box and down the middle of the target from Emma Blackstenius' left foot with 11 minutes left of the first half.

Major finals are known for low scoring affairs as very few dare to take risks after coming so far in the competition. That was the kind of scenario we were seeing in this final. Until Canada got the favour of the referee yet again as they were given a penalty in the 2nd half with 22 minutes remaining.

Jessie Fleming had the game in her hands, she knew a missed penalty could help Sweden seal the top medal. But despite the pressure on Fleming's shoulders, she dealt with it well and delivered the equalizer.

The game went to extra time; a territory Sweden are not used to at this Summer Olympics while Canada have already gone to penalties in their quarter-final win over Brazil.

It felt as though Sweden may need to wrap this up before the game reached the 120th minute.

Despite one or two close moments in front of goal for the Canadians, the match had to be decided by penalties.

It would be the very first time that the women's Olympic final would be wrapped up after a penalty shootout.

Who could hold their nerves the best? Who had the energy to take the long walk before picking a side in a hope the goalkeeper went the wrong way?

The first round started well for Canada as Fleming scored from the spot again as Sweden's Kosovare Allani missed her penalty.

But Ashley Lawrence for Canada had her penalty saved while Gun Bjorn scored her shot which had it at 1-1 after two penalties each.

Sweden then took control thanks to Olivia Schough finding the net and her opponent Vanessa Gilles missing it for the 2nd time in a row for Canada.

But then misses each for the Swedes and the Canadians kept it at 2-1 for the Europeans with one kick remaining.

Canada's Leon would then miss her penalty giving 36-year-old Caroline Seger the chance to score the gold medal penalty.

But despite Seger's 16-year experience at international football, her penalty was saved followed by a penalty scored from Deanne Rose which would send the shootout to sudden death.

Seger's ultimate miss put pressure on her team mate of Andersson who clearly couldn't deal with the moment as she missed the target giving Canada the chance to win the entire thing.

It was down to Julia Grosso to send her team down the golden path and so she did as her low placed penalty shot went under the hands of Hedvig Lindahl and hit the bottom left corner of the net.

Canada had become the Olympic champions!

A team that looked like outsiders going into the tournament had shocked the women's game by beating the best to be the best and it was very deserved. It was also a significant moment for legendary striker Christine Sinclair who at the age of 38 has made 304 appearances for her country.

If that was to be her last tournament for Canada, then what a way to finish it.

Tokyo 2020 did not disappoint for women's football fans despite no fans allowed in to watch the games.

The Canadian group showed to world football that you can get through the marathon matches and still go onto win.

Well done to Canada and bring on the 2024 Paris Olympics!



TOKYO 2020





Great Brita



By Joshua Bunting

In their first match of the tournament Team GB took on Chile in Sapporo in a late afternoon kick-off.

Head coach Hege Riise named a starting eleven largely formed of Manchester City players as only Kim Little, Rachel Daly and Millie Bright lined-up from Arsenal, Houston Dash and Chelsea respectively.

England and Manchester City skipper Steph Houghton donned the armband ahead of other named captains Kim Little and Sophie Ingle. Rachel Daly was selected to fill as a left back over Demi Stokes who remained on the bench for this fixture.

Georgia Stanway kicked off play in the Sapporo Dome and straight off the bat Team GB set out to dominate the South American side.

Within minutes Team GB had dazzled Chile with a set of fast paced one-twos and intricate

passages in and around the area.

The first goal of the game came in just ten minutes through rapid build-up play between Stanway, Little and Lauren Hemp. Stanway fed the ball in towards striker Ellen White who took the chance but was ultimately ruled offside.

As the score remained level, Team GB found themselves in a little hot water at the quarter of the hour mark as Chile lurked in the box whilst the Brits failed to clear. Danger averted, Team GB put themselves back on the front foot and notched their first goal of the tournament on the scoresheet mere minutes later.

Hemp, as she would demonstrate throughout, made light work of Chile's right-hand side, skipping past Nayadet Lopez Opaza with ease.

Hemp pulled the pass back to Stanway who played in Lucy Bronze on the overlap. Bronze dinked in a lofty ball to Hemp

who managed to get a head to it before White finished off, sinking the loose ball past Chilean captain Christiane Endler.

With their confidence brimming Team GB continued to threaten throughout the first half, keeping possession and dictating flow. However, after a few well timed chances, the half concluded with the score remaining 1-0.

No substitutions were made as the second half began, however Team GB's wide players switched, with Hemp now operating the right hand side and Stanway, the left.

Once again, Team GB's midfield trio of Little, Caroline Weir and Keira Walsh directed a number of clever plays early in the half. Chile, however, began to respond to Team GB's dominance with a few smart movements of their own, yet no real threat was ever sensed.

Back in the driving seat, Team GB bid for goal again after

in 2-0 Chile



Stanway received a beautifully placed ball from Walsh.

Taking a touch, Stanway hit the shot which was stopped, surprisingly sloppily, by Endler only to fall as far as White, who was challenged as she stretched for the ball.

After a lengthy VAR check, White was again ruled offside, declaring both the penalty and Team GB's already organised corner, void.

Team GB's second goal came with just over ten minutes to go. Birthed from a Daly throw-in, Team GB held possession on the edge of the area before Bronze crossed in her second assisting ball of the match. Bronze's delivery was met by White who took the ball on the half volley to earn herself a brace.

Wrapping up in a similar fashion as it started, Team GB remained dominant until the final whistle, ending their first match with a two-nil win.

A pleasing performance from Team GB and a positive position to find themselves in as group stage games could prove to become progressively more difficult from here on in.

Kim Little was arguably the most influential player on the pitch with much build-up play stemming from her constant clever movement and sophisticated passing. Little should also be noted for her ability to play in wide players and her partnerships with both Lauren Hemp and Georgia Stanway meant a lot of joy was derived from the wing.

Speaking after the match, Hege Riise pinpointed Hemp as one of Team GB's most crucial performers, "I am happy with the team performance and there will always be players that make something special.

"Today, on the left, Lauren did that. One v one all the time to get in and serve in the box."

Squads

Team GB: Ellie Roebuck, Lucy Bronze, Steph Houghton (C), Millie Bright, Rachel Daly, Kim Little (90+1'), Keira Walsh (68'), Caroline Weir (89'), Georgia Stanway, Ellen White, Lauren Hemp (67')

Substitutes: Carly Telford (GK), Demi Stokes, Leah Williamson, Sophie Ingle (68'), Jill Scott (89'), Ella Toone (90+1'), Nikita Parris (67')

Goals: White (18', 73')

Chile: Christiane Endler (C), Carla Guerrero, Francisca Lara, Nayadet Lopez Opaza (80'), Karen Araya, Maria Jose Urrutia, Yanara Aedo (77'), Yessenia Lopez (70'), Daniela Pardo, Daniela Zamora, Camila Saez

Substitutes: Natalia Campos (GK), Fernanda Ramirez, Yenny Acuna (77'), Rosario Balmaceda (80'), Javiera Toro, Javiera Grez, M. Francisca Mardones (70')

Japan 0-1 Great Britain



By Joshua Bunting

Team GB secured qualification for the quarter-finals of the Olympics with a 1-0 win over host nation Japan.

Following the win over Chile Hege Riise knew a win would send her side into the last eight of the competition.

Team GB created the first opportunity in the 17th minute after a quick passage of play when Lucy Bronze crossed for Ellen White who flicked the ball out to Sophie Ingle before her shot was blocked and put behind for a corner that came to nothing in the end.

Leah Williamson then made a good block on 29 minutes as Honoka Hayashi stepped onto a poor pass before fizzing a shot in but the Arsenal defender did well to make the block before Lucy Bronze took the pressure off winning a goal-kick.

Japan then started to take control of the game as Mina

Tanaka received the ball on the edge of the area before turning quickly and cracking her effort wide of the right hand post.

On 42 minutes Williamson played a superb pass into Lauren Hemp taking the Japanese defence out before the wingers cross aiming for Ellen White was over-hit and sailed wide for a goal-kick.

It wasn't a first half that will live long in the memory with not many chances being created and with Japan keeping a good team-shape and frustrating Team GB in midfield.

Hege Riise's side started the second half well moving the ball quicker along with making a tactical change moving Kiera Walsh higher up the pitch.

Williamson on 58 minutes met a corner before flicking it over the defenders head but was prevented getting a shot away by a good challenge from Risa Shimizu.

A minute later Riise then thought it was time for a change as Caroline Weir came on for Sophie Ingle meaning that Walsh dropped back allowing Weir to push higher up the pitch.

In a game limited with talking points it was Walsh who tried her luck on 70 minutes as she cut inside before unleashing a strike wide of the target.

However Team GB did take the lead on 74 minutes when Kim Little turned away from danger before playing the ball out to Bronze who crossed perfectly for White to head into the net to break the deadlock.

Riise then made further changes as Rachel Daly, Georgia Stanway and Jill Scott all came on replacing Nikita Parris, Little and Lauren Hemp.

Team GB had the final opportunity of the game as Weir clipped a free-kick over the wall before the ball landed on the roof of the net.

Canada 1-1 Great Britain



By Joshua Bunting

Having already booked their place in the final eight, Team GB faced Canada in their final match of the group stages.

Team GB boss, Hege Riise, opted for quite the mix-up in personnel. Co-captains Steph Houghton and Kim Little were rotated to the bench and so Chelsea's Sophie Ingle donned the armband for the first time.

Midfielder Jill Scott made her first start of the tournament.

Keira Walsh and Lauren Hemp who both started the two previous matches were not named in the squad for this fixture.

Fran Kirby and Lotte Wubben-Moy were named as substitutes meaning all players have been named in the matchday squad at least once.

On the other side, Bev Priestman's Canada lined-up differently with some notable absences in their starting

eleven. Allysha Chapman, Desiree Scott and captain Christine Sinclair were not named as part of the squad.

Early pressure from Canada kicked us off with a few sloppy clearances in quick succession putting Team GB seemingly on the backfoot.

However, after 20 minutes of 'to-in and fro-ing' between the two sides, Team GB began to find a little bit of rhythm in retaining possession.

An opportunity arose for Canada at 27 minutes after a throw-in ricocheted off of Leah Williamson's face, falling loosely into the area close to Canada's Janine Beckie.

The danger was quickly averted by a quick moving Millie Bright who ensured Ellie Roebuck would not be put to the test.

Team GB responded as their first chance of the match fell to Rachel Daly. Jill Scott picked up the ball in the middle of the park and sent it out wide to

Daly. Daly collected it well, closing down the space as she drove in centrally.

Daly's shot was interrupted timely by Ashely Lawrence and sent out of touch by Stephanie Labbe.

At 38 minutes Demi Stokes fed in a beautifully timed pass to Nikita Parris just inside the 25-yard box. Parris was off-balance but managed a flick on to Caroline Weir who was square on to goal. Weir could not catch her footing in time and the chance fell to nothing.

Similarly to the first, Canada came out of the blocks looking lively for the second half. By 49 minutes the Canadians had already had themselves a chance as a run down the flank is collected by Evelyn Viens.

Her tight angled shot was deflected off of Bright and Roebuck collected comfortably.

Three minutes later the Brits found themselves in hot water again as an error by Roebuck

misjudge her pass out from the back and gifted the ball straight to Adriana Leon.

Once again, Bright put herself on the line and made a crucial block as frictions began to tense.

The first goal of the match came in moments later at 54 minutes. Lawrence made a thundering run down the left-hand side before releasing a perfectly accurate ball to an unmarked Leon.

Leon took her shot in with one-touch and sank the ball past Roebuck.

After Canada broke the ice, Team GB began to recompose themselves and found themselves knocking on the door for the last twenty minutes of the match.

Notably Weir's tight left sided shot managed to hit both the crossbar and the post.

Eventually the equaliser came around the 82-minute mark

when Weir finally managed to pot her first goal of the tournament.

After receiving the ball in space, Weir lined up a long range shot and fire it on target.

Weir's effort was deflected by Canada's Nichelle Prince and bounced its way into the back of the net. Full time: Canada 1-1 Team GB.

A square result means that Team GB finish at the top of the table in Group E. They will go on to face Australia in their quarter final match on Friday 30th August at 11am (BST).

Squads

Canada: Stephanie Labbe (GK), Kadeisha Buchannan (C), Quinn (65'), Deanne Rose (45'), Jayde Riviere, Adriana Leon, Ashley Lawrence (80'), Evelyn Viens (52'), Vanessa Gilles, Janine Beckie (45'), Sophie Schmidt

Substitutes: Kailen Sheridan (GK), Gabrielle Carle (80'), Jessie Fleming (45'), Juila Grosso (65'), Jordyn Huitema (45'), Nichelle Prince (52'), Shelina Zadorsky

Goal: Adriana Leon (55')

Team GB: Ellie Roebuck (GK), Lucy Bronze, Millie Bright, Leah Williamson, Demi Stokes, Sophie Ingle (72') (C), Jill Scott (62'), Caroline Weir, Rachel Daly (62'), Georgia Stanway, Nikita Parris

Substitutes: Sandy MacIver (GK), Lotte Wubben-Moy, Ella Toone, Fran Kirby (72'), Ellen White (62'), Kim Little (62'), Steph Houghton

Goal: Caroline Weir (85')



Daniela Pochelli/SPP



Great Britain 3-4 Australia



By Joshua Bunting

Heartache in Kashima as Australia reign victorious over Team GB in a nail biter of a quarter final.

Hege Riise's Team GB took on Australia in the second quarter final of the day. For Team GB it was a familiar setting as they remained in Kashima from their previous fixture that ended in a 1-1 draw with Canada.

Team GB finished top of their table in Group E with seven points ahead of Canada and Olympic hosts, Japan. Australia finished third in Group G on four points below Sweden and the USA.

Team GB kicked the game off and both sides came out of the gate strongly, looking lively in possession and working hard to retrieve it. Team GB looked to edge the early part of the first half as the more dangerous of the two and at the

fifteen-minute mark they began to really threaten.

A triangular passage of quick one touch passes between Kim Little, Lauren Hemp and Demi Stokes outfoxed the Australian defence releasing a fine ball into the box for Rachel Daly. Daly swung a left footed volley, but Teagan Micah managed to make the save before Daly was then called offside.

Seconds later, Keira Walsh found space beyond the 25-yard box and fired in a whipping shot (her first of two) that hit the post, narrowly missing out on giving Team GB the lead. Despite these chances, the pendulum of momentum began to swing in the favour of the Matilda's and unlike Team GB, the Australians capitalised on this.

The Matilda's Steph Catley stepped up to take a corner from the right-hand side. With a inch perfect delivery, Catley's ball directed itself to the head of Alanna Kennedy.

Finding herself in space due to the static movements of Team GB's defence, Kennedy powerfully met the ball to send it past Ellie Roebuck and put Australia one-nil up.

