

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

ISSUE 24

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ROAD TO FRANCE

England continue their World Cup preparations - match report and reaction from the game against Canada. Chelsey Downing discusses why Sophie Baggaley should be the next England number one and the latest news from the world of women's football from grassroots to internationals.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



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Welcome to the issue!

It's time for Issue 24!

I would like to start by saying a big Happy Birthday to us! This is our second birthday and I would like to take the time to thank everyone who has written, taken photos, done graphics, website and our wonderful readers. Without you this would never have happened.

In this issue, we are looking firmly ahead to the Women's World Cup, with quotes from Phil Neville and Nikita Parris and match reports from the opening two 'Road to France' games.

Ammo and Dave are back with their latest columns and Marissa looks at why England can win the World Cup.

We welcome new writer Chelsey Downing and our new social media star Hannah Clarke. There are some other positions open too so have a look further in the issue if you are interested, or know someone who might be.

Helen Rowe-Willcocks
Editor



WRIGHT

6

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1

Contents

Match of the Month

- 7 England vs Canada with match reaction from Neville and Parris

Ammo's Antics

- 12 Another exciting and busy month in the life of Ammo

Marrisa Thomas

- 14 Why England can win the World Cup and WC Watch

Camden Brewery

- 20 Teams up with Camden Town FC for Int. Women's Day

From Vixen to Lioness

- 22 Chelsey Downing talks about the rise of Sophie Baggaley

England U19s

- 28 England U19s secure Euro Championship U19 spot

Fraser of the Month

- 31 Dave talks sexism and women's football





Match of the Month

England v Canada

By Helen Rowe-Willcocks



England fell to a 1-0 defeat at the Academy Stadium as the glory from the SheBelieves Cup victory appeared to have worn off for the hosts.

Phil Neville made six changes to the side which secured victory in America in the first of four friendlies before they head out the Women's World Cup in June.

Only two places separate the two sides in the FIFA rankings and it became obviously in the opening ten minutes with neither side troubling the goalkeepers.

With the Lionesses sitting deep, it was Canada who took control of the first half

and their best chance came just 15 minutes in but after Steph Houghton's clearance fell to Nichelle Prince, she couldn't control it and the wild shot cleared the stadium.

Shortly before half time Nikita Parris, who is celebrating her 50th cap for the Lionesses, was found on the edge of the box unmarked but her well-placed shot was saved by a diving Stephanie Labbe.

After the break England started strong but after struggling to clear in their half, Karen Bardsley is forced to make a hard save as Janine Beckie, the Manchester City forward's thumping strike curls towards the corner.

Barcelona's Toni Duggan who has been on strong form in Spain in recent weeks, saw her shot fizzle just wide of the post and with over an hour played the Lionesses came close again but Lucy Bronze's shot went soaring over the cross bar.

With 20 minutes to go, Neville decided to change the formation pushing Lucy Bronze, who was nominated for the Ballon D'Or last year, move back to her preferred right-back spot.

Both sides were pushing for the victory and England were caught napping late on, Prince's powerful strike hit the bar and fell to captain Christine Sinclair who slotted it home for her 180th goal for Canada.

It was a frustrating night for Neville's side which saw a change in formation, players out of place and strikers struggle to find the target against a side they beat 2-1 in the 2015 World Cup.

Teams

England

Karen Bardsley, Demi Stokes, Abbie McManus, Steph Houghton, Rachel Daly, Keira Walsh, Lucy Bronze, Toni Duggan, Karen Carney, Jodie Taylor, Nikita Parris
Subs: Mary Earps, Gemma Bonner, Alex Greenwood, Millie Bright, Jill Scott, Lucy Staniforth, Beth Mead, Jade Moore, Georgia Stanway, Chioma Ubagagu, Ellen White

Canada

Stephanie Labbe, Allysha Chapman, Kadeisha Buchanan, Shelina Zadorsky, Ashley Lawrence, Desiree Scott, Christine Sinclair, Sophie Schmidt, Nichelle Prince, Janine Beckie, Jessie Fleming
Subs: Erin Mcleod, Sabrina D'Angelo, Deanne Rose, Julia Grosso, Jordyn Huitema, Gabrielle Carle, Shannon Woeller, Lindsay Agnew, Jayde Riviere, Jenna Hellstrom, Vanessa Gilles



Match Reaction

Phil Neville



“Every time we got into the final third there was a real buzz, they’ve got the new kit on and there was a real feelgood factor. I said to the players we shouldn’t lose that.

