

# WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

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## CITY CELEBRATE

This month, we celebrate all things 50 with 50 years of the Women's FA Cup and Viv Miedema reaching half a century of goals in the WSL. Simon O'Neill is back with his latest interview, Marissa Thomas looks at the first five games of the WSL and we chat to Ellen White and Steph Houghton from the England camp.

# **THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE**



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# Welcome

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## Hello and welcome to Issue 43!

Hello everyone, welcome to our latest issue.

The issue was finished just hours after the FA Cup final, and what an epic final it turned out to be. It was certainly one of the closest finals we have had in years and as a neutral it was great to watch. You can read all about it later in the issue.

This month we have some exciting copy. Charlotte Stacey is here with part one of her A-Z of the WSL, Marissa Thomas looks at how teams are getting on after the first five games and Simon O'Neill interviews match official Julia Kings.

As usual we also have copy from all the leagues, grassroots, cups, the international break and so much more.

Issue 43 comes to you as England are set to go into a second lockdown so I would just like to say to everyone—stay safe, look after yourselves and your families and remember if you are struggling please talk to someone.

All direct messages on our social media channels are always open if you need to talk to someone, so please don't hesitate to use them if you are struggling. Talking helps, mental health matters.

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

Editor-in-Chief

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# WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



# How has every WSL team got on after five games?



## By Marissa Thomas

The Women's Super League (WSL) is in full flow and it is set to be one of the best seasons yet. Arsenal are top of the league while Bristol City are languishing at the bottom. How is each WSL team looking after five games?

### Arsenal

Joe Montemurro's side have a perfect record after five games with 29 goals scored. The Gunners have won all of the games they would be expected to win so far, with thrashings against Reading, West Ham, Brighton and Tottenham Hotspur. Bristol City were only beaten 3-1 by Arsenal and have given them the toughest game thus far. The main criticism of Arsenal so far is that they have just one clean sheet from their first five matches. Furthermore, having a

small squad which is prone to injuries will prove costly as the season goes on.

### Mark out of 10 so far: 9

### Aston Villa (played three games)

It has been a rude awakening to the top flight for Aston Villa. The newly promoted side are pointless after three games against Manchester City, Reading and Everton. They were thrashed 6-0 by Everton and have so far been unable to impose themselves on any of the matches they have played. One of their first team squad members tested positive for coronavirus and with several other players having come into close contact with the player, the Football Association agreed to postpone the club's next two fixtures. Their next match is against Brighton and a much-improved performance will be

required if they are to get off the mark in the WSL.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 2**

### **Birmingham City**

After losing three consecutive matches, Birmingham City have picked up six points from six with wins over Reading and Bristol City. It is the first time since 2018 that Birmingham have claimed back-to-back league wins and while it may have taken some time for Carla Ward to get her ideas across, the improvements are clear to see and there will be hope that another relegation threatened season is not on the horizon.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 5**

### **Brighton & Hove Albion**

Brighton have made an impressive start to the season so far with manager Hope Powell named Barclays Women's Super League manager of the month for September. Albion beat Birmingham City 2-0 and drew 0-0 with last season's runners-up Manchester City. They lost their next two matches before a 2-2 draw against Everton in which Kayleigh Green was not sent off for Brighton despite being shown two yellow cards. Brighton have the quality to trouble teams around them and should be looking to improve on two consecutive 9th placed finishes.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 4**

### **Bristol City (played four games)**

Another season of struggle is on the cards for a winless Bristol City. They have lost all four of their WSL games and have just one goal to their name. The 9-0 thrashing against Chelsea was a particular low point for Tanya Oxtoby's side but Bristol City have been under par overall and with Manchester City as their next opponents, things could get worse before they get better.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 1**

### **Chelsea (played four games)**

Since drawing with Manchester United in their opening match, defending champions Chelsea have won three consecutive games. They have



already defeated Man City, one of their main title rivals, as well as a 9-0 demolition of Bristol City where nine different goalscorers highlighted the depth in Emma Hayes' squad.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 7**

### Everton

Second in the league behind leaders Arsenal, Everton have been superb this term. The Toffees have multiple goalscorers who can share the load, a team that works well together, a driven manager and the desire to succeed. There is every chance that Willie Kirk's side can break into the established 'Big Three' of Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City if they keep up their stunning start to the season.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 8**

### Manchester City

An inconsistent set of results thus far has left Manchester City in fifth place, a position that is unfamiliar to them given the success they have experienced in recent years. Draws against Reading and Brighton as well as a defeat at the hands of Chelsea has seen Man City ensure an underwhelming start. There is plenty of time for things to change but Man City look vulnerable this season and their rivals will look to capitalise.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 6**

### Manchester United

Everton have the quality to challenge the 'Big Three' and so do Man United. Casey Stoney's side are joint second with the Toffees and have put in some sensational showings to date. Since drawing with Chelsea in their first match, Man United are on a four-game winning streak and they look unstoppable. The Red Devils have triumphed against Birmingham, Brighton, Tottenham and West Ham. American superstars Christen Press and Tobin Heath have added star quality to an already skilful side and they will be crucial in Man United's bid to better last season's fourth-placed finish.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 8**

### Reading

Reading bounced back from a heavy defeat

against Arsenal to win two consecutive games over Aston Villa and West Ham. The next result was a narrow defeat against Birmingham. A draw with Man City shows that Reading can compete against the top sides in the league on their day and if they can produce more consistent performances, a mid-table finish should be achievable.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 6**

### Tottenham Hotspur

Alex Morgan may be a superstar but by the time she makes an appearance for Tottenham it could already be too late. Spurs, like West Ham, have a solitary point to their name and have been unable to impose themselves on any of the games they have played. Spurs had an impressive debut campaign in the WSL but the second season is proving a lot harder than the first.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 2**

### West Ham United

Just one point after five games is an incredibly poor return for a talented West Ham side. Defeats at the hands of Arsenal, Everton, Manchester United and Reading have left the Hammers in the bottom three with no idea where their first three points of the season are going to come from. Another inconsistent season looks likely for a team that cannot maximise their obvious ability.

**Mark out of 10 so far: 2**





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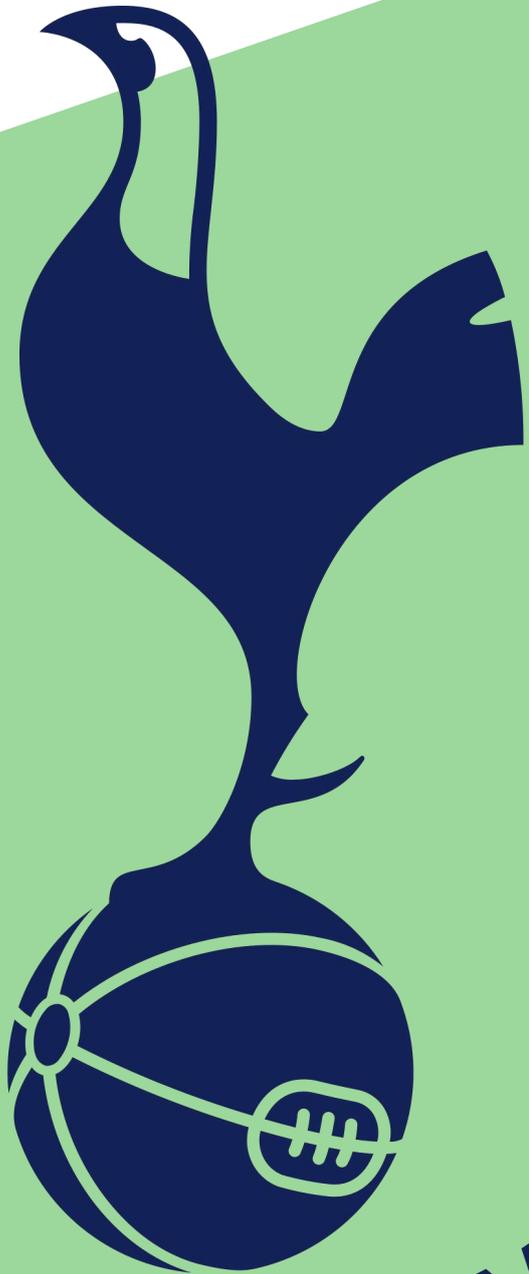
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# Karen Hills self-isolating after Covid-19 contact



Tottenham Hotspur joint head coach Karen Hills is self-isolating.

The Spurs coach has been forced to stay at home after coming into contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Despite having a negative test “in the last few days” she must self isolate for 14 days.

This means she will be forced to miss Spurs Continental League Cup tie at Chelsea on Tuesday, November 3.

Hills’ fellow joint head coach Juan Amoros will take charge of the side for the game.

Spurs are yet to win in the Super League this season.

The FA have been carrying out weekly Covid-19 tests in the Women’s Super League and the Women’s Championship.

Between October 19 and October 25, 699 tests were carried out, 10 returned positive.

**TOTTENHAM  
HOTSPUR**

# WSL September round-up



By **Bridget Lockwood**

October saw a busy month for many teams with league, cup and international matches for many players. Here is a round-up of the WSL action for the month.



## **Arsenal**

### **Results:**

Arsenal 3 – 1 Bristol City  
Brighton 0 – 5 Arsenal  
Arsenal 6 – 1 Tottenham

Arsenal found themselves a goal down in the sixth minute in their first game of the month against Bristol. A mistake at the back gave their opponents possession with a tame shot creeping past Zinsberger. The Gunners struggled to play with their usual flare and ease, but persistence paid off just before the whistle for half time when Nobbs went through on goal and calmly scored the equaliser. Foord scored Arsenal's second

putting them ahead with Miedema finishing the game after a clever finish with the outside of her foot.

A comfortable win as Arsenal faced Brighton, two goals from Miedema plus goals from van de Donk, Beattie and Wubben-Moy meant Arsenal maintained their 100% start to the season.

The Gunners faced Tottenham next, a dominant first half saw the reds score five goals with a hat-trick from Miedema. Miedema's hat-trick means she becomes the first player to score 50 goals in the WSL beating Nikita Parris' record of 49.

Tottenham had a chance to get a goal back, but Arsenal keeper Zinsberger saved Dean's penalty. Foord then grabbed her second to give Arsenal six. Lucia Leon headed in a late consolation for Tottenham.

**Table standings:** 1st

## Aston Villa



A tough month for the newly promoted side which saw them play one game and lose. Raso scored the first two for Everton, capitalising on a mistake from keeper Lisa Weiss to score the second. The goals kept coming for Everton as Emslie curled in the third and a diving header from Gauvin gave them the fourth. With Everton scoring two more goals to make the deficit six, Gemma Davies' side are still looking for their first win of the season. Aston Villa's game against Chelsea was postponed due to Covid-19.

