

# WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

ISSUE 25

MAY 2019



## CITY CHAMPIONS

All the action from the SSE Women's FA Cup final as Manchester City are crowned champions against West Ham. Interviews with Nick Cushing, Matt Beard and Harry Redknapp and Adam Bateman looks back on Manchester United's first season.



# **THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE**



**@thewomensfootiemag**



**@womensfootiemag**



**@womensfootiemag**

# Welcome

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Editor:** Helen Rowe-Willcocks

**Articles:**  
Marrisa Thomas  
Adam Bateman  
Helen Rowe-Willcocks

**Pictures:**  
Daniela Porcelli  
GOTB

**Graphic Designer:**  
Phil Brooke

**Website Designer:**  
Will Ibbetson

**Marketing Manager:**  
Anthony Summers

**Twitter:**  
@womensfootiemag  
**Facebook:**  
thewomensfootiemag  
*The views and comments expressed inside 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 copyright has not been infringed*



## Welcome to the issue!

It's time for Issue 25!

I am on serious World Cup countdown now! It seems to be getting so close and we have already started on our Women's World Cup special for next month, but I am getting ahead of myself!

This month, it is all about the end of the season. We had a fantastic time at the SSE Women's FA Cup final, congratulations to Manchester City. We have lots of great content from the game, including our match report, interviews with Nick Cushing, Matt Beard and Steph Houghton.

Looking at the leagues, Marissa Thomas looks at Arsenal's future and Adam Bateman tells us all about Manchester United's impressive first season.

We hope you enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks  
Editor







# CONTENTS

## **6 Match of the Month—FA Cup final**

Man City Women 3-0 West Ham United Women

## **9 Interviews from Wembley**

Interviews with Nick Cushing, Matt Beard and Steph Houghton

## **16 There is still so much to improve**

Helen Rowe-Willcocks looks at the problems still facing the game

## **18 Women's Football is riding on the crest of a wave**

Bet Victor looks at how betting has changed in the game

## **22 World Cup Watch**

All your latest gossip ahead of the Women's World Cup

## **26 is there a new period of dominance on the horizon for Arsenal?**

By Marissa Thomas

## **30 Manchester United—A fan's view**

Adam Bateman takes us through United's first season

## **34 League Latest**

New licences, new contacts and a retirement

## **38 Soccer Aid**

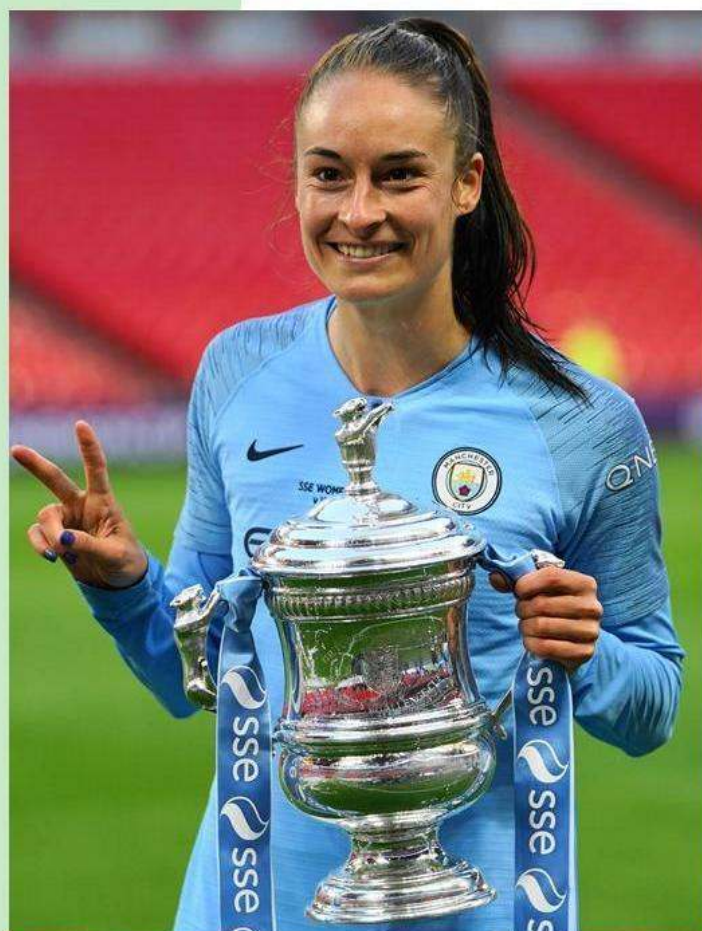
Rachel Yankey and Katie Chapman to take part in this year's Soccer Aid

## **41 Lily Parr**

Great Dick, Kerr Ladies' player to become the first women's footballer to receive a statue

## **44 Young Lionesses**

All the latest news from the U17s, U19s and U21s





# Match of the Month

## Manchester City 3-0 West Ham United

By Helen Rowe-Willcocks



By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Manchester City Women secured their second trophy of the season with a 3-0 win over West Ham United Women in the SSE Women's FA Cup final on May, 5.

City went into the game undefeated in three domestic competitions this season (FA Cup, Women's Super League and Continental Tyres Cup) and their strength and depth of squad showed in the second half as goals from Keira Walsh, Georgia Stanway and Lauren Hemp found the back of the net.

Despite the Premier League not moving West Ham's men's game, the atmosphere in Wembley was loud for the London based team and the Hammers' who moved from the third to top division for the 2018/19 season, showed why they belong at the top.

City had a number of early chances – Nikita Parris was brought down by Gilly Flaherty in the open ten minutes but neither referee Abigail Bryne nor Sian Massey-Ellis looked moved.

Just before the half-hour mark West Ham had their best chance of the half.

The ball was floated in perfectly by Erin Simon but Karen Bardsley dived to make a superb save from close distance to keep Jane Ross out.

Gilly Flaherty and Claire Rafferty looked strong in defence keeping out attempts from Jill Scott and Walsh and the two sides went back to the dressing room with the game poised at 0-0.