“Against Sweden [2-0 defeat in 2018] I think we deviated from the plan – at two goals down in the first half I thought that happened. Tonight they stuck to the plan and that gives me confidence that they believe in my philosophy.

“I thought it was a brilliant game in terms of the test we wanted.

“They had experience, we knew they were going to change to two or three formations and we knew that to play the type of football that we want to play we had to be really brave.

“I saw a team that tried to be brave. Our composure in the final third let us down, particularly in the second half.”

Nikita Parris



“I felt like we dominated the game but they won, they put the ball in the back of the net and we never. We weren’t good enough in the final third and they were, they punished us. A clinical striker like Christine Sinclair wasn’t in the game for 70 to 80 minutes and then she goes and scores. That’s what she can do.

“We weren’t good enough in the first half with our possession; too many times we had sloppy passes and square passes getting intercepted. We’ve just got to go away and carry on building. We understand as a team now that our biggest performances are going to come in the World Cup and there’s no straight line to success. It’s got nothing to do with the middle of the park; we had so many chances in the final third, but the last pass, the last cross, the last shot, just wasn’t working.”

Talking about playing in big stadiums:

“You want to build towards that, but let’s first off get the Academy Stadium full before we try and go to the Etihad.

“Let’s build women’s football from the bottom before we get to the top; it’s not about building from the top to get to the bottom. We can talk about the Etihad and Man United’s ground, the Theatre of Dreams, in a few years’ time. Let’s fill the Academy Stadiums, the Kingsmeadows, first of all.”

England 1-2 Spain

By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

England Women put on a much stronger performance in Swindon as they took on Spain in their second 'Road to France' clash.

Manager Phil Neville made a number of changes to the starting XI with only Rachel Daly and Toni Duggan keeping their places.

Captain Steph Houghton missed out due to a slight groin injury.

After a number of chances from Ellen White and Beth Mead, the Lionesses took the lead nine minutes before the break.

A great-team goal, Duggan got on the end of a pass from Jade Moore to find White who found Mead sliding in at the back post.

Goalkeeper Ellie Roebuck was replaced by Mary Earps at half-time with Neville confirming he wanted to give players game time.

Shortly after the break, England doubled their lead with a spectacular goal from White.

Halfway through the second half, Spain managed to claw one back. Substitute Aitana Bonmati tucked home the ball after some excellent play by Maria Francesca Caldentey.

Spain continued to push for an equaliser but Wolfsburg shot-stopper Earps was strong in net to keep them at bay.



SUBSTITUTIONS:

BARDSLEY, EARPS, BONNER, STOKES, WALSH, STANFORTH
CARNEY, UBOGAGU, PARRIS, TAYLOR

#LIONESSES



The Road to France Series comprises:

Friday 5 April (KO 7pm):

England v Canada

Academy Stadium, Manchester City FC

Tuesday 9 April (KO 7pm):

England v Spain

The Energy Check County Ground, Swindon Town FC

Saturday 25 May (KO 1pm):

England v Denmark

Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC

Saturday 1 June (KO 1pm):

England v New Zealand

AMEX Stadium, Brighton & Hove Albion FC

Tickets for all four games are on sale now, priced at only £1 for concessions and £10 for adults – reduced to £7.50 if booked before 28 February (Canada & Spain) and 10 March (Denmark & New Zealand). To buy, go to TheFA.com/LionessesTickets.



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Ammo's Antics



Hi Ammo here.

Another busy month of football for me!