As expected, the Matilda's started their second half with confidence, forcing another set piece within seconds of the restart. A shaky looking Team GB manage to clear the loose ball but found themselves s in hot water again soon enough as Hayley Raso's cross falls to Kyah Simon who is gifted a free header. Roebuck collects.

After a tirade of Australian attack, at 55 minutes Keira Walsh took matters into her own hands, finding space to dribble through the centre of the field before releasing a pass to Hemp. Hemp made a driven run out on the wing before cutting in and taking a shot. Micah made a comfortable save.

Just minutes later Team GB find an equaliser through Ellen

White. Once again, Hemp finds joy cutting in from the left, sends in a left footed cross that finds White in space. White is able to convert the header and find the back of the net.

At 65 minutes White writes her name on the scoresheet again. Leah Williamson sent a lofty throw-in into the box, White flicked it behind where it collided with Hemp. White's quick thinking meant she tracked where the ball would land, swept up the loose ball and hit a low shot that beat Micah. Team GB were 2-1 up.

What followed was twenty minutes of fairly relaxed play from Team GB, bordering on confident at times. However, just as Team GB thought they were in the clear, Australia's Sam Kerr shot in a last-minute equaliser. Raso fired in a cross from the left in which Kerr had already found space. Kerr received the ball and was not immediately closed down which in turn allowed her time to line up her shot and the match ended all square; Team GB – 2, Australia – 2.

With nothing to separate the two sides, extra time began as tired legs were replaced by fresh ones. Team GB looked to have the upper hand, rousing

dangerously in and around the penalty area for the first few minutes.

Team GB then drew a themselves a penalty after Nikita Parris was knocked as she strode toward goal. In the 100th minute of the game, Scotland's Caroline Weir stepped up to take the spot kick. Weir hit a rather soft left-footed strike that was pushed out fairly easily by Micah.

With the missed penalty Australia found a second wind and took advantage of the deflated Brits. Substitute Mary Fowler brought the ball down just outside of Team GB's area and took a shot that deflected off of Lucy Bronze and spun into the top right-corner of Roebuck's goal. Australia take the advantage and end the first half of extra time 3-2 up.

The whistle blew to kick off the second half of extra time and Kerr beat out Steph Houghton to make it 4-2. Kerr jumped high for a header, climbing tall to deny Houghton the defensive clearance, and tipped the ball onto the crossbar with enough force that it bounced down and doubled the gulf.

But not to be ruled out, Team GB responded once again as

White finally bagged herself a hat-trick in the final minutes of the game. Fran Kirby dinked in a cross from the right that White was able to connect with. White finished it off beautifully but unfortunately was not enough to undo the damage.

Team GB: Ellie Roebuck (GK), Lucy Bronze (90+21'), Steph Houghton (C), Leah Williamson, Demi Stokes (58'), Kim Little (79'), Keira Walsh (90+5'), Caroline Weir, Rachel Daly (58'), Ellen White, Lauren Hemp (90+5')

Substitutes: Carly Telford (GK), Millie Bright (58'), Sophie Ingle (90+5'), Jill Scott (79'), Nikita Parris (90+5'), Georgia Stanway (90+21'), Fran Kirby (58')

Goals: White (57', 66', 115')

Australia: Teagan Micah (GK), Ellie Carpenter, Alanna Kennedy, Aivi Luik (79'), Hayley Raso (87'), Emily van Egmond, Tameka Yallop, Steph Catley, Caitlin Foord (79'), Sam Kerr (C), Kyah Simon (79')

Substitutes: Lydia Williams (GK), Kyra Cooney-Cross (79') (90+7'), Clare Polkinghorne (90+7'), Chloe Logarzo (87'), Mary Fowler (79'), Emily Glenik (79'), Laura Brock

Goals: Kennedy (35'), Kerr (89', 106'), Fowler (103')

TOKYO 2020

Riise & Williamson share disappointment



Team GB coach Hege Riise said the team were “devastated” following their departure from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Team GB lost 4-3 to Australia after extra time in their quarter-final match.

“We are devastated right now.

“It is hard to lose a game like this.

“We were well prepared. I think we played most of the game quite well.

“We created a lot of chances, probably should have finished a few of them.

“Now it’s quite hard. We are all devastated.”

“We win and we lose together. So there is no

one to blame. We stood up and we fight together and it wasn’t enough from any of us.

“So we are disappointed that we couldn’t get the fourth goal and take it to penalties.”

Defender Leah Williamson added: “It’s hard because this team isn’t a permanent thing.

“We come together once every Olympics if we’re lucky. Everyone takes so much pride in that.

“I’ll take so much pride forever that I was able to put on that shirt and play for this team as I’m sure the others are too. You have to take all of that.

“But we didn’t just want to come here and celebrate being

Olympians. We wanted to win.”

Australia and Chelsea striker Sam Kerr commented on the win: “I’m tired, excited, proud.

“Always believe. I was playing on one leg for a long time there, I’ve got a sore butt, but I have confidence that no matter what minute, my team will get it to me.”

“I would rather not play against girls that know me and what I’m going to do.

“That was a mental win for me when I’ve seen that, especially as Fran Kirby is the best player in the world for me at the moment.”



WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



WSL back with a bang!



The Women's Super League is coming back with a bang.

Three matches on the opening weekend of the WSL will be played at the clubs' main stadiums.

Tottenham Hotspur will contest their first game at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium when they take on Birmingham City on Saturday, September 4.

Arsenal face defending champions Chelsea at the Emirates on Sunday, September 5.

Finally, Brighton & Hove Albion will take on West Ham at the Amex Stadium on the Sunday as well.

Brighton boss Hope Powell said: "We have only had a couple of games at Crawley with supporters present in the last 18 months so to be able to have a big crowd in at the Amex for the first game of the new season will be brilliant.

"We look forward to welcoming them back and to seeing as many Albion fans

there as possible to get behind the team and making it a memorable occasion for the club."

Arsenal vs Chelsea—Emirates

Sunday, September 5

Ticket prices:

- Adult £12
- U16 & Senior (65+) £6

Brighton vs West Ham—Amex

Sunday, September 5

Ticket prices:

- Adult £5
- U18 & Senior (65+) £2.50

Tottenham vs Birmingham City—TH Stadium

Saturday, September 4

Ticket prices:

- Adults £6.50
- YA £4.50
- Concessions £3.50

Leicester City sign Sigsworth

Leicester City have announced the signing of Jess Sigsworth.

The striker joins the club after leaving Manchester United earlier in the summer after three seasons at the Women's Super League club.

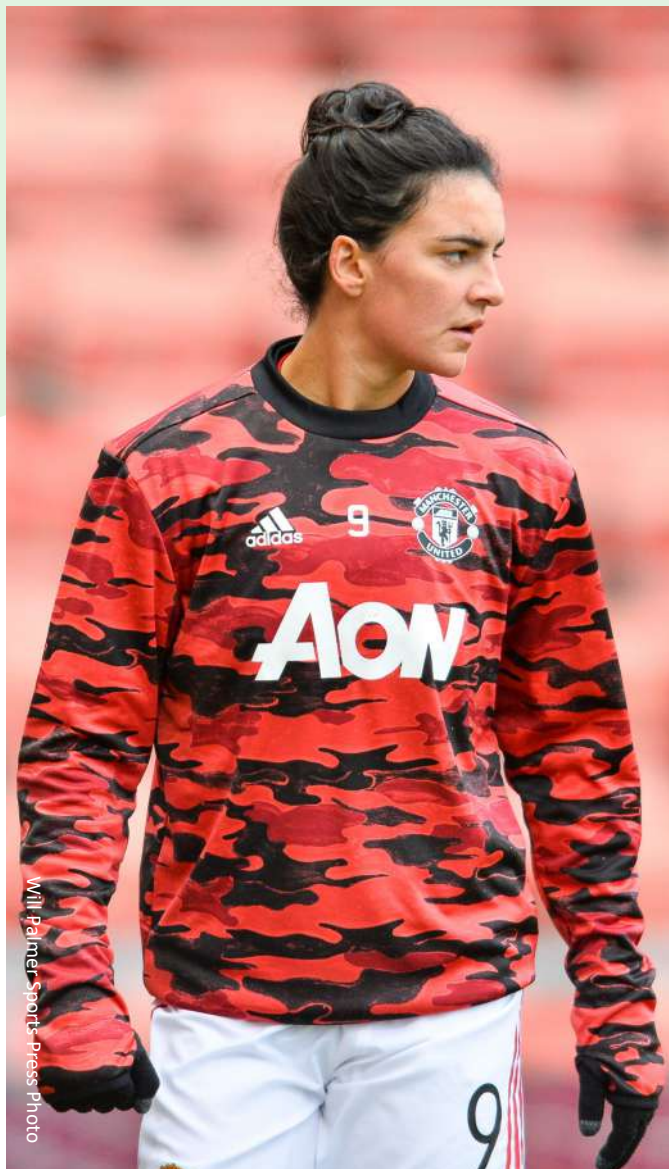
The 26-year-old featured 66 times in all competitions for the Manchester side, scoring 26 goals,.

She now joins the Foxes ahead of their first-ever season in the Barclays FA Women's Super League.

Speaking to LCFC TV, she said: "I'm absolutely delighted. It's a club with a massive ambition, they did extremely well in the Championship.

"I'm really excited and looking forward to being a part of this journey now.

"I spoke with the manager quite a bit before coming and the ambitions, the drive, the way this club wants to be, it's everything that I want to be a part of."



Will Palmer Sports Press Photo

Nobbs injured in pre-season game

Arsenal star Jordan Nobbs was taken off on a stretcher during their pre-season win over Chelsea.

The Gunners released a statement following the game which said: "Jordan sustained an injury to the ligaments of her right ankle during a tackle in our pre-season friendly against Chelsea on Sunday.

"She is now undergoing a review with a specialist to determine the recovery process."

Nobbs took to Twitter to add: "Hard to take after a good Pre season but...we go again".

Nobbs has suffered a number of injuries in her career including damaging her ACL which kept her out of the 2019 Women's World Cup squad.

It is currently unknown how long she will be unable for Arsenal.

Fridays announced as new partner for Everton

Everton have announced that Fridays has become the team's 'Official Restaurant Partner' for the 2021/22 season.

The collaboration will see the two work collectively to raise awareness of women in sport.

As part of the agreement, Fridays' branding will appear on pitch-side advertising at Everton's Walton Hall Park stadium, with the restaurant also getting access to matchday experiences, player appearances and official merchandise for giveaways.

Speaking on the partnership news, Dan Staples, Chief Marketing Officer at Fridays, told evertonfc.com: "It's an absolute pleasure to be the Official Restaurant Partner of Everton Women this season.

"After a busy summer of signings, we are excited to watch and support the team as they challenge for honours this season.

"Furthermore, we are very proud to work with everyone at Everton Women, and our four other new club partners, to help raise the profile of the women's game and inspire the next generation."

Manchester United sign Mannion

Aoife Mannion has made the short move from Manchester City to Manchester United in a deal until the end of the 2022/23 season.

The 25-year-old defender joins the club after two seasons with rivals City.

Mannion has represented England at various youth levels and received her first senior call-up in 2019.

Aoife Mannion told the official website: "I'm delighted to be joining Manchester United.

"It's a new chapter for me in my career and I'm just looking forward to working as hard as I can for this club."

Women's Super League:



By Ali Rampling

With another new season looming, there are a few new names on the managers list for the Women's Super League.

It's not just players who have been chopping and changing in the closed season. Only four managers who started the 2020/21 season remain.

Here we give you a run down of the 12 managers who are hoping to lead their team to victory.

Arsenal: Jonas Eidevall

Arsenal are one of four WSL clubs to start the season with a fresh face in the dugout, with Jonas Eidevall the man tasked with taking the reins from Joe Montemurro.

The 38-year-old has worked as both an assistant and head coach in the men's and women's game, starting his career as a number two at Lunds BK in his native Sweden in 2006. He became head coach three years later, before making the switch in the women's game in 2012 with FC Rosengard, initially as an assistant and then as a head coach.

Eidevall briefly left the club in 2016 to take over as Henrik Larsson's assistant at Helsingborgs, and returned to Rosengard two years later.

During his six years with Rosengard, Eidevall guided the club to four major trophies and to the quarter finals of last season's Champions League.

Aston Villa: Carla Ward

Aston Villa also start the season with a brand new boss, having pinched the highly regarded Carla Ward from second city rivals Birmingham.

Ward worked wonders at Birmingham during her only season in charge, guiding her thriftily assembled side to safety thanks to a host of last gasp goals, despite regularly being unable to name a full squad for fixtures and having to contend with a lack of support from the club – which got so bad that the players sent a formal letter of complaint.

One of the 37-year-old's finest moments of last season was seeing

Meet the managers



Birmingham to a 1-0 victory over her new employers at Villa Park in the WSL's maiden second city derby – despite having a match day squad of just 13.

Birmingham City: Scott Booth

Birmingham boss Scott Booth is one of two coaches making his WSL managerial debut, joining the Blues from all-conquering Scottish side Glasgow City.

Glasgow won six successive league titles under Booth's stewardship and reached the quarter finals of the 2019/20 Champions League, despite not being a fully professional outfit.

The 49-year-old has pedigree as a player too,

turning out for Aberdeen, Borussia Dortmund, Utrecht, Vitesse Arnhem and FC Twente in a career spanning 14 years. He also earned 22 caps for Scotland and was selected for two major tournaments by his country.

Brighton: Hope Powell

Hope Powell is one of just four managers who started the 2020/21 WSL season to still be at the same club. The 54-year-old is heading into her fifth campaign in charge of the Seagulls.

A pioneer of the game, Powell enjoyed a successful playing career with Croydon, Millwall, Fulham and Bromley, and earned 66 caps for her country – the first at the age of 16.

The former attacking midfielder was then appointed England manager shortly after hanging up her boots in 1998.

During her time in charge of the Lionesses, the face of the women's game in England was transformed.

Powell helped to implement central contracts in order to professionalise the sport and led England to the final of Euro 2009.

Chelsea: Emma Hayes

In charge of Chelsea for a 10th successive season is the Ballon d'Or nominee, four-time WSL champion and geese fanatic Emma Hayes.

Hayes signed a new long-term contract with the

Blues ahead of the 2021/22 campaign, keeping her at the club indefinitely. The 44-year-old has been instrumental in moulding Chelsea into the terrifically run club they are today, with their setup and lavish playing squad the envy of much of the league.

Hayes honed her skills at Arsenal alongside Vic Akers as assistant coach to the Gunners great between 2006 and 2008. She was part of the coaching team as Arsenal won the Champions League in 2007 – the one trophy that has so far eluded the Blues.

Everton: Willie Kirk

The WSL's second Scot is Willie Kirk, who heads into his third full season in charge at the Toffees.

The 43-year-old's first foray into the women's game came in 2011 with Hibernian Women, where he won the Scottish Women's Premier League Cup and Scottish Cup during his two years in charge.