### Results:

Aston Villa 0 - 6 Everton

**Table standings:** 11th

## Birmingham City



In City's first game of the month, they played Chelsea. An early goal from Kirby put Chelsea ahead with less than ten minutes played, but City did have chances to go level with a header Claudia Walker going just wide. Unfortunately, none of these were successfully converted leaving Birmingham with no points on the board.

Next, Birmingham faced Reading, the home side were dominant throughout having several chances on goal. If it wasn't for some superb keeping from Hannah Hampton in City's goal Reading could have been ahead by a few goals in the first half. Birmingham then stunned Reading as Claudia Walker scored against the run of play after finishing a cross from Sarah Mayling. Birmingham's winning streak

continued as they faced Bristol. Corsie scoring the first with a header and Green getting the second. Claudia Walker then curled in a beautiful shot for the third and Murray scoring the fourth from the penalty spot. However, the perfect game was tainted for Birmingham when in stoppage time Abbi Grant was sent off for her second bookable offence.

### Results:

Birmingham City 0 – 1 Chelsea

Reading 0 – 1 Birmingham City

Bristol City 0 – 4 Birmingham City

**Table standings:** 7th

## Brighton & Hove Albion



Some tough games for Brighton this month, the first against Manchester United. United started well scoring a penalty in the ninth minute, with two more goals coming later. The seagulls could have levelled just before half time, but this chance wasn't capitalised.

It was a strong start for Brighton as they face Arsenal at home. O'sullivan narrowly fired wide and Kaagman's shot forced a smart save from the Arsenal keeper Zinsberger. However, this good form stopped once Arsenal got their first goal when Miedema found the bottom corner from 20 yards out. After this Arsenal were unstoppable. An unusual game to watch as Brighton faced Everton, despite some nice play and two goals from both teams it will be remembered after Brighton forward Kayleigh Green was cautioned twice but not dismissed.

### Results:

Manchester United 3 – 0 Brighton & Hove Albion

Brighton & Hove Albion 0 – 5 Arsenal

Everton 2 – 2 Brighton & Hove Albion

**Table standings:** 8th

## Bristol City



Bristol found themselves ahead against Arsenal when Abi Harrison's tame shot found the corner form 20 yards. But Bristol could hold this early lead as Nobbs levelled just before half time. Foord and Miedema scored second and third which saw them with a comfortable win. Next Bristol faced Birmingham who won comfortable with four goals. Bristol have had a tough start to the season not gaining any points and conceding 20 goals.

### Results:

Arsenal 3 – 1 Bristol City

Bristol City 0 – 4 Birmingham City

**Table standings:** 12th

## Chelsea



Chelsea scored their first and only goal against Birmingham very early on in the game, Kirby headed in Cuthbert's free kick with only eight minutes being played. Emma Hayes side had chances to extend their lead with Reiten hitting the bar and Beth England having a goal controversial ruled out for offside.

In their second game of the month Chelsea faced tough side Manchester City. Chelsea opened the scoring with controversial penalty nicely put away but captain Maren Mjelde. Dominating the second half Sam Kerr tapped in Chelseas second, with a composed finish from Kirby making it three. City did have a glimpse of hope when Kelly converted a penalty for her side, but this wasn't enough to stop the strong Chelsea team. Chelsea last game of the month against Aston Villa was postponed due to Covid-19.

### Results:

Birmingham City 0 - 1 Chelsea

Chelsea 3 –1 Manchester City

**Table standing:** 4th

## Everton



Everton thrashed opponents Brighton in their first game of the month scoring six to convincingly win. Australian international Raso opened the scoring from close range before capitalising on a mistake from the Brighton keeper to make it two. A stunning curled effort from Emslie gave Everton their third just before Gauvin's diving header made it four. Willie Kirks side kept the pressure up in the second half scoring to more to make it six.

A quick start for Everton as they face West Ham, scoring inside eight minutes. Some neat play between from Emslie saw striker Sorensen calmly place the ball into the bottom corner. However, despite this strong start West Ham were gifted an equaliser when Everton were too casual in defence allowing Dali to score. West Ham grew in confidence after their goal, but Everton were more clinical in front of goal. Graham's glorious strike hit the top corner to make it 2-1 and then she made sure the game was over getting her second in extra time. A strange game for Everton as they saw opposition pleyer Kayleigh Green receive two yellow cards but remain on the pitch. The Toffees went behind after Sevecke scored an own goal, but Everton regained the lead with goals from Christian-sen and Gauvin. Whelan scored late for Brighton to see both teams take away a point.

### Results:

Aston Villa 0 – 6 Everton

Everton 3 – 1 West Ham

Everton 2 – 2 Brighton & Hove Albion

**Table standings:** 2nd

## Manchester City



Kelly scored the opening two goals for Man City as they comfortably beat Tottenham in their first game of the month. Summer signing Sam Mewis netted City's third and Whitehead headed in the fourth. City couldn't keep a clean sheet as Tottenham scored a late consolation through Filbey.

In their second game of the month City faced Champions Chelsea. A tough game for City as they went behind from a controversial penalty decision. This changed the game as City found it hard to make a difference as Chelsea took control. Man City dropped more points against Reading as they conceded just three minutes in, City had chances cleared of the line by a determined Reading side, but their perseverance paid off as Mewis scored the equaliser.

### Results:

Man City 4 – 1 Tottenham  
Chelsea 3 – 1 Man City  
Reading 1 – 1 Man City

**Table standings:** 5th

## Manchester United



United scored early on against Brighton as Ella Toone converted a penalty in just the ninth minute, this set United on their way and Brighton didn't get a look in from there. Their second came from Russo who skipped past the Brighton defence to finish an ease. Jane Ross scored in injury time to give United three points. United could have won their second game of the month by much higher margins if it weren't for Spencer in the Tottenham goal. The goal came eventually in the second half when Turner meet a pinpoint cross from summer signing Tobin Heath.

In their last game of the month United faced West Ham, the Reds created chances from the off with Russo scoring their first. Just moments later United scored their second as Heath fired home for her first goal in the WSL. West Ham were able to get on the score board when Van Egmond headed in, but United quickly regained their two-goal lead as Russo got her second of the game. Dali was given too much time by the United defence when she scored West Ham's second. This didn't deter United as they scored a fourth after Staniforth's free kick was converted by Press.

### Results:

Man United 3 – 0 Brighton  
Tottenham 0 – 1 Man United  
West Ham 2 – 4 Man United

**Table standing:** 3rd

## Reading



Reading first game of the month was against West Ham, Lauren Bruton slotted home the ball after a cross from captain Harding. West Ham did come close to equalising after being rewarded a penalty but an excellent save from Grace Moloney meant the Hammers didn't score and Reading took away three points. Birmingham stunned Reading as they scored the only goal of the game against the run of play, despite dominating possession Reading could not convert the numerous chance they had on goal. Reading last game of the month looked to be a tough one as they faced strong side Man City. However, starting strong Reading scored in just three minutes when Amelie Eikeland headed in from a corner. City did equalise through Mewis but could not find a winner as Reading held out for a draw.

### Results:

West Ham 0 – 1 Reading  
Reading 0 – 1 Birmingham  
Reading 1 – 1 Man City

**Table standings:** 6th

## Tottenham Hotspur



A tough month for Tottenham as they failed to earn a single point from three games. Despite signing one of the biggest names in women's football Alex Morgan is yet to feature. In their first game of the month Tottenham faced Man City, struggling to get into the game they were able to score a late consolation through Filbey.

It was a closer affair against United with Ayane had chances on goal, but United scored the only goal of the game when Turner finished a cross from Heath. Arsenal destroyed Tottenham, easily putting six past them with ease. Lucie Leon was able to head in a consolation for Tottenham.

### Results:

Man City 4 – 1 Tottenham  
Tottenham 0 – 1 Man United  
Arsenal 6 – 1 Tottenham

**Table standings:** 9th

## West Ham United



West ham went behind against Reading as Bruton scored in the first half. The Hammers did have a chance to equalise after being awarded a penalty for a foul on Leon, but Dali wasn't able to score. In their second game of the month West Ham faced Everton, a good start saw Dali equalise Everton's early goal. But this didn't last long as Everton came back strong scoring two late goals to win the game. West Ham scored two against United but weren't strong enough on defence to stop a flurry of goals from the Reds.

### Results:

West Ham 0 – 1 Reading  
Everton 3 – 1 West Ham  
West Ham 2 – 4 Man United

**Table standings:** 10th





# The FA Women's Super League

Table after October games		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Arsenal	5	5	0	0	25	15
2	Everton	5	4	1	0	13	13
3	Manchester United	5	4	1	0	9	13
4	Chelsea	4	3	1	0	12	10
5	Manchester City	5	2	2	1	3	8
6	Reading	5	2	1	2	-3	7
7	Birmingham City	5	2	0	3	-1	6
8	Brighton & Hove Albion	5	1	2	2	-6	5
9	Tottenham Hotspur	5	0	1	4	-10	1
10	West Ham United	5	0	1	4	-13	1
11	Aston Villa	3	0	0	3	-10	0
12	Bristol City	4	0	0	4	-19	0

## November fixtures

### Saturday, November 7

Tottenham Hotspur vs Reading (14:00)

Manchester City vs Bristol City (15:00)

### Sunday, November 8

Chelsea vs Everton (12:00)

Manchester United vs Arsenal (12:00)

Birmingham City vs West Ham United (14:00)

Brighton & Hove Albion vs Aston Villa (14:00)

### Saturday, November 14

Manchester United vs Manchester City (12:30)

Aston Villa vs Birmingham City (14:30)

Everton vs Reading (16:30)

Bristol City vs Tottenham Hotspur (18:30)

### Sunday, November 15

West Ham United vs Brighton & Hove Albion  
(12:30)

Arsenal vs Chelsea (14:30)



# November TV fixtures

## Sunday, November 1

### **Hearts vs Celtic (11:00)**

Scottish Women's Premier League  
BBC Sport Website

### **PSG vs Fleury 91 (11:45)**

Division 1 Feminine  
BT Sport 1

### **Everton vs Manchester City (14:30)**

Women's FA Cup final  
BBC One/BT Sport

### **Boston College Eagles v Virginia Tech**

#### **Hokies (18:30)**

NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup  
BT Sport ESPN

### **North Carolina Tar Heels v Notre Dame**

#### **Fighting Irish (22:30)**

NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup  
BT Sport ESPN

## Tuesday, November 3

### **Chelsea Women v Tottenham Hotspur Women (19:00)**

FA WSL Continental Cup Group Stage  
5th Stand App / Chelseafc.com

## Wednesday, November 4

### **Liverpool Women v Man City Women (14:00)**

FA WSL Continental Cup Group Stage  
LFCTV

## Sunday, November 8

### **Chelsea Women v Everton Women (12:00)**

FA Women's Super League  
BBC Red Button / BBC iPlayer / The FA Player

### **Hibernian Women v Rangers Women (16:10)**

Scottish Women's Premier League  
BBC ALBA

### **Missouri Tigers v Florida Gators (23:00)**

NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup  
BT Sport ESPN

## Tuesday, November 10

### **NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup Quarter-Final (17:30, 20:00)**

BT Sport ESPN

## Wednesday, November 11

### **NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup Quarter-Final (01:00)**

BT Sport ESPN

## Friday, November 13

### **NCAA Women's Soccer College Cup Semi -Final (19:30, 22:00)**

BT Sport ESPN

## Saturday, November 14

### **Man Utd Women v Man City Women (12:30)**

FA Women's Super League  
BT Sport 1

### **Everton Women v Reading Women (16:30)**

FA Women's Super League  
BBC Red Button / BBC iPlayer / The FA Player

## Sunday, November 15

### **Arsenal Women v Chelsea Women (14:30)**

FA Women's Super League  
BT Sport 1

## Friday, November 20

### **Hibernian Women v Celtic Women (19:35)**

Scottish Women's Premier League  
BBC ALBA

# A-Z of the WSL (Part One)



**By Charlotte Stacey**

The 2020-21 season is now well and truly underway, and although we may not be able to get up close and personal to the action this time round, there is still plenty to keep us excited in what is quite possibly, the biggest year of the league so far.