This month I've done some training with the boy's academy at Walsall. It's been a brilliant experience. The boys were all technically excellent footballers and the coaching was first class. I think I managed to compete though and scored some pretty good goals. They were surprised at how good the girls were actually which is always nice to see.

Our first league match was against Rushall, I've played them a few times over the last couple of seasons and they always put in a good performance. It was a really close game that we could have won but in the end we lost 3-2. Still a good result.

Following that I was asked to play up an age group for the U14s against Bristol. It's always tough to play up against older girls. I'm not the tallest but what I lack in size but I make up for in speed and skill. I played out of position at right-back. It really challenged me to keep my concentration and focus for the whole game. I didn't want to let anyone down. After a couple of close quarters we ended up winning 3-0. They were strong opposition but we kept a clean sheet too.

Third game was against Alvechurch boys. I think this was the best overall

performance the team has put in this season. After a slow start we dominated large parts of the game. Our passing was fast and accurate and every player on our team played to their best. I played in centre-mid and my Grandad came up from Cornwall to watch. In the final quarter I managed to just beat the offside trap and run in one on one with the keeper. I slotted the ball firmly into the corner to score the goal I promised my Grandad I would get for him. He was very pleased.

On Mother's Day and I treated my Mum to tickets to Birmingham Women Vs Arsenal, which was great!

So, we are nearing the end of the season. Once the seasons finished I've got the u14 Holland tour with Birmingham to look forward to, then it will be waiting to see if I'm offered a new contract with the Blues. Finally, in May I've got trials for the Welsh u15 National Team. (I know, I'm only 11)

I qualify to play for Wales through my Grandparents. I imagine the trial will be hard and the girls will all have a definite size advantage over me. But they don't call me Ammo for nothing. I'll give it my best shot and you never know what could happen. If you ever have an opportunity to experience something amazing I think you should always take it.

No point having regrets.

If any girls out there are considering going to the trials I would say go for it. At the very least you'll have a really fun. You never know you might even play against or with me!

Stay Happy, Ammo



Why England can win the Women's World Cup

By Marissa Thomas

The Women's World Cup takes place in France on the 7 June -7 July this summer and England will hope to lift the biggest prize in women's football. The Lionesses, who won the SheBelieves Cup for the first time in March, are one of the favourites to win the tournament and here's why I think this could be their year.

Progress made since Canada 2015

England have come on leaps and bounds since their third-placed finish at the last World Cup in Canada. It is no longer acceptable if they lose, there is an expectation that they should win every match they play. In July 2015, the Lionesses were ranked fifth in the world. The last set of rankings before the World Cup saw them ranked third, one place above hosts France and just behind the USA and Germany. England are now a force to be reckoned with. Furthermore, they will be wearing their own bespoke kits at the World Cup, the first time they have a kit that is different to the men's team.

Capable of going up against the bigger nations

Gone are the days when England were expected to suffer defeat when they came up against big nations. In Phil Neville's first game in charge, England beat





France 4-1 at the 2018 SheBelieves Cup. They have also defeated Brazil in this year's SheBelieves Cup as well as Japan, who are one of their group opponents at the World Cup.

Draws against the top two ranked sides, USA and Germany, show that the Lionesses can compete with the very best and come away with a good result. With the upcoming World Cup which is set to be one of the most competitive yet, these are the kind of sides that England will need to beat if they are to come out on top.

Phil Neville's appointment has raised the level of the squad

There was plenty of scepticism in the world of women's football when Phil Neville, a man with no experience in the women's game, was appointed England manager last year. He has since proved his critics wrong and improved the side in the last year. For one, no player's place is assured under Neville. With World Cup qualification ensured when England faced Kazakhstan in September last year, Beth Mead, Gabby George, Lauren Bruton, Leah Williamson, Hannah Blundell, Mary Earps and Lucy Staniforth were all given their full international debuts.

Neville is more than happy to give youngsters an opportunity to shine in his team. It is always great to see new faces in the squad and shows that players have to earn their opportunities. Of course, there are still players like Birmingham's Aoife Mannion and Chelsea's Bethany England who should arguably be in and around the squad but with Neville willing to give players a chance, it is surely only a matter of time before they become part of the England set up.