Kirk joined Everton in December 2018 following a brief spell as Casey Stoney's assistant manager at Manchester United. The 43-year-old had previously been in charge of Bristol City, suffering relegation and achieving promotion with the Vixens between 2015 and 2018.

Leicester City: Jonathan Morgan

WSL newbies Leicester have made massive overhauls across the last couple of years as the club increased its professionalism, but manager Jonathan Morgan has remained a constant.

Morgan has been in charge of the side since the 2014/15 season, overseeing the club's impressive promotion to the top flight last season.

Leicester is a bit of a family affair for Morgan; his sister Holly is first team coach, having previously been club captain prior to her retirement in 2021, while his father Rohan is club chairman and his other sister is general manager. The family have been

instrumental in Leicester's rise to the WSL.

Manchester City: Gareth Taylor

Gareth Taylor heads into his second season in the Manchester City dugout. The 48-year-old had turned out for the Citizens in a playing career that spanned 20 years and 15 separate clubs. He also earned 15 caps for Wales.

While Taylor's playing days saw him hop from club to club, his coaching career has been more settled. Like his predecessor Nick Cushing, Taylor was an internal appointment, bred in the City system having been in various coaching roles with the club since 2011.

The former Wales international's first season in charge of City saw the club lift the FA Cup and narrowly miss out on the WSL title, as Taylor's style of play was gradually implemented on the side.

Manchester United: Marc Skinner



There's a familiar face in the Leigh Sports Village dugout this season, as former Birmingham manager Marc Skinner takes over from Casey Stoney.

Skinner spent three seasons with the Blues between 2016 and 2019, with Birmingham constantly knocking on the door of the WSL's 'big three' during his time in charge despite working on a small budget. He also guided the side to the 2017 FA Cup final.

Skinner left Birmingham – a club he had been at in various roles for a decade – in 2019 to take charge of Orlando Pride.

Reading: Kelly Chambers

Reading through and through, Kelly Chambers progressed through the youth system with the Royals, captained the club prior to her playing career being ended by an ACL and is the second longest serving manager in the WSL.

Chambers has been in charge of the Royals since

2015, guiding the then part time outfit to promotion during her maiden season in charge.

Chambers also has a daughter, giving birth midway through the Royals' relegation battle in 2016, taking two weeks of maternity leave and returning to guide Reading to safety.

Tottenham: Rehanne Skinner

For the first time in 12 years, Tottenham will begin a league season without Karen Hills in the dugout. Hills and Juan Amoros were dismissed during the 2020/21 season and Rehanne Skinner brought in as the pair's replacement.

Skinner successfully guided Spurs away from the drop zone, and how has her first full season in charge of the north London outfit ahead of her.

The job is Skinner's first senior managerial position since a spell in charge of Leicester back in 2010; she has since held various

number two roles (including at rivals Arsenal), in addition to working in the Wales and England youth systems. She had been Phil Neville's number two prior to taking the Tottenham position.

West Ham United: Olli Harder

Olli Harder is the second WSL manager preparing for his first full season in charge, having taken over at the Hammers midway through the 2020/21 campaign following Matt Beard's resignation.

After a slow start, Harder successfully steered West Ham to safety – their 5-0 win over Reading with three games remaining was instrumental in their survival.

The New Zealander was persuaded to pack up and switch countries to take the West Ham job, leaving Norway – where he was first-team coach at Klepp IL and assistant manager at Sandnes Ulf. Harder is well travelled, having previously had stints in the United States and China.



Emirates also to host derby game

Arsenal and Tottenham will come head-to-head at the Emirates Stadium.

The game is currently scheduled to be played on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Chief executive, Vinai Venkatesham, told the official website: “We’re delighted to announce that we will play at least two competitive women’s fixtures at Emirates Stadium this coming season.

“These games provides us with an exciting opportunity to showcase our world-class talent to more people than ever before; both through the matches at Emirates Stadium and also as a result of the new WSL broadcast deal, which will give high-quality access to live matches to huge audiences around the world.

“Arsenal Women is one of the most successful teams in the history of the women’s game and everyone at the club is really looking forward to the coming season, with the aim of making this another successful campaign.

“We’re proud to be hosting WSL matches at Emirates Stadium and hope to see many of our fans join us for what are sure to be two exciting games.”



Orlagh Gardner/Sports Press Photo

Hampton joins Aston Villa

Goalkeeper Hannah Hampton has joined Aston Villa on a two-year deal.

The former Birmingham goalkeeper left over the summer and received her first senior England call-up in February 2020.

Manager Carla Ward said: "Hannah is up there with the best goalkeepers in the WSL.

"She is a really gifted individual who can play with both feet and is comfortable under pressure.

"Her ambition is to become England's No.1 and hopefully we can continue to develop her and help her achieve that."

Berger signs contract extension with Chelsea

Ann-Katrin Berger has signed a new contract extension which will see her stay with the club until 2024.

The goalkeeper joined the Blues in 2019 and won last season's Super League golden glove after keeping 12 clean sheets in 17 games.

Berger also played a major role in getting Chelsea to their first-ever Champions League final.

One of her highlights coming in the first leg of our round of 16 tie against Atletico Madrid in which Berger pulled off two penalty saves to help Chelsea progress.

On signing her extension, Berger told chelseafc.com:
"I'm really happy to stay here for longer."

"The players, the team and the staff, they make me a better player so there's no reason why I should want to go anywhere else."

McCabe announced as Arsenal's Player of the Season

Katie McCabe has been voted as their Women's Player of the Season presented by MasterCard.

The award is voted for by fans with the Republic of Ireland captain being classed as the "overwhelming" winner. McCabe set up 13 goals, scoring two and won the award with 48% of the votes.

Vivianne Miedema finished second and Leah Williamson was in third.



NATASHA FLINT

Championship Player of the Season

By Marissa Thomas

Natasha Flint was at the heart of Leicester City's promotion charge last season and she is raring to go as her side start their Women's Super League campaign away to Aston Villa. The Women's Football Magazine caught up with Flint after she was awarded our Championship Player of the Season 20/21.

What are you looking forward to most about competing in the Women's Super League with Leicester City?

I'm just looking forward to being back in that league myself and with the team. I'm looking forward to seeing how we're going to do this year, with us being a new group of girls and it's going to be our first year in this league. I'm looking forward to it all.

We'll probably win a few games, lose a few games and draw a few games. It's going to be a tough year all round but I'm really looking forward to it.

Staying up is a massive thing. We don't just want to go into the

league and scrape a few wins, we'll have a lot of losses and draws but we're looking to go into this league and stay up.

After finishing the season as Leicester's top scorer with 17 goals, have you set any targets for the upcoming season?

I haven't set myself any targets. I didn't set targets last year either. I am a striker but I don't set myself any goal targets because I don't want to put pressure on myself so I go into each game thinking I just need to play well. As long as I do my job, the goals will come.

Having represented England at youth level, do you still hold ambitions of representing the Lionesses?

Yeah 100%. It is a very big thing for me. It is in all my individual

“It's a big aim for me to get into the England squad”

goals to get a place at England with the Lionesses. It is a massive thing for me, it is one thing that I am going to be working on a lot this year. Now I am back in this league, it is one thing that I want to work towards. That is a big aim for me to get back into England. Even if it is just training camps, I just want to get my name there so I can be recognised and they know who I am.

It can't have been easy to be on furlough during the pandemic and losing your job as a lab technician.

Did moving to full-time training help improve your football throughout such a difficult period?

It helped massively. As much as being on furlough was bad for myself and everyone else, it was a very good thing for me because it gave me that time to be able to actually do the training I need to do. With being a lab technician, the hours I used to do, playing part-time at the time, I physically couldn't get any more time on the pitch or on the roads doing runs. I was doing so many hours, then going to train at Blackburn Rovers, so furlough has worked really well for me, it has given me a pathway to get back into

Championship Player of the Season

full-time football.

I was looking to get back into full-time football at the same time.

It would have been a lot more difficult with a team just believing in what I could do when I was still a lab tech so for teams to know that I got made redundant and I was on furlough worked in my favour because they knew I was out there getting my fitness to where it needed to be so I could be back as a full-time footballer.

What is an average day in the life of Natasha Flint?

Fun! I go to football and do the business that I need to do. I'm not going to go there to only give 50% or 75%. I'm going there to give 100%, even 150%. Outside of football, I come

home, relax and do a bit of yoga, go out for some food with my partner. It's quite a chilled life.

How far do you think you can go in the women's game, what is your end goal?

My end goal is to play for the Lionesses. I want to be back into the Women's Super League, which I am now. Team wise, I want to be at a team where I'm playing and getting on with everyone, I'm giving them 100% and they're giving me that back and at the same time.

If I do that, I'm hoping to get myself involved with England, that's my overall aim. I want to get myself in there and then hopefully stay there until I retire.

How proud are you of being recognised for a great season by winning The Women's Football Magazine Award (TWFM) for Championship Player of the Season 20/21?

I was really pleased to win that. It just felt like the effort that I was putting in, the time I was investing into training and doing what I needed to do and the goals I was getting on the weekend, it felt like I had done well.

It felt good to win that award, to win something for the season. I've won a few awards this year and that's always my aim. That's my aim every year.

I don't set myself targets so at the end of the year if I do end up winning these awards like I did last year, it's a bonus to me.



Morgan retires from football

Holly Morgan has announced her retirement from football.

The defender has played for 17 years for Leicester City after joining at the age of 11.

Speaking to LCFC TV, Morgan said: “For the past two years it’s been something I’ve been thinking about and during that time I’ve been happy with the contribution I’ve been able to provide for the first team.

“However, I think it was just the right time for me to now look at what else I’m passionate about, and that’s coaching.

“I feel in myself that I’ve achieved what I wanted to, playing wise, and now I want to contribute to Leicester City in a different capacity and that’s as a First Team Coach.

“Alongside being first team captain, I’m also very proud of having a pivotal role within LCFC Women’s Academy set up, managing and coordinating the pathway for the past two-and-a-half years.

“I’m incredibly proud of the contribution I have made towards the progress and development of the Academy, leading the programme alongside playing.

“Working with an array of players, I’m delighted to have overseen five players making it onto the England pathway, with three making England youth appearances.

“It is now an incredibly exciting time for the academy with the support and guidance of Leicester City Football Club and I’m delighted to have been part of its progress and development up to this point.”



Bardsley signs one-year extension

Goalkeeper Karen Bardsley has signed a one-year contract extension with Manchester City.

Speaking to mancity.com, he said: “It feels great to be back and to have signed a new deal.

“I really missed being here in Manchester –although I had a great time on loan, there’s no place like home.

“It’s so special to have been a part of something that’s grown so quickly and to have been here from the start –to see what it’s become here at City now, I feel very proud of that.

“The past seven years have flown by, and long may it continue. It’s been more than I could have ever hoped for and I’m so excited for the season ahead.”

Reading extend partnership with BDB Pitmans

Reading have announced they have signed a new deal with BDB Pitmans.

After previously announcing their status as Official Legal Partner for Reading FC Women, the firm has agreed to expand their partnership to include back of shirt sponsorship for the team's forthcoming campaign.

As part of the partnership, the BDB Pitmans branding will be visible at all Reading FC Women home matches, with their logo displayed across the back of the new shirt for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons.

The firm has also committed to supporting a number of community initiatives during our 150th anniversary campaign.

Head of Commercial at Reading Football Club, Tim Kilpatrick, added "I'd like to express our sincere thanks to BDB Pitmans and their staff for their continued support for Reading FC Women.

"We're looking forward to embarking on the next two seasons with the locally-based law firm as our back of shirt sponsor in what we hope will be a landmark season for women's football as England prepares to host the Women's European Championships next summer."



Villa to face Chelsea in a pre-season friendly

Aston Villa will face Chelsea at the Kingsmeadow in their final pre-season game ahead of the 2021/22 season.

The fixture will take place on Friday, August 27.

This will be a final friendly fixture for Carla Ward's side before beginning their Barclay's FA Women's Super League campaign against Leicester City the following weekend.

Villa will also take on Everton at the Banks's Stadium on August 21 (ko 12.30pm).

Transfer Talk: All the



By Jamie Davies

Chelsea have signed Lauren James from Manchester United for both her and brother Reece James to be playing for the same club.

Welcome to Transfer Talk as we highlight the biggest moves in the women's game from over the last few weeks.

The Women's Super League (WSL) is just weeks away as the new season kicks off on the opening weekend of September. Can Chelsea defend their title?

It's a key time of the season even before a ball is kicked as some teams look to strengthen their squad and also let go of some of their current players.

Here are some big transfers that have taken place since our last issue...

Lauren James - Man Utd to Chelsea

The WSL champions already looking to improve after what was a convincing season under the management of Emma Hayes after just missing out on a Champions League trophy.

The signature of Lauren James is a bid to help improve their quality up front. James has been known for positioning a little further behind the forwards at Manchester United to help feed the likes of Christen Press and Ella Toone.

But the main desire of James moving to Chelsea was so that she can be closer to her family down south while also reuniting with her brother, Reece James.

The fee is believed to be up to £200,000 according to Sky Sports.

James joined the red devils in 2017 from Arsenal at just the age of 16. This was once United

had put the green light on for a women's side to be formed.

Man Utd will no doubt miss James' presence up front but it is an exciting transfer to see James fight at the top with arguably the best team in the division.

Vicky Losada – Barcelona to Man City

This doesn't really like news when this announcement/transfer had been expected for a while.

After leading her team of Barcelona to a glorious treble season, what a way to bow out as a Barcelona player by winning everything including the Champions League back in May.

Losada has now left her home town to take on a new challenge by signing a two year contract with City.

e latest from the WSL



The signing is a very promising one for the blues as they hope to strengthen in a bid to take the WSL out of Chelsea's hands next year.

What City have brought in is a successful leader who knows what it takes to win it all and that can really help them out in the changing room in what is a very impressive squad already.

Chioma Ubogagu – Real Madrid to Tottenham Hotspur

It is always nice to see an English player come to the home leagues after being abroad with a list of other teams to help them grow and gain very valuable experience.

Tottenham Hotspur confirmed on July 30th that they had signed England forward Chioma Ubogagu from Real Madrid on a two-year deal.

Ubogagu has only made three appearances for the Lionesses

but did score in one of those games and with the 28-year-old returning to the WSL, it may just knock on the door for an England spot under new coach Sarina Wiegman.

Some Arsenal fans may not welcome the news of Ubogagu joining their North London rivals as she once had a stint at the gunners in 2015 before flying to the United States to represent Houston Dash and Orlando Pride.

There was also a loan spell in Australia for Brisbane Roar before heading to the Galacticos in Spain.

Some world travelling for Ubogagu but let's see how her homecoming plays out.

Emily Ramsey – Man Utd to Birmingham City (Loan)

Now this is a goalkeeper that has travelled around the WSL circuit in the last year or so.