So, let us steer you toward key players, pioneers and points, as we run you through a full A to Z of the Women's Super League.

## **A is for Arsenal**

The North London giants have long dominated in the world of women's football and have hordes of silverware to their name. The Gunners treasures include 3 WSL titles, 12 Premier League National Division titles, 5 Continental Cups, a mammoth 14 FA Cups

and they also carry the honour of being the only English side to have ever won the UEFA Champions League. Arsenal have certainly started their season with a bang; big score lines, numerous hat tricks, and Vivianne Miedema's history making 50th goal all conclude that there is no doubt, Joe Montemurro's Gunners are gunning for that top spot.

## **A is for Aston Villa**

Newly promoted Aston Villa have a tall order establishing themselves in their inaugural year in the top division. Villa gained promotion from the Championship after being unbeaten all season, and although the step up is a vast one, the Villans are not to be written off too soon. In their opener against Manchester City, Villa defended exceptionally well and kept City on their toes. Although they ultimately

conceded two goals, they were by no means, outplayed.

## **B is for Birmingham City**

Birmingham City needed a shake up after finding themselves close to relegation last season. Cue, Carla Ward. The Blue's new manager has certainly taken the bull by the horns and breathed a fresh lease of life into the previously struggling side. Already Birmingham have impressed with their solid defensive work, as well as some outstanding individual performances, notably from newly acquired defender Rachel Corsie, midfielder Christine Murray and forward Claudia Walker.

## **B is for Brighton & Hove Albion**

Former England manager, Hope Powell, heads up Brighton in her third year at the helm. After ending the 2019-2020 season in the latter half of the table, the Seagulls will be looking to climb to a middle position. True to this ethos, Brighton have made an admirable start, bagging a win and two draws from their first five games. Powell is developing a dangerous looking team, additions such as the technically gifted Denise O'Sullivan, bringing an impactful strength to the side this season.

## **B is for Bristol City**

Tanya Oxtoby's Bristol City have work to do to keep them out of the relegation zone this season. The Robins finished in tenth place last year, and will be looking to achieve the same this time round. Although they can find themselves on the back end of some big score lines, Bristol are capable of producing some very good play, as seen in their early match against Arsenal, in which they contained the Gunners with solidarity and even managed to sink a goal past Manuela Zinsberger. The Robins' keeper Sophie Baggaley is a rising talent and is certainly one to keep your eye on.



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## C is for Chelsea



The reigning champions not only won last year's league title, but also the Continental Cup and the reinstated Community Shield. The London Blues have brought in leading names across the year to defend their growing trophy cabinet. The signings of Sam Kerr, Melanie Leupolz, Niamh Charles and Pernille Harder have taken the staggering depth of Emma Hayes' squad to a whole new level of primacy. Chelsea flaunt what is a rather pleasant dilemma, having at least two players for each position at any one time. In short, what Hayes is building is arguably, one of the best sides in the world.

## D is for Gemma Davies



Aston Villa's Gemma Davies, leads her team into the WSL as the league's youngest manager. At just 28, Davies heads up the Villans in top tier after an outstanding season in the Championship. Davies has acquired former Chelsea defender Anita Asante to add to her ranks, which already include former WSL players Emma Follis and Chloe Arthur. Davies has a tough stint ahead of her, but after such a remarkable run last year, there is no doubt that she is up to the job.

## E is for Everton



Everton have been the surprise of the season so far, seriously challenging for a higher position in the table after finishing a reputable sixth last year. Willie Kirk's side have attacked the early part of the season with an appetite that looks to threaten the leagues typically expected outcome. Australia's Hayley Raso, Scotland's Clare Emslie and France's Valérie Gauvin have brought with them an added energy and flair, making the Toffee's all the more exciting to watch.

## F is for Fara Williams MBE



Reading's anchor, Fara Williams, is one of the league's, and the country's, most experienced players. She is the Lionesses' most capped player of all time, having made 172 appearances so far, and is well on her way to achieving the same in the domestic league. The midfielder is renowned for her passing accuracy and merciless free kicks. Williams' name should be known far and wide; she is an endless pioneer of the women's game, her continued resilience and courage an inspiration to many.



## **G is for Goalkeeping**

Perhaps sometimes a little overlooked for their efforts, goalkeepers can often take the brunt of a bad day. Yet undeterred by such woes, the WSL boasts some rather fine work between the posts. Whether it is the developing gifts of Manchester City's Ellie Roebuck, Birmingham City's Hannah Hampton, Bristol City's Sophie Baggaley, Aston Villa's Sian Rogers or Reading's Grace Maloney; the growing expertise of Arsenal's Manuela Zinsberger, Tottenham's Becky Spencer or Manchester United's Mary Earps; the experience of Chelsea duo Ann-Katrin Berger and Carly Telford; or City's trusted Karen Bardsley; there is never a shortage of goalkeeping talent on display.

## **H is for Lauren Hemp**

Manchester City forward, Lauren Hemp, had a magnificent season last year, so much so that she received her first senior call-up and subsequent debut for the Lionesses. Hemp was a standout player in England's SheBelieves campaign, in which she ran rings around a certain World Cup winning side. With an instinct that sees her attack games with a proficiency, vigour and pace that is incomprehensible at times, Hemp is most certainly one to watch.

## **I is for Sophie Ingle**

Wales captain, Sophie Ingle, is one that doesn't necessarily jump out at you, yet the Chelsea midfielder is one of the league's most accomplished players. Ingle is calm, she is collected and she does her job with such little fuss that sometimes one neglects to remember just how important she is. Ingle safeguards Chelsea, quietly dictating from the middle. But just to make sure we're not resting easy, every now and again, she'll treat us to a piece of Ingle magic and net an absolute screamer.

## **J is for Ji So-Yun**

Chelsea's Ji So-Yun is quite simply a force to be reckoned with. Her movement, vision and

and creativity are astonishing, and when given the freedom to roam there is no stopping her. The midfielder effortlessly makes the most challenging of scenarios seem positively easy to navigate. To compare her to another is difficult, but it would be fair to say that, although they are rare, Ji's bad days are still overtly favourable by anybody else's standard's.

## **K is for Kim Little**



Arsenal captain, Kim Little, is a player that needs no introduction. Often regarded as one of the most difficult players to come up against, Arsenal's play is elevated just that little (pardon the pun!) bit further when she is on the field. Not the most vocal of leaders, Little instead leads by example, letting her feet do the talking. Her exemplary passing ability and movement concur with her ever-present vision, causing her to be one of the league's most dangerous playmakers.

## **L is for Lucy Bronze**



England defender Lucy Bronze is widely, and rightfully, considered as one of the best right backs in the world. Bronze has returned to the WSL with former club Manchester City after a three-year spell with French Champions Olympique Lyonnais. Bronze's time at Lyon was nothing short of remarkable, and she ended her time there as the only English

player in history to have won three consecutive Champions League titles. The fullback is perilous in every game she plays.

## **M is for Manchester City**



Finishing in second place last season, Manchester City are aiming high, playing to keep their place in the "top three" after dominance in the past few years. New boss, Gareth Taylor inherited a fine side from the recently departed Nick Cushing, including no less than twelve Lionesses. City managed to secure a number of big names in their transfer window, including defender Lucy Bronze, USA midfielders Sam Mewis and Rose Lavelle and Everton's star striker, Chloe Kelly. Mewis and Kelly, in particular, have caused problems for oppositions and look to be very influential indeed.

## **M is for Manchester United**



Casey Stoney's Red Devil's certainly look to mean business this year. After respectably finishing in fourth place last season, United's six incredibly strong summer signings could very well see them begin to give the "top three" a run for their money. As recruitment goes, Stoney has pulled out all the stops, signing Spanish defender Ona Battle, German forward Ivana Fuso, Lionesses Lucy Staniforth and Alessia Russo, as well as world champions Tobin Heath and Christen Press.

*Part TWO coming next month...*

# Miedema takes the top spot



**By Charlotte Stacey**

Sunday 18th October 2020 saw Arsenal's Vivianne Miedema become the Women's Super League's all-time top-goal scorer.

A big game called for a big performance, and Arsenal certainly rose to the occasion, reigning triumphant over North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur. Katie McCabe converted a free-kick, Caitlin Foord bagged herself a brace and Miedema managed to net a hat-trick in the gunners 6-1 victory.

Ahead of the match, Dutch international, Miedema, sat level pegging with England and Lyon striker, Nikita Parris as the league's top goal scorer. Before her move to France, Parris led the goalscoring table with 49 goals in 110 games.

In comparison, Miedema now has 52 goals in 50 games. Not only this, but she is also the first player to score two first half hat-tricks in WSL history and boasts the highest number of goals for her country, for both the men's and women's sides.

With an array of scoring and creating abilities, Miedema is no one-trick pony. She is able to

feed balls to others, find space to create opportunities, and is of course, clinical with her finish. Miedema is paramount to Arsenal's rhythm, and it is when they find this groove, that she can seem somewhat unstoppable.

In what could aptly be described as an 'Arsenal ambush' back in December 2019, Miedema was involved in a mammoth 10 goals against Bristol City. Two hat-tricks and four assists meant that Miedema missed out on only one in their 11-1 win.

Looking forward, it is hard to imagine that Miedema will cease to reach even greater milestones. Following Miedema's record break, Arsenal boss, Joe Montemurro commented on her drive and ambition for future success.