Nick Cushing admitted after the game that his half time team-talk was about changing the mentality of his players and it was clear to see a difference in City in the second 45.

After building up momentum, Walsh worked the space outside the box and her powerful shot could not be kept out by Anna Moorhouse, in a howler for the Hammers' keeper.

The goal seemed to spur the former FA Cup champions on with Nikita Parris breaking free to force an impressive save out of Moorhouse, who tipped her curling chip over the crossbar.

Leanne Kiernan, who came on for Jane Ross in the 65th minute made an instant impact for West Ham and constantly put the Man City defence under pressure.

With just over ten minutes to go Stanway made it two for City with a low shot from inside the box.

City continued to press but the Hammers, despite the best efforts looked beat and with only a few minutes left of the game, Hemp added another.

The young Lionesses beat Moorhouse to the ball and lobbed it into the net to see City lift the trophy for the first time since 2017.

TWFM POM – Georgia Stanway

Manchester City: Karen Bardsley, Demi Stokes, Jennifer Beattie, Steph Houghton, Jill Scott, Georgia Stanway, Nikita Parris, Caroline Weir, Abbie McManus, Keira Walsh, Tessa Wullaert

Subs used: Lauren Hemp (82, on for Nikita Parris), Claire Emslie (85, on for Caroline Weir)

West Ham United: Anna Moorhouse, Ria Percival, Erin Simon, Brooke Hendrix, Gilly Flaherty, Alisha Lehamann, Jane Ross, Claire Rafferty, Kate Longhurst, Adriana Leon, Cho So-Hyun

Subs used: Brianna Visalli (61, on for Claire Rafferty,) Leanne Kiernan (65, on for Jane Ross)

Referee: Abigail Bryne

Assistant referees: Sian Massey-Ellis, Melissa Burgin

Fourth official Lisa Benn

Attendance: 43,264





# **Journey to Wembley**

## **MANCHESTER CITY**

**(joined in the fourth round)**



**Fourth Round:**

**Manchester City 3-0 Watford**

**Fifth Round:**

**Tottenham 0-3 Manchester City**

**Quarter-final:**

**Manchester City 3-0 Liverpool**

**Semi-final:**

**Manchester City 1-0 Chelsea**

## **WEST HAM**

**(joined in the fourth round)**



**Fourth Round:**

**West Ham 4-1 Blackburn Rovers**

**Fifth Round:**

**West Ham 8-1 Huddersfield**

**Quarter-final:**

**Aston Villa 0-1 West Ham**

**Semi-final:**

**Reading 1 (3) - 1 (4) West Ham**



# Nick Cushing: I tried to remember to enjoy the experience



Manchester City showed West Ham why they have gone unbeaten in three domestic trophies as they lifted the SSE Women's FA Cup for a second time at Wembley on Saturday, May 5.

Manager Nick Cushing believes that the occasion got to them in a 'game of two halves' but that in the second half, they put on a performance worthy of the title.

He said: "We set out to do a job today, and I am proud that we added the FA Cup to the Conti Cup this season.

"I thought West Ham were excellent, but I expected them to be good. They are great on the counter attack and I

expected them to cause us problems. Lehmann was impressive.

"I thought we were a little emotional, I feel like the occasion affected our offensive play. We got into good moments in the box and took shots on when they were not shots and lost the ball. It was a little unlike us. We asked them to settle down and play logically and in the second half we looked much more comfortable.

"It is hard to get messages out to the players on the pitch and it is hard to affect the game whilst the ball is moving. Half time gives you the time to settle everybody down.



“I thought we gave West Ham one too many counter attacks [in the first half], we gave the ball away. There were basic tactical things that were being affected by the occasion. Second half I thought we were excellent.

“When you play at Wembley, it is an unconscious thing, the opportunity to score at Wembley is so huge that it might impact your decisions.

“As a coach my job is to prepare the players, technically, tactically but also with the correct mindset to win.

“Today is just a good day where we can look and be proud of our players.”

This is the second time that Manchester City have reached an FA Cup final at Wembley, the first came in 2017 when they beat Birmingham City 4-1.

Despite the fact it was the second time for Cushing, he admits that it is just as special now as it was the first.

“To come to Wembley, to have the opportunity to fight to come to Wembley is amazing and when you get here, you just have to enjoy it,” he said.

“I reflected with my team this morning that in the 2017 I did not enjoy it as much because the occasion almost takes hold of you.

“You are here but you want to win. [This time] I tried to be a bit more logical, I tried to think a little bit more





about the game. I am just so proud of the players and everyone involved with the club.

“I hope the players will go and spend time with their family and friends. They have put so much time and effort into the cause this year to make this team successful again that they deserve everything they get.”

Midway through the first half goalkeeper Karen Bardsley dove to tip the ball away from the goal, a moment which had it gone differently could have completely changed the game.

Cushing said about Bardsley: “[That save] was vital. But then so have a lot of saves KB has made this season. I think in the big games, you see the value of KB.

“She is so big in goal, I think she thrives off it. We are always going to talk about how excellent your Keira Walsh and Georgia Stanway are but KB has

probably impacted the game by keeping it 0-0.”

Manchester City’s three youngest stars on the day were the goal scoring heroes and Cushing was delighted that his strategy of nurturing young British talent shone on the Wembley stage.

He said: “We have to expose these players to these occasions, these big games because we want them to reach their potential. Irrelevant of the result, they had to make an impact on the pitch, those players are the next Nikita Parris, the next Jill Scott.

“I thought Keira Walsh was excellent, Abbie McManus was excellent, Georgia Stanway is Georgia Stanway and just plays the way that she plays. Lauren Hemp when she came on was superb.”





# **Matt Beard: West Ham are only going to grow**

**By Helen Rowe-Willcocks**



West Ham United manager Matt Beard was full of praise for his side following the 3-0 defeat Wembley.

Beard, who is the former coach of Chelsea and Liverpool, was appointed as West Ham boss in June 2018 and had led the team to their first FA Cup final and an impressive first season in the Women's Super League.