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP FRANCE 2019™

7 june – 7 july



World Cup Watch

Official poster revealed on International Women's Day

The official poster for France 2019 was unveiled to coincide with International Women's Day.

The poster has been designed to reflect on the "cultural creed of this tournament: ensuring a level playing field for women's football and empowerment through football for girls, women and society in general."

With a woman's face as the central feature, set against the background of a football, the work of art encapsulates the essence of this eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup:

- The shards of bright yellow light in the poster reflect light and illumination – the key elements of the creative concept for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 – captured by the tournament's Official Slogan: Dare to Shine™.
- Her hair is slightly windswept in a nod to female empowerment sweeping the globe.
- Her expression is determined and her gaze ambitious, echoing the skills of each of the 24 teams competing and their desire to become FIFA Women's World Cup champions.

Orange signs as national supporter of France 2019

Orange completes the line-up of six National Supporters for the tournament.

For several years now, Orange has been especially interested in promoting the women's game, involving iconic female players such as Gaëtane Thiney and Amandine Henry in its Team Orange initiative. By becoming a National Supporter of the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019™, Orange is pursuing its commitment to women's football and more generally to diversity and equality in sport.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
FRANCE 2019

World Cup Watch



Country reporters announced

FIFA have announced their 24 team reporters who will be bringing fans all the action from France. There is a reporter per country, who will be following the teams round the tournament.

Scotland impress in friendly

Scotland beat Brazil 1-0 in their penultimate friendly before the World Cup. Kim Little scored the only goal of the game just 38 minutes in as they secured victory over a Brazil side ranked 10 places above them.

Women's World Cup ticket info

Tickets for individual games at this summer's 2019 Women's World Cup are now on sale.

There are still tickets available for England's games which start at just nine Euros.

To get your tickets go to: <https://fwwc19.fr.uk>

FIFA



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
FRANCE 2019

Georgia Stanway signs new contract with Manchester City

Georgia Stanway has signed a contract extension with Manchester City which will keep her at the club until 2022.

The 20-year-old who joined the club in Manchester City after progressing through the Blackburn Rovers youth system.

For the 2019-20 season, Stanway will move from number 12 to number 10.

Stanway said: "I've been here 4 years & I've loved every single minute. To be here to stay is such a massive achievement & I can't wait to get going again. This is where I feel at home & this is where the majority of my development has happened & how I am the player I am today."

City manager Nick Cushing added: "We're delighted that Georgia has signed a new contract. Georgia has shown her potential as a player, but more importantly she has shown that she has the drive and determination to keep improving. The sky is the limit in terms of her ability."



Camden Brewery collaborates with Camden Town Football club for International Women's Day

Camden Town Brewery have revealed the design of the new kit for all-female football team Camden Town Football Club.

The work of art which features some of the most inspiring female icons to have influenced Camden has been created as part of the "Seasonal Design Collaboration with Bodil Jane" for International Women's Day.

Recognised for her bold and colourful illustrations of strong and iconic women, Bodil's illustrative design pays homage to four influential figures who lived or worked in Camden, and whose lives and work inspired and empowered generations of women all over the world.

The faces include literary greats Sylvia Plath and Buchi Emecheta OBE, Modernist sculptor Dame Barbara Hepworth, and suffragist Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett GBE.

The one-of-a-kind kit will be worn by Camden Town FC, a women's club right on the brewery's doorstep. A limited number of the shirts will be available to purchase from Camden Town Brewery's Bar, under the railway arches in Camden, with proceeds from the sales being donated to The Fawcett Society – the UK's leading charity campaigning for gender equality and women's rights.

Camden Town Brewery will also donated all proceeds from beer sales at their Brewery Bar during the week of International Women's Day (4th – 10th March 2019) to The Fawcett Society, which has its roots in the story of suffragist and Bloomsbury resident Millicent Fawcett.

