

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

ISSUE 41

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2020



WIEGMAN TO TAKE CHARGE

All the latest news following the announcement Sarina Wiegman will take over from Phil Neville, we preview the new seasons across the leagues and look back and some exciting Women's Champions League and Community Shield action.

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE



@thewomensfootiemag



@womensfootiemag



@womensfootiemag

Welcome

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor: Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Writers:

Allie Coker

Marissa Thomas

Ali Rampling

Ammo Curtis

Georgia Stevens

Simon O'Neill

Charlotte Stacey

Photography: joerdeli

@GOTB

Website designer: Will Ibbetson

Graphic designer: Phil Brooke

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: @womensfootiemag

Facebook:

thewomensfootiemag

Instagram:

Thewomensfootballmagazine

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



Hello and welcome to Issue 41!

Hello everyone, welcome to our latest issue.

It's been a slightly different start to the season in the TWFM household. On August, 28 I welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world, so instead of hot-footing it around the country to games, I have been watching the likes of the Community Shield, Champions League and start of the season from the comfort of my sofa!



We still have a jam packed issue for you with interviews with Sarina Weigman, a look into Ipswich Town, previews of the leagues, the latest from the FA Cup and much more.

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

@helenrw11

CALLING ALL WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S FOOTBALL TEAMS

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



Our new season ticket is for you!

You'll receive:

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

All for an amazing price of £50

For more information go to:

www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com/seasonticket

#InspireWithTWFM

Contents

WSL

7-11 WSL Preview

13-14 Birmingham City announce new manager

15 Lavelle the latest WSL star

16 Wynne undergoes surgery on ACL injury

17-18 Go forth and prosper

19-22 Transfer latest

CHAMPIONSHIP

25-29 Championship Preview

30-31 Fahey announced as new Liverpool captain

32-33 London City Lionesses announces new partnership

34 Leicester City turn professional

35 Salgado to miss season

36-38 Transfer latest

PREMIER LEAGUE

40 FAWNL 2020/21 opening fixtures

41 Crawley Wsaps announce permanent boss

42 From Leeds to Middlesbrough

43-45 Ipswich Town Women

46 Latest news

47 Hitting between the Stix

48 UK's first female Muslim referee

GRASSROOTS

50-51 Dulwich Hamlet Women announce new signings

52 New branding for Eastern Region Women's Football League

53-55 Winners of the FA Women's and Girl's Football Awards

56-57 Disney dream for Lionheart

58-59 Simon Says

CUPS

61 Lyon dominate once again

63 Community Shield

64-69 Latest FA Cup news

HOME NATIONS

71-73 The big interview: Sarina Wiegman

74 England to face Germany

75 England to receive equal pay

76 SBS Scottish Women's Premier League to be streamed live

77 Arnott joins Rangers

79 Foster promoted to elite list of referees

80 Cardiff City make four signings

82 Sion Swifts secure McGuinness

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

84 Costa Rica to host U20 WWC

AROUND THE WORLD

86-87 NWSL Challenge Cup best bits

88-89 News from around the world

90 Children's book



WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



WSL 2020/21 preview



By Marissa Thomas

The new Women's Super League (WSL) season kicks off on Saturday 5 September when newly promoted Aston Villa face Manchester City. After missing out on the title when the 2019/20 season was curtailed due to the coronavirus pandemic and decided using a points per game (PPG) system, Man City will be determined to get back on top and overcome champions Chelsea.

Arsenal

Joe Montemurro's side missed out on back-to-back seasons of Champions League football after they finished third in the 2019/20 season, therefore failing to qualify for next season's competition. The



Gunners have signed Swiss defender Noelle Maritz and Malin Gut, who is also from Switzerland and plays in midfield. Gut joins Arsenal from grasshopper Club Zurich and Maritz has come from Wolfsburg. Additionally, two of Montemurro's compatriots, goalkeeper Lydia Williams and defender Steph Catley have joined the club from Melbourne City.

Last season's final position: 3rd

Prediction for this season: 3rd

Aston Villa



Aston Villa were promoted from the FA Women's Championship for the 2019/20 season as champions and will compete in the Women's Super League for the first time in their history. Villa

have made seven signings. Anita Asante joined from Chelsea and will bring a wealth of experience to a side who are new to the league. She will be joined by fellow defender Caroline Siems, goalkeeper Lisa Weiss, midfielders Ramona Petzelberger and Chloe Arthur as well as forwards Diana Silva and Stine Larsen. Villa have agreed a two-year agreement with Walsall to play all of their home matches at the Banks's Stadium from the 2020-21 season.

Last season's final position: 1st (Championship)

Prediction for this season: 8th

Birmingham City



Birmingham City had an abysmal season in which they hung onto their WSL status by a single point. Marta Tejedor was sacked as manager in March but performances did not improve. Sheffield United manager Carla Ward has now been brought in as a replacement. Birmingham have brought in just one player, Christie Murray from Liverpool, while eight players have departed. Ward is a well-respected manager and is more than capable of helping Birmingham climb back up the table in the imminent season. In her final campaign with Sheffield United she led them to second place in the Championship - their highest finish.

Last season's final position: 11th

Prediction for this season: 9th

Brighton & Hove Albion



Brighton finished in the same position as the previous season but were three points worse off. The club seems to just be taking up a space in the WSL and now, in their third

consecutive campaign, a mid-table finish should be targeted in order to move forward. Five players have joined the club this summer. Goalkeeper Katie Startup, midfielders Nora Heroum, Inessa Kaagman and forwards Katie Robinson and Lee Geum-min (on loan from Manchester City).

Last season's final position: 9th

Prediction for this season: 11th

Bristol City



Bristol City were on the end of some heaving thrashings last season, including an 11-1 defeat at the hands of Arsenal which is the biggest defeat in Women's Super League history. The Vixens struggled to score goals and would often only find the back of the net once they were behind. Another season of struggle seems likely. Bristol have signed two forwards, Megan Wynne and Emma Bissell. In addition, midfielders Aimee Palmer and Ella Mastrantonio and defender Jemma Purfield have joined Tanya Oxtoby's side.

Last season's final position: 10th

Prediction for this season: 12th

Chelsea



Emma Hayes' side were named 2019/20 WSL champions, under the PPG system, after the league was ended prematurely. As a result, they will compete in the Champions League next season. Chelsea are a formidable outfit and will only continue to go from strength to strength. Bethany England has been in sensational form and was a key component in Chelsea's Double-winning campaign. She finished as the club's top scorer with 21 goals in 24 outings, 14 of those in the WSL and won the Chelsea Women's Player of the Season

award and the WSL Player of the Year. Manager Emma Hayes was the recipient of the WSL Manager of the Year and the League Managers' Association (LMA) Manager of the Season. Three players have joined to strengthen the Blues, midfielders Melanie Leupolz and Jessie Fleming as well as winger Niamh Charles.

Last season's final position: 1st

Prediction for this season: 2nd

Everton



Losing Chloe Kelly will have been a huge blow to an Everton side who relied heavily on her goals last season. They have signed three forwards and will hope they can make up for the loss of Kelly. Valerie Gauvin and Nicoline Sorensen have joined while Claire Emslie returns to the WSL on loan from Orlando Pride. In defence, there are three new additions; Rikke Sevecke, Poppy Pattinson and Ingrid Moe Wold. Everton have improved under Willie Kirk's management and will hope for another mid-table finish as they continue to progress.

Last season's final position: 6th

Prediction for this season: 7th

Manchester City



Manchester City will feel most hard done by due to the PPG system as they had one more point than champions Chelsea but finished second. With this in mind, they should be more motivated than ever to reclaim the WSL title. To close the gap, Man City have signed two USA World Cup winning midfielders in Rose Lavelle and Sam Mewis. Continuing their tradition of having young English players in their side, City have signed forward Chloe Kelly. Gareth Taylor, who replaced Nick Cushing as Head Coach,

will hope to enjoy a successful debut season at the helm.

Last season's final position: 2nd

Prediction for this season: 1st

Manchester United



Manchester United finished fourth in their first season in the WSL but they were a significant 13 points behind the big three. They have signed defender Ona Batlle, midfielder Lucy Staniforth and forward Ivana Fuso to bolster their squad. However, with other teams strengthening and only two Champions League places up for grabs in the league, cup competitions will most likely be Man United's best chance of success at the moment.

Last season's final position: 4th

Prediction for this season: 5th

Reading



Reading have made some impressive signings this summer which shows their intent to move higher up the table and challenge the big three. Emma Mitchell and Danielle Carter have come in from Arsenal, as well as goalkeeper Erin Nayler and defender Deanna Cooper. Midfielder Jess Fishlock joins from OL Reign on loan and is huge coup for Reading. The Royals have four Welsh players in their squad who will undoubtedly help Fishlock settle in quickly and get back to her best. Reading will be playing more games at the Madejski Stadium, home of their men's side, from next season which is another huge boost for the team.

Last season's final position: 5th

Prediction for this season: 4th

Tottenham Hotspur



After an impressive debut season in which they played at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in front of a WSL record crowd of 38,262 fans, Spurs are preparing for their second term in the top flight.

Ahead of the new campaign, Spurs have strengthened their squad with five new signings.

Defenders Shelina Zadorsky and Alanna Kennedy have joined on loan from Orlando Pride while Kerys Harrop and Rachel Williams has signed from fellow WSL side Birmingham City. Goalkeeper Aurora Mikalsen is a new recruit from Manchester United. Following former long-serving captain Jenna Schillaci's retirement from football in June, Josie Green has been appointed Spurs captain.

Last season's final position: 7th

Prediction for this season: 10th

West Ham United



West Ham will be playing their WSL matches at Dagenham & Redbridge's Chigwell Construction Stadium throughout the 2020/21 season, as they look to build on the success

of the previous campaign and allow more fans to come and support the Hammers. In

addition to making improvements off the pitch, Matt Beard's side have made six new signings. Goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold has signed along with defenders Maz Pacheco and Hawa Cissoko. Midfielders Katerina Svilkova and Ruby Grant and forward Nor Mustafa will also be in claret and blue when the new WSL season kicks off.

Last season's final position: 8th

Prediction for this season: 6th

Final table predictions

1	Manchester City
2	Chelsea
3	Arsenal
4	Reading
5	Manchester United
6	West Ham United
7	Everton
8	Aston Villa
9	Birmingham City
10	Tottenham
11	Brighton
12	Bristol City



TheFA Women's
Super League



**TheFA Women's
Super League**

Opening Weekend—5/6 September 2020

Arsenal 6-1 Reading

Aston Villa 0-2 Man City

Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0 Birmingham City

Bristol City 0-4 Everton

Man United 1-1 Chelsea

Tottenham Hotspur 1-1 West Ham United

Game Week 2—12/13 September 2020

Chelsea vs Bristol City

Birmingham City vs Man Utd

Everton vs Tottenham Hotspur

Man City vs Brighton & Hove Albion

Reading vs Aston Villa

West Ham United vs Arsenal

WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL IN NUMBERS

THE IMPACT OF THE GAMEPLAN FOR GROWTH STRATEGY, 2017-2020

PARTICIPATION AND AFFILIATION

3.4M TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN

2.4M WOMEN (16+)

1M GIRLS (5-15)

2,128 AFFILIATED WOMEN'S TEAMS

4,709 AFFILIATED YOUTH (11-16) TEAMS

1,937 AFFILIATED MINI-SOCCER (5-10) TEAMS

149 AFFILIATED DISABLED TEAMS

3,389 'OTHER' TEAMS*

*INCLUDES WILDCAT CENTRES, DISNEY SHOOTING SQUADS, THE FA'S JUST PLAY CENTRES AND COMMUNITY CLUBS/CLUBS/TEAMS

1,261 WILDCAT CENTRES

100 FA GIRLS' FOOTBALL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



FANBASE

WOMEN'S '19 FOOTBALL WEEKEND

77,323 CUMULATIVE ATTENDANCE FOR THE INAUGURAL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL WEEKEND

3,072 AVERAGE BARCLAYS FA WSL ATTENDANCE (UP FROM 1,047 IN MARCH 2017)

599 AVERAGE FAWC ATTENDANCE (UP FROM 443)

38,262 RECORD BARCLAYS FA WSL ATTENDANCE

270,000 RECORD PEAK TV AUDIENCE FOR BARCLAYS FA WSL MATCH



2.2M RECORD PEAK TV AUDIENCE FOR 2019 WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL

257% INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DOMESTIC GAMES BROADCAST IN 2019/20 COMPARED TO 2016

ALMOST 100,000 SUBSCRIBERS TO THE FA PLAYER IN ITS FIRST SEASON FROM MORE THAN 150 COUNTRIES

ENGLAND

77,768 RECORD LIONESSES HOME ATTENDANCE FOR FIXTURE vs GERMANY IN 2019

FIFA WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALIST 2019

18,000+ MEMBERS IN A NEWLY LAUNCHED LIONESSES SUPPORTERS CLUB

11.4M PEAK AUDIENCE FOR LIONESSES' FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

FEMALE WORKFORCE

34,581 FA-QUALIFIED FEMALE COACHES (UP FROM 29,401 IN MARCH 2017)



82 UEFA 'A' LICENSE FEMALE COACHES (UP FROM 41 IN MARCH 2017)



13 FEMALE HEAD COACHES/MANAGERS AT BARCLAYS FA WSL AND FA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS (UP FROM 3 IN MARCH 2017)



2635 GRASSROOTS & PRO GAME COACHES RECEIVING ONE-TO-ONE DEVELOPMENT FROM W&G FOOTBALL COACH DEVELOPERS (SINCE OCTOBER 2017)

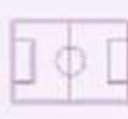


2,146 FA-QUALIFIED FEMALE REFEREES (UP FROM 1,247 IN MARCH 2017)