As well as being one of Man Utd's main goalkeepers in Casey Stoney's squad last season, Ramsey has been going out on loan.

Last season Ramsey made a move to West Ham United that became just a short loan spell but no games were played.

The 20-year-old also went on loan to Sheffield United in 2020 and only played one game for the Blades.

But as of August 6th, Birmingham City announced Ramsey as their latest transfer but again it is only on loan.

The England U21 goalkeeper is of course young and has a promising future ahead and definitely has the elements of being a no. 1 England goalkeeper and quite possibly Man Utd as well.

New members elected to FA Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship board



The FA Women's Championship

The Football Association is pleased to announce two new members to its FA Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship Board following a recent election.

Michelle Walder, a Non-Executive Director at Brighton & Hove Albion, was elected onto the board as a Barclays FA Women's Super League representative.

She is alongside Lewes Chief Executive, Maggie Murphy, who will represent the FA Women's Championship.

Michelle and Maggie will join a board of re-elected members that is made up of the following club representatives:

- Bruce Bruck (Chelsea)
- Svenja Geissmar (Arsenal)

- Rebecca Caplehorn (Tottenham Hotspur)
- Michelle Walder (Brighton & Hove Albion)
- Lee Sanders (Durham)
- Maggie Murphy (Lewes)

The two new members will replace Manchester City's Omar Berrada, and Susan Whelan of Leicester City.

The statement from the FA said: "The FA would like to congratulate all those elected and re-elected onto the board, and to thank Omar and Susan for their contribution during their time as members."

Thomas signs for Manchester United

Manchester United have announced the signing of Scotland international Martha Thomas.

The 25-year-old striker joins the club after spending two seasons with West Ham and will remain with the club until the end of the 2022/23 season, with the option of a further year.

Thomas has eight caps for her country after making her senior debut in March 2020.

Martha Thomas told manutd.com: "I'm excited to be joining Manchester United, I've been impressed with the success the club has had over the last few years and that was a real drive for me to come here.

"I want to be enjoying my football again and I'm looking forward to challenging myself in this environment and being part of an attacking team where I can express myself."

Ins: Vilde Boe Risa (Sandviken), Hannah Blundell (Chelsea), Sophie Baggaley (Bristol City), Aoife Mannion

Simon completes move to Tottenham

Tottenham Hotspur have signed Kyah Simon from PSV Eindhoven.

The 30-year-old forward has signed a contract with the Women's Super League club until 2023.

She wrote herself into the history books at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics when she became the first indigenous Australian player to reach 100 international caps and helped Australia to finish fourth at the tournament.

Kyah told the official website: "I'm really excited to join Spurs, an incredible, historic Club that is known around the world. Playing in the WSL has always been a dream of mine and I'm so happy to be joining such a big Club. It's a fantastic opportunity and a good challenge for me. The Club is making strides on and off the pitch and I'm looking forward to meeting the team and helping them achieve success next season."

West Ham United bring in Leat

New Zealand goalkeeper Anna Leat has signed for West Ham United, subject to international clearance.

The New Zealand international joins the Hammers after returning from the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Leat has made four appearances for the New Zealand national team and started against the USA at the Olympics.

Manager Olli Harder said: "Anna is somebody that we've been monitoring for some time. She's a young goalkeeper with a lot of International experience for someone of her young age.

"She will add tremendous value to our goalkeeping department and will bring lots of energy to the changing room.

"I believe that she is somebody who has a great mentality and fits into the culture that we are creating here at West Ham."

Banaras joins inclusion campaign

Birmingham city Regional Talent Club's full-back Layla Banaras has been working alongside Gareth Southgate on a new inclusion campaign.

The campaign is joined with the FA and the South Asian stars of British football.

In honour of South Asian Heritage month, Layla shared her story of how playing with her brother inspired her to get into football, which quickly led her to the Blues Academy where she has starred for seven years.

Layla has worked with other South Asians in football including Hamza Choudhury, Yan Dhanda and Zidane Iqbal to shine a light on an under-represented demographic in professional sport, with the FA's initiative hoping to kick-start participation levels from grass roots to professional.

Robertson joins Blues Women on loan

Scottish midfielder has joined Birmingham City on a season-long loan from Celtic.

Robertson, 29, joined the Hoops at the start of last year and was part of the side which finished second in the 2020/21 Scottish Women's Premier League season.

Robertson told the official website: "I am absolutely delighted to be here and can't wait to get going really.

"Birmingham is a side in the top league, and it is something that I want to be a part of. I have heard their plans going forward and it is something to be excited about.

"Obviously, knowing Scott Booth is ideal because he knows me, and I have played against him. I love his style of play, so to be a part of that is exciting."

Wardlaw signs first professional contract

Midfielder Charlotte Wardlaw has signed her first professional contract with Chelsea.

The 18-year-old joined their academy at the age of 15 and has signed a deal which will see her stay with the club until 2023 with a further one-year option available.

Upon signing her contract, Wardlaw told the official website: "It's amazing, I feel very proud of myself and I feel very honoured to be offered it.

"Sometimes I feel like I need to take a step back and truly look at what I've achieved because when you're in it, you can sometimes forget how far you've come.

"I'm very grateful to be offered this and I'm very excited to finally be officially part of the team."

Orman signs professional contract with Chelsea

Goalkeeper Emily Orman has signed her first professional contract with Chelsea.

The 18-year-old has signed with the Women's Super League side until the summer of 2023 with the option to extend by a further year.

On signing for Chelsea, Orman told the official website: "It's a genuine dream come true and it's an honour to sign my first professional contract at this club.

"It's something that me, my family and coaches around me have been working to achieve since I was about six years old. It's an indescribable feeling but really, the hard work starts now."

Manchester City sign Shaw

Manchester City have announced the signing of Jamaica striker Khadija Shaw on a three-year deal.

The 24-year-old, who is known as 'Bunny' will move to the Women's Super League side in July following the conclusion of her current contract with Division 1 Feminine side Bordeaux.

The contract will see her at the side until 2024 and she will wear the number 21 shirt.

Speaking to [mancity.com](https://www.mancity.com), she said: "It feels amazing to be a Manchester City player. I chose this Club because I want to be a part of the environment, the culture and to play for this amazing team.

"I want to be tested and there is so much experience in the team here, so I know I will learn a lot from everybody around me.

"I grew up as a City fan, and I even have some family members who live in Manchester – when I told them about my move, they were so happy and excited.

"I've always watched the English game and it's something that I've always wanted to be a part of – the Barclays FA WSL is growing and developing tremendously, and I feel as though this is the perfect move for me."

Booth's first team staff appointments made ahead of the new season

After the arrival of Scott Booth at Birmingham City, the Women's Super League club have announced the rest of their first team staff.

Tony Elliott has moved from his previous role as goalkeeping coach to assistant head coach.

Italian Daniel Matraszek takes the vacant goalkeeping coach position.

He spent over five years at Glasgow City helping them secure five Scottish Women's Premier League titles.

Blues also welcome David Merlin, Physiotherapist, Ishan Rawlley-Singh, Physical Performance Coach, and Beth Watkins, Sports Rehabilitator, to the Football Club.

Ale leaves Aston Villa

Aston Villa have confirmed that Asmita Ale has left the club.

The 19-year-old defender, who joined in 2011, declined the offer of a new contract.

The statement said: "The club would like to thank Asmita for her service and wish her well in the future."

CHAMPIONSHIP



Pond joins FA Women's Football Board

The Football Association has announced that former defender Eartha Pond has been appointed to The FA Women's Football Board (WFB) as an independent Non-Executive Director.

Pond, who's former clubs during her playing days included Chelsea, Everton, Charlton Athletic and Tottenham Hotspur brings further expertise and experience to guide, challenge and advise the board on delivering against the four-year 'Inspiring Positive Change' strategy that was launched in October 2020.

The newly created position on the board was advertised and selection was by interview. The panel consisted of Sue Hough, Chair of WFB, Elizabeth Jenkin, WFB Independent, Elaine Oram, WFB member, and Sue Campbell, FA Director of Women's Football. The newly created position on the board is for an undefined length of time.

As well as being a former player, Pond went onto become a PE teacher and progressed into Senior Leadership positions within education, receiving accolades including Sports Teacher of the Year, School of the Year and a Global Teacher Prize finalist. She is skilled in Coaching, Public Speaking, Research, Sports Coaching and Management. She is an influential volunteer in her community and is a re-elected local Councillor for the only Community Council in London, Queens Park Community Council.

Chair of The FA Women's Football Board, Sue Hough, said: "The FA Women's Football Board is delighted to welcome Eartha as our newest member and believe she brings a wealth of experience that will add significant value to the work we conduct.

"She has a passion for football and fundraising,

while equality, diversity and inclusion is integral to her and we are looking forward to her making her mark in those areas.

"The selection panel are confident that Eartha will bring a refreshing view on the talent pathway and look forward to welcoming her to the Women's Football Board."

The full list of members that make up The FA Women's Football Board is as follows:

Rupinder Bains: FA Board representative.

- Sue Campbell: FA Executive rep
- Hannah Dingley: Inclusion Football Advisory Board rep
- Sandi Dosanjh: Chair of Women's National League Board
- Sue Hough (Chair): Chair of the Women's Talent Committee. Sue is a Vice President of The FA and also sits on The FA Board and is on the Ambassadorial Panel. Sue also sits on the Barclays FA WSL/WC Board on behalf of the Women's Football Board and the FA WNL Board. Sue is the CEO of Dorset County FA
- Elizabeth Jenkin : Independent Non-Executive Director
- Jason Lee: Professional Footballers' Association representative. Jason is the Equalities Education Executive at the PFA
- Elaine Oram: Chair of the Women's Pyramid Project Group and Chair of the Ambassadorial Panel. Elaine is the CEO of Nottinghamshire County FA
- Eartha Pond: Independent Non-Executive Director
- Thura Win: Women's Football Conference representative. Thura is also on the Ambassadorial Panel

Women's Championship: Transfers



The FA Women's Championship

Blackburn Rovers



Ins: Chloe Dixon (Sheffield United), Hannah Coan (Everton),

Mia Parry (Liverpool Feds), Megan Hornby (Manchester United)

Outs: Leah Embley (Brighouse Town), Charlotte Newsham (Sheffield United), Ellie Fletcher (free agent), Georgia Walters (free agent), Ria Montgomery (free agent)

Bristol City



Ins: Simran Jhamat (Lewes), Chloe O'Connor (Cardiff Met), Ffion

Morgan (Crystal Palace), Ella Powell (Charlton Athletic), Ava Kuyken (free agent), Satara Murray (FA Austin Elite)

Outs: Ebony Salmon (Racing Louisville), Ella Mastrantonio (Lazio), Benedicte Haland (Selfoss FC), Yana Daniels

(Liverpool), Jasmine Matthews (Liverpool), Carla Humphrey (Liverpool) Georgia Wilson (free agent), Jemma Purfield (free agent), Gemma Evans (free agent), Sophie Baggaley (free agent), Faye Byron (free agent), Megan Wynne (free agent), Meaghan Sargeant (free agent), Charlie Wellings (free agent)

Charlton Athletic



Ins: Sophie Quirk (Reading), Anna Filbey (Tottenham Hotspur)

Outs: Ella Powell (Bristol City), Charley Clifford (Crystal Palace), Jenna Legg (Watford), Grace Coombs (free agent), Ellie Dorey (free agent), Simone Eligon (free agent), Kara Fordjour (free agent), Katie Godden (free agent), Alice Griffiths (free agent), Jaime Gotch (free agent), Beth Lumsden (free agent), Shanell Salgado (free agent), Olivia Smith (free agent)

Coventry United



Ins: Katie Wilkinson (Sheffield United), Naomi Hartley (Sheffield United), Nat

Johnson (Sheffield United), Mollie Green (Birmingham City), Grace Riglar (Leicester City), Lucy Thomas (London City Lionesses), Rio Hardy (Apollon)

Outs: Beth Merrick (Wolverhampton Wanderers), Jodie Whiteman (Solihull Moors on loan), Helen Dermondy (free agent), Sue Wood (free agent), Maz Gauntlett (free agent)

Crystal Palace



Ins: Aimee Everett (Leicester City), Molly Sharpe (Durham), Gracie Pearce (on loan from

Tottenham Hotspur), Charley Clifford (Charlton Athletic), Leanne Cowan (London City

Lionesses), Millie Farrow (Leicester City)

Outs: Ffion Morgan (Bristol City), Amber Stobbs (Watford), Emma Gibbon (free agent), Amber Gaylor (free agent), Amy Taylor (free agent), Georgia Clifford (free agent), Leeta Rutherford (free agent), Ashleigh Goddard (free agent), Ashlee Hincks (free agent), Andria Georgiou (free agent)

Durham



Ins: Liz Ejupi (London City Lionesses)

Outs: Molly Sharpe (Crystal Palace)

Lewes



Ins: Izzy Dalton (Brisbane Roar), Kallie Balfour (London City

Lionesses), Amelia Hazard (London Bees), Ellie Mason (London City Lionesses), Heidi Logan (Birmingham City), Freda Ayisi (London City Lionesses), Lara Miller (Manchester United), Rebecca McKenna (Linfield)

Outs: Mollie Rouse (London City Lionesses), Sammy Quayle (free agent), Katie Rood (free agent)

Liverpool



Ins: Leanna Kiernan (West Ham United), Yana Daniëls (Bristol City), Megan

Campbell (Manchester City), Jasmine Matthews (Liverpool), Carla Humphrey (Bristol City), Rianna Dean (Tottenham Hotspur)

Outs: Sophie Bradley-Auckland (Sheffield United), Jess Clarke (Sheffield United), Rinsola Babajide (Brighton & Hove Albion on loan), Amy Rodgers (London City Lionesses), Becky Jane (free agent), Amalie Thestrup (free agent), Kirsty Linnett (free agent),

London City Lionesses



Ins: Rianna Jarrett (Brighton & Hove Albion), Mollie Rouse (Lewes), Anna

Pedersen (Everton), Karly Girasoli (Rangers), Karin Muya (San Marino FC), Charlotte Fleming (Leicester City), Jamie-Lee Napier (Chelsea), Amy Rodgers (Liverpool), Brooke Nunn (London Bees)

Outs: Ylenia Priest (Watford), Leanne Cowan (Crystal Palace), Florence Fyfe (Watford), Liz Ejupi (Durham), Kallie Balfour (Lewes), Ellie Mason (Lewes), Freda Ayisi (Lewes), Juliette Kemppi (free agent), Chantelle Mackie (free agent), Lucy Thomas (free agent), Nina Wilson (free agent), Poppy Wilson (free agent)

Sheffield United



Ins: Jess Clarke (Liverpool), Sophie Bradley-Auckland (Liverpool), Georgia Robert

(London Bees), Mia Enderby (Leeds United), Charlotte Newsham (Blackburn Rovers)

Outs: Leandra Little (retired), Katie Wilkinson (Coventry United), Keri Matthews (Arizona State University), Emily Batty (Nottingham Forest), Jade Pennock (free agent), Chloe Dixon (free agent), Naomi Hartley (free agent), Mel Johnson (free agent), Nat Johnson (free agent)

Sunderland



Ins: Charlotte Potts (Hibernian), Emma Kelly (Birmingham City)

Outs: Erika Warren (free agent), Hannah Skull (free agent), Olivia Watt (free agent), Abby Towers (free agent), Emma Kelly (free agent), Tyler Dodds (free agent)

Watford



Ins: Ylenia Priest (London City Lionesses), Amber Stobbs (Crystal Palace), Flo Fyfe (London

City Lionesses), Mia Smith (Bristol City), Jenna Legg (Charlton Athletic)

Outs: Katie O'Leary (free agent), Alysha Stojko-Down (free agent), Kat Huggins (free agent), Chrissie Wiggins (free agent)

Thatchers Cider continue to back Bristol City

Bristol City and Thatchers Cider have extended their partnership for the 2021/22 season.