The Hammers held their own in the first-half and Beard felt like things really changed for them in the second 45: "It was a game of two halves really.

"The first half, I thought we had done well. In the first half I thought we had

the better chances, we passed the ball well.

"We seemed to force it at times but then the second half was hard. When you go behind against Man City, it is very hard.

"They are a very, very good team but I think in the second half there was stuff we could have done better. You have to take your chances against teams like this and for me that's what it boiled down to today.

"Man City deserved to win on their second half performance but when we walked round at the end and you realise what we have created in such a short



space of time as a team and a club, I am so proud of them.”

A mistake by goalkeeper Anna Moorhouse led Manchester City’s first goal, and the whole stadium could see how gutted the 24-year-old was at the final whistle.

Beard said: “[Moorhouse] apologised [for her mistake which lead to City’s first goal] but she is a fantastic keeper.

“When we recruited her over the summer, she had played a lot of games against WSL2 teams and had experience but she has grown during her time here.

“There have been times over the season when she has saved us – even today she made some fantastic saves.

“It is part and parcel of football, you are going to have good and bad days and I cannot fault her at all.”

Despite the fact the WSL season is not yet over, West Ham are already looking to the future and Beard is confident that their journey to Wembley is the push they need to push them on.

He said: “For me, I think we have been fantastic this year.

“Everyone at this club has heart and soul into this season. There have been lots of highs and lows, it has been tough, but to be here seeing what we have done speaks volumes about what we are trying to do.

“We can learn from this. We have a lot of young players who will become better players because of it. This club is only going to get better and this fan base is only going to grow.”





# Steph Houghton opens up about husband Stephen Darby's diagnosis



Steph Houghton has spoken out about the difficult year she has had both on and off the pitch.

The England captain, lifted the SSE Women's FA Cup for the fourth time in her career last week and has been named to lead Phil Neville's Lionesses squad at the 2019 Women's World Cup.

However, the year has been a difficult one off the pitch for the City defender.

Husband Stephen Darby, who she married last summer, was forced to announce his retirement in October

after being diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and Houghton admits it has been difficult.

She said: "It's obviously been a really, really tough year on a personal level, but I can be honest and say I'm sitting here in England colours and I am really focused on England. Of course Stephen's my No 1 priority and he always will be.

"He's been an unbelievable person in the way he has dealt with it. He has been everything I knew he would be. He really motivates me to be the best person I can be and the ultimate thing



for me is to make him proud.

“Hopefully, if he reads this when it's in the paper, he'll be thinking that he knows that I'm just doing my job and that anything I do it's for our future together.

“I'm here because I feel I'm right to be here and it's driven by Stephen. He wants me to go. He says, "Get out of the house".”

“He's the ultimate inspiration for me and my family and he's been so strong. My focus is the World Cup now and fingers crossed it never, ever gets to the moment where I have to step away.”

*Houghton has been named as captain for the England Lionesses squad who will head to the Women's World Cup in France. Prince William announced her name on Twitter on May 8.*





# **There is still so much to improve...**

## **By Helen Rowe-Willcocks**

There is something about FA Cup final days that always bring out the excitement in me.

It does not matter whether it was the first one I attend or the most recent, they are high up in some of my favourite memories since I became a journalist.

This year was no different, in fact I have fallen in love with being a journalist all over again but that's a different story.

With the 2019 Women's World Cup just around the corner, excitement is growing in the women's game and it is great to see but there are so many things that could make the game so much better.

At the game, whilst it was great to see so many young fans, clubs, supporters from both sides and neutrals there to support, the game was also not without its problems.

The build-up to the game was marred by Manchester City fans struggling to get trains sorted for the game – there was only one available after the match to get back to Manchester and if it went to extra time and penalties then many

fans would have had to have rushed off. Thankfully that was not the case.

Manchester City as a club have always been fantastic when it comes to helping out women's football fans, from tickets for women's games if they are men's season ticket holders, to making sure games on the same day are at times in which fans can go to both.

Saturday's game was no different and when the problems with public transport were highlighted, they supplied coaches for fans to help as many get to the Wembley final as possible.

Earlier in the week, the FA announced that 52,000 tickets had been issued for the game and hope began to build that a 99-year-old record could be broken.

On Boxing Day, 1920, 53,000 fans packed into a stadium to watch Dick, Kerr Ladies beat St. Helens.

Women's Football was banned shortly after that game as people, with many suspicious about the reasonings behind it and it was not until 1971 that women were allowed to play football in the UK.

Sadly, there was no need for the media to get this information ready as the official gate fell well short of the



expected numbers at 43,264.

So why was it so low compared to what the FA had predicted?

The answer is simple. The Premier League. And this is deeply disappointing.

West Ham put in a request to move the men's Premier League game from 3pm to an earlier time so that Hammers' fans could have the opportunity to go to both. They refused.

As the news broke with a week to go to the final, West Ham released an official statement: "Despite the club's very best efforts, it was decided by the Premier League that it wouldn't be possible due to the potential inconvenience caused to supporters who had already planned their journeys and purchased tickets."

This was the perfect opportunity to show how much football is become an inclusive sport and instead it has just highlighted how far there still is to go.

The Hammers have come on leaps and bounds in the last year and it is clear to see that the club are keen to grow the women's game.

Speaking after the final whistle, manager Matt Beard said: "The club tried to move the game so that the fans could go to both games and I think that tells you everything you need to know about this football club."

Moving away from the problems leading up to the game and fast forward to the day itself and the moment I walked out of Wembley Park station, I could see the crowds.

It was fantastic. Young girls giddy to get to the game, families, supporters alike however when we got in the ground the cracks started to show.

Before the game, the announcers read out the names of last year's officials instead of the referee team for this year and throughout the game – even when she scored at half-time, Georgia Stanway, the official Player of the Match, was called Georgina.

I know everyone makes mistakes – goodness only knows I have made a few – but to get it wrong three times is embarrassing.

How do we expect people on the outside to take the game seriously, if people that are here to promote and grow the game cannot get simple facts right.

