

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

ISSUE 20

MAGAZINE

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HOUGHTON 100

We look back on 100 Lionesses games for Steph Houghton, Ammo tells us all about her month including a trip to watch the Lionesses, your monthly round-up of the WSL and Jess Pratt gives her views on the Champions League.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Welcome

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Welcome to the issue!

It's time for Issue 20!

Welcome to our new issue.

Coming up in the issue we have 100 fun facts about England and Manchester City captain Steph Houghton to mark her 100th cap for the Lionesses. It was great to see such a good turn out for the England game against Sweden - just a shame about the score.

We also have all the information from the Women's World Cup draw, the 2021 Euros announcement and an update from Jordan Nobbs. We wish her a very speedy recovery following her operation. Columnists Ammo and Dave Fraser are also back.

Our 2019 calendar is out now! Make sure you get a copy. They are now just £4 and can be found on the website.

Wishing you all a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Helen Summers
Editor-in-chief



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100 things you Hought to know

1. Her full name is Stephanie Jayne Houghton
2. Houghton was born on April 23, 1988
3. She grew up in Durham
4. Houghton is 5 ft 9 (174cm)
5. Her current shirt number is 6 for Manchester City
6. She wears shirt number 5 for England
7. Houghton comes from a sporty family – her dad played cricket and football semi-professionally
8. When he was not batting, Steph’s dad just play football at the side with her
9. She is also a black belt in karate
10. Steph supports her local team Sunderland and names Kevin Phillips as her “all-time hero”
11. Whilst at South Hetton Primary school, she became the first girl to represent the school team
12. She scored in her debut for the school team but faced criticism from some of the boy’s parents
13. Whilst learning more about football, she has played every position except goalkeeper
14. Houghton joined a summer coaching school organised by Sunderland whilst at school and was selected to join the Sunderland School of Excellence

15. She was just nine years old when she started training with the U16's side at Sunderland
16. Growing up her role models were David Beckham and her previously mentioned hero – Kevin Phillips
17. After moving to Hetton Comprehensive School, she continued to play football at school level – captaining her school side in a mixed team
18. As well as school and training with Sunderland, Houghton also played for the local amateur football team
19. She made her debut for Sunderland's first team at the age of 14
20. During her debut match for the Black Cats she played centre-forward
21. During the five years she was at Sunderland, she helped the club win promotion during the 2005-06 season
22. In 2017, she was named the FA Young Player of the Year, despite Sunderland's relegation
23. Her best friend in football is Ellen White
24. She was made England captain in January 2014
25. Her favourite music to listen to when warming up for a game is dance music such as Calvin Harris
26. Houghton loves to drink coffee in down time – especially cappuccinos and can often be found in a coffee shop with friends and teammates
27. Houghton has a Sports Science degree from Loughborough University
28. The first game in which she led England out ended in a 1-1 draw with Norway



29. She scored three goals for Team GB at the 2012 London Olympics
30. Houghton won scored the winner against Brazil in front of 70,000 fans at Wembley
31. Steph claims that goal at Wembley was one of her greatest memories
32. Before the game, the song she listened to and sang with the squad was S Club 7's "Reach for the Stars"
33. Houghton was named best left back of the 2012 London Olympics
34. Steph was awarded an MBE in the 2016 New Year Honours for services to football
35. In April 2012, Houghton wore her twitter handle on her football shirt sleeve as part of a campaign to raise the profile of the WSL
36. The campaign came as part of her duties as Digital Ambassador for the FA WSL
37. Houghton won her first major trophy at Leeds United, winning the FA Women's Premier League Cup in 2010



38. She made 74 appearances for Arsenal between 2010 and 2013
39. Houghton says moving to Arsenal was the hardest decision she had to make so far in her career
40. Whilst with the Gunners, Houghton won two WSL titles, two WSL Cups and two FA Women's Cups
41. During her first title winning season with Arsenal, Houghton played right-back not the centre-back position she is known for now
42. She became a centre-back after Alex Scott returned from a loan spell with Boston Breakers
43. She has previously compared herself to Darren Fletcher and Michael Essien from the men's game