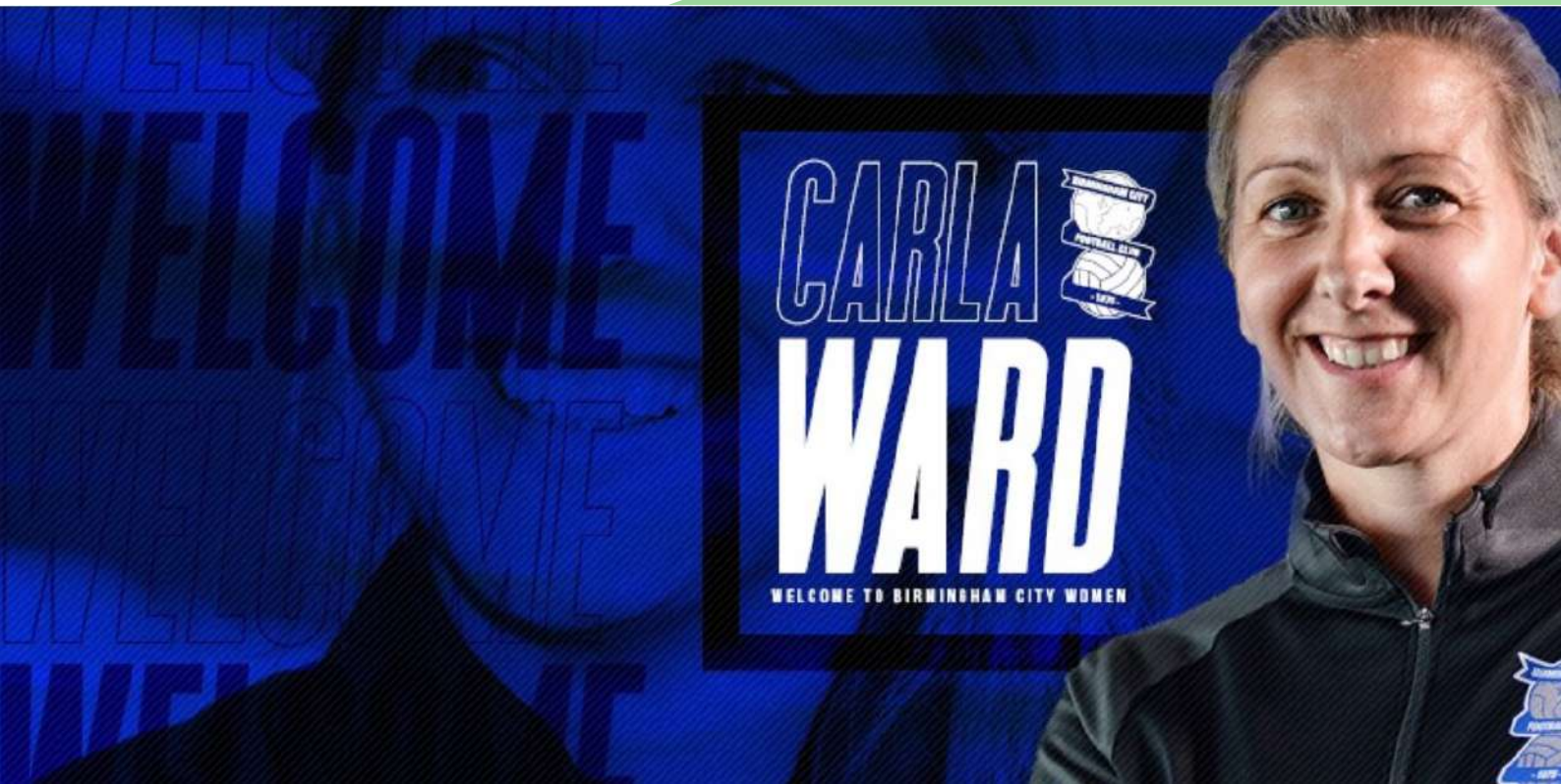
9 FEMALE REFEREES/ASSISTANT REFEREES ON FIFA ROSTER

63% OF MATCHES IN BARCLAYS FA WSL WITH A FEMALE REFEREE (UP FROM 52.5% IN MARCH 2017)



55% OF MATCHES IN FAWC WITH A FEMALE REFEREE (UP FROM 3.0% IN MARCH 2017)

Birmingham City announce Ward as new manager



Women's Super League side Birmingham City have announced Carla Ward as their new manager.

The 36-year-old has signed a two-year deal with the Blues.

Ward led Sheffield United to a second place finish in the Championship last season.

During her 18 months in charge, she managed 58 games, winning 34, drawing seven and losing 17.

It was announced last month that Ward "had parted company" as "both parties have opted to go down a different path".

Birmingham ended second-bottom in the WSL last season, with the table decided on points per game because of coronavirus.

The new head coach told the official website: "This is a massive opportunity, Blues is a massive Club with a great history.

"I'm a people person with a holistic approach that is very much based around the player.

"I'm a big believer, particularly in my playing days, if we've got the players smiling and confident and buying into what you've got to do then you've got half a chance.

"Straight away it's about getting the players together and kicking on."

Blues can also reveal that Charlie Baxter has been appointed Assistant Head Coach.

And we also welcome back Tony Elliott as Goalkeeper Coach after a spell at Bristol City Women.

Completing the Blues backroom staff is returning Coach, Jenni Foster, Strength & Conditioning Coach, Holly Pickett and Physiotherapist, Chloe Needham all of whom have been vital members of the set-up over the past season.

Sarah Westwood, General Manager for Blues Women, said: "We're delighted to bring Carla to the Club.

"From the moment we first spoke, she impressed us with her ambition and work ethic. Her values and standards match perfectly with ours.

"I know the fans will get behind Carla and the team and we are looking forward to being able to welcome them back into the stands as soon as it is safe to do so.

"I also want to take the opportunity to welcome Tony back to the Club and to say a huge thank you to the backroom staff for working so hard in the interim."

The club parted ways with Marta Tejedor by mutual consent in March.

The 51-year-old former Chile and Peru women's national team boss had been in the role at Blues since January 2019.

So far this summer, eight players have left Birmingham, including captain Kerys Harrop and England international Lucy Staniforth, while the club are yet to make any signings.



Lavelle the latest WSL star



By Charlotte Stacey

Manchester City have announced the signing of USWNT midfielder Rose Lavelle on a one-year contract.

Lavelle's move had been rumoured for a number of weeks since the conclusion of the NWSL Challenge Cup in July.

It had earlier been announced that NWSL team OL Reign had acquired Lavelle's playing rights should she return to the NWSL. The exchange with Washington means that the Spirit will receive the first-round draft pick in the 2022 NWSL College Draft, \$100,000 in allocation money as well as additional allocation money conditioned upon Lavelle's future playing status in the NWSL.

The trade was made with the understanding that "Lavelle is expected to sign an agreement to play outside the NWSL with immediate effect", according to Reign's club statement.

The 25-year-old midfield maestro is widely regarded as one of the game's most exciting prospects due to her solo ambition, creativity and finishing ability. Lavelle was one of the standout players of the 2019 World Cup and was named as the third best player of the

tournament behind the USA's Megan Rapinoe and England's Lucy Bronze.

Of her move to City, Lavelle stated "I'm so excited to join Manchester City and I can't wait to play alongside some really talented players. I'm looking forward to the opportunity of playing in England and competing in the Champions League."

Lavelle now joins fellow USWNT player Sam Mewis in City's midfield. The pair will likely find themselves teaming up with Scotland's left footed dynamite Caroline Weir, as well as English duo Keira Walsh, and Jill Scott.

English defenders Lucy Bronze and Alex Greenwood are also rumoured to be signing with Manchester City upon the conclusion of their contracts with Olympique Lyonnais at the end of the month. However, these are not expected to be announced until after the Champions League final.

Former Everton forward, Chloe Kelly, has also joined the City ranks, after choosing to not to renew her contract with the Toffees earlier this year.

With several big signings under their belt for the coming season, Manchester City certainly look to mean business.

Wynne undergoes surgery on ACL injury



Copyright: Megan Rose Wynne Twitter

Megan Wynne has undergone surgery on a tear to her anterior cruciate ligament.

Bristol City Women confirmed the news about the midfielder, who only signed a permanent deal with the club this summer.

Wynne picked up the injury during a collision in pre-season training.

Robins manager Tanya Oxtoby said: "Meg has made an impact since joining us and is a popular member of the squad, both with her team-mates, staff and supporters.

"We are naturally very disappointed for her as she has shown great signs of progression during her time with us on loan last season and we were excited about how much further she could develop this season.

"Meg is a strong and positive person and I have no doubt she will come back from this and as a group, we will make sure we support her through this difficult time."

Taking to social media, Wynne said: "I am heartbroken right now but I have not come this far and worked this hard to give up now. It's a long road ahead but with the best teammates and staff around me, I know I will be back."

Following surgery she added: "ACL surgery done, the smile is back. The road to recovery starts now."

Go Forth and Prosper



By Charlotte Stacey

As the new season approaches it is not long until we see for ourselves how dynamics may change with new signings. Among the confirmed transfers to the two Manchester clubs, there is one that particularly stands out for the Red Devils as a rather clever move. Manchester United have made quite the savvy investment with England midfielder Lucy Staniforth.

Lucy Staniforth is a player that puts in all the work, but rarely reaps the rewards. With her efforts on the pitch criminally overlooked on occasion, Staniforth has served as a bit of an unsung hero in the England camp. Of course, club football and international football are two different entities; the disparity between the two

all too often leads to triumph in one and calamities in the other. But in this case, Lucy Staniforth has the chops to excel in both.

An untiring work ethic and a readiness to repair the damage, Staniforth is every bit the resourceful player needed to galvanise a stale performance. She plays with a fire in her belly, a categorical vigour that should perhaps see her name appear in the Lionesses starting eleven more often. However, at club level Staniforth has well and truly earned her place to play amongst the big leagues.

Beginning her senior career at Sunderland, Staniforth re-joined the Black Cats after spells with Notts County, Bristol City and a brief stint at Liverpool. Upon her return, Staniforth

quickly secured herself an integral figure in Sunderland's cohort. Ardour and drive evident, her standout displays deservingly led to her first captaincy. This distinguished form did not waver an inch when Staniforth then moved to Birmingham City, where she, arguably, became the Blues most influential player.

Typically, midfielders fall into three umbrella categories: attacking midfielder, defensive midfielder, and depending on tactical formations, winger. Yet it is scarce to find a player that can readily and adroitly take on all three roles. This is exactly where one notes Staniforth. A player that navigates the middle third so well, that at times it appears as if she is playing all three parts simultaneously. Her stout command at the core, the glue holding Birmingham together at times.

Yet, wherever she finds herself on the pitch, Staniforth almost instinctively takes on the role of playmaker. Dropping back into a more defensive position, opportunities are created with Staniforth's sharp eye for a long ball; her ability to pick and switch the passage of play in an instant often relied upon. Towards the front, a tendency to cut in and take the ball through the centre to smartly open up attacking utilities.

With this vision Staniforth gives herself

options. Whether she feeds out to either side, chips a ball into the box or takes a shot herself, she is instrumental in attack. Although she may not be a goal scorer by trade, when Staniforth does hit the back of the net, it is usually nothing short of spectacular. Prolific in taking set pieces, Staniforth can belt one home like nobody's business when the time calls.

A multifaceted player indeed, Staniforth's move to Manchester is certainly positive for both parties. For Manchester United, an added quality to close the gap; for Staniforth, the tools to cultivate her potential. An opportunity to fine tune those operational skills that, perhaps, may see her on the pitch in an England shirt more often.

Undoubtably Staniforth will bring an expertise and maturity that will benefit Manchester United to no end, and although she may no longer wear the armband, her innate on-field leadership will surely be plain to see. They say a captain should go down with his ship and Staniforth will simply not go down without a fight. The very sentiment that echoes the spirit of this developing United team.

Lucy Staniforth: principal of the cast; understudy to none.



Transfer latest

Arsenal



In: Emma Mitchell (end of loan – Tottenham), Frances Stenson (end of loan – Blackburn), Steph Catley

(OL Reign), Malin Gut (Grasshopper Zurich), Lydia Williams (Melbourne City), Noelle Maritz (Wolfsburg)

Extended updates: Viktoria Schnaderbeck

Out: Ruby Grant (UNC), Louise Quinn, Pauline Peyraud-Magnin (Atletico Madrid), Katrin Veje (FC Rosengard), Emma Mitchell (Reading), Danielle Carter (Reading), Melisa Filis (London Bees)

Aston Villa



In: Chloe Arthur (Birmingham), Anita Asante (Chelsea), Diana Silva (Sporting Portugal), Lisa Weiss

(Olympique Lyonnais), Caroline Siems (Turbine Potsdam), Ramona Petzelberger (SGS Essen), Stine Larsen (FC Fleury 91)

Extended contracts: Asmita Ale, Elisha N'Dow, Jodie Hutton, Amy West, Shania Hayles and Emma Follis, Sian Rogers, Nat

Haigh, Ella

Franklin, Nadine

Hanssen, Sophie Haywood, Emily Syme, Marisa Ewers

Out: Jade Richards (Blackburn), Kerri Welsh, Alice Hassall (Coventry), Phoebe Warner, Mel Johnson (Sheffield United), Charlotte Greengrass (Nottingham Forest), Sophie Maierhofer, Daniela Kosinska

Birmingham City



In: Christie Murray (Liverpool), Rachel Corsie (Utah Royals—loan), Chloe McCarron (Linfield), Georgia Brougham (Everton—loan), Destiny Toussaint (unattached)

Extended contracts:

Lucy Whipp

Out: Brianna Visalli (Houston Dash), Georgia Brougham (end of loan – Everton), Adrienne Jordan (OL Reign), Alex Brooks, Lucy Staniforth, Chloe Arthur, Kerys Harrop Rachel Williams (Tottenham)

Brighton



In: Sophie Harris (end of loan – Lewes), Katie Startup (Charlton), Katie Robinson (Bristol City), Nora Heroum

(AC Milan), Inessa Kaagman (Everton),

Transfer latest

Lee Geum-min (Man City -loan),
Rebekah Stott (Melbourne City)

Extended contracts: Danielle Bowman, Kirsty Barton, Jodie Brett, Emily Simpkins, Laura Rafferty, Victoria Williams, Ellie Brazil, Rianna Jarrett, Fliss Gibbons, Danique Kerkdijk, Aileen Whelan, Beth Roe, Megan Connolly, Kayleigh Green

Out: Maxine Bennink (end of loan – Reading), Sophie Harris, Ini Umotong, Kate Natkiel, Fern Whelan, Amanda Nilden, Lea Le Garrec (FC Fleury), Matilde Lundorf (Juventus), Laura Hartley (Lewes), Ellie Hack (Lewes), Laura Rafferty (Bristol City—loan), Katie Startup (Charlton—loan)

Bristol City



In: Ella Rutherford (end of loan – Leicester), Ella Mastrantonio (Western Sydney

Wanderers), Ella Mastrantonio (Western Sydney Wanderers), Aimee Palmer (Man Utd), Megan Wynne (Tottenham), Jemma Purfield (Liverpool), Emma Bissell (Man City), Benedicte Haaland

(Lugano), Laura Rafferty (Brighton—loan)

Extended contracts: Carla Humphrey, Ebony Salmon, Gemma Evans, Florence Allen, Faye Bryson, Georgia Wilson

Out: Megan Wynne (end of loan – Tottenham), Poppy Pattinson, Olivia Chance, Katie Robinson, Jeon Ga-Eul, Eartha Cumings, Frankie Brown, Lauren Dykes (Cardiff City), Ella Rutherford (Charlton)

Chelsea



In: Melanie Leupolz (FC Bayern), Niamh Charles (Liverpool), Jessie Fleming (UCLA), Pernille

Harder (Vfl Wolfsburg)

Extended

contracts: Charlotte Fleming, Beth England, Guro Reiten, Millie Bright

Out: Adelina Engman (MHSC), Deanna Cooper, Anita Asante, Ramona Bachmann (PSG), Jamie-Lee Napier (Birmingham—loan)

Everton



In: Georgia Brougham (end of loan – Birmingham),

Transfer latest

Poppy Pattinson (Bristol City), Ingrid Moe Wold (Madrid CFF), Nicoline Sorensen (Brondby), Rikke Sevecke (FC Fleury), Valerie Gauvin (Montpellier), Claire Emslie (Orlando Pride—loan), Damaris Egurrola (Athletic Bilbao)

Extended contracts: Tinja-Riika Korpela, Danielle Turner, Chantelle Boye-Hlorkah, Abbey Leigh-Stringer, Hayley Raso

Out: Inessa Kaagman, Hannah Cain, Kirstie Levell, Taylor Hinds, Esme Morgan (end of loan – Man City), Chloe Kelly (Man City), Georgia Brougham (Birmingham—loan)

Manchester City



In: Esme Morgan (end of loan – Everton), Chloe Kelly (Everton), Sam Mewis (NC Courage), Rose Lavelle (OL

Reign)

Extended contracts: Megan Campbell, Jill Scott, Karima Benameur, Gemma Bonner

Out: Pauline Bremer (Wolfsburg), Tessa Wullaert, Lee Geum-min (Brighton—loan), Matilde Fidalgo (Benfica)