"Her ability to be better is there. She can get better. She's a person who wants to get better, she wants to challenge herself, she wants to be even better, because there's still a lot of learning and development to go", he said.

One would certainly echo this and hope that Montemurro is right in his forecasts.

At 24, Vivianne Miedema still has plenty left to give.



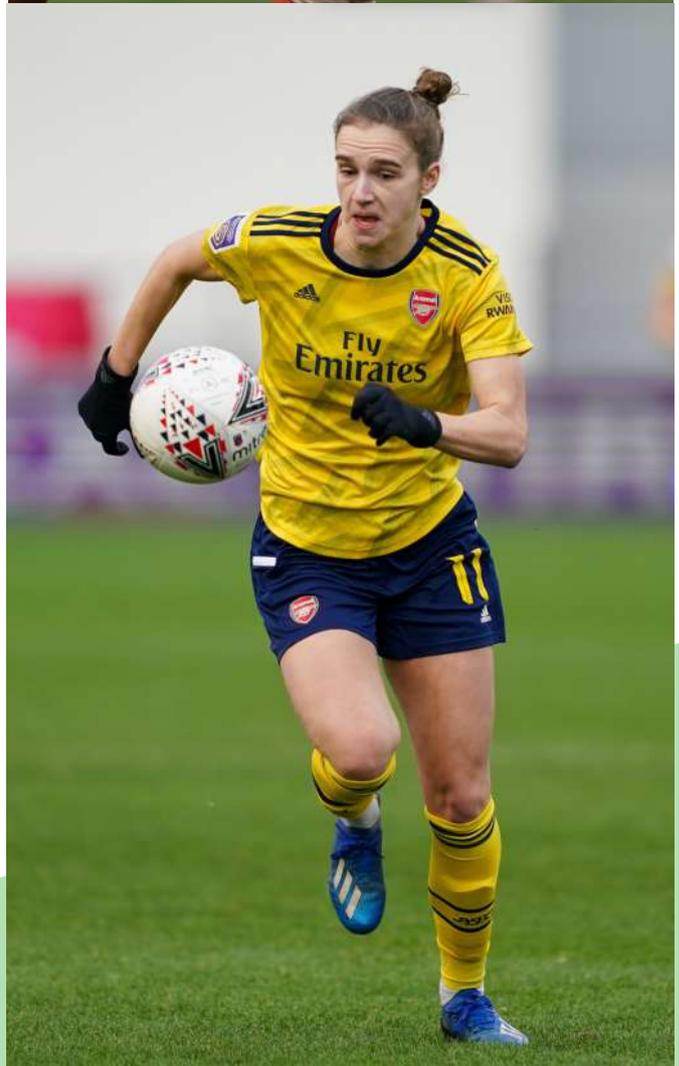
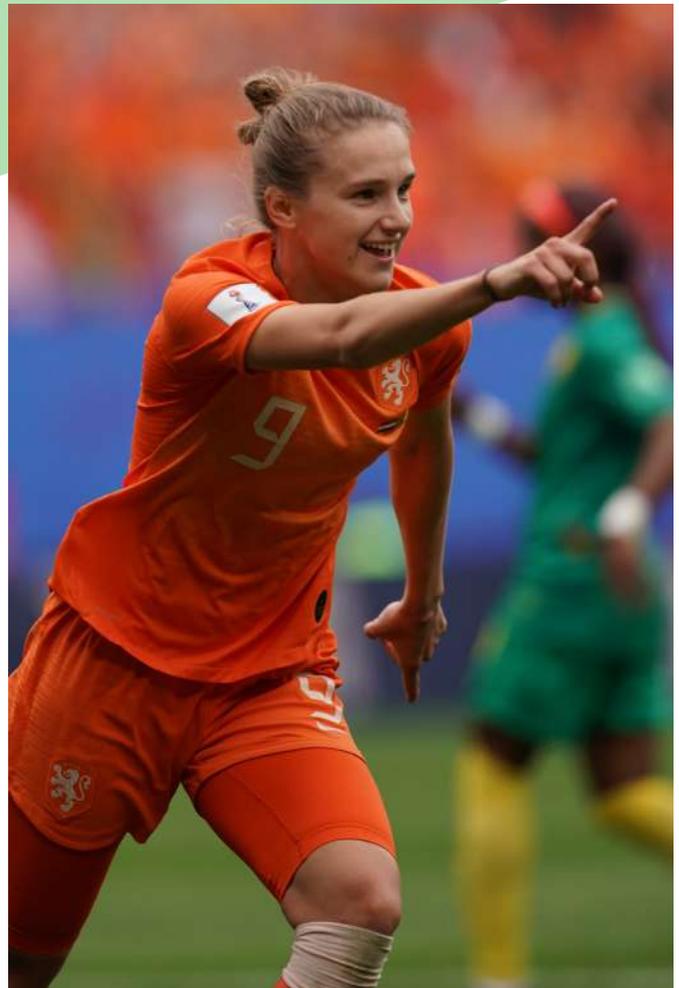
# Miedema in 50 facts



To celebrate Vivianne Miedema reaching 52 goals in just 50 games, TWFM has pulled out 50 facts about the Arsenal star.

1. She was born on July 15, 1996
2. Miedema's place of birth was Hoogeveen, Netherlands
3. Her full name is Anna Margaretha Marina Astrid Miedema
4. She is now the all-time leading scorer in the FA WSL at the age of 24
5. She has scored more goals at the international level for the Netherlands than any other player—across both the women's and men's teams.
6. She was part of the Netherlands side who won the Women's European Championships in 2017
7. She was the top goalscorer runner up with four goals winning the silver boot
8. She won two consecutive Frauen-Bundesliga titles with Bayern Munich in 2015 and 2016
9. She helped Arsenal win the 2018-19 WSL title
10. In 2019, Miedema was part of the squad who finished second in the Women's World Cup
11. She scored three goals at the 2019 Women's World Cup
12. In 2020, Miedema was named the Women's Player of the Year at the Football Writers Awards
13. She was named PFA Women's Players' Player of the Year in 2019
14. In 2019, she was also shortlisted for the Women's Ballon d'Or
15. She was named to the Top 10 of Guardian's The 100 Best Female Footballers In The World in 2017 and 2019
16. Miedema grew up watching her dad play football
17. She started playing aged five for HZVV in her hometown

18. Her first memory of football is of her having her two front teeth kicked out by a goalkeeper
19. As a child Miedema often travelled with her father and younger brother Lars to Rotterdam to watch Feyenoord
20. Her brother, Lars Miedema, is a Dutch international who plays for FC Den Bosch
21. She signed her first professional contract at the age of 14 for SC Heerenveen
22. Miedema made her senior debut at the age of 15, becoming the youngest ever player to play in the Eredivisie
23. In the 2013-14 season she scored 39 goals, winning the top-scorer award at the age of 18
24. After moving to Bayern Munich in June 2014, Miedema helped the team remain unbeaten and win the league for the first time since 1976
25. Miedema moved to Arsenal in May 2017
26. Her debut WSL goal came against Everton in the 23rd minute
27. Miedema was influential in the largest victory in the history of the WSL on 1 December 2019 – of the 11 goals scored by Arsenal against Bristol City, she scored six and set up four others
28. She made her international debut for Netherlands in a 4-0 win against Albania in September 2013
29. In the 2014 Uefa Women's U19 Championship, she scored six goals and led the team to win the title
30. She was awarded the Golden Player award as the best player of the tournament
31. In the 2015 Women's World Cup qualifying, Miedema became the overall top goalscorer with 16 goals
32. After the 2017 Women's European Championship title win, the two team was honoured by Prime Minister Mark Rutte



and Minister of Sport Edith Schippers and made Knights of the Order of the Orange-Nassau

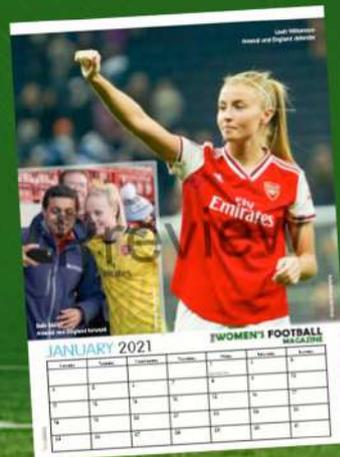
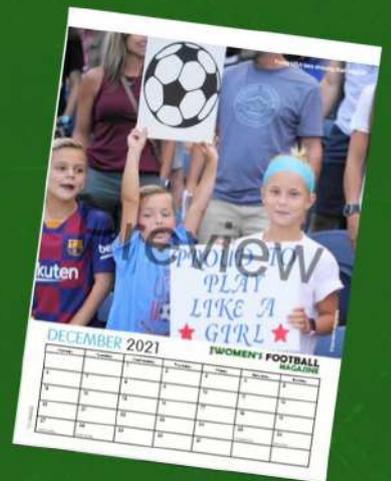
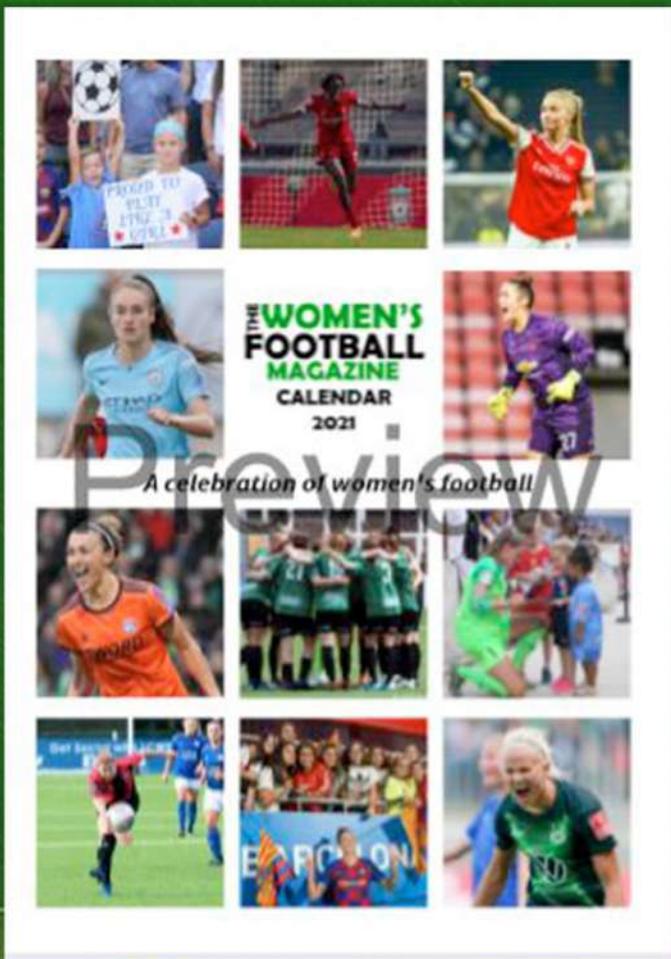
33. Miedema models her game on Robin van Persie
34. She has often been compared to Arjen Robben, Marco van Basten and Dennis Berkamp
35. She lives with her girlfriend, Scottish and Arsenal player Lisa Evans
36. Known for her disinterest in overtly celebrating her many goals, she made an exception for the strike which made her the Dutch national top scorer in 2019 only as an agreement with her brother (who was in the stadium) who insisted she should mark the achievement
37. Miedema was named the 2020 BBC Footballer of the Year
38. Girlfriend Evans joked on social media: "Another award for Viv, very boring"
39. She made headlines at the Women's World Cup when a reporter asked her if she liked "guys you could take home to her parents or the bad boys"
40. The first football shirt she owned was a Feyenoord shirt with Van Persie on the back