44. To earn extra money whilst at Arsenal, Houghton used to coach football in a local school
45. Other jobs whilst playing semi-professionally included a part-time job as a recruitment officer at the University of Hertfordshire
46. During down time and as a way to switch off she enjoys watching TV shows such as Made in Chelsea and Geordie Shore
47. Houghton joined Manchester City on January 1, 2014
48. Since joining Manchester City, Houghton has so far won one WSL title, two WSL Cups and the FA Women's Cup once
49. Houghton was included in FIFA 16 – the first time women's national teams featured in the game
50. She was captain of Manchester City when they won their first ever WSL 1 championship in September 2016
51. Her favourite alcoholic drink is a glass of Rose wine
52. Houghton says she hates pre-season training because she finds it hard to get back into the swing of things
53. In October 2014, Houghton became the first female player to be on the cover of "Shoot" magazine
54. The 30-year-old has been involved with England from U16s schools level all the way through to the seniors



55. She was called to the senior England squad on October 25, 2006 after Katie Chapman was forced to withdraw due to illness
56. In her spare time, she enjoys playing golf or walking in the countryside
57. The first people she phoned after receiving the news was her mum and dad



58. Her first experience at senior England level saw her be an unused substitute in a 5-1 defeat to Germany
59. Houghton says one superstition she has is that she always has to put on her left boot first
60. She names Kelly Smith and Faye White as the players who have had the biggest influence on her
61. Houghton has also named Kelly Smith as the most difficult player she has played against
62. Houghton made her senior debut as a substitute in a 6-0 win over Russia in Milton Keynes
63. Her first start in an England shirt was in a 1-0 over Scotland in March 2007



64. Houghton has won three Cyprus Cup titles with England – 2009, 2013, 2015
65. She scored her first senior England goal in the 2009 Cyprus Cup against South Africa
66. She was one of the first 17 female players to be given central contacts by the FA
67. Houghton has missed two major tournaments due to injury – the 2007 World Cup due to a broken leg and the 2009 Euros with a damaged cruciate ligament



68. She is a patron of The James Milner Foundation
69. Houghton was set to become the youngest player in the 2007 World Cup after receiving a call-up from Hope Powell but the leg break came just two days before they were set to fly to China
70. England were knocked out of the 2013 Euros in the group stages after finishing last in Group C and Houghton claims this is the biggest disappointment personally of her career so far