The famous cidemaker has been confirmed as the back of the shirt sponsor.

Martin Thatcher, Managing Director and fourth generation cidemaker, told bcfc.co.uk: "Women's football has gone from strength-to-strength in the last few years and there is a real excitement surrounding the sport."

"As a close partner to Bristol Sport we're delighted that Thatchers Cider will be appearing on the shirts of Bristol City Women Football Club this season and we wish them a successful campaign ahead, as they continue to inspire the local community."

Liverpool Women pay respect to Andrew Devine

Liverpool Women's players and staff paid their respects to Andrew Devine before training on July 30.

The lifelong Liverpool supporter, who sustained life-changing injuries at the Hillsborough disaster, passed away at the age of 55.

Ahead of training at the Solar Campus this afternoon, Matt Beard, his coaching staff and squad gathered for 97 seconds of silence in remembrance of Andrew.

Beard told the official website: "It was very important for us as a Women's section to pay our own respects to Andrew as we came back to training today.

"We were all saddened to hear the news this week but Andrew's story is one of incredible determination, courage and spirit which will be an inspiration to so many people.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Andrew's family, friends and carers whose unbelievable love, dedication and support were an example to us all. Rest in peace."

Tranmere Rovers manager Micky Mellon and members of his staff also joined the tribute to pay their own respects.



Libbey appointed as Sunderland assistant manager

Sunderland have appointed Steph Libbey as assistant manager ahead of their first season in the Women's Championship.

Libbey joins the Black Cats having previously spent eight years with Durham Women FC, where she was Development Team Manager for four years, before moving up to the first team.

Speaking to the official website she said: "I'm delighted to be here and really excited to get started. I've known Mel for a while now and when the opportunity came around it's something I was very interested in.

"Sunderland are a well-established club within the women's game, and I'm looking forward to being part of the project."

Manager Reay added: "First of all I'd like to welcome Steph to the club. She has lots of experience from her time at Durham, and her knowledge can really help us succeed at this level.

"We're looking forward to the new season now and I'm excited to work alongside her."

Bristol City add academy players to the squad

Five Bristol City academy players have begun training with the first team squad ahead of the new Women's Championship season.

Naomi Layzell (Centre-back), Brooke Aspin (Centre-back), Jasmine Bull (Midfield), Erin Foley (Goalkeeper) and Maddi Wilde (Full-back) will combine their footballing commitments with their current academic studies.

Four of the five talented youngsters are products of the successful player pathway and currently attend the club's academic partner SGS College, while Naomi Layzell is currently completing her A-Levels at Pate's Grammar School in Cheltenham.

City Women Head Coach Lauren Smith said: "I've been really impressed with the attitude and application of all five players so far in pre-season.

"They have all come into the professional set-up and hit the ground running. They all have great potential and I'm eager to see how they develop in our environment.

"A large part of our club ethos is to build a core of talented homegrown players and I'm confident this group can help contribute to our success on the pitch for the season ahead."

Yeo Valley partner Bristol City for fourth season

Bristol City and Yeo Valley Organic continue their long-standing partnership as they remain the club's front of shirt sponsor.

The iconic heart-shaped logo will adorn the front of the City Women Home and Away shirt for the 2021/22 FA Championship campaign.

Adrian Carne, Managing Director of Yeo Valley, said: "We're extremely proud to support our local and only professional women's team in the South West, Bristol City Women for a fourth season.

"Women's football continues to be on an upwards trajectory and we're delighted we aid the growth of the women's game, not just on a nation scale but at the grassroots level also here in the South West."

London City Lionesses use Coach Point ahead of the new season

London City Lionesses have implanted Coach Point as a new asset to the club.

The video analysis tool will help with pre- and post-match preparations for games as well as individual analysis.

In an interview with FC Business, Chairwoman Diane Culligan said: "We are putting methods in place that allow the players to focus and concentrate on their football and to be as good as they possibly can be. A vital aspect of that is the players being full-time.

"Not only do we need the players in on a professional schedule, we need the infrastructure around them to encourage that development."

University of Greenwich become Charlton Athletic's front-of-shirt sponsor

Charlton have announced a partnership with the University of Greenwich.

The deal sees the university become the first front-of-shirt principle partner of Charlton Athletic Women since the side turned professional at the start of July.

Charlton Owner Thomas Sandgaard agreed a deal to purchase Charlton Athletic Women in February and made the decision for the team to go full-time for the start of the 2021/22 season.

Commercial Director, Wayne Mumford, told the official website: "With new staff, new facilities, new players to be revealed and now a new sponsor, it is an exciting time for Charlton Athletic Women.

"Our owner has a clear vision to grow the women's team and we're pleased to be able to partner with the University of Greenwich, who wanted to be part of that growth of the team."

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

JORDAN WIMPENNY

National League Coach of the Season

By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Whilst sitting down chatting to Jordan Wimpenny, Huddersfield Town boss, it was clear to see how passionate he is about the sport and getting the best out of his team.

The TWFM Award winner chatted about their plans for promotion, changes in the league and what needs to be improved in the women's game.

Here is part two of our interview with the National League coach of the season.

Do you find that more players could be done for players who get injured in the National League?

When you look at the injury side of it, you look at the leagues above and the expectations on your medical staff are a considerable jump from what is required in the National League.

If you look at what is required in the Championship and Super League it is completely different. For us, if we have a player who gets injured, we are lucky that we

have a physio. We have Becky, who is brilliant and to keep hold of these staff is very difficult. They want paying so financially it is very difficult because of their qualifications you can't just pick them up anywhere.

We have therapists but they are only good for basic things. When you look at the WSL and what they have on standby and on site it's a huge team. We can recommend to them, we can give them advice but they are relying on the NHS or paying for private care out of their own pockets. We have to pray we don't get major injuries like we have had in the past. When you are a physio at our level, you can only do so much.

We have tried to build relationships with local rehabilitation centres to get as much help as we can. We want to

have a good relationship with them. We try and give the players what we can. We know that until we go into the next league, things won't be able to change.

Do you think the changes made to the league system by the FA was the right decision, looking back a few years on?

I understand why it was done but from a footballing view, I am quite old fashioned. I believe if you win the league you go up because that's football. It doesn't revert away from that. You wouldn't see it where a men's team didn't go up after finishing top. It's more about finances and the stability of what a team can withstand by moving up into the next league.

You look at the criteria and it goes beyond what happens on the pitch. They have to be stable. For example, if we won the league like we were planning, we know that what we have at the moment is not enough to withstand what the Championship is demanding.

In terms of that decision it would have been the right one. From a managing point of view, it's hard to take. When we didn't put our application in due to not being able to meet the criteria, the opportunity was opened up. You look at what the value of winning

“You wouldn't see it in the men's team that the top team doesn't go up”

National League Coach of the Season

the league actually means. Teams who finish fifth still have a chance to be promoted if they tick the boxes. We spoke with our committee, even if we put the application in and were accepted to go up, we have to think of the worst case scenario and if we came back down. We knew we couldn't take the risk.

It was one of the hardest messages I had to tell the players and the staff. To tell them that everything they had achieved points wise was not worth anything was deflating. I then had to get them to keep going.

I have told them we are going for it again but if a couple of meetings don't go the way we hope then the players will know before we have even kicked a ball that it won't matter what we do on the pitch. It's hard to keep that motivated for the season if that is the case. We will just have to see what happens.

How much association do you have with Huddersfield Town men's team?

In all honesty, it's a bridge that has been improved over the last two seasons but it's a bridge that can definitely be improved further. In terms of facilities, contributions to our bid to go up into the Championship have been made, they have been good to us in that sense.

I feel that another meeting with them is important. If we want to go up then a good relationship with them is really important. Look at Burnley's new investment – Sean Dyche has been talking



about the women's team. There are many clubs who are improving their relationships. With the season that we have had, what we have shown the men's side is the perfect opportunity for them to get involved. Why wouldn't they want to?

If we don't, we find ourselves in a position where we are behind and playing catch up. I have hopefully given them a reason to believe in us.

I know they have reached out, I know they are supportive of women's football, we just want to know in what capacity that relates to us and how we can work together to move up. The players are more than capable, it's the least they deserve for all the hardships they have to go to and I feel that we have built a good platform to say now is the right time to come together.

There is a lot we are going to ask for but if we can show them the benefits of doing it then we can really move forwards.

There have been a lot new kit launches recently with men's and women's players standing side-by-side, do you think club's are clicking that it's time to bring women's football more into the forefront?

I think with us, I like to work ahead of everyone else. We came back to training before others, we started live streaming games before anyone else. We have been trying to get

“You look at what the value of winning the league actually means—how do you keep players motivated?”

ourselves out there. I don't want to be the team that's chasing others and saying 'why aren't we doing that at our club?' I want people to be saying that about us.

I know we are not full-time but the club itself has come a long, long way. It takes organisation and time. It's hard for me personally to see other club's doing that, I want our players to get that, I want our club to be like that.

We are hard-working people, we care about the club, we care about the players and ultimately we just want what's best. I will fight for that cause until we get to a point I am proud of.

How did you get into women's football?

I am originally from Huddersfield but lived down South for a while. I relocated back a couple

of years ago. I was missing 11-aside football, so I did a little bit of work with the foundation and came across the old manager of the women's team. I told him that I was missing the game and wanted to get involved. I came on board as a coach and there were some in-house changes and I was able to be in the position to step into the role.

I had a very short time between the phone call and the first meeting with the players—which was to tell them that we were going into lockdown and I will see you all again at some point!

To then build that repour and relationship with the players after just one meeting was odd and challenging. Since then we have just worked together.

I think I have learnt a lot from them and I hope they have learnt a lot from me.

I have predominately worked in men's football so to transition into women's football—I have had to learn a lot of things quickly. I feel that working with women's footballers has opened my eyes to a lot of things and educated me in a way where I approach things slightly differently. It's made me a better person and coach.

What have you found are the main differences in coaching men and women?

Obviously there are the physical differences so I have to be aware of the biomechanics

of women such as the demand ones will just focus on what you can put on hips. they know.

Most definitely the I know from meetings with physiological side. They are other clubs, they are all hoping completely different. What I for the same impacts, they are have worked out is that with all in the same problems. We male athletes it is very black are classed on paper as and white. I think there is a lot grassroots—it's not in my of colour involved with women opinion. You cannot class it as players. What I mean by that is grassroots but that is what we that with men you tell them are labelled as.

what to do and they do it, with Every game is a hard game, women there is a lot more every game is a battle—that's analysis, there is a lot of not grassroots football. We overthinking and they want to have professional footballers know why they are doing it and and staff playing in these the benefits of doing it. leagues.

I have had to learn a lot about I'd love to see more for our cycles, hormones and balancing players and our leagues. that—understanding that if a

player says something it's Something is going to have to probably not personal. You change at some point. If you have to understand the watch grassroots and you individual. watch our team play—they are miles above and I will defend that forever.

It's been an interesting journey How can you class that as and I love the psychological side of it. grassroots?

Do you think at your level of the game there is going to be a positive impact with the Euros being in England next year? It does not define our players or our club, unfortunately it is the label we have been given.

In all honesty, we are kind of in *Huddersfield Town start their season in the Women's Northern Premier Division away against Nottingham Forest on Sunday, August 15.* the middle. The grassroots will benefit, the leagues above us will.

I have found from these players *Their first home game will be on Wednesday, August 25 against Brighouse Town* that they will do what they will want to do. We will try and get benefits from it but the players are very clued up.

Some of the younger players will be interested but the older



New heading guidance br



English football will introduce heading guidance across every level of the professional and amateur game from the start of the 2021-22 season.

The new guidance, which is specifically focused on training sessions where the majority of heading occurs, has been designed to meet the requirements of each level of English football.

The guidance will be applicable to clubs in the Premier League, EFL, Barclays Women's Super League, FA Women's Championship, the National League System, the Women's Football Pyramid Tiers 3 and below, all grassroots football, and across the England national teams.

The new heading guidance has been agreed between the FA, Premier League, EFL, the PFA and the LMA.

Heading guidance in professional football

The guidance for the professional game has been developed following multiple studies undertaken in recent months on behalf of a subgroup of the Professional Football Negotiating and Consultative Committee (PFNCC).

The preliminary studies identified the varying forces involved in heading a football, which were provided to a cross-football working group to help shape the guidance.

Based on those early findings, which showed the majority of headers involve low forces, the initial focus of the guidance will be on headers that involve higher forces. These are typically headers following a long pass (more than 35m) or from crosses, corners and free kicks.

It will be recommended that a maximum of ten higher force headers are carried out in any training week.

This recommendation is provided to protect player welfare and will be reviewed regularly as further research is undertaken to understand more regarding the impact of heading in football.

The guidance also recommends that clubs develop player profiles that consider gender, age, playing position, the number of headers per match and the nature of these headers.

These profiles can be used to ensure that all training sessions reflect the type and quantity of headers that a player could expect to undertake within a match. Club staff will also be encouraged to work with players following each match to ensure they have adequate time to recover from their heading exposure.

The guidance also identifies ways in which heading techniques may still be practised while reducing the forces involved.

ought in across all leagues



Early evidence suggests lower forces are produced when a ball is thrown to a player rather than kicked, and when a player heads the ball from a standing jump rather than running onto the ball.

The Premier League, in conjunction with partners including the LMA, will provide further guidance to club staff on ways in which they might adapt practices.

Clubs in the National League System Steps 1-4 and Women's Championship are encouraged to follow this guidance where practicable.

Early but limited evidence from these initial studies suggested that neck muscle strength may be a contributing factor to higher force transmission from heading. A strength and conditioning expert advisory group will identify ways in which neck and torso strength can be developed safely across the professional game.

The guidance has been developed using a precautionary approach to protect player welfare where scientific evidence is limited and will be kept under review. The evidence gathering has increased understanding of the forces involved in heading, while also identifying areas that require further exploration.