Manchester United



In: Mollie Green (end of loan – Sheffield), Emily Ramsey (end of loan – Sheffield), Lucy Staniforth Birmingham

City), Ona Battle (Levante), Ivana Fuso (FC Basel)

Extended

contracts: Kirsty Hanson, Amy Turner, Jess Sigsworth, Ella Toone, Martha Harris, Fran Bentley, Kirsty Smith

Out: Aurora Mikelsen

Tottenham), Aimee

Palmer (Bristol City), Lizzie Arnot, Siobhan Chamberlain (retirement), Mollie Green (Birmingham City), Fran Bentley (Blackburn—loan)

Reading



In: Maxine Bennink (end of loan – Brighton), Charlie Estcourt (end of loan – Charlton), Lily Woodham (end of

loan – Charlton), Deanna Cooper (Chelsea), Erin Nayler (Bordeaux), Jess Fishlock (OL Reign—loan), Jeon Ga-Eul (Bristol City)

Extended contracts:

Natasha Harding,

Transfer latest

Lily Woodham, Kiera Skeels

Out: Jade Moore (Orlando Pride), Sophie Howard, Mayumi Pacheco, Charlie Estcourt, Millie Farrow, Jo Potter, Maxine Bennink, Remi Allen, Rachel Laws, Lisa Marie Utland (Rosenborg), Mia Cruickshank (West Ham)

Tottenham



In: Megan Wynne (end of loan – Bristol), Kerys Harrop (Birmingham), Rachel Williams (Birmingham), Aurora Mikalsen (Man United)

Extended contracts: Rianna Dean, Anna Filbey, Ashley Neville,

Rebecca Spencer, Josie Green, Gemma Davison

Out: Emma Mitchell (end of loan – Arsenal), Sophie McLean, Chloe Morgan, Coral-Jade Haines, Megan Wynne, Jenna Schillacci (retirement)

West Ham



In: Mackenzie Arnold (Brisbane Roar), Mayumi Pacheco

(Reading), Katerina Svitkova (Slavia Praha), Hawa Cissokho (Soyaux), Nor Mustafa (Eskiltuna), Ruby Grant (Arsenal), Emily Van Egmond (Orlando Pride—loan), Mia Cruickshank (Reading), Rachel Daly (Houston Dash—loan)

Extended contracts: Kenza Dali, Gilly Flaherty, Adriana Leon, Alisha Lehmann, Cho So-Hyun

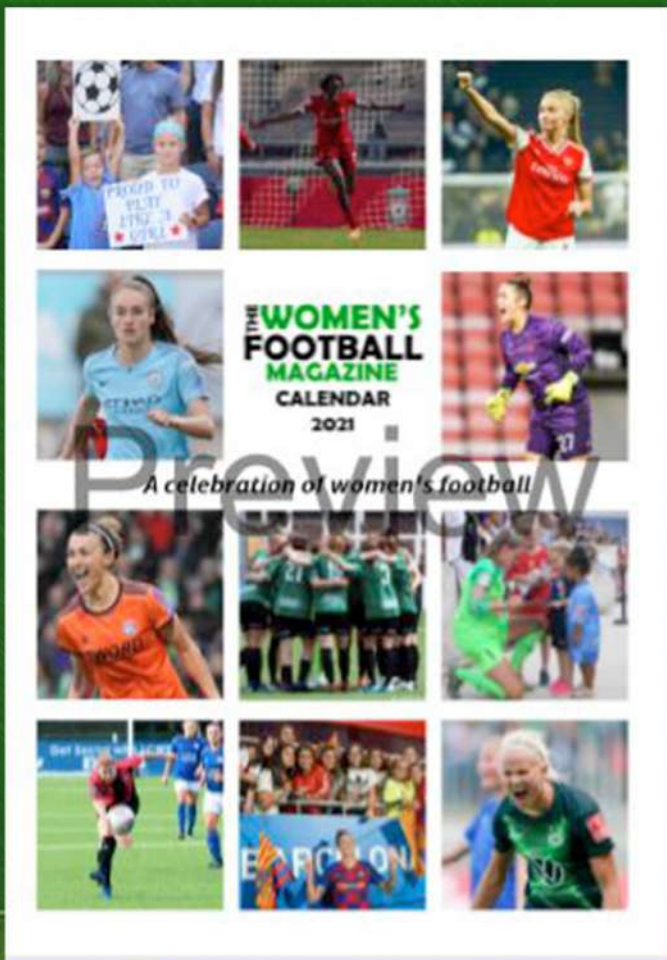
Out: Katharina Banauch (retirement), Anna Moorhouse (FC Girondins de Bordeaux), Tessel Middag, Esme De Graaf, Vyan Sampson, Ruesha Littlejohn, Olivia Smith (London Bees), Julia Simic (AC Milan), Filippa Wallen (Apollon Limassol)

Other rumours:

- Lucy Bronze and Alex Greenwood to Manchester City
- Manchester United have been heavily linked with Tobin Heath and Christen Press
- Mollie Green is rumoured to be joining Birmingham City
- Brighton are linked with Denise O'Sullivan from NC Courage

THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

CALENDAR 2021



£5 + P&P

ORDER NOW FROM:

www.thewomensfootballmagazine.com



CHAMPIONSHIP



Championship

2020/21 preview



By Simon O'Neill

As the new season draws ever closer, TWFM have had a look at this year's Championship teams and their chances for the season ahead.

Blackburn Rovers



Manager Gemma Donnelly has stated that they aim to push improve on their 7th position last season. To help with this, the club have brought in England U17 Emma Bradley who returns to the club after spending two seasons with

Manchester City Academy. Also being welcomed back to the club is another keeper Alex Brooks who joins from Birmingham City. Helping to ensure the defence is stronger for the 2020/21 season the club have brought in former Manchester United player Charlotte Newsham who spent last season on loan at Huddersfield Town. Other new signings include central defender Issy Dean and midfielder Emma Doyle— both from Everton. Off the field the club have also been busy, bringing out an online sponsorship booklet to being in new sponsors for the club.

Last season's final position: 7th

My prediction for this season: 8th

Charlton Athletic



The club have been busy during the summer ensuring several their 2019/20 season joined up again for the start of the new season the players include Ellie Dorey,

Charley Clifford, Rachel Newborough and Alice Griffiths. Manager Riteesh Mishra brought in former Lewes FC players Jess King and Ella Powell in early August to begin the teams strengthening. The club are offering reductions in sponsorship packages in order to ensure that local business can still sponsor the club at an affordable rate.

Last season's final position: 11th

My prediction for this season: 10th

Coventry United



The West Midlands club have improved their midfield with the signing of ex Aston Villa and Notts Forest player, Phoebe Warner. Another ex Villa player, Ashlee Brown has boosted their

defence ahead of the new season. Development player Jodie Whiteman has been promoted from the club's development squad. To increase the clubs' reach into the business community they have set up The Coventry United Directory.

Last season's final position: 10th

My prediction for this season: 9th

Crystal Palace



The club have brought in former Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Chloe Morgan, who as well as a lawyer carries out a range of work in the community.

Manager Dean Davenport has also been quick to appoint Annabel Johnson who won the Player of the season for 2019/2020 as new club captain after the departure of Freya Holdaway. To add experience to the squad the club have signed midfielder Carol -Jade Haines from Tottenham Hotspur. Haines has Champions League experience from her time at Birmingham City prior to joining Tottenham.

Last season's final position: 9th

My prediction for this season: 11th

Durham



The North East club announced that players Eleanor Dale and Dannielle Cox would be departing the club during the summer. However, twelve of the

2019/2020 squad were remaining to push for the title in 2020/2021 season. Manager Lee Saunders was pleased to announce that striker Iris Achterhof has returned to the club for the new season. The experience of last season squad with one or two new signings will push the club to the top of the table. Hummel have signed a new deal with the club to remain the clubs technical teamwear partner for the next three years.

Last season's final position: 3rd

My prediction for this season: 1st

Leicester City



The midlands club have seen Lucy Johnson gain a scholarship in the USA with her joining Sun Devil Soccer in Arizona. It looked like Leicester

were having a quiet transfer window until they decided to announce their 2020/21 squad in one go. At the same time as announcing they were set to go professional, the Foxes also announced a

heap of new signings and local players signing their first contracts. Players included former Everton goalkeeper Kirstie Levell, midfielders Remi Allen and Sophie Barker and former Manchester City forward Natasha Flint.

Last season's final position: 6th

My prediction for this season: 7th

Lewes



The south coast club are looking to experienced international players to boost their season.

Tatiana Saunders, a goalkeeper who had played for England U15-U19 has joined from Thonon Evian Geneve. She has also played for a host of other European clubs. Former WSL defender Nicola Cousins who is an experienced Welsh international. Manager Simon Parker who is looking to make his team an attacking force has added England U19 winger Simran Jhamat from Leicester City who will link with former Oxford United Number 9 Georgia Timms and Hannah Griffin who is also an England U19 striker. To ensure the backline is strong the club have signed goalkeeper Laura Hartley from local rivals Brighton and Hove Albion. Lewes will have a much improved season and their new players will revitalise the club.

Last season's final position: 8th

My prediction for this season: 5th

Liverpool



Fans of the club will be pleased to know that Amy Rodgers, Rhiannon Roberts, Niamh Fahey, Rinsola Babajide, Kirsty Linnett and Leighanne Robe have signed new deals

for the season. Among the new players are

Amalie Thestrup, Taylor Hinds and Rachel Law. Departing the club are Christine Murray, Anke Preuss, Fran Kitching, Niamh Charles and Jemma Purfield. To enhance the clubs reach in the community the club held trials for the Liverpool FC Women's Regional Talent Club in the U10-16 age groups. The club will be pushing for a return to the WSL but I feel that this season will be one of consolidation.

Last season's final position: 12th in WSL (relegated)

My prediction for this season: 4th

London Bees



The club's Hive home ground has undergone a lot of work with the partnership with head of Playing Surfaces and Estates from Tottenham Hotspur Football Club.

Manager Lee Burch who was a nominee for Manager of the Year will be looking to improve on last season and is looking to bring in new players.

Last season's final position: 5th

My prediction for this season: 6th

London City Lionesses



The club who have announced a new higher education partnership with Middlesex

University's London Sport Institute. The link offers the clubs

professional players and coaches access to high quality sports science and rehabilitation services. To strengthen the squad. The club who announced that Juliette Kemppi, Freda Ayisi, Leanne Cowan and Kallie Balfour will be staying at the club have added midfielder Alli Murphy from Icelandic club UMF Sefloss and goalkeeper Shae Yanez joining from Santa Teresa in Spain. The experience gained in Europe by

some of the signings will push the Lionesses to challenge Durham.

Last season's final position: 4th

My prediction for this season: 2nd

Sheffield United



The Blades have signed defender Nat Johnson, who will add experience to the club and along with fellow new signing Sophie Walton who has WSL experience.

Ellie Wilson the former London Bees defender will be joining up with Katie Wilkinson who was a fellow former Bees player. The club will be looking to utilise these new signings reach the top.

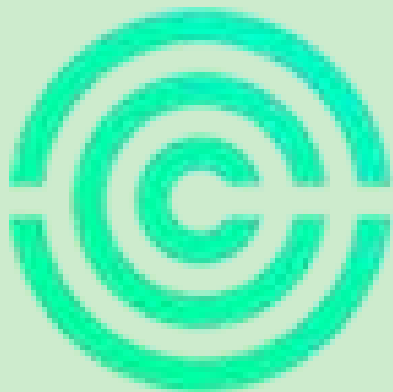
Last season's final position: 2nd

My prediction for this season: 3rd

Final table predictions:

1	Durham
2	London City Lionesses
3	Sheffield United
4	Liverpool
5	Lewes
6	London Bees
7	Leicester City
8	Blackburn Rovers
9	Coventry United
10	Charlton
11	Crystal Palace





The FA Women's Championship

Opening Weekend—5/6 September 2020

Charlton Athletic 2-2 Crystal Palace

Coventry United 3-1 London Bees

Leicester City 3-0 Blackburn Rovers

Liverpool 1-1 Durham

London City Lionesses 1-4 Sheffield United

Free Week: Lewes

Game Week 2—12/13 September 2020

Blackburn Rovers vs Charlton Athletic

Crystal Palace vs London City Lionesses

Durham vs Lewes

London Bees vs Liverpool

Sheffield United vs Leicester City

Free Week: Coventry United

Fahey announced as new Liverpool FC Women captain



Niamh Fahey has been named the new captain of Liverpool FC Women.

The 32-year-old Republic of Ireland international is currently training for her third season with the Reds after signing a new contract this summer.

Speaking to the official website, Fahey said: “It’s an amazing feeling. It’s something I never thought would happen.

“For me as a supporter, now being captain is beyond my wildest dreams and I’m going to embody the spirit of the club through my captaincy and bring out the values of a Liverpool player.

“It’s been a really enjoyable pre-season and we’re working really hard to get back up to the Women’s Super League, where we feel we belong.

“We’re under no illusions that we need to be at the top of our game in every game. We have to be up for the fight but also show our qualities.”

Fahey takes over from Sophie Bradley-Auckland who has announced she has put her footballing career on hold to protect the residents of her family-run care home.

Speaking about Bradley-Auckland, Fahey said: “It’s a very unselfish decision from Sophie to put the care home and the vulnerable people there first. That’s the type of person she is.

“We’re going to miss her massively but we know, respect and are proud of her decision.”

Rachel Furness, who joined the squad in January, has been named as vice-captain.

Speaking about both players, manager Vicky Jepson said: ““In Niamh, you have someone leading the team who loves the club as much as I do, she knows the power of the badge and the expectation from our fans,” said Jepson.

“This season is going to be full of pressure and Niamh will be able to handle that pressure, wearing the badge with pride and leading us in the right direction.

“Furney was only with us for 10 weeks before the league was terminated. It was the right decision to have that phone call with her and ask her to work alongside Niamh as vice-captain and take the armband when Niamh’s not on the pitch.

“They both share that determination and passion on the pitch. We’re in good hands to lead us out on the pitch.”



Copyright: Liverpool FC

London City Lionesses announce partnership with Middlesex University's London Sport Institute



**Middlesex
University**
London Sport Institute

High Education Partnership

London City Lionesses has announced an exciting new higher education partnership with Middlesex University's London Sport Institute.

The new collaboration will give the club's top professional players and coaches access to high quality sports science and rehabilitative services designed to enhance performance.

London City Lionesses, play out of Princes Park Stadium in Dartford, Kent and compete in the FA Women's Championships, which is the second tier of English women's professional football.

Lionesses staff and players can now benefit from working with MDX staff and student performance analysts, sports nutritionists and strength & conditioning coaches, and if they wish, embark on educational courses offered by Middlesex University. It is hoped that this aspect of the relationship will be able to be extended to include London City Lionesses supporters and followers.

The partnership will also provide a rewarding chance for MDX students to enjoy work experience placements with the club and apply their sports and rehabilitative skills on real top-class athletes.

MDX sports science academics and students are also likely to be carrying out major research projects for the club analysing performance, fitness, sport psychology and nutrition.

The research collaboration between MDX and the Lionesses will be focused on the enhancement and advancement of 'Women in Sport'.

According to the charity Women In Sport, set up to transform sport for the benefit of every girl and woman in the UK, 26% of women are 'inactive' carrying out less than 30 minutes of physical activity each week.