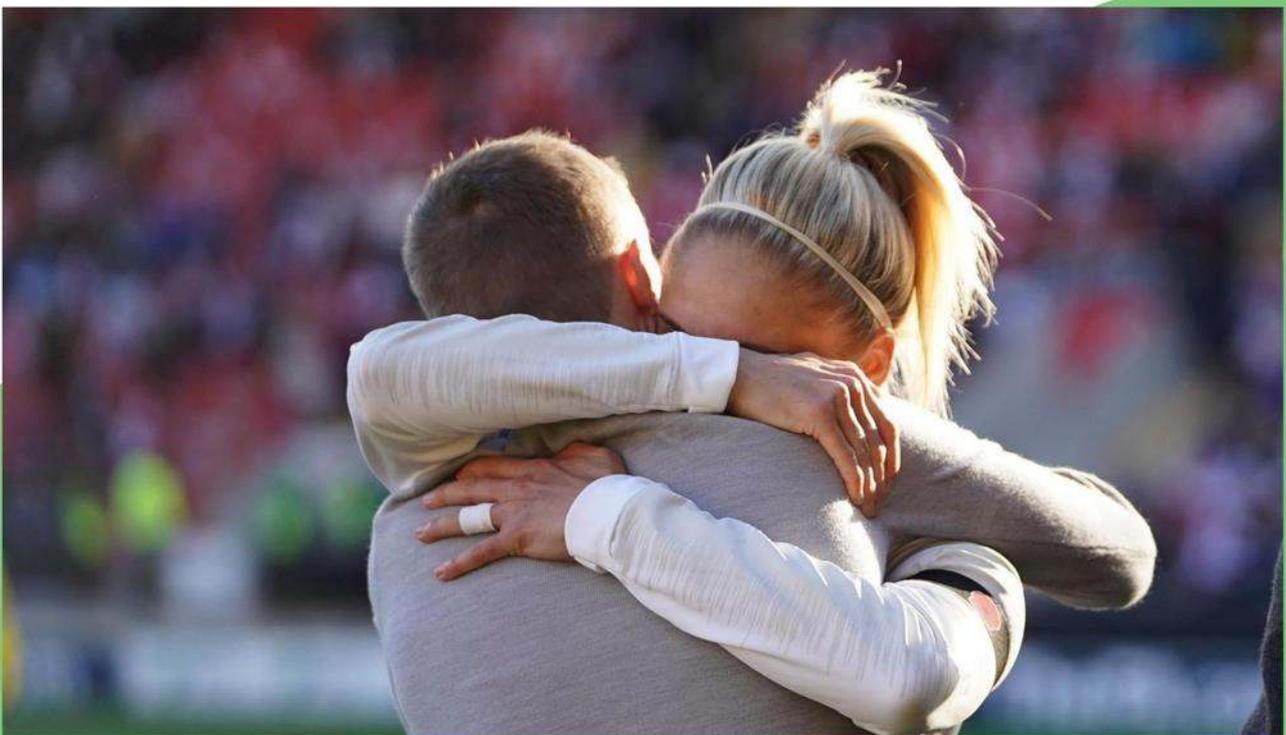
71. Houghton scored her first World Cup goal against Norway at the 2015 World Cup in Canada
72. England came third in the 2015 World Cup and she was chosen as Player of the Match in the quarter-final against hosts Canada
73. During a pre-season friendly in February 2016, Houghton wore a microphone for the whole game against Swedish side Pitea IF to give fans an insight into her job on the pitch
74. The third-place game fell on her nan Doreen's 80th birthday
75. In 2016, Houghton was named as a women's football development ambassador for UEFA joining players such as Camille Abily
76. Steph made her first appearance as a pundit on Sky Sports on May 16, 2017
77. Houghton is married to former professional footballer Stephen Darby, who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease earlier in 2018
78. The pair married in June 2018

79. Professionally she is keeping her name as Steph Houghton but in her personal life, she has become Steph Darby
80. Houghton scored for Manchester City just days after Stephen's announcement, later dedicating the goal to him on Twitter



81. In January 2018, Houghton made her 100th appearance for Manchester City
82. The game saw Nick Cushing's side win 3-0 against her old side Sunderland
83. 2018 has been a year of 100s for Houghton - shortly before her 100th cap for England, Houghton also made her 100th Women's Super League appearance
84. Manchester City finished 7-1 winners against West Ham in the game on October 14
85. So far, she has scored ten goals for Manchester City
86. Houghton's nan Doreen, mum Amanda, dad Lee and brother Stuart are regulars at games whether domestically or for her country

87. She has a ritual which means she always waves to where they are stood before a game starts
88. According to Steph, her mum and Nan have had the most influence on her life
89. She has (so far) won more WSL games than any other player in history (currently 74)
90. She has been named the 37th best player in the Top 100 female footballers of 2018
91. Her best position was 25th in 2017
92. She admits she still gets nervous before every game she played
93. Her biggest ambition is to win a major championship with England
94. Houghton became the first person to appear as a 3D hologram using 5G with Vodaphone
95. Houghton currently wears Nike Phantom football boots
96. Phil Neville told fans Houghton did not want to be made a fuss of ahead of her centenary cap and has asked to play in the away friendly in Austria so she did not have to play it in front of a home crowd
97. Houghton earned her 100th England cap on November 11, 2018 against Sweden at the New York stadium
98. She is the 11th female England player to reach 100 games
99. After the game finished, she stayed at the stadium for over two hours taking photographs with fans and signing autographs
100. She dedicated the achievement to her family and the sacrifices they have made for her career





Jordan Nobbs ruled out of 2019 Women's World Cup

Jordan Nobbs has been ruled out of the Women's World Cup after undergoing surgery on Monday.

The England and Arsenal midfielder ruptured her anterior cruciate ligament in Arsenal's Women's Super League game with Everton in November.

Nobbs, who has 56 senior caps for the Lionesses had already been ruled out for the rest of the season but it was hoped she would be able to feature in France next summer.