The Premier League with its football partners will deliver expanded research in season 2021-22 to facilitate a formal review of the guidance by the PFNCC in June 2022.

Heading guidance for adult amateur football

The guidance for adult amateur grassroots football includes clubs up to and including Step 5 of the National League System and Tiers 3 and below of the Women's Football Pyramid, and is specifically tailored for this level of the game.

The aim of this guidance is to reduce overall exposure to heading without compromising development of technique and the role heading plays in the English game. The role of the coach in supporting players' skill development for heading is to ensure a safe and controlled technique.

These recommendations have been developed to protect player welfare. As further research is undertaken this guidance will be reviewed and updated to reflect increased understanding.

It is recommended that heading practice is limited to ten headers per session and only one session a week where heading practice is included. Players should be responsible for monitoring their own heading activity. This new heading guidance for the adult amateur game follows the FA's introduction of heading guidance in youth football in February 2020 which has also been updated and published today.

Burnley welcome new faces

Burnley have added a number of new players to their squad ahead of the new season.

Michelle Saunders, Dominique Cooper, Millie Ravening, Mia Walters, Hollie Kelsh, Courtney Willis, Lucy Farrell and Lucia Molinari join Matt Bee's side ahead of their third season in the FA Women's National League Northern Premier Division.

Molinari, who joins from Tranmere Rovers, told the official website:: "I'm very excited to be signing for Burnley, it's a great club, with a lot of history. Everybody has a desire to win and work hard for each other.

"I have enjoyed my first few weeks here; the training has been second to none and all the girls have made me feel so welcome and part of the team. I am looking forward to playing in a team with such a great group of girls both on and off the pitch and developing as a player, learning from the players around me."

Kelsh, who leaves AFC Fylde to join the Lancashire side added: "I'm settling in really well and feel supported and excited for the upcoming season. I'm hoping to help the team win as many games and trophies as possible."

Burnley will begin the new campaign on Sunday, August 15.

They will travel to Sheffield FC Women.



Watham signs for Cheltenham

Cheltenham Town have announced the signing of Wales international striker Amy Watham.

The 27-year-old has previously played with Cardiff City, Coventry United and Yeovil Town.

As well as winning caps for her country, Watham has won the Futsal FA Cup (she has the word Futsal tattooed on her foot) and she was the FA Women's National League's top scorer in 2019.

Outside of football, she works with adults with learning disabilities.

Cheltenham Town Ladies start their 2021/22 FA Women's National League campaign on Sunday August 15.

They welcome Southampton Women to Cirencester's Corinium Stadium (2pm kick-off).

Oxford United sign King

Oxford United Women have signed midfielder Sarah King.

The youngster joins the U's after two seasons at Cheltenham Town.

During her time with them, she studied at Hartpury College and played for England Colleges in both campaigns, gaining international tournament experience in Italy.

Speaking about the move, she said: "Oxford have given me a step up a league from my previous club which will challenge me to become an all-round better player, along with a welcoming group of players and staff.

"Liam (Gilbert, United manager) has been very honest with me about the move which made me feel comfortable and confident that Oxford is the best place for me to develop."

King added: "My personal aim this season is to develop as much as possible within the team and hopefully become a key player over time.

"For the club, I want to play a part in Oxford hopefully winning the league and gaining promotion to the Championship."

King follows Megan Alexander through the door after she was brought in earlier in the month.

She added: "Oxford were one of the first clubs I spoke to, and I didn't look anywhere else afterwards.

"I had a long chat with Liam [Gilbert] and some of the girls, and it was an easy decision.

"I came along and watched a friendly last season and the girls looked really good, the training looked good and everything about the club is so positive.

"The club has progressed a lot since I was last here, which supported my decision to come back.

"I'm so excited and can't wait for the season to get going."

Bradford City add Russell to the ranks

Bradford City have announced the signing of Ellie Russell from Sheffield United.

She is a player boss Chris Hames knows well, having managed her in the past.

He posted on Twitter: "Unbelievably happy and excited to finally announce this one.

"A player I've been lucky enough to work with in the past; as soon as I knew Russ was available, I had to make sure we got this one done.

"Welcome to City Ellie!"

The young midfielder joins up with 18 new team-mates ahead of City's FA Women's National League Division One North campaign, which begins on August 15 at home to Chorley.

GRASSROOTS



MARCO FLOREALE

on The Game of Two Halves

As women's football continues to grow in the UK, it is clear to see that there is a shift in how players are seen throughout their careers.

In the last 10 years we have gone from women's footballers being able to walk down the street unknown to now many becoming household names. Alex Scott has become the new presenter of BBC Football Focus, Jill Scott was seen on an advert for Deliveroo and Steph Houghton is one of the faces of Nike.

At The Game of Two Halves, Cardiff City Ladies footballer Caitlin Williams became the first female footballer on their books early in 2021.

Co-founder Marco Floreale said: "Caitlin was at Cardiff City Ladies and wanted to get some representation as she looked to move her career forwards and we were the right fit for her.

"Caitlin took a punt on us. We had not up to that point had a women's player, now we are thinking that we want to build up that roster, support and we should be treating them no

differently than we do the men. With a business head on, we just treat everybody like a client.

"I don't see it as gender specific I just see them as a player. Why wouldn't women's footballers get the same drive and commitment from me as their male counterparts?

"It makes no difference to me who they are as long as they are committed to making the best decisions they can make.

"Women's footballers need the same level of representation that the men have and at the moment there are not many options out there.

"The game is growing, it's becoming bigger, its time other people saw it as equal."

*“ Women’s
footballers
need the same
representation
as the men ”*

As women's football grows in the UK, more and more clubs are becoming professional. At present it is only compulsory for the top flight in women's football – the Women's Super League (WSL) – to be fully professional but more and more clubs in lower leagues are opting to move away from part-time.

Most recently, Burnley Women, who currently compete in the National League Northern Premier Division, have announced plans to professionalise the team in a bid to gain promotion to the Women's Championship by 2025.

Floreale added: "The Women's World Cup in 2019 was a big wake up call to a lot of people, the players showed that they can really play football and it has forced a lot of people out from underneath their rocks.

"I started to look at it through different eyes, it's great to see that more people are becoming open to it.

"There were a lot of people in the world of football who were in the dark and some were

The Game of Two Halves

in the dark and some were afraid of change but it's time to be one of those movers and shakers that makes change happen.

“Why shouldn't girls play football?”

“Why shouldn't they be treated equally?”

“You have to start somewhere.”

It is becoming a lot clearer that whilst traditionally players in the women's game did not have official representation, more and more players are seeking help to move them onto the next stages of their career.

The Football Association have set out plans to expand women's football in the UK and with the growing number of players and teams available, it is becoming much more important to know your worth in the game.

“I think because the WSL is predominately clubs which are also big in the men's game, then they have the same agents looking after both sets of players a lot of the time,” Floreale said.

“The difference in when you move down the leagues, many are not represented at all or are represented by a family member because it was the only option they had at the time.

“Top agents don't look at the lowers leagues because they believe there is no money in it for them. But, if you do your job right and help your player throughout their whole career and up the leagues, then there is money in it.

“If players don't have help at the beginning of their career they are setting themselves up to be taken advantage of. I am sick and tired of hearing of players who have been taken advantage of by clubs because they knew they did not know enough to know any better.

“We need women's players to have the options to have people like us representing them. They need someone who understands how the boardroom works to make sure they are being paid what they are worth.



"If you have not been in that sort of environment, would you know that you need to make sure there are win bonuses, goal bonuses, clean sheet bonuses, promotion bonuses, there is so much more that goes into a contract that could be excluded if people don't ask the right questions.

"It's no criticism to the parents who are representing their children, they are just trying to do what's best with what they have but they are not going to know the small details which make all the difference to the player.

In the men's game, most players stick with their agents throughout their careers but the women's game is such a fast

-changing environment that many well established players in the lower leagues are looking for help in the next stages of their careers.

Floreale added: "I love to help players get their first contract and start the journey together but I would never turn anyone away.

"If they get to 28, 30 and they have a feeling that they are not prepared for life after football, then that is when they need help or they will be one of the 40%.

"There is a lot of work that they would need to go through to put themselves in a better position for when they hang up their boots but it is better starting late than not at all.

"There are not many footballers that reach out at 30 and decide they need a different agent.

"You would hope that there would be someone in their lives that would point out that they need to start saving for the future but in the women's game agents are less common at the moment which means there are those who are older who might want the advice."

Next month we discuss the importance the Game of Two Halves put on educating their players and making sure their brand is up to scratch. Turns out being a footballer is so much more than just kicking a ball around a pitch!



ALL ABOUT PLAYER WELFARE



LEGAL

- Scouting network globally.
- Representation in the boardroom.
- In house solicitor with decades of experience.

EDUCATION

- Study your way to MBA level.
- We're investing in you, by paying for your education.
- Exclusive relationship with Johan Cruyff Institute.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW WE CAN HELP

 help@thegameoftwohalves.com

BRAND

- Social media experts.
- Become your own brand.
- Generate income alongside football.

FINANCE

- Domestic players advised by UK FCA Regulated Firm.
- No matter where you are in the world you have a dedicated Financial Advisor to help.
- International players advised by worlds largest Independent Financial Advisory group.

**WE KEEP YOU ONSIDE,
ON AND OFF THE PITCH**

**OUR ONE GOAL
IS TO ENSURE
OUR PLAYERS
HAVE A LIFE
AFTER
FOOTBALL AND
DON'T BECOME
ONE OF THE 40%
THAT ARE
BANKRUPT
WITHIN 5 YEARS
OF RETIRING.**

Shortlist made for Coin



In April, The Football Association [The FA] and Nationwide Building Society launched a new initiative to promote mutual respect on and off the pitch, with a national competition to design the first ever Coin for Respect.

The coin toss is a symbol of fair chance at the start of every game, but before this competition, no official coin ever existed.

The Coin for Respect campaign was launched as part of Nationwide's pledge to ensure 1 million players, parents and coaches get involved with the FA Respect campaign by 2023.

The initiative gained the support of England's football stars Jordan Nobbs, Nick Pope, Beth Mead and Tyrone Mings, plus legends David James and Karen Carney.

Children aged 3-17yrs from across the UK were challenged to design their very own coin, and write what respect meant to them. This generated some through provoking concepts around gender, race, sportsmanship and how respect should be something everyone shows, both on and off the pitch.

With hundreds of entries from across the UK from kids of all ages it highlighted the passion and support behind Mutual Respect and showed off the range of artistic talent up and down the country.

The winning design will be brought to life and distributed to more than 20,000 grassroots referees across the country in time for the new season, allowing them to start every game with respect.

The shortlist, which is going to a public vote from today [19th July 2021], was selected by an all-star panel made up of: Ex-England goalkeeper David James, England internationals Beth Mead and Jordan Nobbs, ex-professional footballer and TV personality Jeff Brazier, EFL referee Rebecca Welch, Paul Hibbs who is Head of Community at Nationwide Building Society, and James Kendall the FAs Director of Football Development.

Now the final decision rests with the general public. A line-up of 11 designs, is being put to a public vote!

Voting opened on Monday , July 19.

You can view all of the shortlisted designs and cast your vote at www.TheFA.com/coinforrespect.

The winner will then be announced during the week beginning 9th August. Not only will the winning design be featured on the coin which will be used across the country, but they will also win two tickets to an England game at Wembley Stadium. Alongside this, all shortlisted entries will receive a tour of Wembley Stadium connected by EE alongside other goodies.

Ex-England goalkeeper, David James, who has supported the campaign from the beginning said: "Having been involved with this campaign from the start it is brilliant to see it come to life and what the topic of respect means to all of these children who have entered.

"Some really strong themes have come through such as equality within gender and race, sportsmanship from both players, coaches and supporters and finally the big thing we have seen throughout is kindness, ensuring kindness is always shown.

n of Respect campaign



"It has been tough to narrow these down to just eleven as the artistic talent of the UK's children is really strong, I certainly don't envy the public having to make the final decision!".

Beth Mead, Lioness, commented: "I loved how many entries we had, from people all over the UK and a variety of ages. It shows how much people care about the topic of respect, especially within sport."

"It's been a hard decision to narrow these down to just eleven designs, but I feel with the shortlist we've really captured all angles of respect and what it embodies. My personal favourites include the ones that really focus on gender equality within football and respect everyone as players."

"To be part of the campaign from the start and to now see all the entries has been really special so far."

Rebecca Welch, EFL Referee, stated: "I was blown away by the entries I saw from all the participants. Each and every one of them had understood the brief of the competition very well and this was evident through the designs that were presented. My personal favourites included a strong focus on inclusion and

diversity, especially highlighting participants with disabilities which sends the message that football is inclusive to all. I also saw a great one with a referee on there and of course, any designs featuring a ref was always going to get my vote!".

Jordan Nobbs, Lioness, said: "This campaign is so important, respect is something we should all be talking about and teaching at all ages. I was so excited to see what the kids came up with as soon as I was asked to be part of the campaign and I am buzzing to see so many incredible entries from such a diverse group of people as well. There were key themes that showed through all of the designs, such as good behaviour on and off the pitch, respect to staff, especially referees and also valuing everyone regardless of where they're from or what they look like. Lots of really important messages which I am sure will really see resonate with the public."

Paul Hibbs, Head of Community at Nationwide Building Society, commented: "I was overwhelmed with the variety of the entries with designs focusing on different elements of what respect means."

From designs that captured the 'mutual' in mutual respect showing how two people can come together to show kindness, to designs showing how important respect is not just by players, but also by those on the side-lines and in stadiums. It was so hard to choose our shortlist and now I'm really excited to see what the public vote their winner and see it turned into a coin."

James Kendall, Director of Football Development at The FA, said: "Respect can be such a complex issue to illustrate and demonstrate, so I was amazed at the variety of all of the entries that were submitted. I think we have a really strong shortlist that captures the power that football can have to change opinions and behaviours. I loved the thought that these kids put into their coins and the level of detail they went to when describing what respect meant to them as well. I think they will work brilliantly on the coin and as a symbol of mutual respect going forward. This will be a tough one to decide, for sure."

Have your say on what the future of respect in football looks like and cast your vote!



AMMO'S ANTICS

Hi Ammo here,

This month starts with me back in pre-season training with Birmingham City RTC. I'm a first year U16 now and this is my fifth season at Blues.

We train for two hours on a Monday and two hours on a Thursday, doing a mixture of strength and conditioning, passing drills and mini games.

We also do something called the dreaded mass run. Well.. ok, I added the word dreaded. It consists of running up and down the length of the pitch ten times consecutively. This is as much a mental challenge as it is a physical one.

I finished in 4mins 5 seconds which knocked 3 seconds off my best time. For the first session back I'm really pleased with that. My next milestone is to go under 4 minutes. That's the benchmark time for players in the development squad.