Dr Rhonda Cohen, Head of Middlesex University's London Sports Institute, said: "This very exciting partnership will boost education, research which can impact women's sport which is really underrepresented and contribute towards the idea of lifelong fitness.

"The partnership is reciprocal so the club will benefit from our outstanding sports science facilities and expertise, while the students will be afforded the exciting opportunity to develop their learning with top level professional athletes.

"Overall, our aim is to try and engage women into sport because it has great benefits in giving people more self-confidence, a positive body image and in helping young people learn how to deal with success and failure, while teaching the importance of teamwork and resilience."

The facilities in the London Sports Institute include a human movement laboratory (sport physiology lab, strength conditioning specialist room) where top athletes, including London 2012 Olympians, have been assessed, a health and injury clinic and a clinical therapy room which supports student learning and athletes.

Diane Culligan, London City Lionesses Chair, said "We are absolutely delighted to be working with Rhonda Cohen to form London City Lionesses' first higher education partnership with Middlesex University and the London Institute of Sport. This exciting collaboration will focus on a number of areas such as supporting our players with the full range of performance services, the development of research into women in sport and educational opportunities for both our players and staff.

The partnership will also, we believe, provide students with hands on experience within an elite sporting context. We believe this will be the start of a long and fruitful relationship with the University and Institute that will deliver some real tangible mutual support and benefit to all parties."

London City Lionesses Head Coach Lisa Fallon added "Providing the best possible environment off the pitch for our players to perform at their optimum on it, is very important and I'm excited that this new partnership will be another enhancement to the professional environment here at London City Lionesses. My team and I are looking forward to working with the students and staff at Middlesex."



Leicester City turn professional



Leicester City have bought Leicester City Women and turned the Championship side into a full-time professional club.

The women's team, who were formed independently in 2004, finished sixth last season in the second division.

Chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha said: "This is a really proud day.

"The introduction of a women's team embedded within the club has been an ambition of ours for some time and today it can start to be realised."

The transfer of the team's Championship licence was agreed on Tuesday, August 18.

General Manager Jade Morgan, Team Manager Jonathan Morgan, 12 members of the playing squad and a number of key support staff will be retained from the previous setup, which will now go full-time.

Former LCWFC chairman Rohan Morgan will become an advisor to an LCFC Women's Football Leadership Group, led by Chief Executive Susan Whelan.

Russ Fraser has been appointed to the

position of Head of Women's Football.

Speaking to LCFC TV, Jonathan Morgan said: "It's a brilliant feeling.

"To finally get the opportunity to come in-house and to be a full-time setup within Leicester City – my home city, home club – I can't ask for much more as a football coach to be honest.

"There was a lot of work between us and Leicester City and we always had the plan that we wanted to build a sustainable core group of girls.

"There has been a lot of commitment shown to developing the women's setup, both the girls and the women's game. This is now the cherry on the cake really to show that we are officially one setup, one club.

"It's a fantastic opportunity, not just for the coaches, not only for the first-team girls, but all the young females around the Leicestershire area, to know that they've got a big Premier League club that is showing support and wanting to push them to the next level."

Salgado to miss whole 2020/21 season with injury



Charlton Athletic goalkeeper Shanell Salgado will miss the whole of the Women's Championship 2020/21 season after tearing her ACL in pre-season.

The 26-year-old has had an MRI scan which confirmed the rupture.

She sustained the injury in pre-season training.

Salgado is awaiting a specialist but is set to have surgery on the injury.

Manager Riteesh Mishra told the official website: "It's devastating news for Shanell.

"She's had a really strong off-season and since lockdown she's come back really sharp and I felt that this season was going to be a big season for her.

"It's a big blow for her and for us as a club.

"She was a big part of our group last year and helped us get through tough times so we are right behind her and wish her the best throughout.

"Shanell has a great attitude and work ethic and we know she will get through this and our club's medical team and all other staff will help support her through her recovery."

Salgado took to Twitter to say: "Absolutely gutted to have suffered this injury.

"I'll soon be on my road to recovery and back training as soon as I can."

Transfer latest

Blackburn Rovers



In: Emma Bradley (Manchester City), Charlotte Newsham (Huddersfield Town), Alex Brooks

(Birmingham), Emma Doyle (Everton), Issy Dean (Everton), Meg Boydell (Liverpool), Leah Embley (Fylde), Fran Bentley (Manchester United—loan), Jade Richards (Aston Villa)

Extended

contracts: Saffron Jordan, Ellie Stewart, Natasha Fenton, Kayleigh McDonalds, Chelsey Jukes, Lauren Thomas, Ellie Fletcher, Ria Montgomery, Georgia Walters, Millie Robertson, Hope Knight

Out: Frances Stenson (end of loan – Arsenal), Missy Bo Kearns (end of loan – Liverpool), Natasha Flint, Serena Fletcher (Huddersfield Town)

Charlton Athletic



In: Ella Powell (Lewes), Jess King (Lewes), Beth Lumsden (Enfield Town), Eartha Cumings

(Bristol City), Shauna Vassell (Arsenal), Ella Rutherford (Bristol City)

Extended contracts: Grace Coombs, Lilli Mapple, Alice Griffiths, Rachel Newborough, Charley Clifford, Ellie Dorey, Jenna Legg, Ciara Watling, Jamie Gotch, Rea Laudat

Out: Charlie Estcourt (end of loan – Reading), Lily Woodham (end of loan – Reading), Katie Startup (Brighton), Riva Casley, Lise Janbu Eide (AAfK Fortuna), Sara Eggsvik, Georgia Evans (Yeovil), Pernille Gardien, Maddie Phillips

Coventry United



In: Georgia Popple (Leicester), Olivia Clark (Huddersfield), Alice Hassall (Aston Villa), Phoebe Warner (Aston Villa), Ashlee Brown (Aston Villa)

Extended contracts: Katy Morris, Helen Dermody, Amber Hughes, Shannon O'Brien, Susan Wood, Nikki Miles, Jenna Roberts, Holly Chandler, Alanah Mann, Jodie Whiteman, Maz Gauntlett, Rebecca Anderson, Chelsea Weston, Amy Wathan

Out: Ffion Morgan (Crystal Palace), Simran Jhamat, Sian Johnson

Transfer latest

Crystal Palace



In: Chloe Morgan (Tottenham), Ffion Morgan (Coventry), Georgia Clifford (Oxford), Liegh Nicol (unattached), Coral-

Jade Haines

Extended contracts: Cherelle Khassal, Amy Goddard, Leeta Rutherford, Amber Stobbs, Amber Gaylor, Bianca Baptiste, Ashleigh Goddard, Andria Georgiou

Out: Hannah McKenzie, Freya Holdaway, Lucy Gillett, Magda Mosengo, Charlie Goad (Kent football United – loan)

Durham



In: Mollie Lambert (Sunderland), Bridget Galloway (Sunderland)

Extended contract:

Emily Roberts, Nicki Gears, Sarah Wilson, Rebecca Salicki, Beth Hepple, Ellie Christon, Kathryn Hill, Sarah Robson, Megan Borthwick, Iris Achterhof, Abbie Holmes

Out: Eleanor Dale, Danielle Cox

Leicester City



In: Kirstie Levell (Everton), Sophie Howard (Reading), Samantha Tierney (Sheffield), Esmee de

Graff (West Ham), Remi Allen (Reading), Sophie Barker (Sheffield), Ruesha Littlejohn (West Ham), Millie Farrow (Reading), Natasha Flint (Blackburn), Hannah Cain (Everton), Olivia Fergusson (Sheffield)

Out: Ella Rutherford (end of loan – Bristol), Lucy Johnson (Arizona Sun Devils), Scarlett Field (WBA), Georgia Popple (Coventry), Natalie Johnson (Sheffield United)

Lewes



In: Laura Hartley, (Brighton), Ellie Hack (Brighton), Georgia Timms (Oxford), Han-

nah Griffin, Sarah Kempson (Portsmouth), Simran Jahmat (Coventry), Tatiana Saunders (Thonon-Evian G)

Extended contracts: Fillipa Savva, Charley Boswell, Paula Howells, Samantha Quayle, Rhian Cleverly, Katie Rood, Emma Jones, Emily Donovan, Sophie O'Rourke, Danielle Lane,

Transfer latest

Ellie Leek, Ellie Noble

Out: Sophie Harris (end of loan- Brighton), Faye Baker, Caitlin Hayes, Ella Powell, Annie Timoney, Jess King (Charlton)

Liverpool

In: Missy Bo Kearns (end of loan – Blackburn Rovers), Rachel Laws (Reading), Taylor Hinds (Everton), Amalie Thestrup (AS Roma), Meikeyla Moore (MSV Duisburg)



Extended contracts: Rihannon Roberts, Niamh

Fahey, Rinsola Babajide, Leigh-Anne Robe, Kirsty Linnett, Amy Rodgers

Out: Courtney Sweetman-Kirk, Anke Preuss, Christie Murray, Fran Kitching, Niamh Charles (Chelsea), Jemma Purfield (Bristol City)

London Bees



In: Sophie McLean (Tottenham), Charlie Estcourt (Reading), Marianne Taho (Arsenal)

Extended contracts: Sarah Quantrill, Megan Alexander, Hayley West,

Georgia Roberts, Lauren Pickett, Billie Brooks, Bonnie Horwood, Brooke Nunn, Courtney Ward-Chambers, Georgina Giddings, Nicola Gibson, Mathilda Finburgh, Mollie Dench, Florence Gamby, Amelia Hazard, Merrick Will, Faye Hazelton, Evie Gane, Millie Constantine, Nikita

Whinnett

Out: Eloise Wilson (Sheffield United), Taylor O'Leary, Connie Forman

London City Lionesses



In: Allison Murphy (UMF Selfoss), Shae Yanez (Santa Teresa), Lilly Pursey (Chelsea), Hailey Nolan, Atlanta Primus (California

State Uni)

Out: Vyan Sampson (West Ham—end of loan), Vanessa Susanna, Charlotte Gurr

Sheffield United



In: Mel Johnson (Aston Villa), Eloise Wilson (London Bees), Sophie Walton (Nottingham Forest), Nathalie Johnson (Leicester City), Fran

Kitching (Liverpool)

Extended contracts: Katie Wilkinson, Jade Pennock, Maddy Cusack, Kasia Lipka, Alethea Paul, Rhema Lord-Mears, Veatriki Sarri, Chloe Dixon, Rebecca Flaherty, Emily Batty, Naomi Hartley, Leandra Little, Keri Matthews, Lucy Watson, Charley Docherty, Ali Johnson

Out: Mollie Green (end of loan—Manchester United), Emily Ramsey (end of loan—Manchester United), Sophie Barker, Ali Johnson, Izzy Ford (South Alabama), Samantha Tierney, Olivia Fergusson (Leicester)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



FANWNL 2020/21 opening

weekend fixtures

Sunday, September 20

Northern Premier Division

Huddersfield Town vs Fylde
Middlesbrough vs Hull City
Sunderland AFC vs Burnley
Derby County vs Loughborough Foxes
West Bromwich Albion vs Nottingham Forest
Stoke City vs Sheffield FC

Southern Premier Division

Gillingham vs Oxford United
MK Dons vs Watford
Hounslow vs Crawley Wasps
Keynsham Town vs Plymouth
Cardiff City vs Chichester & Selsey
Yeovil vs Portsmouth

Division One North

Norton & Stockton Ancients vs Leeds United
Bradford City vs Chester Le Street Town
Durham Cestria vs Newcastle United
Brighouse Town vs Liverpool Feds
Chorley vs Barnsley
Bolton vs Stockport County

Division One Midlands

Bedworth United vs Holwell Sports
Boldmere St Michaels vs Doncaster Rovers Belles
Lincoln City vs Long Eaton United
Solihull Moors vs Burton Albion
Sporting Khalsa vs The New Saints
Leafield Athletic vs Wolverhampton Wanderers

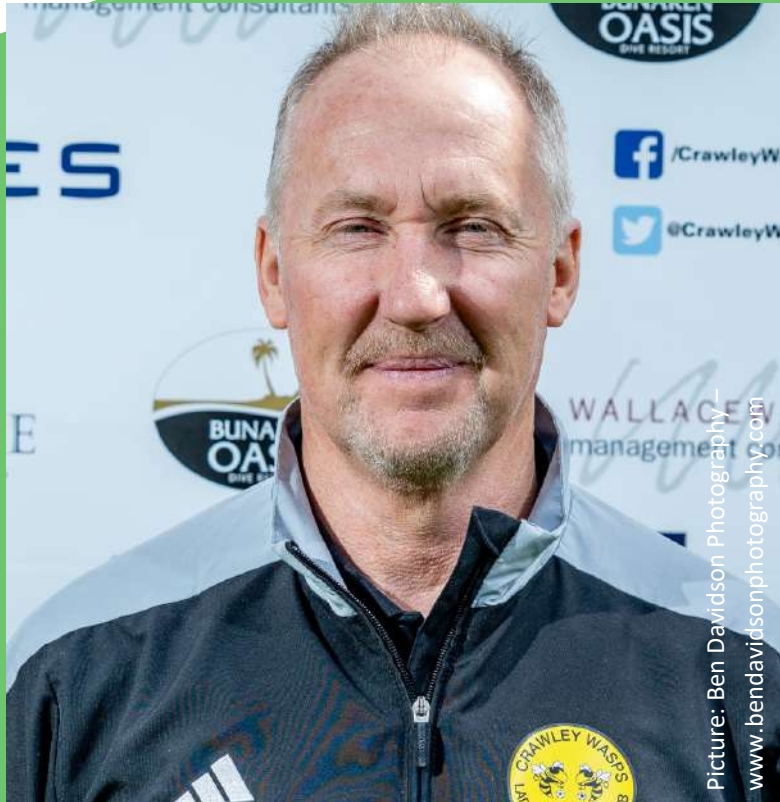
Division One SE

Ipswich Town vs Hashtag United
Cambridge United vs Norwich City
Cambridge City vs Billericay Town
Actonians vs Stevenage
AFC Wimbledon vs Enfield Town
Leyton Orient vs Kent Football United

Division One SW

Poole Town vs Southampton
Buckland Athletic vs Southampton Women
Brislington vs Cheltenham Town
Chesham United vs Swindon Town
Larkhall Athletic vs Maidenhead United

Crawley Wasps announce Cole as permanent boss



Crawley Wasps have announced Dave Cole as the club's new first-team manager on a permanent basis.

Cole guided the squad through pre-season as interim manager after Paul Walker's departure by mutual consent earlier this month.

He had been the team's assistant manager since arriving in the summer of 2016.

Cole said: "I'm excited about taking on this job and continuing the work Paul and I started some years ago, because there's unfinished business.

"The squad has been taking shape over the pre-season, with new signings to be announced soon, and I'm very pleased with the progress we have made."

Wasps chairman Jack Ayles said: "I'm extremely pleased Dave has agreed to take charge of the team.

"He's been a valuable part of our success over the last few years and will ensure continuity on the pitch and in the dressing room as we enter an exciting new season."

Prior to joining Wasps, Cole was director of football at Lewes Women and scouted for Millwall Lionesses. He has also coached men's sides Eastbourne United AFC, AFC Uckfield and Withdean.

First-team coaches Mike Gardner and Chat Perera, and goalkeeping coach Paul Woodhams, have all been retained, while Richard Lowes joins as physiotherapist. Matt Graves has left the staff to join Southampton Women's FC.

Cole's first competitive game in charge will come at Hounslow on Sunday September 20. The club's first home match is against MK Dons on September 27, likely to be behind closed doors.