England manager Phil Neville said: "We are all wishing Jordan a speedy

recovery and will be supporting her every step of the way throughout her rehabilitation process.

"She is an invaluable member of the Lionesses squad and played a huge part in helping us secure our place at next summer's Women's World Cup finals in France.

"Naturally we are disappointed that a player of Jordan's ability and importance will not be able to take part in the World Cup, but the priority is that she returns to full fitness and can look forward to many exciting years ahead playing for both her club and country."



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
FRANCE
2019

DRAW



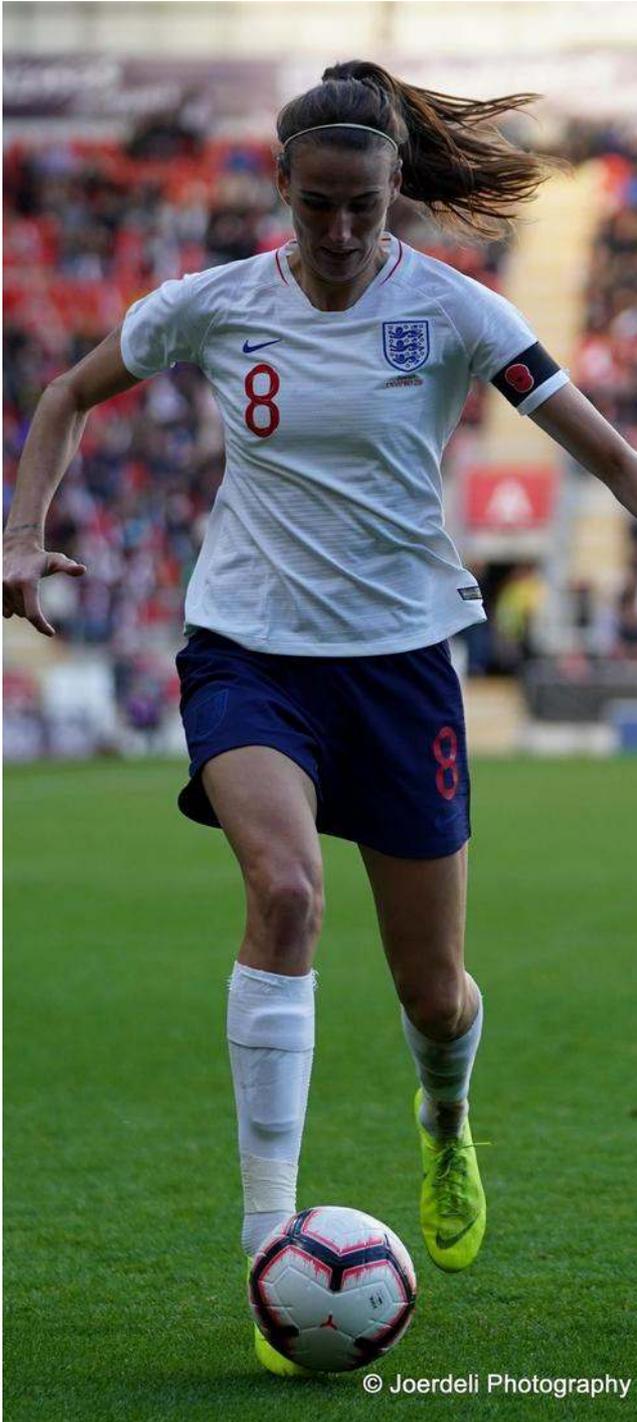


FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019™

ORIGINAL TROPHY



**England draw Scotland in
opening Women's World
Cup game in repeat of Euro
2017 opener**



England will take on Scotland in their opening Women's World Cup game next year.

Phil Neville's side have been drawn in Group D alongside Scotland, Argentina and Japan.

The opening game, which will take place on Sunday, June 9, is a repeat of the 2017 Euros group clash which saw the two sides meet.

England, who came third in the 2015 tournament after beating Germany 1-0 after extra in the third-place play-off game, were 6-0 winners in Holland and will be looking for another strong start in France.

The news comes just a day after England and Arsenal midfielder Jordan Nobbs was ruled out of the tournament next summer after undergoing surgery on a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament.