41. Miedema believes she has been lucky for not having much negativity around her when she was growing up for wanting to play football
42. She originally set herself a target of scoring 50 goals for Netherlands and then she planned to retire but after achieving that when she was 21, she changed it to 100
43. She has currently scored 93 goals for the Netherlands
44. Miedema always played in black Adidas boots
45. She signed a contract with the company when she was 16
46. Her Arsenal squad number is 11
47. She has scored 68 goals in all competitions for Arsenal
48. Miedema has already scored 10 goals so far this season in all competitions
49. Her current contract with the Gunners runs out at the end of the season
50. On 18 October 2020, Miedema became the first player to score 50 WSL goals, overtaking the all-time WSL record of 49, set by Nikita Parris, when she scored a hat-trick in a 6–1 win against Tottenham Hotspur



# THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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# CHAMPIONSHIP



# London City Lionesses secure new partnership



London City Lionesses Football Club have announced its latest education partnership with the University of East London (UEL).

The agreement aims to promote collaboration between the two organisations and will give the club's top professional players and coaches access to high quality sports science and rehabilitative services to enhance performance levels.

Lionesses staff and players can now benefit from working with UEL staff and students across a whole range of disciplines including video performance analysis, sport psychology, strength and conditioning, sport nutrition, sport physiology, sport biomechanics, while the Club will also collaborate and provide placements to students as well as supporting research projects around coaching/PE, physical activity for those with specific health conditions and sport rehabilitation.

Diane Culligan, London City Lionesses Chair, said "We are absolutely delighted to agree this collaboration with University of East London.

"The partnership will focus on a several key areas that are important to us as a Club while providing students with practical first experience of working within an elite sporting environment. We hope this will be the start of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

"Our players will be able to access Bachelor, Master's degree and PhD programmes and we look forward to supporting and welcoming talented student athletes into our squads."

Richard Hunt, Interim Head of Department for Applied Sport and Exercise Science Head at UEL, said "This partnership with the Lionesses is excellent news for us and our students. Working with a strong, professional club fits so well with UEL's commitment to become the premier careers-first University while opening up invaluable opportunities for industry-focused experience for staff and students."

London City Lionesses' Head of Performance Dr Ali Monajati said, "Creating the optimum environment for our players to train and play is so important. I'm excited that we have now formalised this relationship so that we can maximise the opportunities for us as a Club and for UEL's students."

# All you need to know about...

## *London City Lionesses*

- London City Lionesses is London's first independent professional Women's Football Club.
- They compete in The FA Women's Championship, the second tier of the women's domestic game in England.
  - Home matches are played at Princes Park, Dartford.
- The Club's mission is to lead the social and commercial development of women's football as it creates a dynamic global identity in order to better serve young women both on and off the pitch through an environment founded in respect, pride, integrity and teamwork.
- In the 2019/20 season London City Lionesses were sitting 4th in the league table as the season was ended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Club's ambition to gain promotion to the Barclays FA Women's Super League.
- The club was founded in May 2019 as an independent breakaway club from Millwall Lionesses.
  - They are managed by Melissa Phillips.
  - Ellie Mason and Ylenia Priest are co-captains.



# The FA Women's Championship

Table after October games		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Durham	6	4	2	0	7	14
2	Sheffield United	5	3	2	0	10	11
3	Leicester City	5	3	2	0	7	11
4	Liverpool	5	3	1	1	7	10
5	Lewes	5	3	1	1	0	10
6	Coventry United	5	2	0	3	-2	6
7	Blackburn	5	2	0	3	-3	6
8	Crystal Palace	6	1	2	3	-3	5
9	Charlton Athletic	4	1	1	2	-4	4
10	London City Lionesses	6	1	1	4	-5	4
11	London Bees	6	0	0	6	-14	0

## November fixtures

### Sunday, November 1

Lewes vs Liverpool (12:00)

Coventry United vs Blackburn (P—Covid-19)

London Bees vs Charlton Athletic (14:00)

London City Lionesses vs Leicester City (14:00)

Sheffield United vs Crystal Palace (14:00)

### Sunday, November 8

Durham vs Charlton Athletic (12:00)

Blackburn vs London Bees (14:00)

Crystal Palace vs Coventry United (14:00)

Leicester City vs Lewes (14:00)

Liverpool vs Sheffield United (14:00)

### Sunday, November 15

Blackburn vs Liverpool (14:00)

Charlton Athletic vs London City Lionesses  
(14:00)

Coventry United vs Leicester City (14:00)

London Bees vs Lewes (14:00)

Sheffield United vs Durham (14:00)



# Durham Women sign up for Football Leadership Diversity Code



Durham Women have become one of the first teams in the Women's Championship to sign up to the Football Association's 'Football Leadership Diversity Code'.

The code aims to drive diversity and inclusion across English football, with over 40 clubs across the Premier League, English Football League, WSL and Women's Championship.

The clubs are committed to tackling inequality across senior leadership positions, broader team operations and coaching roles.

The Football Leadership Diversity Code has been developed in collaboration with club executives, players, coaches, HR directors, media and leaders across the game to en-

sure English football better represents our modern and diverse society.

Recognising that clubs and support structures off the pitch do not reflect the increasing gender and ethnic diversity seen on the pitch, it will increase accountability and transparency and will see The FA, key stakeholders and clubs across the men's and women's game commit to embedding greater diversity across senior leadership teams, team operations and coaching setups.

While not mandatory, The FA is encouraging all clubs across the men's and women's games to sign up to the voluntary Code, with a version following the same principles and adapted for the National

League System and grassroots clubs to follow in Spring 2021.

By signing up to the Football Leadership Diversity Code, clubs pledge to create an equality, diversity and inclusion plan which applies hiring targets while adopting specific recruitment principles. The targets, which will become effective immediately, include:

#### SENIOR LEADERSHIP AND TEAM OPERATIONS

15% of new hires will be Black, Asian or of Mixed-Heritage [or a target set by the club based on local demographics]

30% of new hires will be female

#### COACHING: MEN'S PROFESSIONAL CLUBS

25% of new hires will be Black, Asian or of Mixed-Heritage

10% of new senior coaching hires will be Black, Asian or of Mixed-Heritage

#### COACHING: WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL CLUBS

50% of new hires will be female

15% of new hires will be Black, Asian or of Mixed-Heritage

## RECRUITMENT

Shortlists for interview will have at least one male and one female Black, Asian or of Mixed-Heritage candidate, if applicants meeting the job specifications apply.

Mark Bullingham, The FA's Chief Executive Officer, said: "I would like to thank the players, coaches, HR Directors, media and league and club officials from across football who have contributed to the development of the Code.

"Together we have created commitments that will drive real change across the game.

"The Code will hold clubs, leagues and our own organisation to account and ensure opportunities for everyone to work at all levels in football.

"We remain deeply committed to doing everything we can to address inequality in all its forms and to deliver a game free from discrimination. Today is a really positive step forward."



# Coventry United forced to cancel fixtures



Coventry United have confirmed that members of their first team squad have tested positive for Covid-19.

The whole squad is entering a period of isolation.

Due to the news, the club's Championship game (scheduled for Sunday, November 1) against Blackburn has been postponed.

Rovers statement read: "Rovers Ladies' FA Women's Championship fixture against Coventry United has been postponed.

"Coventry United have confirmed that members of their first team squad tested positive for COVID-19.

"As per the government guidelines and protocols, Coventry's squad has now entered a period of isolation.

"As a result, it has been agreed with

the FA to postpone the fixture originally scheduled for Sunday 1 November.

"An update on when the fixture will be replayed shall be announced in due course.

"The safety of all players and staff remains paramount in these challenging times and we wish everyone affected at Coventry United all the best in their recovery. "

The club and FA have also agreed to postpone the Continental Tyres Cup game against WSL side Aston Villa on November 3.

The statement issued by the club said: "The club's main priority is the health and safety of our players, staff and opponents.

"We will now work with all those involved."

# Charlton Athletic Women announce new partner



Charlton Athletic have announced ‘The Gym Group’ as their new official gym partner.

The partnership gives first team players and coaching staff access to The Gym Group gyms to use facilities, equipment and keep fit.

Speaking about the partnership, defender Rachel Newborough said:

“We couldn’t be more grateful for The Gym Group giving the whole squad and staff gym memberships.

“It’s given us a real boost and a chance to get fit for a successful season.”





# WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



# Crawley Wasps announce new sponsor



Crawley Wasps have announced a partnership with local natural skincare company skin:genius.

The deal sees Crawley-based skin:genius sponsor the club's entire youth section, as well as first-team player Megan Stow. All eight youth teams this season will be wearing the club's new Macron kit with skin:genius's logo on the sleeve.

Skin:genius produces a range of 100% natural and organic skincare products specifically formulated to prevent and reduce breakouts, spots and acne-prone and oily skin.

Its multi-award-winning range comprises a Cleansing Face Wash, Leave-On Purifying Gel and Soothing Moisturiser. All are packed with active botanical ingredients that work with the skin to cleanse, soothe and moisturise.

Julia Vearncombe, founder of skin:genius, said: "We are really pleased to become part of the Crawley Wasps family. We are local to the team's home ground and look forward to supporting from the sidelines this season.

"Their flourishing youth section of more than

100 players is providing a pathway to the top for talented girls, and it's energising to see them all training and playing.

"On the pitch, young girls' skin goes through a lot with the combination of wind, rain, sun and sweat. All that needs to be cleansed away gently but thoroughly. Off the pitch, teenage girls in particular may have to tackle acne, spots and oily skin and that's where our products can really help."

Dave Connor, Wasps' head of youth, said: "The girls and youth-team managers are thrilled to have the support of Julia and a forward-thinking, innovative and local business firm like skin:genius."

First-team midfielder Stow added: "I've been fortunate to try the skin:genius range and I absolutely love it, I don't think I could go without now.

"It's also lovely to have the support of a local business, with a founder who believes in good skincare that's easy to follow."