New club, new season, new challenge:

My move from Leeds United Women to Middlesbrough Women



Photo Credit: Colin Lock, @Tyneside_NUWFC

By Emily Cassidy

With the 19/20 season being cut short, I think it gave every female footballer a long time to ponder over which club they would want to spend their 20/21 season at. Having recently relocated back to the North East, and the stature of Middlesbrough Women FC, I think that it was an easy decision for me to sign for them, as I wanted to play in a higher league. Middlesbrough have everything in place to push me as a player and the coaching staff are working hard off the pitch to make everything come together on the pitch.

It was with a heavy heart that I left Leeds, having finished 2nd in the WNL Division 1 North, the club is one to look out for this season as they push for promotion. A great group of girls, who are fantastic on and off the pitch.

With pre-season in full swing, we have had 4 wins out of 4 so far, beating Wallsend 7-2, Brighouse Town 3-0, Wakefield Trinity 6-0,

and Leeds United Women 3-2. Our next fixture brings a derby, with the opponents of Newcastle United Women on Sunday 23rd of August where we hope to continue our great pre-season and make it 5 wins out of 5. This fixture will be a personal favourite of mine being a Sunderland fan.

With the FA WNL finally putting every female footballer out of their misery with a confirmed start date of 20th September, the next few weeks will be final preparations to prepare us for the start of the season. Fixtures are yet to be released, but with a confirmation date of the start of the season I can assure that we will not have to wait long. With a great pre-season, we will be looking to kick on from this and carry it into the season ahead. Middlesbrough play their home games every Sunday at Billingham Town, Bedford Terrace.

Ipswich Town Women: the club moulded on youth nine years after academy closure



By Ali Rampling

Ipswich Town were the romantic story from the 2019/20 FA Cup. The plucky fourth tier side produced a hat-trick of giant-killings to book a blockbuster fifth round tie with Women's Super League heavyweights Manchester City. It was proper Hollywood stuff.

Town's fairytale was subsequently brought to an abrupt end as they suffered a 10-0 defeat. But look beyond the scoreline to the starting XI consisting of seven teenagers bred in Ipswich's prosperous academy and you will see a side not defined by one result, rather a club who are quietly going about constructing one of the most promising female football set-ups in the country. And on their own, unique terms.

"We want to operate a little bit differently," explained Joe Sheehan, Ipswich Women's manager and head coach of the Under 21

Academy. "We want to commit ourselves and invest our time and our effort into local players to try and get them opportunities to play in the highest level with us."

However, it has not always been this way.

Ipswich were stripped of their female youth system in June 2011 alongside 19 other clubs when the FA announced they were reducing the number of girls' Centres of Excellence in England from 50 to 30.

Local players instead had to travel outside the county to continue playing at the highest level - quite the commitment for a sport that was not professional in the UK at the time.

Norwich, Colchester - who later rebranded as Essex - and Cambridge had academies up to the Under 17 age bracket. But with their women's sides playing no higher than tier four, this was where elite opportunities ended for female footballers in East Anglia.

The issue was highlighted in 2016 when Norwich academy product Lauren Hemp - a now fully-fledged England international at Manchester City - departed the Canaries for Bristol City, leaving home at 16 to pursue her ambitions of playing professional football.

"The FA recognised that there were elite players in the region that didn't have the opportunity once they left school," said Sheehan. "The FA launched a new initiative, the club were awarded a partnership and I was tasked with developing an academy structure."

Funded by the WSL, Ipswich's Women's Under 21 East Region Academy opened in 2017. It allows the Tractor Girls to attract the very best young talent from the area with the lure of a footballing and academic education, elite standards and top class facilities.

"It's really professional," said England Under 18 international Eloise King, who joined the academy in 2018. "We are treated so well: we train at the training ground, we get free season tickets to watch the men play and Paul Lambert (Ipswich men's manager) has been to quite a few of our games and speaks to us at half-time."

"I'm an Ipswich fan and at first it was a bit surreal because it's obviously always been something that I've wanted to do. To play for the club I've supported is just a dream come true to be honest."

King was one of a number of academy products who broke into the Ipswich first team during the 2019/20 season as the Tractor Girls embarked on a promotion push and historic FA Cup run.

The Blues sat top of the South East Division One prior to the league's curtailment because of coronavirus and became the first fourth tier side in Women's FA Cup history to reach the fifth round.

"We knew the younger ones were ready, it was just how many we were prepared to bring in," explained Sheehan.

"With the combination of the league being a little bit tougher than it was the year before

and the academy players being significantly stronger than some of the seniors we had in place we made the decision that actually we might need more than one or two.

"Once we let them off the lead they showed what damage they could do."

The esteemed setup Ipswich boast has not gone unnoticed. They attract interest from well beyond their catchment area, but these are avenues the club are less willing to explore due to their desire to nurture young talent from the local area.

"We're very passionate about what we want to achieve long term but also how we do it," Sheehan said.

"We get emails and messages weekly from players from Australia, from Argentina, from Europe. We're a bit reluctant with that because we want to commit ourselves to players in our region."

"He (Sheehan) has got so much confidence in us lot and that's shown with the lack of signings really," added King. "He's got so much faith in the players he's already got through the academy. He's said before he's wanted to stick with people from this area and that's what he's done."

Ipswich have only made one signing ahead of the 2020/21 season and the new addition is synonymous with their identity. Georgia Allen has re-joined the club, having initially left in 2011 following the academy's closure.

In the nine years since her departure, Allen has played for Arsenal's illustrious Centre of Excellence, broken into the Gunners' senior side, represented England at Under 15 to Under 21 level, scored the bronze medal winning penalty for the Lionesses at the 2018 Under 20 World Cup and earned a scholarship to play college football in the United States.

When the 22-year-old left Ipswich, their youth setup was in tatters and the women's team did not even have matching kit to the men's side. Nine years on, the club have grown to catch up with her ability and ambition.

“Georgia fits in really well with our commitment and our vision,” said Sheehan.

“When we were able to take our programme and the women's setup to the next level over the last 18 months, it kind of had been what she would have hoped for.”

“She came in with us last pre-season and she could see the setup we have in place and the quality of players that were coming through. She wants the opportunity to play at the top level but is quite committed to doing it with Ipswich.”

Allen finds herself among teammates with similar international pedigree. The five Ipswich players named in England's Under 18 squad for a training camp in February - King, Anna Grey, Blue Wilson, Paige Peake and Sophie Peskett - was more than any other club side.

Alongside recognition on the international stage, the Tractor Girls have been making noise among the local community. A record crowd of 761 attended September 2019's East Anglian derby against Norwich and the Blues

have attracted a loyal following ever since.

“Our fan base is great,” King enthused. “Last season I remember playing Norwich at home and the atmosphere was just ridiculous. Just unreal. Even in pre-season a couple of fans have actually come up to the place we're playing and sat in a pub nearby. That's just unbelievable for tier four.”

Tier four is not where the club intend to stay for long. Ipswich's youngsters have aspirations of making it to the top, and the club are aiming to mature with them.

“WSL has got to be the target, 100%,” added King. “To not only play in the top flight but to take Ipswich up there would probably be the highlight of my whole career.”

Nine years on from that enforced academy closure, Ipswich are proudly rebuilding themselves with a cluster of homegrown teenagers at the core.



Latest News

The New Saints Ladies split from parent club

The New Saints Ladies have split from their parent club and reformed under the name Wem Town LFC.

The new club will continue to play in the Division 1 Midlands section of the FA Women's National League.

The Wem Town statement, released on Instagram, read: "We have now changed our name to Wem Town LFC after our move from The New Saints.

"TNS have made it clear that the ladies' section wasn't (and never was) high on their list of priorities.

"Unfortunately, we have not been allowed to bring across the prize money won by the ladies in the 2019/20 Women's FA Cup as that is now 'club money' at TNS.

"So we are starting from scratch in that sense, however the fantastic people at Wem have kept our club alive after being told two weeks ago that TNS would be folding the English section of the ladies."

Watford Ladies change their name

Watford have announced they will be changing their

name for the new season.

Previously known as Watford FC Ladies, the side will now be known as Watford FC Women.

General manager Grace Williams said: "This is a sign of togetherness and unity to keep in line with modern day thinking and equality.

"It's another strand to our One Club approach. This is an important and progressive step as we continue into the next step of our journey in women's football."

RIP Tony Moore

Coalville Town Ladies have announced the sad news of the death of their Ladies First Team manager Tony Moore.

Moore, 52, was also the goalkeeper coach and member of the youth community.

TWFM sends their thoughts and wishes to the club at this difficult time.



Hitting between the Stix

with Georgia Stevens

@Stix_Official_9

Regular columnist Georgia Stevens has had to take a break from her column this month due to a number of exciting contractual reasons but we are still excited to share her news with you.

Last month it was announced that BT Sport were launching a new television programme called 'Ultimate Goal' which would follow women's footballers in the 'search for the next female football star'.

31 contestants were chosen for the show including Georgia and she said "So, so buzzing to be one of the contestants.

"Unbelievable experience with an unreal set of girls, coaches and crew."

She joins some more well known faces to TWFM including Emma Coolen and Ruth Fox.

In her second piece of big news this month, Georgia has signed a professional contract with Icelandic club POR.

Upon the announcement, she wrote: "An amazing opportunity to live in a beautiful country and play the game I love every day.

"A massive thank you to Huddersfield Town Women for everything they have done in the time I was there.

"Especially to Jordan Wimpenny for being a quality coach who puts his players first."

Everyone at TWFM is really proud of Georgia and we look forward to hearing all about her new adventures (when she is contractually allowed to tell us!).



UK's first female Muslim referee, Jawahir Roble, shares her story



UEFA's Together #WePlayStrong women's football campaign has released a documentary with Jawahir Roble, the UK's first female Muslim referee, as part of the "Strong Is..." documentary series which follows the journey of some of the biggest names in women's football to shine a light on the adversities they have faced and how football has played a key role in their life.

In her documentary, which is in partnership with Esprit, Jawahir talks openly about how she became the UK's first female Muslim referee.

Her love for football started in her home country of Somalia where she would play on the beach every weekend, but when the civil war broke out, she and her family had to flee

as quick as they could.

She came to London to seek refuge and has grown up round the corner from Wembley Stadium. She found it difficult to make friends when she first came here, but soon found common ground with people through her love of football. Her parents didn't want her to play the game and instead steered her on a journey to study finance at university, but she kept playing in secret and found an opportunity in refereeing, which she describes as 'having the best seat in the house' during games.

Now, she's one of the most decorated female referees in the country and has won so many accolades for her charity work and passion for encouraging more Muslim women to play sport.

GRASSROOTS



Dulwich Hamlet Women announce three new signings



Dulwich Hamlet Women's have strengthened their squad for the upcoming season with new three new signings: Sophie Manzi, Alex Newman and Sarah Walters.

Manzi, a striker, joins from AFC Wimbledon and has already been on the scoresheet four times in pre-season. She featured against Dulwich when the two sides met in a friendly last summer.

She said, "I'm happy to sign for a club that's got so much potential and the quality to get promoted into Division One. I can't wait to get started. The setup here is amazing: great facilities, great coaches and a great bunch of girls that work hard and are passionate about the club."

Left back Newman joins from Crawley Wasps, having previously played for Keynsham Town. She has also played for Dorset County,

Bristol Academy, and Northern Ireland at International level.

Newman said, "Dulwich appealed to me as the team are looking to push for promotion this year. The club has both the competitive side of football, with a culture which promotes the social side as well. The girls and the coaches are great and have made me feel at home already! I can't wait to see what this season brings and I'm looking forward to being a part of a club which is like a community and a family."

Former Cheltenham Town Ladies captain Sarah Walters, who plays in defence, also signs. An experienced centre back, Walters has represented Wales and also played for Cardiff City, QPR and Crystal Palace.

Walters said, “I’m excited to be returning to football with Dulwich Hamlet, after taking a break from playing last season. It’s a fantastic club with a great group of players and I’m looking forward to being a part of the promotion push towards the FA Women’s National League this season.”

With all three players bringing experience

He said, “I’m looking forward to having Sarah in the squad for fixtures. Sarah trained last season but had other commitments. She’s brought good leadership within the group and communicates very well.”

“As soon as Sophie became available she was my number 1 target. She’s proven that she can score goals at a higher level. She wants to score goals but also works hard and wants to learn and develop. It’s an area we needed to improve upon to help reach our goals and

targets of gaining promotion.”

“Alex will help bring balance to the squad as we only had one left-footed player. She has lots of experience playing at a higher level. She has a good game understanding and is a good defender.”

“All three fit into the club's ethos and values. They’re all good people and have fitted into the group very well. I’m looking forward to seeing them in the pink and blue!”



Ollie Jarman

Eastern Region Women's Football League unveils new branding



EASTERN REGION WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The Eastern Region Women's Football League have unveiled its new branding, crest, and colours.

In a statement the ERWF said: "We believe this is a positive step in the right direction as we continue to modernise our women's league to be able to meet the needs of our clubs, players, and wider audience.

"The Eastern Region Women's Football League is currently the springboard to the Women's National League, combining teams from 7 counties, the league currently sits at tiers 5 and 6 of the women's football pyramid.

"It was vital to the league that as we represent teams from across the different counties that each had their representation as a part of the logo, within the new logo we have included the region outline which is instantly recognisable to anyone from the East of England as well as communicating the size of our region.

The stars within the logo represent the volume of counties we represent within our league structure which are Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Huntingdonshire, and Hertfordshire.

"The diagonal stripes represent the forward movement and direction the league is constantly moving in to improve.

Finally the unified by pride slogan we believe typifies what we are trying to achieve as a league, with everyone working together to achieve the goals of improving the female game within our region, we believe when we continually manage to achieve these goals everyone collectively shares great pride.

"The Eastern Region Women's Football League are really excited by this movement and believe this alongside a change in our social media & marketing strategy will support the continuous improvement of our league, as we strive to improve the female game and the experience for all clubs, teams and participants within it."

Winners of the FA Women's and Girls' Football Awards surprised by Lionesses



The FA has announced the winners of The Women's and Girls' Football Participation Awards with surprise video calls to each from current and former England players Toni Duggan, Fran Kirby, Demi Stokes and Kelly Smith MBE.

The FA Women's and Girls' Football Participation Awards recognise the achievements of clubs, players, staff and the important work by volunteers at the grassroots level of the game. Two winners were selected for each category.

The winners from each award received surprise video calls from the famous faces to let them know the news and to thank them for their hard work and dedication in growing women's and girls' football participation.

The Winners

The Best Community Football Development Initiative Award

AFC Unity: Based in Sheffield, AFC United created its 'Solidarity Soccer' scheme which over the past 12 months has engaged 41 women aged between 16 and 58 and welcomes women of any experience and ability to play the game they love.



Bristol Rovers Community Trust: Over the past few years Bristol Rovers Community Trust has established a clear pathway for women and girls to play football, creating their 'Gas Girls' project which now has 420 participants aged between five and 45.



Representatives of both clubs were surprised with a video call from England forward Fran Kirby.

The Education Sector Award

Tyne Met College: The college created a pan disability football team with a key focus to ensure there was a strong female representation. In addition, Tyne Met College work with local Primary Schools to offer free taster football sessions and have also engaged 93 females in recreational football.



York House School: Offering dedicated curriculum time to football for girls from Reception to Year Eight, York House School also hosts an annual Girls Football Festival, driving participation from an early age.

England defender Demi Stokes surprised both unsuspecting winners.