At the end of the day, the final was a great day out and one which I loved. There is no better feeling than sitting in that reporter's box for a Cup final but the errors surrounding the event showed that there is still a long way to go for women's football to be shown as equal.



# Women's football riding the crest of a wave ahead of FA Cup final

By Bet Victor

When Manchester City and West Ham take to the Wembley pitch on Saturday for the Women's FA Cup final, it will mark another milestone moment in the ascendancy of women's football.

A record 45,423 fans watched last year's Women's FA Cup final, but that attendance is expected to be beaten this weekend as City look to complete the domestic cup double over underdogs West Ham.

Bookmakers are also increasingly seeing an interest in women's football betting - BetVictor expect the number of bets on the Women's FA Cup Final to double compared to last year.

Recent months have seen a spectacular rise across Europe when it comes to attendances, with Spain's Primera Division setting a new world record for a women's club match in March when 60,739 fans attended Barcelona's victory over Atletico Madrid at the Wanda Metropolitano. Just a week later, Juventus set a new Italian league record, attracting 39,027 to the Allianz Stadium as they defeated Fiorentina.

The 2015 Women's World Cup in Canada set an overall attendance record of 1.35 million spectators across the competition, while a worldwide TV audience of 750 million watched on as







USA saw off Japan in the final. Four years later, and records are expected to fall once more at this summer's Women's World Cup in France.

A UK audience, for one, will have more access to women's football than ever before, with BBC announcing it will be showing all of the 2019 Women's World Cup games live.

England will head into the tournament brimming with confidence and as one of the favourites following their SheBelieves

Cup triumph in March – and will have the backing of sponsors including Budweiser and Lucozade Sport.

They'll also be competing wearing a specially designed kit that, for the first time, will be different to their England male counterparts' strip.

In fact, Nike have made bespoke home and away kits for 14 of the teams competing in France this summer. Adidas, meanwhile, has announced it will be awarding its sponsored players the same amount in bonuses as their male counterparts should they end up lifting the trophy in July.

Back in the UK, women's football continues to ride the crest of a wave of optimism.

Barclays has signed a landmark title sponsorship deal with the English Women's Super League worth over £10 million across three seasons, including £500,000 worth of prize money being offered for the first time, while Boots has also signed a multi-million-pound deal to partner with the five football associations of the British Isles for three years.

All 11 teams in the English Women's Super League are now fully professional clubs, ensuring football can become a viable career choice for women and thus encourage greater participation.

The English Football Association is also currently in the midst of its 'Gameplan for Growth' strategy, which aims to double female participation in football by 2020, while last year FIFA announced its strategy to double women's participation



Our BetVictor Brand Ambassador Harry Redknapp is certain women's football has never been in a better state ahead of Saturday's Women's FA Cup final.

"What has happened in recent years to the women's game has been spectacular," Redknapp said. "It's come on leaps and bounds and the standard of the top teams has gone through the roof. The recent attendance records around Europe speak volumes and we should be in for a superb summer with the Women's World Cup.

"As for Saturday's FA Cup final, it's going to be another wonderful day at Wembley and I'm sure the fans will be there in numbers watching on. Manchester City are obviously the favourites, having just missed out on the title and won the League Cup this year, but I'm sure West Ham will give them a tough time."

Women's football is certainly in the ascendency – but there is still plenty more to be done. While funding in the game has vastly improved and the English Women's Super League has been a huge success, there is more work to do.

The English Women's Super League is fully professional but the money has yet to filter down to the amateur second-tier Championship. With the

lack of professionalism in the Championship, it means players are unable to be protected by the Professional Footballers' Association.

The pay gap between genders in football, both at an individual level and prize money, is also still huge.

The average Premier League pay packet is reportedly £2.6 million, compared to that of £26,752 for an English Women's Super League player. A FifPro survey of female footballers in the English Women's Super League in December 2017 revealed that 58% had considered giving up their careers in football due to financial reasons.

The winners of the men's 2022 World Cup, meanwhile, will receive £40 million, with the winners of the Women's World Cup this summer receiving just over £3 million.

This summer's Women's World Cup looks set to be the most successful ever. With more of the world watching and taking an interest than ever before, it's vital the women's game capitalises on this opportunity to ensure further progress is made.

Head to [www.BetVictor.com](http://www.BetVictor.com) to place your Best Bet on the Women's FA Cup final. Favourites Manchester City are priced at 2/13, with West Ham at 21/2 and the draw at 5/1.

BETVICTOR







FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP™  
TROPHY TOUR



ORIGINAL TROPHY





# World Cup Watch

## TROPHY TOUR COMES TO BRIGHTON

England legends Kelly Smith and Rachel Yankey travelled to Brighton to welcome the official FIFA Women's World Cup trophy Tour.

The trophy will visit 24 countries in total before the start of the tournament on June

5.

On April 23, it visited Brighton's Royal Pavillion to coincide with St. George's Day. Phil Neville said: Excitement for the World Cup is definitely growing the closer we get to the finals and I can't wait to bring the squad to Brighton for our send-off game before we head to France.

"We know we will get brilliant support from fans in the area and my players will be determined to put on a great show in our farewell match.

"Thank you in advance to everyone who has bought tickets to see us play."

### The Tour

- 24 February: Kick-Off in Paris, France
- 3 March: Montego Bay, Jamaica
- 7 March: Santiago, Chile
- 9 March: Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 11 March: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 13 March: Miami, USA
- 15 March: San Francisco, USA
- 18 March: Los Angeles, USA
- 22 March: Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 24 March: Tokyo, Japan
- 27 March: Shanghai, China
- 29 March: Bangkok, Thailand
- 31 March: Sydney, Australia
- 4 April: Auckland, New Zealand
- 6 April: Stockholm, Sweden
- 7 April: Durban, South Africa
- 9 April: Yaounde, Cameroon
- 11 April: Abuja, Nigeria
- 13 April: Oslo, Norway
- 14 April: Dortmund, Germany
- 15 April: Coverciano, Italy
- 23 April: Brighton, England
- 25 April: Edinburgh, Scotland
- 27 April: The Netherlands
- 29 April: Madrid, Spain
- 30 April: Toronto, Canada
- 2 May: Paris, France

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP  
FRANCE 2019



# World Cup Watch



## **JACQUI OATLEY part of Commentary team**

Jacqui Oatley has been announced as part of the commentary team for the Women's World Cup.