The reigning champions have been drawn in Group F alongside Chile, Sweden and Thailand whilst hosts France will take on Korea Republic in the opening game on Friday, June 7 at the Parc de Princes, Paris.

The tournament will be on between Friday, June 7 and Sunday, July 7, with the final being held in Lyon.

 FRANCE

 KOREA REP

 NORWAY

 NIGERIA

 ENGLAND

 SCOTLAND

 ARGENTINA

 JAPAN

 GERMANY

 CHINA PR

 SPAIN

 SOUTH AFRICA

 CANADA

 CAMEROON

 NEW ZEALAND

 NETHERLANDS

 AUSTRALIA

 ITALY

 BRAZIL

 JAMAICA

 USA

 THAILAND

 CHILE

 SWEDEN



EUROS 2021 to be held in England

England have been confirmed as hosts for the UEFA Women's Euro 2021 tournament.

The competition will be played across England at eight stadiums, with the final being held at Wembley Stadium.

England were the only country to bid to host the 2021 Euros and will host the tournament for the first time since 2005.

Phil Neville's side will automatically qualify for the 16-team finals as hosts.

The draw for qualification will be made on February 22, 2019 with the games to be played between August 2019 and September 2020.

Speaking after the decision was made, the FA's chief executive Martin Glenn said: "Bringing EURO 2021 to England will be a tremendous opportunity to celebrate women's football and will allow us to amplify our significant commitment to growing the game.

"In January, we pledged an additional £50m investment over the next six years and grassroots initiatives like our popular Wildcats scheme for five-to-eleven year old girls has seen the number of centres more than quadruple over the past year to 880.

"We cannot underestimate the positive impact this tournament will have on inspiring the next generation.



“Young girls and boys will be lifted by the chance to see Europe’s elite on their doorstep and it can only help the collective effort across our leagues and clubs to grow the game even further, especially with our restructured Women’s Super League making such a promising start.

“I am grateful to Aleksander Ceferin and the UEFA Executive Committee for recognising the work we are doing. “We are determined to put on a great showcase with Europe’s top talent playing in front of packed stadiums.

“To have Wembley for the showpiece final will be a fitting conclusion to what I am certain will be a wonderful tournament.

“I would also like to thank everyone who has worked on this successful bid – not just across The FA but also the clubs and cities concerned.

“A huge amount of effort and collaboration has gone into making this possible.

“With the World Cup next summer in France, there is plenty to look forward to in the women’s game.”

Baroness Sue Campbell, The FA’s director of women’s football, said: “This is fantastic news for The FA, the country and, crucially, for the future development of girls’ and women’s football in England.

“Tournaments of the scale and profile of EURO 2021 have the power to inspire a new generation of young girls, and women of all ages, to get involved in the sport – for fitness, competition or just pure enjoyment, as

WE ARE HOSTING



UEFA WOMEN'S EURO



CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2021



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well as the opportunity to grow support for the women's game at both a club and national level.

“A home EURO in 2021 has the potential to be a pivotal moment in the development of the women's game in England.”

The proposed cities and stadia are:

Brighton & Hove - AMEX Stadium

London - Wembley Stadium
connected by EE

London - Brentford Community Stadium

Milton Keynes - Stadium MK

Manchester - Manchester City Academy Stadium

Nottingham - The City Ground

Rotherham - AESSEAL New York Stadium

Sheffield - Bramall Lane

Southampton - St. Mary's Stadium

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FA Cup

3rd Round Draw

The draw for the 3rd round of the SSE Women's FA Cup has been made.

Cardiff City v Bolton Wanderers

Derby County v Stoke City

Huddersfield Town v Leeds United

Middlesbrough v Watford

Billericay Town v Loughborough Foxes

Hull City v AFC Wimbledon

Coventry United v Crawley Wasps

Nottingham Forest v MK Dons

Oxford United v Blackburn Rovers

Keynsham Town v Fylde

Games will be played on Sunday, January 6.

Ammo's Antics



Hi, Ammo here. For those that don't know I play for Birmingham City U12s in the Junior Premier League and each month I write a blog for the awesome Women's Football Magazine.