The Unsung Hero Award

Gerry Ward: A volunteer at Gedling Southbank FC and key worker on the frontline during the Covid-19 pandemic, Gerry Ward led the club and its 34 teams return to football. Gerry also arranges fixtures for the Notts Girls and Ladies League ensuring 2,000 players can play football each week, he coaches the club's U18s and is the Referee & the Secretary of the Referee's Association.



Tina Hamilton: Formby Community FC was established by Tina Hamilton a year ago and in 12 months has grown to 28 teams for beginners through to experienced players, including 14 girls' teams and three women's teams. The club currently has over 200 female playing members aged from three years old to over 70.

Both Gerry and Tina were surprised with a video call from England forward Toni Duggan.

The Lifetime Achievement Award

Mike Edge: Mike has had a significant impact on the women's and girls' game over the past 20 years with a notable achievement setting up the East Riding County Women's League in 2003. He immediately took on the role as Secretary, which is a position he still holds to this day as a volunteer.



Val Hoyle: Val is in her 50th year at Rotherham United Women's Football Club (formerly Kilnhurst Ladies) and founded the club in 1969 aged 11 where she played for 30 years. Since then she has taken on the roles of coach and manager.

Former England player Kelly Smith MBE surprised Mike and Val, who have 70 years experience between them in growing the women's game.

Disney dream for Lionheart Betty-Leigh



Betty-Leigh Allinson's fundraising in a football shirt has earned her a call-up to The FA's Lionhearts squad as well as a trip to Disneyland Paris.

The five-year-old from Codicote in Hertfordshire has raised over £32,000 since July, when she decided to cycle a mile a day for Garden House Hospice Care, where her grandmother works.

It all started when a dream trip to Disneyland Paris which she was saving up for with her grandparents was cancelled during the COVID-19 lockdown.

She put forward the £7 she'd saved to start the fund before embarking on a different trip each day in a football shirt.

Her exploits saw more and more people supporting her with donations and it didn't

take long for a variety of clubs to send their own kits in for her to wear each day and she also received a message from former England captain David Beckham.

And she'll now have her own special England jersey to commemorate her inclusion in the Lionhearts squad, as she was told about her inclusion and presented with her framed shirt by former Three Lions and Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman.

He also told her that, she'll be able to enjoy a two-day trip to Disneyland Paris.

The Lionhearts initiative, supported by BT, aims to pay homage to 23 inspirational individuals who have gone above and beyond during this challenging time for the nation.

In the absence of international football this summer due to the postponement of UEFA EURO 2020, England's focus will instead be on building a squad of true heroes that have stepped up during our time of need.

Betty-Leigh received over 130 nominations, with one of those who put her name forward revealing: "Betty has only recently learnt how to ride her bike without stabilisers and for the last 55 days, she's done a mile a day on her bike raising over £27,000 for a hospice close to her home.

"She started the fund herself with the £7 that she saved to go to Disneyland Paris with her grandparents, which she had to miss because of lockdown.

"Football clubs from all over the UK have sent shirts to her so that she can wear a different one every day while she does her daily ride.

"Any weather she never moans she just gets on with the job. Her aim is to carry this on until lockdown is over and she is back to school. She's a little star."

Betty-Leigh takes shirt number five in our squad and is the fourth member of the Lionhearts to be revealed.

Lionhearts squad numbers so far:

1: Captain Sir Tom Moore

Record-breaking centenarian who raised more than £32 million for NHS Charities Together

5: Betty-Leigh Allinson

Five-year-old football shirt enthusiast who has raised over £32,000 for a Hertfordshire hospice through a cycling feat

9: 'Captain' Tobias Weller

Nine-year-old inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore to raise almost £150,000 for Sheffield-based charities

15: Hassan Akkad

Award-winning film maker who answered a call to be a cleaner in his local hospital before raising awareness of NHS bereavement fund



Simon Says



Copyright: Sandra Vanks Nantumbwe, USA College

With the pre-season still in partial lockdown, I took the time to speak with Sandra Vanks Nantumbwe about her career. This is her story...

"I was five-years-old when I started playing with the boys in my community and at my primary school. I was that kid with skills on a ball and very selfish when it comes to attacking. My aim was to carry the ball and dodge everyone until I scored.

"That's when I realized I am striker. I loved playing number 10 because I would get the ball from the midfield. I couldn't stay as a nine, I wasn't that patient by then.

"I started playing in organized football when I joined an Academy called Kampala Kids League (KKL). That's when I started playing with girls, but I saw myself as the best

because of the aggression I had from playing with the boys.

"I was raised by a single mom and she supported me a lot but my dad didn't buy the idea of me playing because he thought I was going to focus on football alone and quit my education which didn't make sense because the schools I was going to and playing for paid for my tuition.

"When my mom passed away, it was hard for me to play but I heard my coaches and players standing with me always. I wished my dad could be there by then to see how I played and where the game was taking me.

"One day I got an opportunity and joined the team that was going to play Norway Cup. We had a flag off on the TV and that's when my family members from my dad's and mom's side saw me and were impressed and surprised. That's the time I saw light in my future goals, I never felt like quitting in my life. Even though the hard situations came my way, but I didn't give up.

"My dad realised he had the strongest and passionate daughter and he started to support me and sometimes coming to watch my games.

My friends saw me as the luckiest person because of the way I was into boys' games and they were very

Simon Says

with the way I played.”

Talking to Sandra about who she supports, her passion shone through.

“I support Arsenal! That’s my dream team.

“Growing up I used to watch the Brazilian player Marta and she has inspired me a lot. It is due to her that my aim is to play professionally after graduating in 2021.

“Having my first National team call up was a great honour, I knew the best was yet to come and yes finally it happened because I worked hard for it.

“Waking early every morning at 5 am to go for a run, I had two friends Frank and Neymar that used to pick me up so we could run before the sunrise. I was very fresh and ready to go. I always pray to God to show me the right path through my football and the strength to love it more and encourage others to play.”

With her career growing from strength to strength, Sandra has some advice for young players.

“I always advise girls to never give up and try to strive for their goals, not to pay attention to all the negativity about them playing sports, being with a great attitude and training hard.

“Hard work beats talent when talent

fails to work hard.

At the end of the interview, I got Sandra to pick her five favourite women’s players:

Wendie Renard (Lyon/France): “I like the way she controls her defence in the National team.”

Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal/Netherlands): “She’s good at playing forward in Arsenal and has that ability to see the net.”

Christine Sinclair (Portland Thorns/Canada): “She has a beast mode.”

Megan Rapinoe (OL Reign/USA): “I like the way she shows her maturity while playing. She does unexpected things in her position.”

Samantha Kerr (Chelsea/Australia): “She never gives up even if her team is losing and I enjoy watching her play on the National team with her pace.”

Teams Sandra has played for include:

Kampala United FC, Gafford WFC, (Uganda) Pathorns Wanaich FC (Burundi), AS Kigali FC (Rwanda), Redlands women’s soccer (USA), Westcliff women’s soccer (USA)

CUPS



Lyon dominate once again

Daniela Porcelli / Sports Press Photo



By Hannah Clarke

The 10-month gap between fixtures, did not stop Lyon dominant Europe and lift their fifth successive Champions League trophy.

Arsenal were the only English team to remain in the competition after Manchester City were knocked out by Atletico Madrid in the round of 16. They narrowly missed out on a semi-final place after being beaten 2 – 1 by PSG. In the same round, Wolfsburg proved they were the ones to watch after thrashing Glasgow City 9 – 1.

The two semi-finals could not have been tighter with Lyon edging their French rivals 1 – 0 and Wolfsburg also getting one past Barcelona. But there was no stopping Lyon in the final. An excellent first half was enough to secure them the trophy once again. Their dominance continues after a 3 – 1 win saw them round off another untouchable season.

This is the story Wolfsburg seem to be getting used to in this competition. The Bundesliga

champions were twice winners, and they have now lost three finals and two quarter-finals to Lyon who have gone on to lift the trophy.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic this was an unusual match for France's Eugenie le Sommer who opened the scoring for Lyon, who signed from opponents Wolfsburg this summer. The Iceland international was eligible to receive medals as a winner and runner-up due to Uefa introducing this as a one-off rule.

The match finally brought the extended 2019-20 European season to an end for both men's and women's football, a day after England's top teams competed in the 2020-21 Community Shield fixtures. Who knows what next seasons women's Champions League will bring with the movement of a many big players rumoured, including England's Lucy Bronze. But the French side have proven they will not let their European dominance slip easily.



Community Shield:

Chelsea 2-0 Man City



Chelsea Women were the winners of the Community Shield on Saturday, August 29.

The game, which was the first held at Wembley and the first since 2008, saw the WSL winners take on 2018/19 FA Cup winners Manchester City.

The 2019/20 FA Cup campaign is yet to be completed.

A stunning strike from Millie Bright and a late finish from substitute Erin Cuthbert were enough to give Chelsea a solid win.

Chelsea's Sam Kerr had a game to forget, missing a number of key chances including hitting the side netting when she was clean on goal.

The game did not go Manchester City's way will Jill Scott being sent off just after the hour mark for a second bookable offence.

Speaking to BBC, Chelsea defender Millie Bright said: "I scored at City away and that

was pretty decent but scoring at Wembley is unbelievable. What a start because we are going for a lot of trophies this year.

"We were always confident. Both teams have new players but we focus on ourselves. It was tense.

"It was never in doubt that we would score but we were a little rusty in front of goal."

Chelsea midfielder Erin Cuthbert added: "I had a tough pre-season and I wasn't sure I would make the game.

"The medical staff got me back fit so the goal is for them. It is a shame there are no fans to run to and celebrate.

"We want to retain our title.

"We have recruited well. It is the small details. If everyone goes 1% up we can compete again."

Women's FA Cup 2020/21

Dates announced



The Football Association has announced the details of the 2020/21 Women's FA Cup.

This season's tournament has yet to be finalised, with the final scheduled in for 31st October 2020 but details for the next tournament have already been released.

A total of 376 clubs have been accepted into the 2020/21 campaign.

The competition will begin with the extra preliminary round, which is scheduled to take place on Sunday 6 September 2020 with the Final planned in for Saturday 22 May at Wembley Stadium.

Clubs from the Barclays FA Women's Super League and the FA Women's Championship will be exempt until the fourth round proper stage.

The draw for the extra preliminary round and preliminary rounds was released on Friday 21 August.

Extra preliminary round results

Games played Sunday, September 6

Boro Rangers	0-1	Workington Reds	Notts County	4-4 3-2pens	Lincoln United
Birtley Town	0-3	Bishop Auckland	AFC Leicester	0-5	Woodlands FC
Stanwix	0-6	South Shields	Sherwood	WO	HBW United
Wallsend BC	6-1	Hartlepool United	Rise Park	3-0	Ashfordby Amateurs
Gateshead Leam Rangers	1-3	CLS Amazons	Dronfield Town	2-1	Arnold Eagles
Appleby Frodingham	4-3	South Cave Sporting Club	Arnold Town	WO	Allexton and New Parks
Harworth Colliery	6-1	Silsden AFC	Beaumont Park	6-2	Groby
Wakefield Trinity	5-0	Hepworth United	Coalville Town	2-7	Oadby and Wigston
Harrogate Town	3-1	Farsley Celtic	Darlaston Town (1874)	2-6	Shifnal Town
Yorkshire Amateurs	P-P	Altofts	Kingfisher	0-3	Knowle
Rotherham United	3-3 3-0 pens	Oughtibridge War Memorial	Sutton Coldfield Town	5-0	Coventrians
Crewe Alexandra	1-0	west Didsbury and Chorlton	Westfields	3-2	Leamington Lions
Tranmere Rovers	2-3	Fleetwood Town Wrens	Shrewsbury Juniors	0-5	Lye Town
Cheadle Town Stingers	5-1	Chester	Coventry Sphinx	3-0	Sandwell
Curzon Ashton	7-2	Haslingden	Tamworth	8-0	Doveridge
Merseyrail	5-0	Mossley AFC	Solihull Sporting	1-4	Kidderminster Harriers
Didsbury	1-2	Northwich Vixens	Cookley Sports	2-1	Coundon Court
FC United of Manchester	13-0	West Kirby	Hereford Pegasus	1-0	Rugby Borough
Mossley Hill	P-P	Ashton United	Stourbridge	8-0	Port Vale
AFC Darwin	9-0	Nelson FC	Walsall Wood	0-6	Redditch United
Grimsby	WO	Pride Park	Tamworth Academy	0-15	Worcester City

Extra preliminary round results

Balls to Cancer	1-9	Stockingford AA Pavilion	Banbury United	1-2	Swindon Supermarine
Rugby Town	2-6	Sedgley and Gornal United	Woodley United	5-2	Wargrave
St Ives Town	12-0	Hartham United	Royal Wootton Bassett	1-1 7-6pens	Brentford
Newmarket Town	3-3 4-2pens	Wymondham Town	Wycombe Wanderers	4-0	Oxford City
Whittlesey Athletic	1-3	Peterborough United	Eastbourne United	0-1	Pagham
Wroxham	10-0	Kettering Town	Baldshot Lea	7-3	Oakwood
Bedford	12-0	Corby Town	Walton Casuals	4-0	AFC Littlehampton
Henley Athletic	4-4 5-4pens	March Town	Mole Valley	0-11	AFC Acorns
Northampton Town	5-0	Haverhill Rovers	Roffey	1-4	Chichester City
Aylesford	1-3	Ashford	Seaford Town	1-1 3-1pens	Newhaven
Herne Bay	6-1	Whyteleafe	Burgess Hill Town	0-10	Saltdean United
Dulwich Hamlet	4-2	Margate	AFC Stoneham	10-0	Merley Cobham Sports
New London Lionesses	0-2	Parkwood	Eastleigh in the Community	1-10	AFC Bournemouth
Hastings United	0-6	Hackney	Bournemouth Sports	21-0	Redlands
Tunbridge Wells Foresters	1-1 5-4pens	Ramsgate	Alton	13-0	Meon Milton
Runwell Sports	0-6	Harlow Town	Longwell Green	2-2 6-5pens	Paulton Rovers
Rayleigh Town	WO	Hoddesdon Town	FC Chippenham	0-6	Oldland Abbotonians
Chelmsford City	3-2	Frontiers	Bristol Ladies Union	1-1 4-2pens	Middleszoy Rovers
Colney Heath	2-1	Herts Vipers	Downend Flyers	1-2	AEK-Boco
Hemel Hempstead	1-3	Garston Ladies	Bristol Rovers	6-0	Bristol & West
Abingdon Town	0-4	Abingdon United	Banwell	0-10	Ilminster Town
St Agnes AFC	0-1	Saltash United	AFC St Austell	7-0	Feniton
Marine Academy Plymouth	21-0	Ottery St Mary			

Preliminary round fixtures

Games to be played Sunday, September 20 (2pm KO)