Oatley joins Gary Bloom, Steve Wilson, John Roder, Kevin Keatings and Mark Tompkins on the official world feed.

Follow Jacqui on Twitter @JacquiOatley

## **talkSPORT wins rights to broadcast FIFA Women's World Cup**

talkSPORT has won the rights to broadcast the England and Scotland games for the Women's World Cup.

The coverage will be led by Natalie Sawyer with commentaries across both talkSPORT and talkSPORT 2.

Joining Sawyer will be Claire Rafferty, Faye Carruthers, Sam Matterface and Laura Woods.

## **BBC have announced World Cup team**

Gabby Logan and Eilidh Barbour will be leading the coverage.

They will be joined by Alex Scott, Emma Hayes, Jordan Nobbs, Hope Solo, Gemma Fay, Laura Bassett, Casey Stoney, Rachel Brown-Finnis, Rachel Yankey, Sue Smith and Lucy Ward.

**FIFA**



**WOMEN'S WORLD CUP**  
**FRANCE 2019**



# Upcoming 'Road to France' games

The Road to France Series comprises of:

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](http://TheFA.com/LionessesTickets).*



© Joerdeli Photography | Da



# Is a new period of dominance on the horizon for Arsenal Women?



By Marissa Thomas

On 28th April, in front of a record Women's Super League crowd of 5,265 at the Amex, Arsenal beat Brighton 4-0 to win the title for the first time in seven years. Arsenal are the most successful women's team in the history of the game but they have been overtaken by the likes of Chelsea and Manchester City in recent years.

This season has been different. The Gunners were crowned champions with one game to spare after winning 17 of their 19 league games, drawing none and losing two. Serious injuries to influential midfielders Jordan Nobbs and Kim Little threatened to derail Arsenal's

title challenge as their early all action start to the season waned. Danielle Carter, Tabea Kemme, Lia Wälti, Emma Mitchell, Dominique Bloodworth and Viktoria Schnaderbeck are other key players that Arsenal were without at some stage during the season.

There were doubts that Arsenal could keep challenging for the league with so many first-team players spending more time in the stands than on the pitch. While their free-flowing football did not continue throughout the season, the Gunners became more practical in their approach and kept picking up three points each week.



Crucial players that managed to survive the injury crisis include Leah Williamson, Beth Mead, Danielle van de Donk and Vivianne Miedema. Williamson has been at the club since she was nine and had her best season in terms of appearances (18) and minutes played (1513). She has been excellent in defence, not an easy task at the age of 22, and been a reliable member of the team, despite the continued injury disruption.

Beth Mead has been a revelation for club and country this season, providing 12 assists (more than any other player in the WSL) and scoring seven goals. Mead has flourished on the wing, whipping in pin point crosses for her team-mates to convert. She has seemingly created her own signature finish - the 'crot' - a shot that is meant to be a cross but ends up in the back of the net.

Dutch duo Miedema and van de Donk have been instrumental for Arsenal's attack. Miedema is the WSL's top scorer with 22 goals, as well as providing 11 assists and winning the PFA Player of

the Year award. van de Donk scored 11 league goals (the first time she has reached double figures for the club) while providing six assists.

The Gunners have not been in the Champions League since 2012, a huge disappointment for a club of their stature. However, they will be back in the prestigious competition next season. If Arsenal are to have any chance of winning the Champions League, they will have to get past Lyon who are in the final this season and have been champions for three consecutive campaigns.

Arsenal have a very good squad, mixed with youth and experience. With everyone fully fit, they could retain their title next season, becoming the first club to do so since Liverpool in 2014. Additions will be made in the transfer window but Joe Montemurro has the nucleus of a great side who have the quality to break up Manchester City and Chelsea's duopoly and return to domination.









## Women's Super League last day of the season—Saturday, May 11

### WSL Last Day of the Season results

Arsenal Women	1-0	Manchester City W
Liverpool Women	3-1	Everton Ladies
Reading Women	2-3	Chelsea Women
West Ham United W	0-4	Brighton & Hove Albion W
Yeovil Town Ladies	0-2	Birmingham City W

## Women's Championship last day of the season—Saturday, May 11

### Championship Last Day of the Season results

Aston Villa Ladies	0-0	Crystal Palace Ladies
Charlton Athletic Women	4-0	Leicester City Women
Durham Women	0-2	Tottenham Ladies
Manchester United W	5-0	Lewes Women
Sheffield United W	6-0	Millwall Lionesses





# Manchester United Women: A fan's view

By Adam Bateman



A season of contrasts in many ways was summed up at the beginning and the end of the season.

Very different kits, and very different weather conditions.

Let's go back, way back to the start of my story, when having a women's team to support felt like nothing more than a dream, and watching women play football was for myself a purely neutral activity.

I had personally been watching and enjoying women's football since England hosted the European Championships in 2005, but having no club side to feel passionate about, I was left just with the Lionesses to cheer on, not that

was not enjoyable, seeing them rise up the rankings, finish third in Canada and win the She Believes Cup, all were excellent feelings, but there is something extra special about following a club side that was missing from my life.

Seeing all of our rivals all reach the very top of the women's game in this country, left myself feeling very envious indeed.

Then seemingly out of nowhere, there was an announcement that Manchester United were to start a women's team, previously there had been some stories when David Moyes was the men's manager that this was going to happen, but then nothing did, but this time it was very different, this time it was real.



On the 8th of June 2018, to my great shock there was an announcement on MUTV whereby the England assistant Casey Stoney was revealed as our first ever professional manager.

No players had been named, just her, but then on the 13th of July 2018, there was a promotion package with interviews with the players that would be part of our first ever professional squad.