# FANWNL 2020/21

## September Tables

### Northern Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Fylde	7	5	1	1	11	16
2 Huddersfield Town	7	5	1	1	7	16
3 Nottingham Forest	7	4	2	1	12	14
4 West Bromwich Albion	7	4	1	2	10	13
5 Derby County	7	4	1	2	6	13
6 Stoke City	7	3	2	2	0	11
7 Burnley	6	3	1	2	2	10
8 Sunderland	7	3	0	4	-2	9
9 Hull City	6	1	2	3	-6	5
10 Middlesbrough	7	1	1	5	-9	4
11 Sheffield FC	7	1	0	6	-13	3
12 Loughborough Foxes	7	0	2	5	-18	2

### Southern Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Oxford United	6	5	0	1	14	15
2 Portsmouth	6	4	1	1	11	13
3 Watofrd	6	4	1	1	10	13
4 Milton Keynes Dons	6	4	0	2	13	12
5 Crawley Wasps	5	3	0	2	4	9
6 Yeovil United	5	2	2	1	1	8
7 Cardiff City	3	2	0	1	5	6
8 Keynsham Town	5	2	0	3	2	6
9 Chichester & Selsey	4	2	0	2	1	6
10 Gillingham	7	2	0	5	-4	6
11 Plymouth Argyle	5	0	0	5	-28	0
12 Hounslow	6	0	0	6	-29	0



TheFA Women's  
National League

# FANWNL 2020/21

## September Tables

### Division One North

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Chester le Street Town	6	4	2	0	8	14
2 Brighouse Town	5	3	1	1	6	10
3 Norton & Stockton Ancients	6	2	2	2	1	8
4 Stockport County	3	2	0	1	2	6
5 Leeds United	4	1	2	1	0	5
6 Newcastle United	3	1	1	1	0	4
7 Chorley	3	1	1	1	-3	4
8 Durham Cestria	4	1	1	2	-5	4
9 Liverpool Feds	2	1	0	1	1	3
10 Barnsley	5	1	0	4	-2	3
11 Bradford City	3	0	2	1	-1	2
12 Bolton	2	0	0	2	-7	0

### Division One Midlands

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Wolverhampton Wanderers	6	6	0	0	34	18
2 Doncaster Rovers Belles	6	4	1	1	8	13
3 Boldmere St Michaels	4	3	1	0	12	10
4 Solihull Moors	5	3	1	1	10	10
5 Lincoln City	5	3	1	1	10	10
6 Long Eaton United	5	2	1	2	7	7
7 Spring Khalsa	5	2	1	2	7	7
8 Wem Town	4	1	1	2	4	4
9 Holwell Sports	6	1	1	4	4	4
10 Bedworth United	6	1	0	5	3	3
11 Burton Albion	5	1	0	4	3	3
12 Leafield Athletic	5	0	0	5	0	0



TheFA Women's  
National League

# FANWNL 2020/21

## September Tables

### Division One South East

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Ipswich Town	4	4	0	0	18	12
2 Actonians	4	3	1	0	7	10
3 Hashtag United	4	3	0	1	3	9
4 Enfield Town	5	2	2	1	4	8
5 AFC Wimbledon	5	2	1	2	4	7
6 Cambridge United	5	2	1	2	-7	7
7 Norwich City	3	2	0	1	0	6
8 Kent Football United	6	1	3	2	-1	6
9 Leyton Orient	3	1	1	1	1	4
10 Cambridge City	6	1	1	4	-8	4
11 Billericay Town	3	1	0	2	0	3
12 Stevenage	6	0	0	6	-21	0

### Division One South West

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Southampton FC	4	4	0	0	17	12
2 Chesham United	5	4	0	1	15	12
3 Swindon Town	4	3	0	1	5	9
4 Cheltenham Town	5	2	1	2	4	7
5 Exeter City	5	2	1	2	-2	7
6 Buckland Athletic	4	2	0	2	-3	6
7 Larkhall Athletic	4	1	2	1	0	5
8 Maidenhead United	3	1	1	1	0	4
9 Southampton Women's	4	1	1	2	-1	4
10 Brislington	3	0	0	3	-13	0
11 Poole Town	5	0	0	5	-22	0



TheFA Women's  
National League

# GRASSROOTS



# Simon Says

***This month, I have interviewed match official Julia Kings, here's what she had to say...***

**When did you first become involved in football?**

I first became involved in football at primary school when they held a session for girls. Then, Aston Villa started doing some training session with us, which led me to join a football team. My dad who is also a referee has been involved in football my whole life.

**At what age did you begin playing football?**

I started playing football at 8 years old for Birch Coppice and then at 11/12, I joined a girl's team called Lichfield Diamonds LFC who I played for the majority of my time before joining university where I still play.

**How old were you when you became interested in being a match official?**

I decided that I wanted to become a referee at the age of 12/13 when helping at one of my dad's matches.

**After your interest, how did you become a match official?**

I took a course as soon as I was able to after I turned 14 and completed the full

course, not the women's only as I don't think that was an option when I did it.

**Which league did you begin officiating in?**

When I first started, I was officiating in my local junior and didn't really referee former teammates until I started officiating older age groups.

**What year did you finish your course?**

I completed my course in 2014 and am now in my 7th season of officiating.

**Moving through the levels can be a long process. How have you found the process?**

The process of moving through the levels has been all right, I am currently a level 6 going for 5, with the only slight issue being getting observed with games as I swap between being at university and at home. However, usually, it works out that I get observed whenever I am back from university.

**Did you continue to play football?**

Yes, I still play football and have training for that twice a week as well as a match which helps to keep my fitness up. I also go on a few runs a week which helps with both playing and officiating.

# Simon Says

What leagues do you officiate in? I don't know the specific levels of the leagues I am officiating in but the highest ones are probably the Midland Football League and the Nottinghamshire Senior League.

## **Since beginning have you experienced any issues with being a female match official?**

Personally, I haven't really experienced any issues with being a female official, some people just seem shocked to start with that I am officiating an open age game.

## **What improvements would you like to see in the coming years?**

Over the next 5/10 years, I would like to see more women involved in the game both the male side and female side as I think the fa are trying to encourage women into the game. Hopefully, I can continue progressing and be officiating at a higher level.

## **In the time you have been officiating what has been your highlight?**

I would say the highlight of my officiating career so far has to be either being an assistant in the early rounds of the day cup round or an assistant for the u16 girl's county cup final two years running.

How have you found it combining university with being a match official?

I am currently in my third year and so far, have found it ok to balance my workload and my match official role as well as playing myself. I will always put the uni work first so if I have a deadline, I might not officiate that weekend for example.

## **Any long term career aims as a match official?**

My current aim is to keep progressing through the levels and leagues as a referee, whether that be in the men's game or the women's.

## **Can you offer advice for any girls looking to get involved as a match official?**

Personally, I would tell any girls who are thinking of being a match official to go for it and to not be afraid of doing it. I think with me I lack confidence, but you've just got to go for and you will progress and get better. As someone who has always loved football becoming an official gave me a different view on the whole game and I don't regret it at all.

Simon



# FA launches new strategy for women's and girls football inspiring positive change



The Football Association has unveiled its ambitious new women's and girls' football strategy.

The FA's new four-year strategy, titled Inspiring Positive Change, pledges to create a sustainable future for women's and girls' football in England.

The strategy outlines The FA's EIGHT transformational objectives to be achieved by 2024.

- **EARLY PARTICIPATION:**

Every primary school-aged girl to have equal access to football in school and in clubs

- **DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATION:**

Every girl to have equal access to participate

for fun, for competition and for excellence

- **CLUB PLAYER PATHWAY:**

Collaborate with clubs to develop an effective high performance, inclusive player-centred pathway

- **ELITE DOMESTIC LEAGUES AND COMPETITIONS:**

Create the best professional women's sports leagues and competitions in the world

- **ENGLAND:**

Win a major tournament

- **FOOTBALL FOR ALL**

Recruit and support a motivated, diverse range of local leaders organising football for their communities

- **COACHING:**

Support the development of exceptional coaches at every level of the game who are representative of our society

- **REFEREEING:**

Ensure that every female referee afforded high-quality bespoke learning and development opportunities from grassroots through to the elite game

The strategy will see football embedded for girls in schools, as part of the PE curriculum and in afterschool sessions, setting the target that 90% of schools [both primary and secondary] in England to become part of The FA Girls' Football School Partnerships network, supported by Barclays. Away from school, it pledges to provide every girl with a Wildcats programme within easy travelling distance of their home.

Working alongside national partners, specialist community groups, and national inclusion advisory groups such as The FA Asian Women in Football Advisory Group and The FA Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Football network, the strategy will identify, develop and support female leaders from diverse communities.

Crucial to the vision of more England-qualified players and world-class players within our system, will be a well-signposted, inclusive and accessible club player pathway. Supporting the recruitment, development and transition of players, the pathway will also consider their needs from tactical, technical, psychological, physiological, social and dual-career perspective.

Attracting and developing world-class players, maximising and engaging audiences and growing commercial revenue will be central to the ambition of establishing England as the home of the world's best professional women's sports leagues and competitions.

Success with the national teams is underpinned by the new England women's 'Blueprint for Success', creating an environment for all England-qualified talent

to pursue and fulfil their dreams at the UEFA Women's EURO Championships 2022 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

The strategy also commits formal learning opportunities for every coach at all levels of the game and the establishment of a sustainable refereeing recruitment strategy embedded into local communities, clubs and Higher Education and Further Education establishments.

Integrated marketing, commercial and communications support across all levels will play a critical role in delivering the strategy, supporting the 'if you can't see her, you can't be her' approach.

The home UEFA Women's EURO Championships in 2022 will be a catalyst for growth across every area.

The strategy will be delivered in partnership with other football stakeholders and The FA's commercial partners.



Baroness Sue Campbell, The Director of Women's Football at The FA said: "Football has the power to change lives for the better.

"It can contribute to physical and mental wellbeing, it can provide opportunities to compete and collaborate with others, and it can help to shape the place of girls and women in wider society.

"Our new four-year strategy is based on understanding an individual's motivation to play – for learning, for recreation, for competition and for excellence.

"We want to ensure there is access and opportunity for every girl and woman to play, coach, spectate, officiate, manage or administer if they so wish and the game to be truly representative of our society across all characteristics and social backgrounds.

"The FA's new Inspiring Positive Change strategy will build upon the foundations

created by The Gameplan for Growth and deliver truly transformational change to the women's and girls' game."

Steph Houghton, England Women's captain said: "When I and many of my teammates were girls, opportunities to play the game were few and far between, so to see the breadth and scale of The FA's ambitions in the next four years is extremely exciting.

"From the incredible pledge to provide equal access to football for primary-aged girls, to the pathway created for the country's best talent to fulfil their potential – this strategy is truly game-changing.