Lumley	vs	Spennymoor Town	SK Vipers	vs	Warrington Wolves Foundation
South Shields	vs	Gateshead Rutherford	Crewe Alexandra	vs	Accrington Stanley Community Trust
Blyth Town	vs	Guisborough Town	Leicester City	vs	Oakham United
Washington	vs	Alnwick Town	Woodlands	vs	Oadby and Wigston
Sunderland West End	vs	Carlisle United	St Joseph's Rockware of Workop	vs	Lincoln Moorlands Railway
Durham United	vs	Workington Reds	Grimsby Town	vs	Ollerton Town
CLS Amazons	vs	Penrith	Cleethorpes Town	vs	Dronfield Town
Hartlepool Pools Youth	vs	Wallsend BC	Beaumont Park	vs	Grimbsy Borough
Redcar Town	vs	Bishop Auckland	Rise Park	vs	Allexton and New Parks
Thackley AFC	vs	Ripon City	Belper Town	vs	Sherwood
Hull United	vs	Millmoor Juniors	Nottingham Trent	vs	Lincoln United
Bradford Park Avenue	vs	Ossett United	Westfields	vs	Worcester City
Sheffield Wednesday	vs	Harworth Colliery	Stockingford AA Pavillion	vs	Droitwich Spa
Farsley Celtic Juniors	vs	Harrogate Town	AFC Telford	vs	Knowle
Brighouse Sports	vs	Appleby Frodingham	Cookley Sports	vs	Sedgley and Gornal
York City	vs	Rotherham United	Tamworth	vs	Solihull Ladies United
Yorkshire Amateurs or	vs	Wakefield Trinity	Hereford Pegasus	vs	Coventry Sphinx
Curzon Ashton	vs	Blackburn Community	Kiddiminster Harriers	vs	Crusaders
Morecambe	vs	Salford City Lionesses	Lye Town	vs	Sutton Coldfield Town
Rylands	vs	Fleetwood Town Wrens	Stourbridge	vs	Wryley
AFC Darwen	vs	Sir Tom Finney LFC	Shifnal Town	vs	Redditch United
FC United of Manchester	vs	Ashton Town Ladies	Desborough	vs	Netherton United
Altrincham	vs	Norwich Vixens	Peterborough United	vs	Royston Town
Mossley Hill or Ashton	vs	Wythenshawe Amateurs	Waveney	vs	Brett Vale
Merseyrail	vs	Cheadle Town Stingers	AFC Sudbury	vs	Needham Market

Preliminary round fixtures

Peterborough Northern	vs	March Town	Steyping Town Community	vs	Worthing
Histon	vs	St Ives Town	Seaford Town	vs	Badshot Lea
Bedford	vs	Northampton Town	AFC Acorns	vs	Lancing
King's Lynn Town	vs	Wroxham	Chichester City	vs	Eastbourne Town
Bungay Town	vs	Newmarket Town	Woking	vs	Godalming Town
Bexhill United	vs	Sutton United	Pagham	vs	Dorking Wanderers
Regents Park Rangers	vs	Phoenix Sports	Walton Casuals	vs	Saltdean United
Haringey Borough	vs	Fulham	Sherbourne Town	vs	Redlands
Comets	vs	Herne Bay	Alton Ladies	vs	AFC Stoneham
Millwall Lionesses	vs	New London Lionesses	Shanklin	vs	Moneyfields
Islington Borough	vs	Ashford	New Milton Town	vs	Winchester City Flyers
Dartford	vs	Ramsgate	United Services Ports-	vs	AFC Bournemouth
Hackney	vs	Dulwich Hamlet	Pen Mill	vs	Ilminster
Southend United Community	vs	Houghton Athletic	Weston Super Mare	vs	Portishead Town
Wodson Park	vs	Watford	Middlezoy Rovers	vs	Bishops Lydeard
Chelmsford City	vs	Leigh Ramblers	Oldland Abbotonians	vs	Almondsbury
Rayleigh Town	vs	Luton Town	Chipping Sodbury Town	vs	Bristol Rovers
Bowers and Pitsea	vs	Garston Ladies	AEK-Boco	vs	Paulton Rovers
Colney Heath	vs	Harlow Town	Helston Athletic	vs	Saltash United
Denham United	vs	Queen's Park Rangers	Callington Town	vs	Bideford
Ascot United	vs	Swindon Supermarine	Torquay United	vs	RNAS Culdrose
Brentford	vs	Ashford Town (Middx)	AFC St Austell	vs	Marine Academy Plymouth
Wycombe Wanderers	vs	Eversley and California	Abingdon United	vs	Newbury Ladies
Tilehurst Panthers	vs	Slough Town	Woodley United	vs	Milton United



THE WOMEN'S FA CUP ROUND DATES 2020/21

Extra Preliminary

Round: Sunday 6

September 2020

Preliminary Round:

Sunday 20 September 2020

First Round Qualifying:

Sunday 4 October 2020

Second Round

Qualifying:

Sunday 18 October 2020

Third Round Qualifying:

Sunday 1 November 2020

First Round Proper:

Sunday 15 November 2020

Second Round Proper:

Sunday 29 November 2020

Third Round Proper:

Sunday 10 January 2021

Fourth Round Proper:

Sunday 31 January 2021

Fifth Round Proper:

Sunday 28 February 2021

Quarter Final:

Sunday 21 March 2021

Semi Final:

Sunday 18 April 2021

Final:

Saturday 22 May 2021

HOME NATIONS



SARINA WIEGMAN

After months of hypothetical shortlists and speculation, the FA unveiled Sarina Wiegman as the person to succeed Phil Neville as the new England manager. The 50-year-old will take the Lionesses hot seat following the conclusion of the Netherlands' Olympic campaign in September 2021.

Wiegman and England are a match made in heaven. With the facilities, finances and class of player that the Lionesses now have at their disposal, the country's top job has become one of the most desirable posts in world football. The 142 applicants received were a far cry from when Phil Neville was effectively given the job two and a half years earlier.

It is a testament to Wiegman's quality that she was deemed the woman capable of guiding England through four of the most important years in their history, but it is a testament to the force in the women's game that the Lionesses have become that they were able to attract a manager of her calibre.

The former Dutch international is a European Championship winning manager, a World Cup

finalist and a recipient of the Best Fifa Women's Coach award. Since taking permanent charge of the Netherlands in 2017, she has transformed them from a team who had never won a World Cup knockout match to one of the globe's most exciting sides.

But when discussing what gave Wiegman the edge, Director of Women's Football Baroness Sue Campbell looked beyond her glittering CV and outlined two personality traits that had shone through.

"Number one: Sarina is a people person," said Campbell. "She's a PE teacher and a coach. She's easy to talk to. To Sarina, people matter. The second attribute is Serena is steely: she's a winner. She has proven she can stand toe to toe with the very best in the world technically and tactically."

“I’m very happy and honoured to be part of this team”

The admiration Campbell has for Wiegman is mutual.

"I was triggered when I started talking to Sue actually," explained Wiegman. "When I got in touch with Sue we got on the same level very quickly. She's a PE teacher too; we talked about people and about the game and the involvement we have. We got on the same page very quickly."

The FA were thrilled to land their number one choice, while Wiegman was enthusiastic and humbled by the opportunity. She acknowledged that earlier in her career she could not have foreseen even being able to be coach as a full time job, let alone work overseas in one of the most illustrious roles in world football.

"I love my job," said Wiegman. "10 years ago there was no opportunity for me to be a professional coach and look where I am right now: with the England team. That's a world class team and a world class situation I'm in and I'm very happy and honoured that I can be part of that and I can bring my experience and knowledge to the team."

"I love the game: I have the nicest job you can think of."

And when you work with really talented players and people that are very ambitious, that's what I like very much.

"When I started coaching I would not think that this would be an opportunity so I'm really happy that I'll get the opportunity to coach abroad."

The 50-year-old will have to hit the ground running, with a European Championships on home soil awaiting just 10 months into her reign. But Wiegman has previous with such an occasion, having guided host nation Holland to European Championship glory in 2017 - and she had only been in the job permanently for seven months.

Euro 2022 is one of potentially three major tournaments on the horizon for England in the space of four years. The World Cup in Australia and New Zealand takes place in 2023, followed by the 2025 European Championships.

For Wiegman, the pressures of coaching a host nation at the Euros and the intense major tournament schedule only made the job more appealing.

"I went through that process (of being hosts at the Euros) with the national team of the Netherlands," she said. "I have the experience of what it does in the country, what challenges you have and of course the opportunities it gives.

"That's the part of your job that makes it so exciting: playing



tournaments. Most people don't see what you do to get there. It's a lot of effort, it's a lot of hard work, a lot of choices you have to make for the players but when the tournament starts and hopefully with good results that's what you're doing it for."

Wiegman is credited for the boom in women's football in the Netherlands, with their Euro 2017 triumph triggering the country's love affair with the sport. Since, the players have become household names, international fixtures in sizeable stadiums are routinely sold out and the Dutch were one of the best supported sides at the 2019 World Cup, with stadiums in France awash with fans decked in their infectious orange.

"Of course winning helps but we got the people so enthusiastic because we were open, because we were working hard, we were close to the fans, we behave normal with respect to other people," explained Wiegman.

"Work hard, respect each other and play the best game you can play and that's all we can ask. It sounds easy, but that's hard work."

By reaching major tournament finals and winning silverware, Holland have achieved what England have been striving to do, but have consistently fallen just short of, over the past five years. While the Lionesses have lost three consecutive major

tournament semi finals since 2015, the Netherlands have won the 2017 Euros and reached the 2019 World Cup final.

Wiegman explained it was a mentality shift that swiftly transformed her Holland side into serial winners.

"We needed to go through the roof - we call it the roof - that we can win and we can beat top countries while others were saying 'oh this player's so good from that country'," she said.

"I told them: 'well they're good but they must be really lucky to play with you because you're really good too'. And then you need a win against a very good team, and that's what happened in those months before the Euros; everyone started to believe we could do really well."

Having made a habit of coming so near yet so far, England will be hopeful that this winning mentality can be instilled in them, enabling the Lionesses to finally get over the line.

Although Wiegman admitted that she and the FA had agreed a series of performance targets, she insisted that she will not be deemed a success or failure purely based whether the Lionesses win an international tournament, such is the volatile and unpredictable nature of sport.

"England has a very good team, they have such a good team that we can win tournaments," Wiegman said. "But you always have to deal with things you can't control. But everything that's in our control we will influence in a good way.

"But you also have to deal with other countries who are developing very much too. That's the really nice thing about sports - you cannot say that we're gonna win this, we're gonna win that. You have a dream, you have ambition, and that's what you're going for.

"It depends on how you play. Did we play the best game we can play? That's the question for me."



England to face Germany in Autumn International



The Lionesses are getting ready to return to action with confirmation of an autumn fixture away to Germany on Tuesday 27 October.

England, who have not played since the SheBelieves Cup in the United States back in March, will head to Wiesbaden to take on the two-time World Cup winners at the Brita Arena.

Before then, Phil Neville will gather his players for a training camp from 15-21 September at St. George's Park – allowing the squad to come together as a group for the first time in seven months.

The fixture follows Germany's trip to England last November when a record 77,768 crowd at Wembley saw the visitors secure a 2-1 victory.

In contrast, supporters are unable to attend UEFA international fixtures in September due to COVID-19 restrictions, with Germany also confirming October's game will be played behind closed doors.

Head coach Phil Neville said: "I know the players are so hungry to pull on an England shirt again and this is a good test to see where we are early in the new season against strong opposition. Germany away is a tough challenge but we know what we are capable of producing. I'm sure the players are excited about testing themselves against one of the best teams in the world.

"Next year is going to be a vital one for the players ahead of some major international tournaments in quick succession. While you can never fully replicate the pressure of a major finals, I know my squad will take a lot from the experience and I am sure the fans will be relishing the chance to see us play again – even if unfortunately it has to be on television."

England Women to receive equal pay



The Football Association have announced that England's men and women's international teams are to receive equal pay.

They revealed that the two teams had been equally paid since January.

England's players are understood to receive a match fee of about £2,000, which is donated to charity by all the men and some women.

Despite the equal pay committed to by the FA, the money England's male and female players can earn from major tournaments differs enormously because of the gender disparity in prize money offered by Fifa and Uefa.

Had England won the women's World Cup last year the players would have received £50,000 each in FA bonuses. By contrast, the men would have got £217,000 apiece for winning the 2018 World Cup.

The bonuses are paid out of the Fifa prize fund. Whereas the French FA got \$38m in prize money for its team's triumph at the 2018 World Cup, the US Soccer federation received only \$4m for winning the 2019 women's competition. In total, Fifa awarded \$30m to the competing women's teams and \$400m to the men.

England's female players will have received equal match and bonus pay from the FA for the first time in March at the SheBelieves Cup in the US. They are also on central, FA-funded contracts on top of club salaries. This covers about 30 players, with the majority paid about £30,000 in a tiered system that starts at £15,000 and reflects age and seniority.

A statement read: "The FA pays its women's players exactly the same as their male counterparts for representing England, both in terms of match fees and match bonuses.

"This parity has been in place since January 2020."

England join Brazil, Australia, Norway and New Zealand as the footballing nations to offer equal pay.

Last year, current World Cup champions USA sued their federation, alleging discrimination over pay and conditions.

Their case was dismissed by a judge.

SBS Scottish Women's Premier League to be streamed live



The SBS Scottish Women's Premier League matches are set to be live streamed via BBC Sport Online for the 2020/21 season.

Scottish Women's Football has announced a new partnership with BBC Scotland which will see one SWPL 2 match live-streamed every Sunday.

This follows the recent announcement that the senior women's game, the SBS SWPL and the Championship, will return on Sunday 18th October pending government guidance.

The SWF also confirmed an enhanced broadcast deal with BBC ALBA which will double the number of matches being broadcast live over the 2020/21 season.

SWF Chair, Vivienne MacLaren, said: "We are delighted to have secured this partnership with BBC Sport Scotland.

"This additional coverage will complement the existing broadcast commitment from BBC ALBA to ensure that women's football in Scotland is visible and has a national platform to showcase the very best of the game.

"Interest in our game was at an all-time high prior to lockdown and it's important that we maintain that momentum by growing an audience for women's football.

"The BBC Scotland agreement will undoubtedly help us to achieve this."

Arnott joins Rangers



Rangers Women have announced the signing of 24-year-old Scotland international Lizzie Arnot from Manchester United.

The forward, who has 32 caps for her country, previously played for Hibernian before joining United for a two-year spell.

RFC Women's and Girls' manager, Amy McDonald told rangers.co.uk: "We are thrilled to be bringing a player of the quality of Lizzie Arnot to the football club.

"This really underlines our commitment to be the best women's football team in Scotland, and adding a player like Lizzie with her international and WSL experience will help us to reach our goal at an earlier opportunity."

Arnot added: "I'm really excited and it is such an exciting time to be a part of the club.

"You look at the investment they are putting in, and it is great for the women's game and to be a part of a professional club in Scotland is great.

"When I found out it could be an option, I was really excited by it and thought it would be nice to return to Scotland and be part of what is a really big project."





Foster promoted to elite list of referees



Former Wales international forward Cheryl Foster has been promoted to the Uefa's elite list, making her one of the top match officials in Europe.

The Former Liverpool, Bangor City and Doncaster Rovers Belles forward began refereeing in 2013 after retiring from her playing career.

In December 2015, she was named on Fifa's international list and just three years later she became the first woman to officiate in the Cymru Premier—Wales' top men's league.

Taking to Twitter after hearing the news, Foster said: "Thank you for all the kind messages and to those who have supported me through this crazy journey.

"Shocked is an understatement with the season we have all just encountered as officials, players and supporters but here's to the new season!

"Immensely proud to flying the Welsh flag."

Cardiff City FC make four signings



Cardiff City have made four new signings ahead of the Orchard Welsh Premier Women's League.

Welsh international goalkeeper Claire Skinner re-joins the club from local rivals Cardiff City Ladies.

She told the official website: "I'm excited to comeback to a club full of potential to hopefully help us challenge in the league. To play in the Champions League is a dream, and I'm going to try my best to help Cardiff City FC Women to get there."