Pranay Dhanani Camden Town Football Club's Manager, commented on the initiative: "We

couldn't believe it when Camden Town Brewery got in touch with the idea. We are all about artistry and unity on the pitch, and supporting each other off the pitch. To play with the likes of Sylvia Plath and Millicent Fawcett on the team's shirts, gives us that extra piece of inspiration and motivation, and makes us even prouder to represent Camden."

The brewery, famed for its great beer and design, collaborates with a new artist each year to design its seasonal beer cans. With the goal of making everyday items more beautiful, this year Camden Town Brewery tasked its Seasonal Design Collaborator, Dutch-born Bodil Jane, to take on a different canvas: a football kit.

Speaking about the project, Bodil Jane commented: "This project has reinvented the conventions of what a football kit can look like and its meaning to those who wear it. Having illustrated some of the world's most iconic women, I was so inspired by the women who hail from the cultural hub that is Camden, and I'm proud of the work that now bears their faces and legacy."

Andre Amaral, Marketing Director at Camden Town Brewery, said: "Our local community is the lifeblood of the business. We are rooted in Camden culture and take every opportunity to celebrate the people who made Camden, Camden. The Women of Camden kit reflects the creativity, diversity and inclusivity that has drawn people from all over the world to the borough for generations, and is inspired by the women of Camden's past, for the women who live, work and play in Camden today."



From Vixen to Lioness

By Chelsey Downing

Anyone who watches football knows just how valuable a 'keeper is to their team. They are your last line of defence against an attacking onslaught, who can help clinch three points even when the rest of the squad aren't firing on all cylinders. With England veteran Karen Bardsey likely to be taking part in her final tournament during this summer's FIFA Women's World Cup in France, our new writer Chelsey Downing takes a look at why Bristol City Women's Sophie Baggaley should be considered for a senior England call up.

At just 22 years old, she has over 40 WSL caps to her name - just 10 less than KB who is 12 years her senior. Having joined Bristol City on loan from Birmingham City at the start of the 2017/18 season,(1) she quickly made herself into the starting line-up and made 17 appearances for the South West side. In July 2018, her move to the Vixens was made permanent, and she's rarely missed a game since. A positive sign considering that England Manager Phil Neville has openly admitted he'd like his goalkeepers to be getting plenty of first team football.

Coached by Neil Moore, Baggaley has gone from strength to strength, and the UEFA A level coach wasn't short of praise for Bristol City's number one.



“Sophie wants to learn and always wants to win. Everyone at the club trusts her to perform at a high level because we see it every day. We’ve seen her improve her distribution, dealing with crosses and foot saves over the past two seasons. It’s that determination and professionalism that makes her the goalkeeper she is – I think we haven’t seen the best of Sophie yet.”

The accolades don’t just come from her coaches. Last season, she won the FA Women’s Football Award’s Save of The Year for her incredible acrobatics against title-chasing Arsenal, followed by a double win in September of FA WSL and fans player the month. As if that wasn’t enough, just last month, she secured her second PFA women’s player of the month. The awards are already stacking up, but they don’t do the young shot stopper justice.

Speaking to BCWFC back in February, the Derbyshire native said “Personally, I’m just trying to get better every day in training and I’m grateful for the support of the players and the staff that push me to become the best player I can be”

It’s an attitude that has already served her well on the international stage, making appearances for the England U17’s, U19’s, U20’s and U23’s. In October 2016, Baggaley was called up to the senior squad by then manager Mark Sampson, but was only able to make the bench on three occasions.

Since then, experienced goalkeeper Carly Telford of Chelsea, Mary Earps of Wolfsburg and Ellie Roebuck of Manchester City have kept the youngster out of the England squad. A fact that I feel is unfair, considering how well the Vixen’s number one has performed without a world-class defence in front of her.



SPAR announced as new sponsor for Scotland Women's National Team



The Scottish FA announce SPAR as a new sponsor of the Scotland Women's National Team, reports www.fcbusiness.co.uk

The deal will see Scotland's leading convenience store group partner with the SWNT during the biggest year in the history of the team, as the squad continues its preparations for their inaugural appearance at a FIFA Women's World Cup.