I'm also really happy to tell you that this month I got invited to an England Talent ID training session. There were twenty girls from across the Midlands and we were being coached and observed by a number of FA coaches.

These sessions are designed to identify players with the potential to become future Lionesses. I feel like I performed well. Just waiting to receive the feedback from the day.

You may remember from previous Ammos antics that I represent Wales. I qualify because of my Gran being Welsh and I've been attending Wales training and camps for the last couple of years. I love playing for Wales and they have some really talented girls coming through.

So I was really surprised when I received an invitation to the England U15 National camp at the end of August. It's a four day residential

camp. To be honest, it is an opportunity that I had to accept. I want to challenge myself against the best girls in the country and this will definitely help me develop further.

Fortunately Wales have been really supportive of it. They have also invited me to a five day residential U15 training camp in the middle of August. With two games against Northern Ireland.

So in August I'm attending both a Wales U15 and England U15 National training camp.

I know eventually perhaps I will need to choose between the two.

But for now at least, I'm trying to make the most of the opportunities I get. I remember a slogan that the JPL used when we played in it.

"To be the best, you have to play with the best"

These two National camps will certainly give me the opportunity to do that.

I've also got my first preseason friendly tomorrow, it's an away game against Sheffield United. I'll let you know how we get on next time.

In other news, It's great to see the Blues women first team signing some really good players. I think they are going to have a good season. Hopefully I'll get the chance to watch a few home games at St Andrew's. Give me a couple of years and hopefully you'll see me fighting for a place in the first team squad.

My three year plan is still on track.

Stay safe

Ammo out.



CUPS



Continental Tyres League Cup

group stage draw



The draw for the Group Stage of the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup took place this afternoon live on talkSPORT 2 and the station's YouTube channel.

Host Faye Carruthers was joined by Mollie Kmita as they drew out the teams for the Northern and Southern sections of the draw.

The full draw is as follows:

Northern Section

GROUP A

- Liverpool
- Sheffield United
- Aston Villa
- Blackburn Rovers
- Sunderland

GROUP B

- Leicester City
- Durham
- Manchester United
- Everton

Southern Section

GROUP C

- Charlton Athletic
- Tottenham Hotspur
- Coventry United
- Watford

GROUP D

- Lewes
- Crystal Palace
- Bristol City
- Reading

GROUP E

- London City Lionesses
- Birmingham City
- Brighton & Hove Albion
- West Ham United

The group stages will run from 13-14 October through to 15-16 December, with the quarter-finals scheduled for 19-20 January, the semi-finals 2-3 February, and the Final on the weekend of 5-6 March.

2020/21 Vitality Women's FA Cup fixtures, key dates & information

Vitality Women's FA Cup third round proper

Manchester United	2-3	Leicester City
Brighton & Hove Albion	6-0	Huddersfield Town
Blackburn Rovers	0-1	Charlton
Birmingham City	3-2	Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur	2-1	Sheffield United
Manchester City	5-1	West Ham United
Arsenal	9-0	Crystal Palace
Chelsea	3-0	Everton



Quarter-Final draw

The draw took place live on talkSPORT 2.

Ties will be played on Wednesday 29 September 2021.

The draw is as follows:

- Manchester City v Leicester City
- Birmingham City v Chelsea
- Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur
- Brighton & Hove Albion v Charlton Athletic



HOME NATIONS



England to welcome Northern Ireland at Wembley

England are to return to Wembley Stadium connected by EE for a 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland.

The match, on Saturday 23 October (5.15pm kick-off), will be the first competitive fixture for the Lionesses at the national stadium since it reopened in 2007.

Wembley has staged two previous England international matches against Germany in November 2014 and November 2019.

The Lionesses last met Northern Ireland at St. George's Park back in February with Ellen White claiming a hat-trick and Ella Toone scoring on her debut in the 6-0 win.

The two countries could also meet at next summer's UEFA Women's EURO in England with the draw for the finals to take place in Manchester on 28 October.

Baroness Sue Campbell, The FA's director of women's football, said: "Having the chance for our England team to play again at Wembley in a competitive fixture is so important.

"From a performance point of view, it will give us the chance to get close to a big-game occasion of the kind we hope our squad will experience at next summer's home UEFA EURO.

"Having had such a challenging 18 months, the day will mean so much to our players and of course we hope the chance to play in front of so many fans will be something truly special.

"We have missed the supporters and let's hope that things are heading in the right direction on that front.

"We want Wembley to feel like home for our England team and we want the players to be able to thrive when they run out to play.

"We are at the start of an exciting season and with Sarina Wiegman coming in as head coach, there is every reason for us to be upbeat for the months ahead."

Under Wiegman, England will return to action when World Cup qualifying begins on Friday 17 September at home to North Macedonia, with the venue still to be confirmed, before travelling to Luxembourg four days later.

October's camp will conclude with a trip to Latvia three days after the Northern Ireland fixture.

November will then see the year's action conclude with two home qualifiers against Austria and Latvia on 27 and 30 November respectively, with the venues for those matches also yet to be confirmed.

The Lionesses last visit to Wembley came in November 2019 when a late German winner saw the visitors win 2-1 in front of an England women record crowd for a home international of 77,768.

The overall record for a women's game on English soil is the 80,023 that saw United States defeat Japan 2-1 to claim gold at London 2012.



WU19 Squad named for Czech Republic clash



Lydia Bedford has named the England Women's Under-19 squad for the upcoming July camp in which they will take on Czech Republic at home.

The 25-player group will meet up on Thursday 22 July at the home of England teams, St. George's Park before heading to AFC Telford United's, New Bucks Head on Friday 30 July to face the Czechs [11.30am KO].

England will begin their 2021/22 UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship campaign in October when they come up against Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Switzerland in Group A5 of the qualifying round.

England WU19 head coach Lydia Bedford said "The next nine days provide the squad with a great opportunity to test themselves against international opposition and give a kick start before their European finals campaign.

"It's been over 16 months since the group's last competitive fixture against the USA, and I know the players will be raring to go.

"The players have been exemplary in their focus and dedication throughout the global pandemic, and I am confident they are

ready for the season ahead."

England Squad

Goalkeepers: Khiara Keating (Manchester City), Sophie Hillyerd (Manchester United), Eleanor Heeps (Unattached)

Defenders: Milly Mott (Southampton), Caitlin Smith (Clemson University), Neve Herron (Sunderland), Teyah Goldie (Arsenal), Deven Rush (West Ham United), Anouk Denton (University of Louisville), Summer Hughes (Ipswich Town), Lucy Parry (Liverpool)

Midfielders: Lucia Kendall (Southampton), Annie Hutchings (Manchester United), Laura Brown (Aston Villa), Grace Clinton (Everton), Lucy O'Brien (Ipswich Town), Maisie Symonds (Brighton & Hove Albion), Mia Ross (Charlton Athletic)

Forwards: Missy Goodwin (Aston Villa), Olivia McLoughlin (Aston Villa), Emily Murphy (University of North Carolina), Zoe Barratt (Ipswich Town), Maria Edwards (Manchester United), Lucy Watson (Sheffield United), Freya Gregory (Aston Villa)



Scottish FA launches new Girls' and Women's Football Strategy



The Scottish FA have announced a new strategy for girls' and women's football which sees Hampden Park announced as the new home of women's football.

The Scottish FA announcement read:

Accelerate Our Game has been produced in partnership with UEFA and outlines the association's journey within six key pillars of activity, each with a Gamechanger objective to make a difference to all areas of the girls' and women's game from grassroots to the elite level.

The Scottish FA were selected by UEFA as one of six national associations to embark on building a women's football strategy where, led by the Scottish FA's head of girls' and women's football Fiona

McIntyre, UEFA assisted the process which has had input from wide ranging areas of the game in Scotland.

A core objective of the strategy will be for Hampden Park to become the home of the Scotland Women's National Team, with all home matches of the forthcoming FIFA Women's World Cup Qualifying campaign to be held at the national stadium.

The five-year strategy is published after Pedro Martinez Losa was announced as the new head coach of the Scotland Women's National Team.

It outlines the association's new Vision and Mission for the Girls' and Women's game:

Vision

Harness the power of women's football by

changing perceptions and empowering people to inspire the nation, transform lives and build an inclusive, respected and successful game.

Mission

Protect, develop and promote women's football for all, by investing in the people, product and pathways, so current and future generations can enjoy and love our national game equally.

Accelerate Our Game is designed to provide focus to the Scottish FA's commitment to progress the girls' and women's game in Scotland with six key pillars identified.

Each has a Gamechanger objective to inspire leadership and progress in the key pillars of activity:

and Women's Football strategy



- Increase participation and have over 25,000 registered players by 2025
 - Professionalise the elite club game
 - Qualify consistently and compete at major tournaments
 - Showcase our game so that it is valued by stakeholders and the general public
 - Double commercial revenues
 - Ensure women's football is appropriately represented and has a voice on key decision-making bodies
- and women's game with highlights including:
 - Make Hampden the home of the Scotland Women's National Team and increase crowds by 10 percent annually
 - Review how elite competitions are delivered and implement an improved governance model by the 2022/2023 season
 - Introduce a national Under-23s programme to help bridge the gap between youth and senior international football

"The new strategy sets out our vision for the next five years encompassing all aspects of the game as we aim to continue to make improvements across the board, from increasing participation numbers to improving the representation of women's football on decision-making bodies.

"Hampden Park will become the new home of the Scotland Women's National Team, which will not only inspire the nation but also the players as they aim to return to the biggest stage in women's football, the FIFA World Cup.

"The game has grown immeasurably in recent times and we are focused on continuing that progression."

Accelerate Our Game also sets out a number of key targets within the Gamechanger objectives in order to progress the girls'

Fiona McIntyre, the Scottish FA's Head of Girls' and Women's Football: "Accelerate Our Game is our commitment to ensure women's football in Scotland fulfils its limitless potential.

Scotland announce Martinez Losa as new manager

Pedro Martinez Losa has been announced as the new Scotland manager.

The former Arsenal and Bordeaux boss replaces Shelley Kerr, who left the role in December 2020.

Martinez Losa has signed a three-year contract with the Scottish FA and will officially begin his new role on August 1.

He told the Scottish FA's website: "It has been a long-held ambition of mine to coach a women's national team so today represents a tremendous honour for me as I take charge of Scotland.

"I have admired from afar in recent years, watching a talented group of players take their nation to two back-to-back major championships and it's now my job to ensure the team return to that stage.

"Scotland have an abundance of international talent alongside a well-balanced mix of youth and experience throughout the squad, which was one of the main aspects which attracted me to the job.

"I want to achieve success on the pitch to inspire the next generation of female players in this country.

"I understand women's football is growing rapidly in Scotland and I want to spearhead that with victories on the pitch."

Ian Maxwell, the chief executive of the Scottish FA, added: "Pedro's CV is extremely impressive and following an extensive recruitment process, his experience of women's football across the globe set him apart from the field.

"In a coaching career spanning more than 20 years, Pedro has succeeded in Spain, the United States, England and France and joins the Scottish FA with a set of attributes which will allow Scotland to fulfil their enormous potential."



Partick Thistle investigated over trialists in defeat to Celtic

Partick Thistle are subject to investigation after allegedly fielding two trialists in their SWPL Cup defeat by Celtic.

The SWPL Cup rules state that unregistered players are not allowed, yet Partick tweeted suggesting they had two trialists on the bench.

Both players played the final six minutes of the 3-1 defeat at Petershill Park.

SWF's league management committee will review the incident on Monday.

Results

Celtic 3-1 Partick Thistle

Dundee 10– Forfar Farmington

Hibernian 4-0 Kilmarnock

Rangers 8-0 Queens Park

Aberdeen 2-1 Boroughmuir Thistle

Glasgow City 9-0 Glasgow Women

Hamilton Academical 2-2 Spartans

Hearts 1-0 St Johnstone

Wales international wins gold in Tokyo

Lauren Price became the first Welsh fighter to win an Olympic gold medal after she defeated China's Li Qian in the middleweight boxing final in Tokyo.

The 27-year-old took a 5-0 points victory at the Kokugikan Arena to pick up Britain's 22nd gold of the Tokyo Games.

However, it is only the latest in a long line of sporting achievements for the Newport born boxer.

Price has already represented Wales women's international football team over 50 times before she gave up the sport in 2014 to focus on her boxing career.

She played for several years with Cardiff City, winning the inaugural season of the Welsh Premier Women's Football League in 2013.

Having captained Wales at under-19 level, Price made her debut for the Wales senior side on 16 June 2012, replacing Sarah Wiltshire in the closing stages of a 1-0 victory over Republic of Ireland.



UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2022 ENGLAND



Euro 2022 on track to break ticket sale records



Fans are already gearing up for another huge summer of football with over 140,000 Pre-Sale tickets sold in just three weeks for the UEFA Women's EURO England 2022.

Supporters from 68 different countries have purchased tickets with the split of purchasers 47% female and 21% concessions [16 years of age and under].

53,000 tickets have already been sold for the showpiece Wembley Final surpassing the record number of tickets sold for any previous Women's EURO match.

The figures solidify The FA and UEFA's ambition to make the tournament the biggest women's football event in UEFA history and inspire positive change in the women's game.

Fans can still secure tickets, with the last chance to guarantee games of their

choice in the 24-hour Pre-Sale presented by Visa from 10am on 9 August.

To ensure access to this 24-hour sales window, register now at www.uefa.com/womenseuro/ticketing.

The tournament will take place up and down the country across nine English cities in 10 stadiums including Old Trafford, St Mary's and Stadium MK with the final at the home of English football – Wembley.

Fans have been quick to secure their tickets over the past 3 weeks with sales made in every category and for every fixture of the Tournament within the first hour of going on sale last month.

With 21% of sold tickets being concessions [16 years of age and under], groups of grassroots football teams and local community organisations are amongst the thousands planning their trip to next summer's Tournament.

Following the Pre-Sale presented by Visa, the next opportunity to purchase tickets to the tournament will be in the public ballot which goes live following the draw on 28 October 2021, hosted on BBC. Tickets will then be on general sale from mid-February 2022.

The tournament is expected to be the first major football Championships to host full capacity stadiums since the pandemic, however a robust refund policy will be in place if fixtures are postponed, cancelled, have reduced capacity or a change of venue is introduced due to COVID.

A ticket resale platform will be available in 2022 for ticket holders to use and re-sell their tickets at face value pre-tournament to another fan with more about this being communicated in the coming months.

The tournament, which is due to be the biggest women's European sport event ever, will have over 700,000 tickets available across the ten venues, with prices ranging from £5 to £50. The opening match will take place at Old Trafford on 6 July 2022 and the final at Wembley on 31 July 2022.