The squad of players contained some that I was really excited about seeing in red, none more so, then the player who was declared as our captain, Alex Greenwood, she had recently left our arch rivals Liverpool, to join us in the Championship, what a coup I thought that was. Then others were announced, Jess Sigsworth, Katie Zelem, and a superb bit of business to get a young 16 year old, by the name of Lauren James from Arsenal.

So far I had never felt so excited about anything to do with my club previously, as I had only watched the treble winning season from the comfort of my home, this time I was determined to actually go to the games.

Onto the first game, and it really could not have been any bigger, it was Liverpool away, and the weather was cold and wet, and the team was still in its infancy.

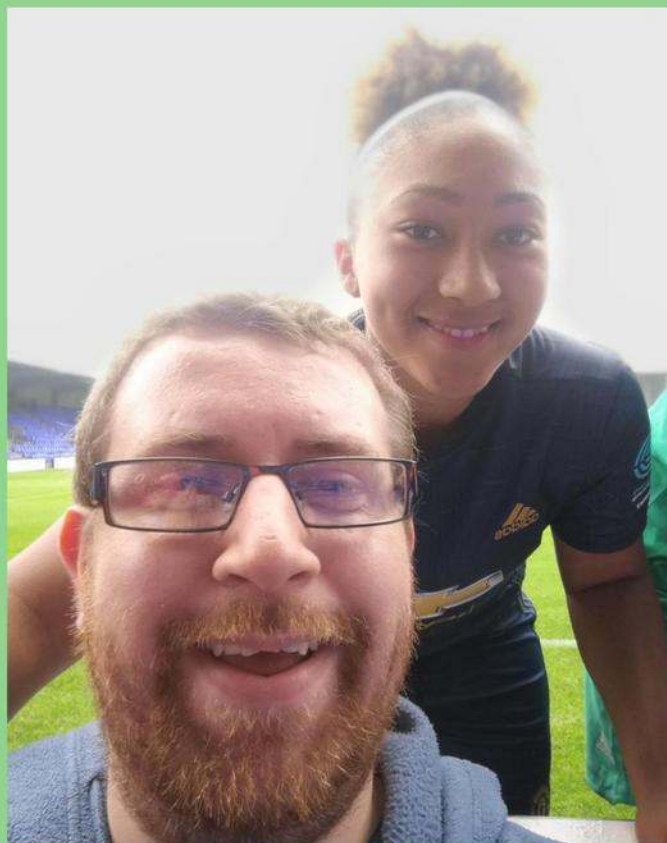
I got there a bit early, and I just stood on the stand at Prenton Park, and I remember trying to take in as much of this moment as possible. The match was more than I could possibly have hoped for, late in the second half our captain crossed a low ball in, and Leah Galton arrived to tap it home, amazingly we were in front, and my feelings were just of pure joy!

Then the final whistle was blown, and it made me forget all about the cold and the rain, we had done it, we had beaten Liverpool, what a feeling that was, it was unlike anything I had experienced previously.

We had gotten off to the perfect start in the Continental Tyres Cup, but if I thought that was going to be our main highlight of the season, well I was in for a shock.



Scoreboard at full time of our first ever game



Meeting Lauren James after the win over Liverpool



I sat next to the camera crew at the 12-0 win over Aston Villa



The next match against Reading, another Super League team, well over four thousand people had decided to turn up, I had never seen anything like this before, as I was used to hearing about numbers in the hundreds for women's games, this blew my mind, and I was loving every moment.

On the pitch we might have lost to Reading, but we put in a very good effort, but I just remember feeling so very happy, and that this was where I belonged, I was well and truly in my element, at Leigh Sports Village, where the home games were to be played.

Our first actual league match was a match I seldom still believe happened even to this very day, Aston Villa were the opponents on the day, and we were away at their ground, and again the ground was packed.

I found a spare seat, and from there what I witnessed was unbelievable, and something that I can barely believe that I can write, a 12-0 win, a scoreline that only previously I thought possible on computer games!

Going to the away games at Everton, Crystal Palace and Brighton, all games that we had no real right to win, we did!

The only blip was away to Durham in the league, but from there, it was just great to see the team gelling so very well, and to see the players turning into true stars, perhaps, none more so than the aforementioned teenager Lauren James, whose play and stats were way ahead of her still young years.

One highlight even in defeat was going very close to causing a bit of an upset away to Arsenal in the semi final of the Continental Tyres Cup, we lost 2-1, but to just get to that stage was something that I didn't think was possible at the start of this journey.

We had surpassed any and all expectations that I had coming into this season, and to go into the match against Crystal Palace on a very hot spring day, needing only a win to secure the title, and to get that in quite brilliant fashion, with a 7-0 win, was such a high point, that I don't know if I will feel such strong positive emotions again towards a victory.

To sum up this season, it would be one of immense pride, and one that I will never forget, and I am already looking forward to seeing what we get up to in the summer window, and then in the Super League!



Crystal Palace home (left) and away (right)



# CHAMPIONS



# FINAL Women's Super League Table

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
C	Arsenal Women	20	18	0	2	70	13	57	54
CL	Manchester City Women	20	14	5	1	53	17	36	47
3	Chelsea Women	20	12	6	2	46	14	32	42
4	Birmingham City Women	20	13	1	6	29	17	12	40
5	Reading Women	20	8	3	9	33	27	3	27
6	Bristol City Women	20	7	4	9	17	24	-17	25
7	West Ham United Women	20	7	2	11	25	30	-12	23
8	Liverpool Women	20	7	1	12	21	33	-17	22
9	Brighton & HA Women	20	4	4	12	16	33	-22	16
10	Everton Ladies	20	3	3	14	15	28	-23	12
11	Yeovil Town Ladies	20	2	1	17	11	43	-49	-3

# FINAL Women's Championship Table

*(no team relegated)*

	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
C	Manchester United Women	20	18	1	1	98	7	91	55
P	Tottenham Ladies	20	15	1	4	44	27	17	46
3	Charlton Athletic Women	20	13	2	5	49	21	28	41
4	Durham Women	20	11	6	3	37	16	21	39
5	Sheffield United Women	20	11	1	8	35	31	4	34
6	Aston Villa Ladies	20	6	8	6	30	39	-9	26
7	Leicester City Women	20	6	3	11	27	44	-17	21
8	London Bees	20	7	0	13	23	48	-25	21
9	Lewes Women	20	5	2	13	23	47	-24	17
10	Crystal Palace Ladies	20	3	2	15	14	44	-30	11
11	Millwall Lionesses	20	1	2	17	14	70	-56	5



# FA ANNOUNCE NEW LICENCES



Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur have been granted club licences by the FA to play in the Women's Super League next season.