Lots to tell you all about this month.

At the beginning of the month I was asked to play up an age group for Birmingham City U14s against Reading. It was a really tough game against a good, physical side. I played in defence which isn't my natural position but I think I did a pretty good job.

I also got the chance to watch Birmingham City Women against Chelsea. I love supporting the first team and I go to most home games to cheer them on. I was also very happy to get a new selfie with the worlds best player Fran Kirby.

The following week I played for my school in the English Football League Cup. We won the tournament and in the final we played a school that included my old Ross Juniors team mate Eva who plays for Bristol City. I scored 10 goals in the tournament overall. Pretty happy with that.

We now go onto the Nationals representing our county.

On that Saturday I played for Birmingham against Worcester boys. They were unbeaten in 9 months and hadn't conceded a goal in 8 games. They sit at the very top of our league. Although we lost it was a very close game, we scored 3 goals and I even got one with my left

foot. A great end to a great weeks football.

It got even better when I found out my Dad won a competition in the Women's Football Magazine (2019 calendar out now on EBay.. featuring me!) We won two tickets to watch England women against Sweden.

Our seats were amazing... front row! Although the result wasn't what we hoped for I had a fantastic time. Congratulations to Steph Houghton for reaching 100 caps!

I then played against Kidderminster boys in the league. Playing boys is hard enough but the Junior Premier League is full of teams of very talented footballers so it's always going to be tough for us. We didn't play our best football and even though we suffered another close defeat we kept our heads up the whole game.

Training this month is all about changing direction quickly and keeping possession of the ball. So hopefully we can bounce back soon with a good win.

Just time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Ammo



Fraser of the Month

As sports fans,
we've never had it so good...

Growing up as a sport-obsessed kid in the 90s, meant Match of the Day recorded on video (come on, it's well past any little-un's bed-time) and Grandstand was about as good as it got. Saturday afternoons not spent at matches would instead be spent sitting in front of page 303 on Ceefax, keeping tabs on the latest scores.

No social media. Just four – and latterly five – terrestrial channels to tune into. No TV on demand. No streaming services. For a huge chunk of most now-adults' childhood there wasn't even any internet!

But now look at us. Watching games on dedicated sports channels, recording matches to a hard drive with the click of a button or even just following clubs' live updates on Twitter... and that's just the start of it.

As I said, we've never had it so good.

But while the Premier League is a relentless giant that has always enjoyed major exposure, this new social media-heavy era is fantastic for the rest of football, including the women's game.

Having only come out from its 50-year ban in 1971, the women's game has a fair bit of catching up to do if it ever wants to challenge the dominant grip of the Prem. But in an era where social media dominates, this can only be a good thing.

The recent format revamp – introducing

the introduction of the Women's Super League – has led to TV deals of its own. Not quite on the £5.14billion scale of the Premier League, but still, plenty of air-time. That, combined with a strong social media presence of the clubs' accounts has led to a major influx in viewers – and more importantly – fans of the women's game.

Recent Lionesses games have seen attendance records broken, while some club matches being streamed live on Facebook for free has captured the attention of a much broader audience. Even seeing the likes of female idols Alex Scott take their seat on shows such as Football Focus, Sky Sports Super Sunday and even the World Cup coverage gives girls idols to look up to – when those in generations before had to battle a whole symphony of obstacles.

We can all admit social media is far from perfect, but it has massively helped inspire the next generation of women's footballers. From success stories shared, to far more coverage of the game, there is an awful lot to be excited about from the kids of the 2010s, some yet to even discover their talent.

While current Lionesses stars including Leah Williamson and Nikita Parris have lauded the likes of Thierry Henry for fuelling their love of the game, it's what's still to come that is even more exciting... when the next generation of women's football stars break through citing Parris, Williamson and their team-mates as their inspiration.

UWCL draw made as Chelsea progress to face PSG



By Jessica Pratt

Chelsea stormed through to the Champions League quarter-finals with a 6-0 hammering of Fiorentina in the second leg of their last-16 tie.