Having qualified for this summer's tournament in France in dramatic fashion last September, the deal – which will run until the summer of 2020 – will support the SWNT as they look to build on the wave of momentum that has been generated over the past three years.

Qualification for a first-ever major tournament in the form of UEFA EURO 2017 was followed by a qualifying campaign that included the team's record attendance for a home fixture, when 4,098 spectators watched Shelley Kerr's side claim a 2-1 win over Switzerland in Paisley.

"To have the support of a company such as SPAR means so much to us – it helps us to prepare for France this summer and is a huge boost to all involved with the squad."

Kerr herself welcomed the news at the official launch of the partnership at Hampden Park today.

“I’m delighted to welcome SPAR on board as a sponsor of the Scotland Women’s National Team,” she said.

“We’re building towards the biggest tournament in our history this summer, something for which the players and our fans alike cannot wait.

Ian Maxwell, Scottish FA Chief Executive, said: “It gives me great pleasure to welcome SPAR to our sponsorship family as a partner of the SWNT.

“Shelley and the team have consistently impressed both on and off the pitch over recent years – they set out with the goal of inspiring a nation and have most definitely done so with their qualification for this summer’s FIFA Women’s World Cup.

“With this partnership, we believe that the squad will be in the best possible position in their preparations for France 2019.”

Colin McLean, CEO of SPAR Scotland, said: “It is fantastic to be able to support the Scotland Women’s National Team. We are committed to encouraging them to get to the final and support them on their journey in this historic year.

“Our close relationship will ensure that we can continue our commitment to encouraging people into sport.

“We see this new sponsorship deal as an extension of our work to date. The deal with the SWNT is the perfect partnership.”



New FA partnership for Lionesses with Boots UK



The FA has announced a three-year partnership with Boots UK to support the women's game.

The deal will run through the 2019 Women's World Cup this summer to the 2021 UEFA Women's Euros which will take place in England.

The partnership will focus on telling the stories of some of the inspirational role models represented in women's football to inspire active participation from young girls and women.

During one of the most exciting periods for the women's game, the partnership marks a unique partnership for women's football across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Research carried out by The FA found that 1.7m girls and women aged five and over partake in football every month and women's football has never been more popular.

Awareness and participation in women's football has a powerful impact on the confidence of girls and women, with 80% of female footballers saying they feel more confident as a result of playing for their team.

The FA's recently appointed chief executive and current chief commercial and football development officer, Mark Bullingham, said: "We're delighted to be partnering with Boots as the Official Partner of the England women's team in what is a hugely exciting time for women's football."

“It’s important that we partner with brands that share our passion for raising the profile of the sport and the ability to help us do so.

“I look forward to seeing us work together to make The Lionesses household names and inspiring the next generation of girls to take up the game.”

Boots UK’s marketing director, Helen Normoyle, said: “It’s so exciting to see how women’s football has evolved over the last few years.

“Boots has always had a strong heritage of supporting women.

“In fact, we even founded our very own women’s sports team as early as 1894.

“Through our new partnership with The FA, we are excited to give these inspirational women the chance to tell their stories, to help encourage other women to experience the transformative confidence sport can bring.

“Boots believes everyone has a right to feel good. Because of that, we’re huge supporters of women’s football, and the incredible impact it can have on improving health and confidence. That’s why we want to be part of elevating the women’s game and are proud to be supporting the five national women’s teams across Britain and Ireland for the next three years.”



England U19s secure 2019 UEFA European U19 Championship finals place

England U19s have booked their place at the 2019 UEFA European U19 Championship finals following a 2-0 win over Italy at St. George's Park.

First-half goals from Jessica Naz and Lauren Hemp were enough to secure the victory.

It was an eventful game, with Italy ending on nine players.

Angelica Soffia was dismissed just before half-time for a second bookable offence and Vanessa Panzeri received her second yellow on the hour mark.

England oozed confidence throughout the game and will head to the finals in Scotland this summer.

The finals will take place in Scotland between 16-28 July and the draw will be made on 16 April in Glasgow.