In the Championship, Blackburn Rovers and Coventry United have won licences for next season's league.

United, who won the Women's Championship title, will be in the top flight of women's football just 11 months after they were formed with Casey Stoney leading the squad.

Tottenham secured second place and promotion on May 1 following their 1-0 win over Aston Villa.

Blackburn Rovers and Coventry United have won licences for next season's Women's Championship.

Rovers were the comfortable winners of the FA Women's National League Northern Premier Division, with a 21-point margin.

Coventry finished top of the Southern Premier Division.

There was no relegation from the bottom of the Championship down to the National League.



# Rachel Rowe signs new Reading contract

Rachel Rowe has extended her contract with Reading.

The 26-year-old join the Royals in 2015 and despite suffering an ACL injury in October 2018, will remain with the club.

Rowe told the Reading website: "Being given a new contract relieved a lot of pressure off me.

"Playing football full time, that is your responsibility and it is the thing I love to do the most, so getting back on the pitch is what motivates me the most."

Rowe's rehab is continuing and she is expected to be back in action for Reading at the start of next season.





# Claire Rafferty retirement



West Ham United and England left-back Claire Rafferty has announced her retirement.

The 30-year-old has spent a year at the Hammers, helping them get to the SSE Women's FA Cup final at Wembley where they were beaten 3-0 by Manchester City.

Rafferty spent over 10 years with Chelsea before her time at West Ham, winning two Women's Super League titles, the 2017 Spring Series and two FA Cup trophies.

She has also made 18 appearances for England and was part of the squad to finish third at the 2015 Women's World Cup.

Speaking to the BBC about the decision, she said: "I hope I have helped inspire the next generation of girls dreaming of becoming a footballer," she said.

"I have had a lot of injuries over the years that have taken their toll. Football has brought me so much joy and many incredible opportunities but most importantly I have made amazing friendships that will last a lifetime," she continued.

"I hope that I have helped change the landscape of the women's game and will continue the fight for equality from a different angle."

Claire Rafferty career		
Club	Appearance	Goals
Millwall 2003-2007	N/A	N/A
Chelsea 2007-2018	101	12
West Ham 2018-2019	22	1
England	18	0
Great Britain	1	0







# Soccer Aid to include men and women for the first time



Soccer Aid have announced that ex-England internationals have been announced as part of the squad for the upcoming 2019 game.

Rachel Yankey, who is currently the manager of London Bees, and former Chelsea captain Katie Chapman will be part of Team England at Stampford Bridge.

Yankey and Chapman will join fellow male England ex-professionals set to

start in the match including David Seaman, Jamie Carragher, Glen Johnson, Jamie Redknapp, Joe Cole and Michael Owe and will be managed by Sam Allardyce and Susanna Reid.

Yankey is one of England's most-capped players of all time with 129 caps to her name. She won every domestic title in England including the domestic quadruple with Arsenal Women, the W-League in America and featured for



Great Britain in the London 2012 Olympic Games. She is currently Head Coach of the London Bees. Yankey was awarded an OBE in 2013 for services to the women's game.

She said: "I am honoured that Unicef UK have asked me to participate in the match – it's for a great cause. Soccer Aid for Unicef's ambition is to 'defend play for every child' so I will be proud to play my part in doing just that. I also hope Katie and I can continue to serve as role models to girls around the world to get involved in football."

Chapman is a two-time FA International Player of the Year winner. She made her debut for England Women in 2000 aged just 17 years-old and capped her international career in 2015 when the team finished third in the FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada. Like Yankey, Chapman has won everything in the women's domestic game including ten FA Cups, more than any other player. She joined Chelsea Ladies in 2014 – leading them to two double-winning seasons – before retiring last season.

She said: "This will be a really interesting match and case study in terms of mixed participation. Having only recently retired it will be great to come back to the Bridge and play in front of a full house match alongside all the household names. It will particularly enjoyable to have my three children in the stands cheering us on. Rachel and I have played together before for club and country so am hoping we will make a telling impact and see England retain the Soccer Aid for Unicef Shield."

Two female players for the Soccer Aid World XI will be announced in the coming weeks. They will line-up alongside Didier Drogba, Robbie Keane, Robert Pires, Michael Essien, Ricardo Carvalho and a host of other international legends.

*Tickets for England v Soccer Aid World XI, on Sunday 16th June at Stamford Bridge, are now on sale via [socceraid.org.uk/tickets/](http://socceraid.org.uk/tickets/)*

Matching your  
donations with



**SOCCER AID**

itv

unicef





# 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](mailto: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.*

THE WOMEN'S  
FOOTBALL  
MAGAZINE



# Lily Parr honoured with statue

Next month a statue of trailblazing star Lily Parr will be unveiled in Manchester.

The life-size statue of Parr will be erected outside Manchester's National Football Museum in June to commemorate the life of the former Dick, Kerr's Ladies star.

Parr had a reputation for being one of the strongest left-footers in the game and represented England in 1920 in the first ever England international. England beat France 4-0 in the game which was watched by over 15,000 people.

The first woman to feature in the National Football Museum's Hall of Fame, Parr was known as the chain-smoking, goal-scoring winger and she scored over 980 goals during a 32-year career. She was also part of the side who played on Boxing Day in 1920 between Dick, Kerr and St Helen's Ladies at Goodison Park in front of 53,000 fans. Just one year later, the FA banned women's football.