After a tight 1-0 victory in the home fixture, the Blues were far more clinical in Florence as Fran Kirby notched a hat-trick. Millie Bright was sent off for the visitors late on for denying a goalscoring opportunity but it was far too late for the hosts to overturn the 7-0 aggregate scoreline that sent Emma Hayes' side through to the last eight in Europe for a second time.

Chelsea's opponents in the next round are PSG, who are through to the quarter-finals despite conceding two goals in their return leg clash with Linköping. An own goal from Maja Kildemoes as well as a double from Marie-Antoinette Katoto were enough to ensure that the hosts claimed victory on the night plus their place in the final eight with a 5-2 aggregate win.

Elsewhere, it was no surprise to see the holders Lyon sail through to the next round as they built on their 4-0 first leg victory with a 9-0 home win over Ajax, which included goals

from captain Wendie Renard and England international Lucy Bronze. German giants Wolfsburg also added to their goal tally with a 6-0 triumph over Atlético in Spain that saw them into the next round thanks to 10 goals without reply over the two legs.

Lyon and Wolfsburg are likely to face tougher tests in the quarter-finals as they were drawn to play each other for a rematch of last year's final - which the French champions won in extra-time. The two sides have contested the trophy against each other three times in total, with Wolfsburg claiming the silverware thanks to a penalty shootout in 2016.

Glasgow City saw their run in the competition come to an end at the hands of Barcelona, who secured a comfortable 3-0 victory at Petershill Park thanks to a brace from Toni Duggan. It was no surprise for the newly crowned 12-in-a-row Scottish champions, who were already 5-0 down after the first leg of the last-16 tie.

Barcelona will face LSK Kvinner in the quarter-finals. LSK are through after an away win over Brøndby, where two second half goals helped them to edge the tie 3-1 on aggregate and become the first Norwegian

quarter-finalists since 2009/10.

Over in Prague in another tightly contested matchup, Slavia Praha did enough to hold off Rosengård and avenge the 6-1 aggregate loss they suffered to the Swedes at the same stage two years ago. The Czechs made it through 3-2 on aggregate after a stalemate at the Eden Arena and are now the only remaining team from the qualifying round left in the competition.

Their opponents will be Bayern Munich as the Germans followed up their 2-0 first leg result over Zürich with a routine 3-0 win. The Germans have never made it past the quarter-finals and are the only German entrants not to win the competition. The recent draw has ensured that there will be debutants at both the semi-finals and final stages meaning that there is every chance that we could see a new winner of the coveted trophy in Budapest next year.

Quarter-finals: 20/21 & 27/28 March

Slavia Praha (CZE) v Bayern München (GER)
Barcelona (ESP) v LSK Kvinner (NOR)
Lyon (FRA, holders) v Wolfsburg (GER)
Chelsea (ENG) v Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)

- Slavia or Bayern will reach their first semi-final.
- LSK are the only contenders in their first quarter-final.
- Lyon and Wolfsburg met in the 2013, 2016 and 2018 finals, OL beat Wolfsburg in the 2017 quarters.

Semi-finals: 20/21 & 27/28 April

1: Lyon/Wolfsburg v Chelsea/Paris

2: Slavia/Bayern v Barcelona/LSK

- One of Slavia, Bayern, Barcelona and LSK will reach their first final.

Final: 18 May 2019, Ferencváros Stadium, Budapest

Winner semi-final 1 v Winner semi-final 2

Barcelona (ESP)

Previous best: semi-finals (2016/17)

Quarter-final record: W1 L3

Key fact: Fifth quarter-final in six seasons, only Spanish side to get this far.

Bayern München (GER)

Previous best: quarter-finals (2016/17)

Quarter-final record: Wo L1

Key fact: Only German entrants not to win this competition.

Chelsea (ENG)

Previous best: semi-finals (2017/18)

Quarter-final record: W1 Lo

Key fact: All three previous campaigns ended by Wolfsburg.

LSK Kvinner (NOR)

Previous best: first quarter-final

Key fact: First Norwegian quarter-finalists since 2009/10.

Lyon (FRA, holders)

Previous best: 5 time winners

Quarter-final record: W9 Lo

Key fact: Their five titles and current run of three in a row are both records.

Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)

Previous best: final (2014/15, 2016/17)

Quarter-final record: W3 Lo

Key fact: Last team to knock Lyon out of Europe, in the 2014/15 round of 16.