Goalkeeper Charlotte Hastings also joins the club, signing from Abergavenny.

She added: "In all my years of playing football, I never thought that I would get the opportunity to play for such a huge club like Cardiff City."

The other two signings see attacking midfielder Phoebe Poole join from Barry Town while winger Sydney Tiiman comes to the club from Eckerd College,, Florida.

The retained list includes: Ceryn Chamberlain, Lisa Owen, Hannah Daley, Siobhan Walsh, Sophie Norman, Kate Jeremiah, Kanisha Underdown, Alana Murphy, Danielle Broadhurst, Danielle Green, Ellie Cartwright, Amelia Forkings, Jasmine Simpson, Daisy Connolly, Catherine Walsh, Zoe Atkins, Cerys Pinchard.

Manager Iain Darbyshire told the website: "We are extremely happy that we were able to keep the majority of our 2019/20 squad together and build on what we achieved last season. I feel that we will be in a very strong position to challenge for cups and titles in the 2020/21 season.

"All of the signings that we have made are fantastic footballers. I feel we have strengthened key areas on the pitch, defensively and offensively, whilst also adding a blend of youth into our squad."





Sion Swifts secure McGuinness from Linfield Ladies

By Joshua Bunting

Sion Swifts have secured a major coup as they have completed the signing of Linfield Ladies captain Kirsty McGuinness ahead of the new Danske Bank Women's Premiership season.

The Swifts finished runners up to Linfield in last seasons title race as it went all the way to wire with the Blues picking up a 10-0 final day victory at Derry City to clinch their fourth successive title.

One of Irish footballs finest stars McGuinness netted 27 times on the way to clinching the league last season with the Blues.

In 2009, as a 15-year-old, she scored on her debut for the Northern Ireland's international team against Norway at Mourneview Park.

In 2012 the winger crossed the Belfast Big Two divide by joining Linfield's Belfast rivals Glentoran Belfast United and helped them win the Women's Premiership and IFA Women's Challenge Cup in her first season.

Since re-joining Linfield after a season at the Oval, she has helped them win four titles in a row as well as scoring in the Champions League.

Joining McGuinness at Sion Swifts is younger sister Caitlin, who is also leaving Windsor Park.

Aged 17, Caitlin scored 19 goals in her first full season in the Women's Premiership for the Blues.

The youngster scored her first senior Linfield goal in a 5-0 League win against Cliftonville at New Midgley Park in May 2019 and has also won her senior Northern Ireland debut against Norway in the UEFA Euro 2021 qualifier in November.

The new 10-game season, shortened due to the Covid-19 pandemic, begins on August 26 and ends on November 11.

A Linfield Ladies statement read "Linfield Ladies players Kirsty McGuinness and sister Caitlin have today left the club to join Strabane based Sion Swifts Ladies ahead of the start of a reduced Women's season. Kirsty over many seasons and latterly Caitlin have been terrific servants of the club and are outstanding talents. Whilst disappointed to lose both players we thank them for their contributions and wish them well as they seek new challenges. "

Both players could make their debut on the opening day of the season as Sion Swifts travel to Derry City for a north west derby on August 26.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS



THE **WOMEN'S**
FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE

Costa Rica to host U20 WWC solo as Panama pull out



Panama have announced their decision to pull out of the co-hosting the U20 Women's World Cup in January.

They were set to co-host alongside Costa Rica but have made the decision in context of the crisis caused by Covid-19.

In a statement they said: "The National Government confirmed the formal decline of Panama as the venue for the XXIV Central American and Caribbean Sports Games 2022 and the U-20 Women's World Cup .

"It was very difficult for us, but impossible to have all the necessary infrastructure."

The rescheduled tournament will be held between January 20 and February 6, 2021.

Costa Rica has responded to the news by announcing their "willingness" to singularly host the tournament.

The Costa Rican Organising Committee said in a statement that they are "ready to host the entire tournament."

"Costa Rica has the organization, human resources, sports infrastructure, logistics, technology and accommodation to serve with excellence all the delegations and other activities that the World Cup demands.

"Fortunately, the organization of the tournament does not require public resources, since the resources come from FIFA and sponsors."

Around the World



NWSL Challenge Cup Best Bits and what now for the NWSL?



By Charlotte Stacey

The month long NWSL Challenge Cup brought all the drama, surprises and controversy needed to quench the thirst of starving football fans as the Houston Dash were crowned champions.

The knock-out tournament, which hosted eight of the nine current NWSL teams, kicked off on the 27th June with a clash between reigning NWSL champions North Carolina Courage and fellow top three side Portland Thorns.

The participating teams were as follows:

- Chicago Red Stars
- Houston Dash
- North Carolina Courage (NCC)
- OL Reign
- Portland Thorns
- Sky Blue
- Washington Spirit

- Utah Royals

A preliminary stage was then played, with each side playing four matches to determine the draw for latter knock-out stages.

The preliminaries saw big score lines from some, including a 3-3 zinger between the Utah Royals and Houston Dash, yet others struggled to get off the ground. The Thorns finishing at the bottom of the table, perhaps the biggest shock heading into the next round.

Then knock-out rounds too brought upset when, in their second meeting of the tournament, the pole positioned NCC were beaten by the Thorns in the opener of the quarter-finals. What then followed was a first for the NWSL; three consecutive matches decided on penalty shootouts. Prior to this, there had only ever been one penalty shootout in the league's history.

Further surprises followed as top of the table teams were one by one knocked out, leading to an unpredicted final between

Chicago Red Stars and Houston Dash. The Red Stars had the previous playoff experience that could've taken them all the way, however, in the end, they were no match for the raging momentum of the Dash and Houston arose triumphant in a 2-0 win.

Best Bits

Lindsey Horan's Diving Header

There were a few goals to choose from that could have been named "goal of the tournament", and Thorn's midfielder Lindsey Horan's diving header against Washington Spirit was most definitely a contender. Horan perfectly timed her run to meet Meghan Klingenberg's set piece from outside of the area. Masterfully, Horan headed the ball into the top-right hand corner, leaping forward as she did so, leaving keeper, Aubrey Bledsoe, with absolutely no chance.

Captain Daly – golden boot

Rachel Daly was named as one of Houston Dash's captains ahead of the tournament and she certainly stepped up to the plate. Daly's leadership was a driving force throughout Houston's campaign, her impassioned speeches and on-field mentality greatly impacted the spirit of the Dash and, her now infamous "circle", did not break. Aside from lifting the trophy, Daly also won the Golden Boot with three goals and two assists.

Kailen Sheridan's Big Saves

The Challenge Cup boasted some quality goalkeeping from the off, however Sky Blue's Kailen Sheridan pulled off some of the most spectacular stops of the tournament. Sheridan's skill in utilising her mobility, using her whole body to get the job done was what set her apart from the rest. Her footed saves were notable in keeping out ground sweeping strikes, proving that she is just as good with her feet as she is with her hands.

Chicago's Defence

The Red Stars defensive line stood out as being, arguably, the most proficient of the tournament. Julie Ertz, Casey Short and Bianca St. Georges stood tall providing not only stellar defensive work, but inciting runs and creative playmaking from the back that took Chicago all the way to the final.

The Dash Emerge Victorious

The Dash were not the expected winners, in fact, going into the competition, there was little to consider them a major threat at all. Throughout the competition, the Dash were not always the most thrilling side, nor did they dominate the competition. But their bold attitude, unwavering spirit and squad togetherness deservedly led them to their first title, and it was a spectacle that rather marvellous to watch indeed.

Mass Exodus

As the Challenge Cup concluded there was huge uncertainties surrounding the future of the NWSL, with no immediate plans for any further football to be played until next year's season.

With this in mind, many players have taken the opportunity to move overseas in order to get themselves all important game time.

USWNT players Sam Mewis and Rose Lavelle have both signed with WSL side Manchester City. Jess Fishlock and Alanna Kennedy have also signed for Reading and Tottenham Hotspur respectively, with further transfers to the WSL rumoured.

Outside of the WSL, Orlando Pride's Emily Sonnett has joined Damallsvenskan side Kopparbergs/Göteborg FC and Jade Moore has been loaned to Atlético Madrid. OL Reign's Jodie Taylor has also joined to Olympique Lyonnais on a short-term loan, and it looks as if plenty of other players will be looking to follow suit.



News from around the world



American colleges suspend women's football indefinitely

Multiple American colleges have suspended women's football indefinitely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Two big playing conferences—the Big Ten and the Pac-12—announced that they don't want to risk the health of their players.

They join a list of ten other Division I conferences to postpone women's football including the Ivy League, Southwestern, Metro Atlantic, America East, Atlantic 10, Patriot League, Big West, Mid-American, Summit League and Mountain West conferences.

As a result, Stanford's Women's Soccer team will be unable to defend their 2019 NCAA Championship title.

Moore joins Atletico Madrid

England international midfielder Jade Moore has joined Atletico Madrid on loan until February 2021.

The 29-year-old, who has over 50 Lioness caps, currently plays for Orlando Pride after joining from Reading in April.

Moore was unable to play in the NWSL Challenge Cup after Pride withdrew from the tournament due to several players testing positive for Covid-19.

The Lioness took to Twitter to say: "Looking forward to getting started again. Excited to start a new chapter at such a huge club."

Fellow Lioness Toni Duggan and Three Lions player Kieran Trippier, who both play for Atletico also took to Twitter to share their excitement of a fellow England player joining the club.



Sonnett leaves Orlando Pride for loan deal

Emily Sonnett has joined Swedish club Kopparbergs/Göteborg FC.

The 26-year-old USA defender was the No. 1 draft pick for Portland Thorns in 2016 and has also spent time in the W-League with Sydney FC.

The loan deal will see Sonnett play in the Damallsvenskan until November 2020 when the league enters its midway break.

Fellow Pride defender Ali Riley is also in Sweden, on loan with second place FC Rosengård.



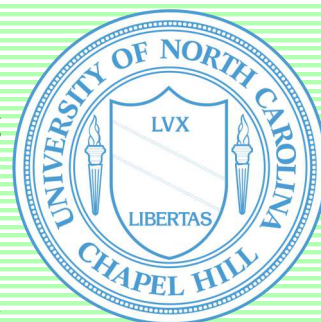
News from around the world

Russo announces she is leaving UNC

UNC and England Lioness Alessia Russo has announced she will be leaving UNC due to the uncertainty of the upcoming season.

Russo has been at Chapel Hill for three years and took to social media to say: "I never thought my senior year would end like this. This place is so special. Moving here in 2017 to play for one of the most successful programs in history and to study at which a prestigious university was by far the best decision I ever made.

"The memories and friendships I have made will last a lifetime."



NATIONAL WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

NWSL fall series announced

The NWSL have announced that the 2020 season will resume in September.

The news comes following the success of the Challenge Cup and will see 18 matches played over the space of seven weeks, feature three, three-team pods that will all play one another and minimise travel.

"Building on the success of this summer's Challenge Cup, I am so excited to smartly and safely take this next step on the NWSL's journey," said NWSL Commissioner Lisa Baird.

The news came after numbers of NWSL players chose loan moves in Europe due to the lack of opportunities to play in the USA in 2020.

Brazil announce equal pay

Brazil's women's national players will be paid the same as male players, CBF have announced.

All players will be granted the same daily and prize amounts for taking part in preparation periods and games.

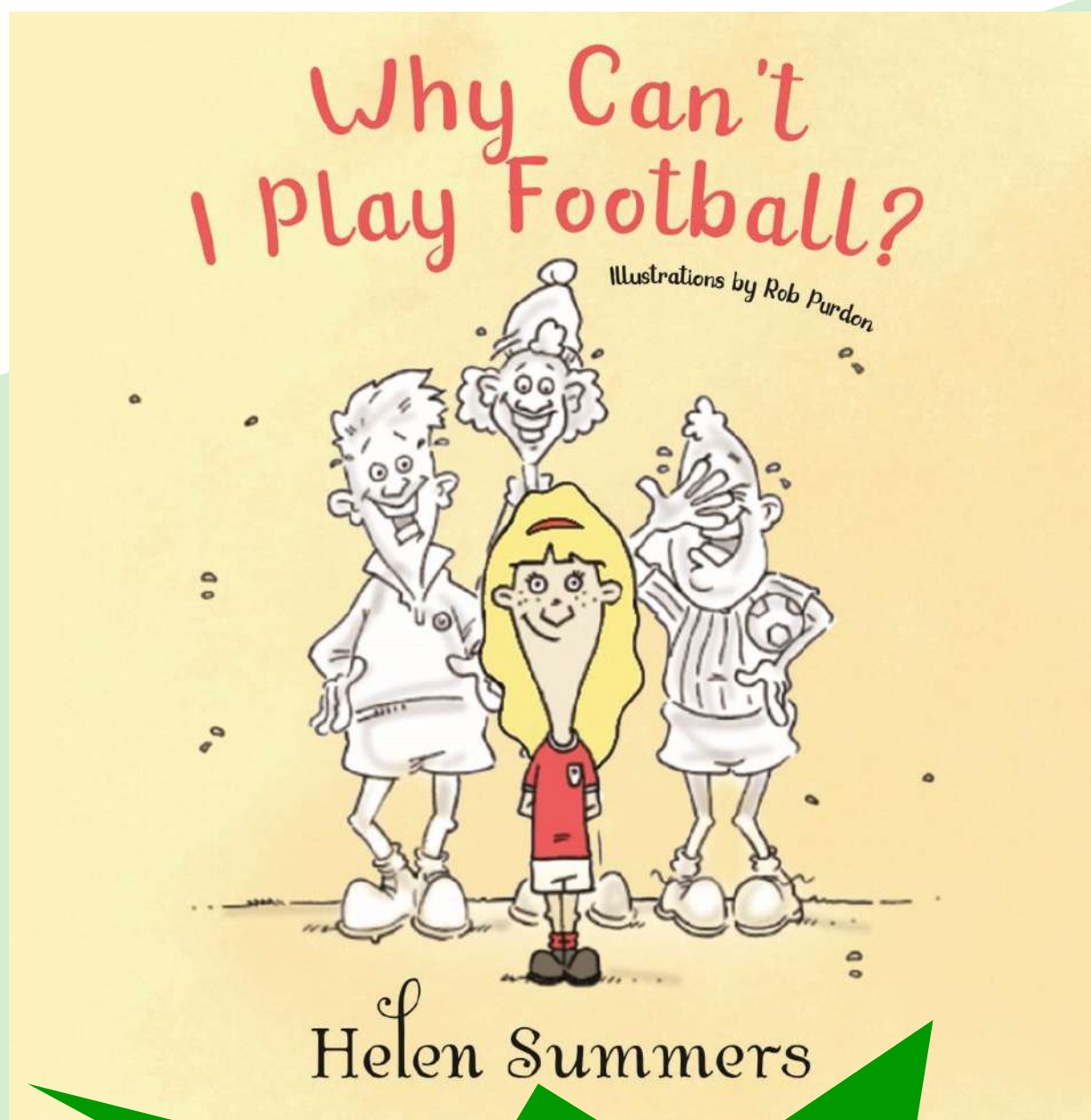
CBF president Rogerio Caboclo says the measures were put in place in March.

"Since March of this year, CBF has made an equal value in terms of prizes and daily rates between men's and women's football," he said.

"That is, the players earn the same thing as the players during the calls. What they receive by daily call, women also receive."



NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK OUT NOW



£5.99

Available at Amazon, Waterstones and
all good bookshops

**THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
MAGAZINE**