TEAM

England: Hannah Hampton, Poppy Pattinson, Aimee Palmer, Esme, Georgia Eaton-Collins, Jessica Naz, Amy Rodgers, Lauren Hemp, Ella Rutherford, Ella Fitzgerald, Grace Neville

Substitutes: Olivia Smith (replaced Neville 46), Ebony Salmon (replaced Naz 66), Emily Syme (replaced Rutherford 67), Jodie Hutton (replaced Fitzgerald 85)

Substitutes not used: Emily Ramsey, Niamh Cashin, Naomi Hartley, Lauren James, Amelia Hazard



Congratulations England U19s



U19s England Squad

England 1-2 Spain Thursday, Feb 28

(Aimee Palmer scored England's only goal of the game)

China 1-5 England Saturday, March 2

(Young Lionesses goals from Jess Park, Ebony Samon, Lauren James, Ella Rutherford, Amelia Hazard)

England 0-2 Switzerland Monday, March 4

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Emily Ramsey (Manchester United), Hannah Hampton (Birmingham City)

Defenders: Poppy Pattinson (Bristol City), Olivia Smith (University of Oklahoma), Esme Morgan (Manchester City), Georgia Eaton-Collins (University of Florida), Niamh Cashin (Rider University), Naomi Hartley (Manchester United), Grace Neville (Millwall Lionesses)

Midfielders: Jess Park (Manchester City), Lauren James (Manchester United), Aimee Palmer (Manchester United), Amy Rodgers (Liverpool), Emily Syme (Yeovil Town), Sophia Pharoah (Brighton and Hove Albion), Amelia Hazard (Arsenal)

Forwards: Lucy Fitzgerald (Millwall Lionesses), Ella Rutherford (Bristol City), Rebecca Jarrett (University of Virginia), Ebony Salmon (Sheffield United, on loan from Manchester United).

Fraser of the Month

Make no mistake, sexism is still a burning issue in all walks of life - but it appears to be particularly prevalent in football.

For what is the most-played and watched sport in the world, it's despicable to think that women - and even young girls - are abused on a daily basis purely for not being male. In recent months, Super League and Lionesses stars have spoken up about the comments they've faced.

But even as the popularity of women's football continues to increase, with better TV deals and a high-level of competition, some disgusting so-called "fans" - and even pundits and coaches - think they're being clever with the same old tired "jokes"

One example that sums up what women and young girls have to put up with on a daily basis was perfectly explained recently by Jacqui Oatley - when she described a situation her daughter was subjected to at a training session.

Taking to Twitter, Oatley wrote: "My 7-year-old daughter was looking forward to her football class this morning. When I picked her up she said the boys would only pass to each other, so the coach told the girls to go and play with hula-hoops instead. Ridiculous."

We all know kids will be kids, but not passing to someone purely because she is a girl simply isn't on - and to be frank probably tells you everything you need to know about their parents. But more importantly, what on Earth

does that coach think they are doing?

In this day and age, coaches should be trained to know exactly what to do if someone - boy or girl, man or woman - is being kept out of a game. It's their job. It's their job to know how to get everyone playing as a team. More so, it's their job to teach children to share. It's not rocket science.

Telling them to run along and play with a hula hoop is revolting and insulting. They may as well have said "pop off to the kitchen" or "why don't you play with your dolls".

Looking to "help" by sticking to the tired, old stereotypes is not helping anyone. In reality, all it's doing is telling these young wannabe footballers is that they won't make it, because they're girls. Is that the attitude you'd want instilled in your daughter, in your sister, in your niece or grandchild? Of course it isn't.

And this is just one example - spend five minutes on social media and you'll see the sexism women are dealing with on a daily basis. In fact, do yourself a favour and don't. It's disgusting to read - your heart can only go out to the victims who've done absolutely nothing to warrant it.

There are no excuses. More needs to be done to tackle sexism. Stamping it out of football wouldn't fix everything, but it would be a promising start.

In a year which is meant to change the future of women's football, let's make sure it is for the right reasons.