Slavia Praha (CZE)

Previous best: quarter-finals (2015/16, 2017/18)

Quarter-final record: Wo L2

Key fact: Only remaining team from the qualifying round.

Wolfsburg (GER)

Previous best: winners (2012/13, 2013/14)

Quarter-final record: W5 L1

Key fact: Have faced Lyon in three of their four finals only winning in 2013.

Everton: Can the Toffees avoid relegation after a poor start to the season?



By Marissa Thomas

The Women's Super League is fully professional this season, for the first time ever and standards have been raised as a result of this adjustment. Everton Ladies are struggling to keep up with the pace at the moment.

Eight games in and the Toffees find themselves at the bottom of the table, winless and without a manager. After they were beaten by Yeovil Town Ladies, who leapfrogged them as a result of their victory, Andy Spence left his role as Head Coach. The search for a replacement is ongoing with goalkeeping coach Jennifer Herst currently in charge on a temporary basis.

Everton's first match after Spence's departure was against Arsenal who beat them 4-0 but there were plenty of positives to take from their first half performance where they

frustrated the league leaders for 44 minutes thanks to defenders throwing their bodies on the line and Kirsty Levell making countless sensational saves.

The Toffees are on a run of four consecutive defeats and have two points from eight games. Looking on the bright side, Everton have not been cut adrift from the teams above them. Yeovil are one point ahead while Brighton are on four points.

Their next two matches, the Merseyside Derby in the league and then the Continental Cup, will be huge especially as they come up against Courtney Sweetman-Kirk who joined Liverpool from Everton in the summer. Liverpool are also on a run of four consecutive defeats so both teams will be desperate to win, especially against their bitter rivals.

As well as conceding goals in all bar one of their matches, Everton have scored just five goals this season, joint last with Yeovil and Liverpool. Sweetman-Kirk has not been replaced and Chloe Kelly is still young and working on her game so cannot be expected to cope with the goalscoring burden on her own.

The Toffees have a lot of young players who must be allowed to grow and progress but there is a lot at stake with one side being relegated from the top tier of women's football at the end of the current campaign. There is every possibility that a new manager could come in and invigorate the players, giving them a lift and some much-needed confidence.

Everton have been relegated from the top flight before in 2014 and it took them three years to bounce back. Unless their form improves significantly in the next few games, it is highly likely that they will find themselves competing in the Women's Championship next season.



Table as it stands in December 2018

| | Team | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | For | Against | GD | Points |
|----|-----------------------|--------|-----|-------|------|-----|---------|-----|--------|
| 1 | Arsenal Women | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 42 | 7 | 35 | 27 |
| 2 | Manchester City Women | 11 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 33 | 6 | 27 | 27 |
| 3 | Chelsea Women | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 22 |
| 4 | Birmingham City Women | 11 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 22 |
| 5 | Reading Women | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 18 |
| 6 | West Ham United Women | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 16 | 19 | -3 | 16 |
| 7 | Bristol City Women | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 14 | -5 | 14 |
| 8 | Liverpool Women | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 19 | -11 | 10 |
| 9 | Everton Ladies | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 20 | -13 | 5 |
| 10 | Brighton & HA Women | 11 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 28 | -21 | 4 |
| 11 | Yeovil Town Ladies | 11 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 35 | -29 | 3 |

November 2018

WSL facts

Ella Rutherford is the only player born in the 2000s to score in the WSL this season

Georgia Stanway is the youngest player to score 5+ goals in the WSL this season

Birmingham's Ann-Katrin Berger has kept more clean sheets than any other player

West Ham's Rebecca Spencer (2) is the only goalkeeper to create more than one goalscoring chance this season

Chelsea's Ji So-Yun has completed more passes in the opposition half than any other WSL player this season (272)

20% of the penalties awarded in the WSL this season have been won by Birmingham's Emma Follis

Chelsea's Ramona Bachmann has hit the woodwork more than any other player – three times

Reading's Fara Williams has hit more direct free-kicks on target than any other player this season (4)

Gemma Davison has played more defence-splitting through balls than any other player this season (5)



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