Parr died at the age of 73 in 1978.

She will be the first prominent public sculpture of a female footballer—there have been 110 statues of male players so far.





# CONGRATULATIONS ATLETICO, PRIMERA DIVISION FEMENINA CHAMPS!



	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1	Atletico Madrid	30	28	0	2	96	19	+77	84
2	Barcelona	30	25	3	2	94	15	+79	78
3	Levante	30	17	6	7	52	26	+26	57
4	Granadilla Tenerife	30	17	3	10	46	40	+6	54
5	Athletic Club	30	14	8	8	48	33	+15	50
6	Real Betis	30	14	6	10	47	35	+12	48
7	Real Sociedad	30	13	8	9	51	37	+14	47
8	Valencia	30	8	11	11	41	53	-12	35
9	Espanyol	30	9	8	13	31	42	-11	35
10	Sevilla	30	9	2	19	37	60	-23	29
11	Logrono	30	8	5	17	38	60	-22	29
12	Rayo Vallecano	30	8	5	17	27	55	-28	29
13	Madrid	30	8	3	19	31	65	-34	27
14	Sporting de Huelva	30	6	7	17	22	50	-28	25
15	Malaga	30	6	7	17	26	67	-41	25
16	Albacete	30	6	6	18	38	68	-30	24



# CONGRATULATIONS LYON, DIVISION 1 FEMININE CHAMPS!



	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1	Lyon	22	20	2	0	89	6	+83	62
2	Paris	22	18	3	1	62	16	+46	57
3	Montpellier	22	12	3	7	51	27	+24	39
4	Bordeaux	22	10	4	8	26	34	-8	34
5	Paris FC	22	9	5	8	34	28	+6	32
6	Soyaux-Charente	22	7	6	9	19	37	-18	27
7	Guingamp	22	6	6	10	24	33	-9	24
8	Dijon	22	7	3	12	29	44	-15	24
9	Fleury 91	22	5	7	10	24	34	-10	22
10	Metz	22	6	1	15	21	63	-42	19
11	LOSC	22	4	6	12	20	43	-23	18
12	Rodez	22	3	4	15	14	48	-34	13



# UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship draw

The draw for the UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship took place in Glasgow on April 16.

Hosted by sports broadcaster Connie McLaughlin, Scotland Women's National Team players Jo Love & Erin Cuthbert conducted the draw in their role as ambassadors for the Championship.

The full draw for the Finals is as follows:

## **Group A**

Scotland  
Netherlands  
Norway  
France

## **Group B**

England  
Belgium  
Spain  
Germany

Pauline Hamill, Scotland's Under-19s Head Coach said "We can't wait to take on the best in Europe this summer. To compete against Netherlands, Norway & France will be a tough test but the squad will be ready, it's exciting.

"Having the home crowd will give the girls that extra edge. We'll prepare in the right way, control what we can control and see where it can take us."

The tournament which will run between July 16 and July 28 will be held in Scotland, with the final taking place at St. Mirren Park.



# U21s England

## Squad

Mo Marley has announced her U21s squad for U23 Nordic tournament.

**Goalkeepers:** Sophie Baggaley (Bristol City), Sandy MacIver (Clemson University)

**Defenders:** Jess Carter (Chelsea), Megan Finnigan (Everton), Grace Fisk (South Carolina University), Maz Pachecho (Reading), Anna Patten (South Carolina University), Lucy Parker (Louisiana State University), Lotte Wubben-Moy (University North Carolina), Millie Turner (Manchester United)

**Midfielders:** Chloe Peplow (Brighton and Hove Albion), Mollie Rouse (University of Central Florida), Alessia Russo (University of North Carolina), Connie Scofield (Birmingham City), Georgia Allen (Syracuse University)

**Forwards:** Rinsola Babjide (Liverpool), Ellie Brazil (Brighton and Hove Albion), Rianna Dean (Tottenham Hotspur), Ella Toone (Manchester United), Charlie Wellings (Birmingham City)

*Games will be May 26 (Norway), May 30 (China), June 1 (Netherlands)*



# **England U17s start their UEFA European Women's U17 Championship campaign**

England U17s kicked off their UEFA European Women's U17 Championship campaign with a 4-0 defeat to Germany.

The Young Lionesses were outclassed in Bulgaria as they aim to better their best ever finish in the tournament – Bronze in 2016.

Eight nations will challenge for this year's title, with the top two from each group reaching the semi-finals.

This is the first women's final tournament to be held in Bulgaria, who will make their debut in any female finals.

Head coach, Grainger said: "Naming the squad has been a privilege with such a talented group of players.

"This is the first competitive international tournament for this age group and playing at a finals presents invaluable learning opportunities.

"We are very passionate about providing young lionesses with the support they need to further their development and become ready to win as senior lionesses.

"We know the more games we play, the more we learn about each other and we're all really excited."

## **GAMES**

Sunday, May 5: England vs Germany, Albena

Wednesday, May 8: England vs Austria, Kavarna

Saturday, May 11: England vs Netherlands, Kavarna





# U17s England

## Squad

**Goalkeepers:** Emma Bradley (Manchester City), Emily Orman (Brighton and Hove Albion)

**Defenders:** Lucy Johnson (Leicester City), Sophie Quirk (Reading), Maya Le Tissier (Brighton and Hove Albion), Eleanor Hack (Brighton and Hove Albion), Gracie Pearse (Arsenal), Ella Morris (Southampton)

**Midfielders:** Charlotte Fleming (Chelsea), Rebecca May (Manchester United), Ruby Grant (Arsenal), Melisa Filis (Arsenal), Ellen Jones (Bristol City), Paige Peake (FA Women's East Region Academy in partnership with Ipswich Town)

**Forwards:** Eleanor Dale (Middlesbrough), Emma Harries (Reading), Katie Robinson (Bristol City), Francesca Stables (Manchester United), Alisha Ware (Southampton), Keri Matthews (York City)



# **THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE**

## **2019 Calendar**



**Final few  
left now  
just £1**

**Go to [www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com](http://www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com)**