"This new strategy will help provide opportunities for women and girls of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to fall in love with football and enjoy the many benefits that it can bring to their life."



# NEW PROUDCT LAUNCH: CALLING ALL FOOTBALL TEAMS!



Now in its fourth year, our monthly digital magazine has grown to 90 pages dedicated to women's football from grassroots to the home nations. With great writing and amazing pictures it's no wonder that our readership has been growing steadily from year to year.

We're really passionate about promoting women's football in this country and so this season we're introducing something new – designed especially for football teams. The Women's Football Magazine season ticket is here to help you promote your team and inspire your players.

- **25 annual subscriptions to share with your players & coaches.**

You can add up to 25 members to your season ticket with each receiving a copy of the monthly digital magazine direct to them. Season ticket owners can update their members continuously throughout the season to make sure your players and coaches are getting the best out of the magazine.

- **A team article in The Women's Football Magazine.**

Once signed up, we will arrange an interview with your team which will be published in a future issue of the magazine. The interview can be with the manager, players or maybe an unsung hero without whom your team simply couldn't exist? If you have other ideas, then let us know- we'd love to hear from you! It's all about helping you promote your team!

- **The opportunity to promote your club through our website.**

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# CUPS



# Everton 1-3 Manchester City: City retain title in extra time

Two goals in extra time from Manchester City secured them a second consecutive Women's FA Cup trophy.

The game, played at an empty Wembley, concluded the competition which was due to finish at the beginning of May but was postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The contest was the closest-fought final since the fixture was moved to Wembley in 2015.

United States midfielder Sam Mewis, who was easily the best player on the pitch in the first half, nodded an Alex Greenwood corner in shortly before half time.

France's Valerie Gauvin took a heavy knock just before half time, with many expecting her to be substituted during the break.

However, she came back out to head Everton level from Izzy Christiansen's corner in the second half.

Gareth Taylor's side could have settled the game early in the second 45 as Caroline Weir hit the post twice and then captain Steph Houghton saw her chance tipped onto the bar

by Everton's Sandy MacIver.

The 22-year-old Lioness gave a number of superb saves to keep the Toffees' in the game.

Unbeaten in their first five games of that new WSL season, the Toffees arrived at Wembley in fine form, but it was still last season's WSL runners-up City who were considered the pre-match favourites and they lived up to that tag with a strong opening 45 minutes.

But Everton, appearing in their first final since 2014 and trying to win their first cup since 2010, battled back strongly and the game was almost end-to-end at times in the final 20 minutes of normal time, before holders City edged clear in the latter stage of extra time to win the cup for the third time in four seasons.

In the second half of extra-time Georgia Stanway put City in front again before Janine Beekie settled the game with just minutes to go.

The win is Manchester City's third FA Cup title and a first trophy for Taylor, who took over from Nick Cushing when he left for the USA.

# Player of the Match and Stats

## Player of the Match: Sandy MacIver



Everton goalkeeper Sandy MacIver was the player awarded player of the match at Wembley. A number of excellent saves kept her side in the game throughout the second half, with many commenting that the future is exciting for the young Lioness. She became the first goalkeeper to win player of the match since Rachel Brown Finnis.

Former goalkeeper Siobhan Chamberlain said on Twitter: “The save from Sandy MacIver is as big as a goal. Unreal reactions to make the stop and gives her side a huge boost of confidence. They go straight up the other end and draw level. A save worthy of any final.”

## Match Statistics

Everton	Manchester City
Possession	
37%	63%
Shots	
13	28
Shots on target	
3	11
Corners	
4	8
Fouls	
15	9

# FA Cup final post match interviews

## Willie Kirk



Willie Kirk insisted Everton's extra-time FA Cup final defeat to Manchester City on Sunday "will inspire us to greater things" as he vowed to take the Blues back to Wembley

Stadium to contest a major final.

"I'm so, so proud of the players and staff, and the Club," he told evertontv.

"The preparations we've had for this match have been absolutely bang on.

"This feeling has to inspire us to come back and do greater things.

"And we'll be back here [at Wembley]. I guarantee you, we'll be back here.

"The resilience the team showed was superb. They stayed in the game and right up until one minute to go in extra time, we had opportunities to equalise.

"It's a proud moment as a manager. It's obviously gutting at the same time, but I think the pride, without doubt, is a lot greater than the disappointment of losing.

"We certainly created chances throughout the game, we had chances at 1-1. We could have won the game.

"In extra time, they probably got on top of us a little bit but I don't think any Evertonian tonight will be disappointed with the bravery and endeavour of the players.

"The fans can be proud of the players on the pitch, and the Club can be proud of how the players applied themselves on the pitch."

## Gareth Taylor

Gareth Taylor says leading City to the Women's FA Cup 'meant everything' and hopes his maiden trophy will mark the springboard to further success.



"It means everything," he told mancify.com. "It's a mix of emotions at the moment. It's not sunk in my I am really proud.

"I am fresh to this – I have not even hit double figures for games under my belt. I have been blown away by the support of the girls and their effort and application.

"(After the game), I spoke to my family. I was on the phone to my mum. I think she had been though the ringer more than I have!

"She said when she used to watch me play, she was just focused on me but she was focused on everything. It's different.

"It was nice to share that moment on the pitch and take it all in. Sometimes, you have to savour the moment – it's something to be really proud of.

"Desire and will got us through. It was a tough situation to be in.

"Naturally, it goes through your mind that it might not be your day. I just wanted us to play our game.

"When we stuck to the principles of keeping the ball, I was confident it would come.

"I was confident of going into extra-time. If Everton had scored later in the game, it might have been different."

# Trailblazers, players and fans come together to mark a big 5-0 for the Women's FA Cup



The Vitality Women's FA Cup Final between holders Manchester City and Everton was the 50th since the inaugural showpiece in 1971, and trailblazers of the competition have joined current players and fans in a video to mark the occasion.

The video has been produced to highlight the growth of the competition and to celebrate those who have played in and supported it since its infancy.

The first season of the competition in 1970/1971 saw 71 entrants placed in eight geographical groups and included some teams from both Scotland and Wales. Southampton beat Scottish side Stewarton 4-1 in a Final played at the Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre in London.

Those featured in the video include Pat Chapman, a winner of the competition with Southampton, who scored six goals in the 1978 final in an 8-2 over Queens Park Rangers.

Former England internationals Wendy Owen, Julie Hemsley and Karen Carney – all players who have graced the competition and played their part in its growth – also feature and pass on their celebratory messages.

As well as those who have played in past competitions, players from this Sunday's Final have also contributed, as well as fans of Manchester City and Everton, and youngsters who will no doubt have their own dreams of playing at Wembley in the future.

A record 376 teams entered the competition for the 2020/2021 season, which is at the Third Qualifying Round stage.

Here's to the next 50.

# First round qualifying results

Penrith AFC	1-2	South Shields	Royston Town	8-0	Brett Vale
FC United	4-1	Wakefield Trinity	Peterborough Northern Str	10-0	Southend United CS
Fleetwood Town Wrens	1-1 (5-4)	AFC Darwen	Luton Town	5-0	Wroxham
Brighouse Sports	2-3	Blyth Town	AFC Sudbury	3-3 (4-2)	Newmarket Town
Hull United	1-2	Sunderland West End	Ascot United	0-3	Denham United
Farsley Celtic Juniors	1-2	Warrington Wolves Fn	Moneyfields	1-1 (4-3)	AFC Bournemouth
Morecambe	5-2	Workington Reds	Lancing	0-1	Dulwich Hamlet
Blackburn Community	3-2	Alnwick Town	Watford Ladies Dev	1-9	Ashford
Wallsend Boys Club	2-1	York City	Eastbourne Town	2-0	Tilehurst Panthers
Spennymoor Town	3-3	Wythenshawe Amateurs	Badshot Lea	1-6	Saltdean United
Redcar Town	0-4	Ossett United	Comets	0-1	Wycombe Wanderers
Ripon City	1-4	Merseyrail	Worthing	6-0	Sutton United
Sutton Coldfield Town	1-0	Lincoln United	Regents Park Rangers	0-5	New London Lionesses
Lincoln Moorlands Railway	2-3	Beaumont Park	Fulham	5-0	Woodley United
Oadby & Wigston	5-2	Rise Park	Callington Town	1-2	Ilminster Town
Crusaders	4-0	Cookley Sports	Bristol Rovers	1-1 (4-3)	AEK Boko
Tamworth	1-2	Dronfield Town	Torquay United	0-12	Portishead Town
Leicester City	0-9	Grimsby Town	Sherbourne Town	2-1	Oldland Abbotonians
Sheffield Wednesday	1-1 (5-4)	Northwich Vixens	Marine Academy Plymouth	3-5	Helston Athletic
Crewe Alexandra	1-4	Coventry Sphinx	Middlezoy Rovers	2-2 (1-3)	AFC Stoneham
Knowle	0-6	Stourbridge	Dartford	7-1	Winchester City Flyers
Redditch United	4-0	Sherwood	Bowers & Pitsea	0-1	Harlow Town
Netherton United	5-4	Leigh Ramblers	Dorking Wanderers	1-7	Ashford Town (Middx)
Northampton Town	0-1	St Ives Town	Worcester City	4-1	Droitwich Spa

# Second round qualifying results

Stockport County	0-2	Leeds United	Billericay Town	4-1	Cambridge United
Ossett United	0-5	Liverpool Feds	Luton Town	1-0	Cambridge City
Helston Athletic	0-11	Southampton FC Women	Hashtag United	0-2	Enfield Town
Merseyrail	3-2	Bolton	Stevenage	3-3	Royston Town (3-5)
Brighouse Town	6-0	Spennymoor Town	Ipswich Town	10-0	Peterborough Nrthn Star
Warrington Wolves Fdn	2-3	Durham Cestria	AFC Wimbledon	6-0	Ashford
Blyth Town	0-5	Barnsley	Actonians	6-2	Saltdean United
Norton & Stockton Ants	2-5	FC United of Mancehster	New London Lionesses	1-1	Worthing (3-4)
Chorley	WO	Wallsend Boys Club	Dartford	1-1	Eastbourne (2-3)
Chester le Street Town	9-0	South Shields	Dulwich Hamlet	0-1	Leyton Orient
Bradford City	0-2	Sunderland West End	Fulham	1-0	Wycombe Wanderers
Morecambe	1-2	Fleetwood Town Wrens	Maidenhead United	1-0	Denham United
Newcastle United	11-0	Blackburn Community SC	Abingdon United	1-3	Chesham United
Dronfield Town	1-2	Coventry Sphinx	Ashford United	2-2	Kent Football United (4-5)
Worcester City	0-5	Stourbridge	AEK Boco	4-3	Larkhall Athletic
Sporting Khalsa	4-2	Leafield Athletic	Portishead Town	2-0	Sherbourne Town
Sutton Coldfield Town	0-2	Wolverhampton Wandrs	Cheltenham Town	3-0	Brislington
Lincoln City	10-1	Burton Albion	Exeter City	2-1	Swindon Town
Oadby & Wigston	2-3	Crusaders	AFC Stoneham	1-6	Buckland Athletic
Beaumont Park	1-2	Boldmere St Michaels	Ilminster Town	4-1	Poole Town
Howell Sports Women	7-2	Grimsby Town	Southampton Women	1-3	AFC Bournemouth
Redditch United	1-1	Doncaster Rovers Belles (4-1)	Solihull Moors	2-2	Bedworth United (3-2)
Long Eaton United	7-1	Netherton United	Harlow Town	5-1	St Ives Town
Northwich Vixens	1-2	Wem Town	Newmarket Town	1-5	Norwich City