England 2022 venues

- Brighton & Hove (Brighton & Hove Community Stadium)
- London (Brentford Community Stadium & Wembley Stadium - final only)
- Manchester (Manchester City Academy Stadium)
- Milton Keynes (Stadium MK)
- Rotherham (New York Stadium)
- Sheffield (Bramall Lane)
- Southampton (St Mary's Stadium)

- Trafford (Old Trafford - opening game)
- Wigan & Leigh (Leigh Sports Village)

Existing records the Tournament aims to surpass:

- Total attendance for a UEFA Women's EURO, currently 240,045 for Holland 2017
- Highest attendance for a Women's EURO match, currently 41,302 for Germany v Norway, Sweden 2013 WEURO Final
- Highest attendance for a Women's match held in Europe, currently 80,203 for USA v Japan, London 2012 Olympics Final





DOETINCHEM

24

23

2

RESPECT

MAG' 19

Around the World





News from around the world

Juve forced to apologise for deleted tweet

Juventus have been forced to apologise for a tweet which saw a player appearing to mock Asians.

They tweeted a shot of defender Cecilia Salvai wearing a cone as a hat while squinting her eyes.

The bizarre post was live for 20 minutes on the Juventus women's feed before being deleted.

Juventus were quick to apologise after the Tweet was brought down, and they released a follow-up apology on Friday as a desperate bid to save face.

The new statement reads: "We would like to express our deepest apologies for the social post that read as racially discriminatory content on the Juventus Women's Football Twitter account.

"Juventus immediately realised that the club had committed an unforgivable mistake, and this mistake has seriously hurt the feelings of all people who oppose racial discrimination."



Solomon Islands women's football league receives funding

The Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) has become the first governing body in the Pacific to receive a sporting grant through the PacificAus Sports programme.

The programme looks to support the new Solomon Islands Women's Premier League in the build-up to the country's hosting of the 2023 Pacific Games.

Equipment includes shin pads, balls, goal nets, boots and socks.

The grant is also designed to equip teams with laptops, a projector and a screen to help teams participate in online training sessions, helping players and coaches to improve their skills.

In 2020, RSIPF Royals were crowned the inaugural champions in the Solomon Islands Women's Premier League and Solright FC are currently top during the 2021 season.

Stoney named as San Diego boss

Former Manchester United boss Casey Stoney has been named the new San Diego NWSL head coach.

San Diego are currently preparing for their debut season in the NWSL.

The team president is the former United States head coach, Jill Ellis.

Simon Says

This month's Simon Says saw me interview Rebecca Sawiuk a UEFA A licensed coach.

You have had an amazing journey in football so far, where, and how did it all begin?

I started my journey in football on the school playground with the boys at break and lunch times. Towards the end of my primary school experience, I signed for Cambridge United girls' team which I really enjoyed growing up. Football has always been a big part of my family upbringing, my grandad Arthur Morgan was a pro for Cambridge United men and played 110 matches and his brother Jack Morgan provided the Abby entertainment and was the first person to play I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts, by Billy Cotton and his Band, on his gramophone turntable for the entertainment of the Abbey faithful.

At what age did you first kick a ball?

I guess I would have been around 7 or 8 when I was playing football with the boys on the playground at The Grove Primary School in Cambridge.

What was your first memory of joining an organised team?

So, yeah, I started playing for Cambridge United girls' team around 9 or 10, we played our matches on Saturday morning in the local Cambridgeshire league. My family, including Arthur would come and watch all our home games which were played at Coldam's common just by the Abbey. I stayed with this team until around 16. I was also really fortunate to be one of the first players to entre into a girls Centre of Excellence now Regional Talent Club system in Cambridge. I have some really fond memories of playing football in Cambridgeshire when I was growing up.

Did you have a preferred position?

Yes – people are always surprised when I tell them I played as the Goalkeeper.

How did you become involved in coaching?

Well when I was at Chesterton Community College, I did my 2 weeks work experience at Cambridge United FC as a Community Coach, which is really where my interest was sparked. Additionally, as I came to the end of my journey with the Centre of Excellence the staff at the time really encouraged me to undertake my FA Level 1 at 16 and by 18, I had my FA Level 2, and I was asked to support the Centre of Excellence at Cambridge with the trial process and u10 age group. My enthusiasm and love for coaching really begun from that point.

Is it true that you began at The Crewe Alexandra School of Excellence?

Well, as I moved away from Cambridge at the age of 19 to go to University and study Sports Coaching and Development with Manchester Metropolitan University I started to look around for coaching roles. At the time Aidan Callan was the Manager of the Crewe Alexandra Centre of Excellence and he saw my potential as a coach and offered me the role of u14 Assistant Coach. To this day during the first session I stood on the side-lines and a player called Hollie Kelsh crossed the ball into the box with a rabona and I was thinking 'wow these are talented players how am I going to coach them?' I did this role 2 nights a week and a match day on Saturday AM alongside my studies and some other community-based coaching work the club offered me. During my second season I was offered the Lead Coach role with the u10 group and saw this as another step forwards in my development as a



coach, an opportunity to lead. The Lead role of the u10 age group was fantastic for me, I really enjoyed it, I spent the season studying the technical details of passing, receiving, turning, fakes and fints etc. More generally, as part of my education at Crewe I was taught the dragging and dodging techniques and practices which were the foundations of the clubs success in the boys youth development programme.

At the same time as this you were completing degree courses and then a Masters course. How hard was that to combine and was the coaching part of the course?

Yes, I juggled my time with Crewe and studying and when Crewe lost their FA License, I moved across to Stoke City girls CoE and started again. I was back as an Assistant coach with the u13s but I didn't mind, when you go to a new club you have to build that reputation again. After that season I was appointed Lead Coach of the u15s which again I felt was another step forward in my career. I really enjoyed this experience and worked with players who are now in the Stoke first team such as; Ella Pemberton, Kelsey Richardson and Hollie Gibson, plus Hannah Hampton was our Goalkeeper and everyone knows how brilliant she is in the WSL now! I balanced my undergrad and MSc with my coaching for 5 years in the end. I was coaching 5 nights a week, I also worked at the Cheshire PDC with staff such as Victoria Jepson and Steph Knott. Steph who oversaw that programme was passionate about supporting female coach development and appointed an all-female coach staff team and I was inspired by her and the staff their. I was fully committed to my coaching and just wanted to maximise every chance I had to work with players, different people and learn my trade as much as I could as a young coach.

At the age of 21 I passed my UEFA B Licence and managed to get some good experience of working on the 11 a side game whilst I was with Stoke. I was enrolled on my MSc and started my UEFA A Licence journey at the same time. I was fortunate enough to go to France as an FA delegate for a UEFA study visit, I was a mentee on National/International camps and I learnt a lot about

benchmarking and working with talented footballers in those environments, culture, standards and working with MDT teams. At times you question, can I get the award? Can I actually do this? In those low moments where you lack that confidence the support of the other female coaches and Brent himself during my UEFA A Licence was priceless. My assigned formal FA mentor Tommy Youlden was fantastic as well.

From this and having gained more experience you became a Lecturer at University. How did that feel?

When my MSc finished, I really wanted to stay in the north, but I failed to secure a FT job to fund my life up there and ended up moving back home. I applied for the role of Lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire and was successful. I have been at this organisation now for around 7/8 years and I really enjoy teaching the sports coaching modules, supporting students with their own sports coaching research projects and more recently One of my favourite aspects of this role is supporting the students in their own coaching journeys and seeing how they grow over those 3 years.

In 2013 you were then approached by London Bees to be part of the WSL set up. That must have been an amazing experience, working in the WSL

This experience actually came around via someone I now call a friend of mine. Lydia Bedford was at the club at the time and was looking for an Assistant Coach she asked me to support her and it went from there really. I enjoyed my time at the club with her, when she left for a new role with the FA I stayed and worked with some other staff and then had the opportunity to be interim Manager of the first team. I remember this as one of the steepest and hardest learning moments in football for me. I wouldn't change it, I was 24, trying to complete my UEFA A whilst trying to pick up a team who had just lost their Manager Tom, were very low on confidence and struggling for results. I will always remember the feeling when we lost by large score lines in the Conti Cup games and how over a short period of time we managed to turn it around in the league

to get a win against Millwall and a draw against Oxford before the next Manager started his tenure. That experience was a really harsh awakening about the realities of working in football Management and it was the first time I saw and felt the level and just the amount of work, effort and energy that was required for coaches who wanted to work in senior football. A highlight of mine was the first ever game in the then WSL 2 now Championship where Oxford played London Bees away and I got to do that game with Lydia, we won 0-3, with goals coming from 16 year old Lucy Loomes, Amber Gaylor and Billie Brookes.

Since then you have been incredibly busy with getting involved with Millwall Lionesses, Watford and the English FA. That period must have been a blur?

I have held many roles in the game now Oxford United Technical Director, Millwall Lionesses Manager, Boys Academy Coach at Watford some work with the FA on National Talent Development camps and programmes. I love the variety of my experiences, the diversity, I have worked at every level in the pathway and each role enables me to learn something new about coaching football, working with players, managing people and learning from different methods of working at clubs and with different people. I have had some really amazing moments in the game and some that stand out in my mind are during my time at Oxford United the u16s got to the last 4 teams in the country in the FA Youth Cup, I was able to Manage Millwall Lionesses in the FA cup and going to the prestigious Premier League Truce tournament with Watford u12s in Belgium where the group won the silver plate come to mind. But perhaps some of the scores and experience might be a blur over those 7 years, but the element of football you never forget is the people, the players and families you get to work with, how as a Coach or a Manager we can play a small role in helping players to reach their potential or goal in the game. What brings me the most amount of joy now is when I see a player I have worked with has been signed, or is making a debut or scoring a goal! That's the best feeling you can have in the game.

In 2020 you became one of the Head

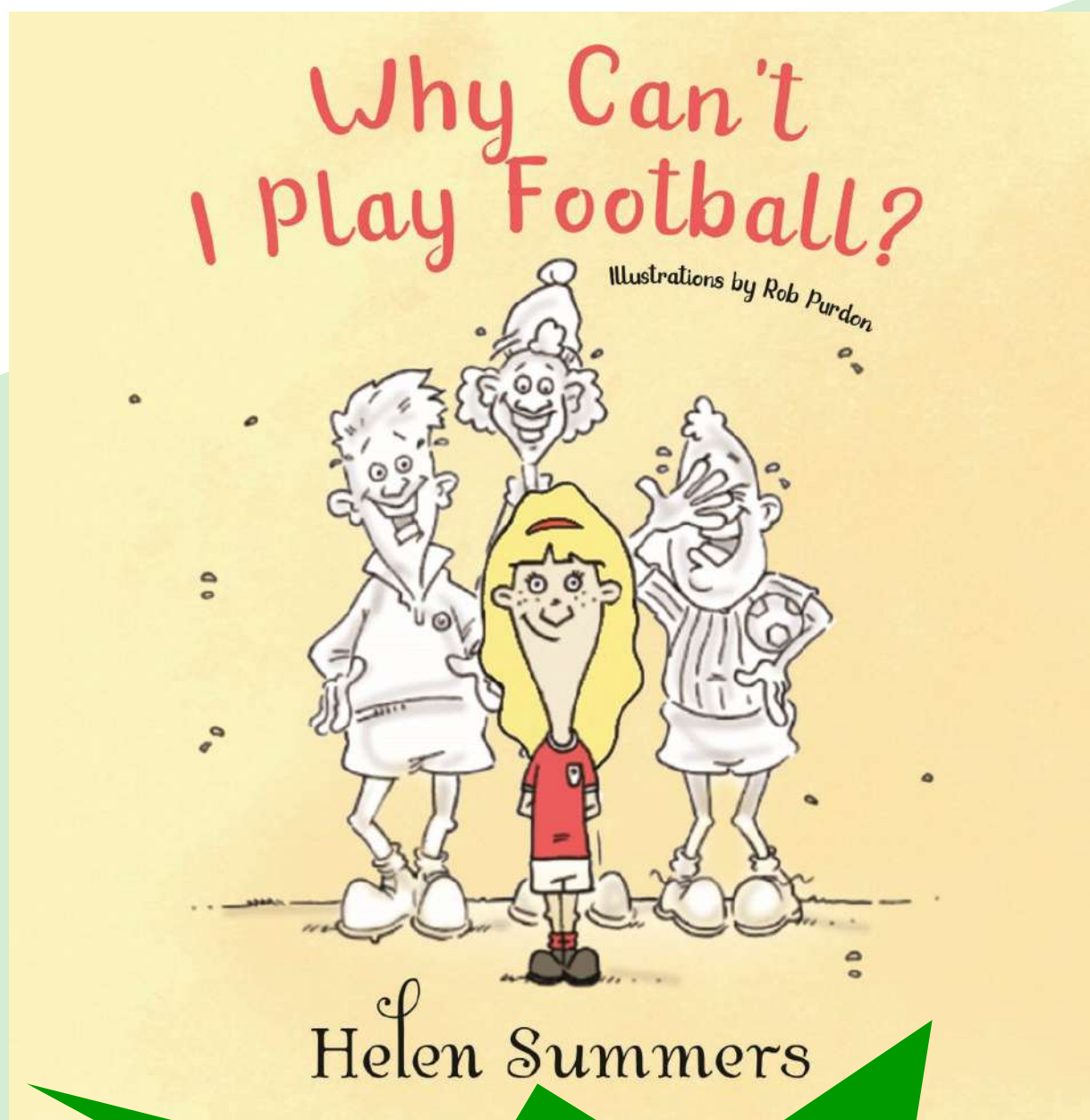
Coaches in the Ultimate Goal TV Series. How did that opportunity come about?

Ahhhh yes! Ultimate Goal, where to begin. Well a week before season 1 filming I got the call from the brilliant Alicia Ferguson-Cook who invited me to be a part of the project and the rest is now history. Season 1 aired in September 2020 on BT Sport and we have literally just finished filming Season 2, as you can imagine much of what I can say is embargoed but the standards for this season have been raised and the bar was set high. This is another experience in my journey that's really made by the people, Rach Brown-Finnis, Eni Aluko, Rosie and Mollie Kmita and Zoey Shaw, these women are professional, talented and so much fun to be around. All of them really care about women's football generally, but especially the players that make it onto the show and I think that came through in season 1 and no doubt you will all get to see that again in season 2. This extension of good people includes the players who are selected and the crew who work tirelessly behind the camera to create the show. If you haven't watched the show, I would encourage people to give it a go!

On a final note, what advice would you give any girls looking to make a career in the football industry?

1. Be yourself and be comfortable being you.
2. Work hard and believe in your own ability.
3. Work with people you enjoy being around and, in an environment, where your valued – life's short.
4. Take any opportunity to network, virtual coffees, e-mails etc – you never know what door might open.
5. You will need to be prepared to make sacrifices and recover from setbacks.
6. Don't get too low with the lows or too high with the highs.
7. What will be written by your name in the history books?

CHILDREN'S BOOK OUT NOW



£5.99

Available at Amazon, Waterstones and
all good bookshops

**THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**