Women's Super League Table

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1	Arsenal Women	17	15	0	2	63	12	51	45
2	Manchester City Women	18	13	5	0	51	15	36	44
3	Chelsea Women	18	10	6	2	35	12	23	36
4	Birmingham City Women	16	9	1	6	20	15	5	28
5	Bristol City Women	18	7	4	7	14	27	-13	25
6	Reading Women	16	6	3	7	23	24	-1	21
7	West Ham United Women	17	6	2	9	22	30	-8	20
8	Liverpool Women	17	5	1	11	13	33	-20	16
9	Brighton & HA Women	17	3	4	10	12	33	-21	13
10	Everton Ladies	16	2	3	11	9	28	-19	9
11	Yeovil Town Ladies	16	2	1	13	10	43	-33	-3

Women's Championship Table

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1	Manchester United Women	16	14	1	1	76	7	69	43
2	Tottenham Ladies	17	13	0	4	38	24	14	39
3	Durham Women	16	10	5	1	34	11	23	35
4	Charlton Athletic Women	17	11	2	4	39	17	22	35
5	Sheffield United Women	16	7	1	8	20	29	-9	22
6	London Bees	18	7	0	11	21	39	-18	21
7	Aston Villa Ladies	15	5	5	5	22	30	-8	20
8	Leicester City Women	18	6	2	10	26	39	-13	20
9	Lewes Women	17	5	1	11	21	37	-16	16
10	Crystal Palace Ladies	17	3	1	13	13	33	-20	10
11	Millwall Lionesses	17	1	2	14	14	58	-44	5

Northern Premier Division Table

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1	Blackburn Ladies	20	19	0	1	93	16	77	57
2	Sunderland Ladies	22	13	3	6	76	33	43	42
3	Middlesbrough Ladies	23	12	4	7	57	41	16	40
4	Derby Ladies	21	12	3	6	48	34	14	39
5	Huddersfield Town Ladies	19	12	2	5	56	32	24	38
6	Stoke Ladies	22	9	6	7	58	44	14	33
7	Fylde Ladies	21	10	3	8	37	30	7	33
8	Guiseley AFC Vixens	21	9	4	8	41	36	5	31
9	Hull City Ladies	22	7	2	13	38	57	-19	23
10	Nottingham Forest Ladies	22	6	4	12	24	48	-24	22
11	Sheffield Ladies	21	6	2	13	34	48	-14	20
12	Doncaster Rovers Belles	21	4	5	12	29	68	-39	17
13	Bradford City Women	21	0	0	21	11	115	-104	0

Southern Premier Division Table

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1	Coventry United Ladies	19	15	3	1	68	10	58	48
2	Cardiff Ladies	17	13	1	3	48	16	32	40
3	Chichester City Ladies	19	13	0	6	42	25	17	39
4	Oxford United Women	18	11	2	5	49	17	32	35
5	Plymouth Argyle Ladies	18	10	2	6	40	41	-1	35
6	Watford Ladies	18	10	1	7	36	36	0	31
7	Loughborough Foxes	19	8	3	7	40	27	13	30
8	Portsmouth Ladies	19	9	1	9	39	32	7	28
9	Gillingham Ladies	19	5	3	11	22	46	-24	18
10	MK Dons Ladies	20	5	1	14	23	50	-27	16
11	Queens Park Rangers Ladies	19	0	5	14	22	64	-42	5
12	C & K Basildon Ladies	19	0	2	17	15	80	-65	2



Passionate Women's football writers required

We have a number of positions available for writers to join our exciting team. If you are a fan or follower of women's football then one of these positions could be for you!

Available positions:

- Championship monthly round-up writer
- Northern Premier Division monthly round-up writer
- Southern Premier Division monthly round-up writer
- Columnist: Fan who goes regularly to games to talk about being a women's football fan

If you are interested in any of the positions please email
thewomensfootballmagazine@gmail.com

Alternatively, do you have a story or think you could be a great asset to the team? The please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!

Please note that all positions are voluntary.

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