# Third round qualifying fixtures

Fleetwood Town Wrens	vs	Liverpool Feds	FC United of Manchester	vs	Chorley Women
Brighouse Town	vs	Merseyrail	Chester le Street	vs	Durham Cestria
Holwell Sports	vs	Lincoln City	Long Eaton United	vs	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Redditch United	vs	Boldmere St Michaels	Luton Town	vs	Enfield Town
Billericay Town	vs	Chesham United	Norwich City	vs	Ipswich Town
Exeter City	vs	AEK Boco	Cheltenham Town	vs	Portishead Town
AFC Bournemouth	vs	Buckland Athletic	Ilminster Town	vs	Southampton Women
Barnsley	vs	Leeds United	Newcastle United	vs	Sunderland West End
Stourbridge	vs	Crusaders	Wem Town	vs	Coventry Sphinx
Harlow Town	vs	Royston Town	Actonians	vs	Worthing
Fulham	vs	Maidenhead United	Kent Football United	vs	AFC Wimbledon
Eastbourne Town	vs	Leyton Orient	Solihull Moors	vs	Sporting Khalsa



## **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

# Conti Cup round one results



Group A			Group D		
Aston Villa	1-0	Sheffield United	Brighton & Hove Albion	2-2	West Ham United
Jodie Hutton 37 (P)			Connolly 42; Jarrett 61      Daly 31; Flaherty 82		
Durham	5-2	Coventry United	Reading	4-0	Charlton Athletic
Hepple 38, 44, 60; Sharpe 56; Galloway 87			Carter 25; Harding 68, 70; Chaplen 90		
Dermondy 20; Anderson 84					
Group B			Group E		
Tottenham Hotspur	4-0	London City Lionesses	Blackburn Rovers	0-1	Birmingham City
Percival 12; Kennedy 29; Ayane 35; Addison 82			Walker 81		
Chelsea	4-1	Arsenal			
Eriksson 5; Reiten 10, 15; England 90      Foord 8					
Group C			Group F		
Liverpool	3-1	Manchester United	Bristol City	4-0	London Bees
Furness 32,82; Babajide 70      Toone 86			Roberts 10 (OG); Logarzo 12; Salmon 80; Wellings 82		
Manchester City	3-1	Everton	Lewes	1-2	Crystal Palace
Lavelle 51; Kelly 76; Park 90+2      Turner 20			Jones 59      Baptiste 76, 90		

# Conti Cup round one fixtures



Group A		Group D	
Sheffield United	vs	Durham	
Wednesday, November 4, 19:30, Proact Stadium		Charlton Athletic	vs Brighton & Hove Albion
		Wednesday, November 7, 19:45, The Oakwood	
Durham	vs	Coventry United	
Wednesday, October 7, 19:30, Maiden Castle		West Ham United	vs Reading
		Wednesday, November 4, 19:30, Chigwell Construction Stadium	
Group B		Group E	
Chelsea	vs	Tottenham Hotspur	
Tuesday, November 3, 19:00, Kingsmeadow		Leicester City	vs Blackburn Rovers
		Wednesday, November 4, 19:45, Sutton Park	
London City Lioness	vs	Arsenal	
Wednesday, November 4, 19:30, Princes Park			
Group C		Group F	
Liverpool	vs	Manchester City	
Wednesday, November 4, 14:00, Prenton Park		London Bees	vs Lewes
		Wednesday, November 4, 19:45, The Hive Stadium	
Everton	vs	Manchester United	
Wednesday, November 4 19:00, Walton Hall Park		Crystal Palace	vs Bristol City
		Thursday, November 5, 19:45, Hayes Lane	

# HOME NATIONS



# ELLEN WHITE & STEPH HOUGHTON

## By Ali Rampling

Ellen White has praised the competition in the England squad after a host of new faces were called up for both of the Lionesses' September and October camps.

The Manchester City striker was one of 15 members of England's 2019 World Cup squad selected ahead of the Lionesses' friendly with Germany - which was subsequently cancelled due to coronavirus - while seven uncapped players were also included.

The 28-person squad was packed full of up and coming talent as England look to build for the future, and White explained that the experienced members of the team are learning just as much from the youngsters as the youngsters are from them.

"They don't ask me anything!" White joked when questioned about any pearls of wisdom she was being asked to pass on to the new squad members.

"They're always wanting to learn, to be competitive, to be better and better.

"For us more experienced players, we like being driven, we want to learn, we want to develop as well so they're always pushing us to get better and better as well as us pushing them, because ultimately that's going to make our team better.

"I love learning off the younger players coming through; they're pushing me. It is really exciting that we've got so many youngsters coming through that are so talented, and also that are great people as well, which is a key factor in an England team but also in a winning culture.

“*Everyone's shirt is up for grabs*”

"Everyone's shirt is up for grabs and that's what makes it exciting. In every training session I'm flying around!"

The next 11 months are seen as a transitional period for England, with Phil Neville currently still in charge before Sarina Wiegman takes the reins in September 2021.

Neville's injection of youth and fresh faces is all part of the transitional process - and for captain Steph Houghton, it's another reminder of the talent at England's disposal.

"I've been through a few transitional periods within the England team!" Laughed Houghton.

"I think it's really refreshing. These new players that have come in have thoroughly deserved coming into this squad with their performances at club level.

"We're able to give these youngsters a lot of chances because of the quality of players we have. For us as an England setup it's great to have

# The Big Interview

such a range of players, but also players that are really playing well and are in good form, and it makes training that bit more competitive.”

The latest England camp came in the wake of the FA launching their new four-year strategy titled Inspiring Positive Change.

The strategy sees English football’s governing body targeting a major trophy win by 2024 - a challenge that the squad do not see as expected, not a daunting ask.

“All the tournaments we've been involved in, as players we put that expectation on ourselves,” said Houghton.

“We go into a major tournament and we want to win.

“The pressure we put on ourselves is probably more than the pressure you guys (the media) put on us or anybody else within the FA. For me obviously the aim is to win a major tournament.”

“We want to win every game,” added White. “Whatever tournament we've been involved in we've wanted to win, and it's great that we want to win a World Cup - we wanted to win in 2019.

“We've got a Team GB Olympics coming up, we've also got a Euros so there's massive tournaments before that World Cup to potentially win something. It's great we want to invest and put money into hopefully building a massive legacy and hopefully winning a World Cup.”

Having fallen at the semi final stage in each of the last three major tournaments, just how do the Lionesses get over the final hurdle and get their hands on their first piece of silverware?

“Probably if they took VAR out of a tournament that would be nice!” White joked. “It's fine margins, that ability to push that one or two percent.

“We're all working as hard as we can individually to make the team even better and hopefully when we do come to those moments again we will have that extra one or two percent to push over the line, get to that final and win a major tournament.”





WHITE

18

# England to receive pay despite Germany cancellation



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England Women are still to be paid for the cancelled friendly against Germany.

The game, which was due to be played on October 27, was cancelled just two days before.

The FA statement read: “England Women have taken the difficult decision today to cancel the squad’s away fixture against Germany, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27 October.

“This follows the return of a positive COVID-19 test result for a member of the Lionesses’ backroom staff and our consequent concern for the safety and welfare of all players and staff which remains our top priority.

“The current COVID-19 protocol enforced

by the German government requires that any individual who tests positive whilst in the country must self-isolate for 14 days. We cannot take the risk that this may happen to a player or member of England staff.

“The FA’s chief executive Mark Bullingham said: “This has been a difficult but necessary decision.

“Nothing is more important than the safety, health and wellbeing of the players and colleagues under our care.

“We are very grateful to the DFB for their cooperation and understanding and look forward to the possibility of a future fixture in healthier and safer times.”

“England head coach Phil Neville said: “While we all wanted to play Tuesday’s game, this was absolutely the right course of action.”

“I thank Germany’s staff for their understanding and our FA colleagues for their support.”

“I know the fans were hoping to see us play again but I am sure they will understand the decision.”

“We have still had a good week of training and are looking forward to getting together next month before our match against Norway in Sheffield.”

“The remainder of England Women’s October camp at St. George’s Park was cancelled and the players will return to their clubs today.”

The Athletic was told that each player would receive their normal match fee despite the cancellation.

After the FA agreed to pay men and women equally, it is understood to be £1000 per game.

The decision was made because the travelling squad were ready to play before the decision was made.



# Beverly Priestman appointed head coach of Canadian Women



The head coach of England Women's Under-18s and former Senior Women's assistant coach, Beverly Priestman, has today been appointed as the new head coach of Canada Women.

Priestman, who helped Phil Neville guide the Lionesses to the semi-final of the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019, will assume her new role on 1 November.

Priestman is well known to Canadian football fans having served as John Herdman's assistant coach, most notably at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015 and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro where Canada achieved bronze.

Priestman was also National Youth Head Coach and Program Director, before she returned to England to rejoin The FA in 2018.

Speaking of her new role, Priestman said: "I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at The FA, particularly working closely with Phil Neville and the senior squad during an exciting two years which saw us reach the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup.

"I have some really special memories from that two-year journey and I'd like to thank Phil, the staff and the players for that.

"Furthermore, I have thoroughly enjoyed my recent work with the Women's U18s staff and players in preparation for the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup. "When the opportunity to lead Canada Women was on the table, I knew immediately it was something I had to do.

“To have the chance to return and work with some great people and lead a senior national team into two Olympic Games and the FIFA Women’s World Cup in 2023 fulfils so many of my professional goals.

“I’d like to thank The FA for their unwavering support and understanding.

“It was clear from my very first conversation with Sue Campbell that she places huge value in supporting female coaches to succeed at the very top of the game.

“Whilst it is always sad to lose such a talented coach, it is testament to her abilities and experience in the women’s game that she has secured such a significant national role. “We thank Bev for her hard work and commitment to our England teams over the last three years and wish her and her family the very best for the next stage of their journey.”



# England Women's physical performance manager Dawn Scott embarks on elite sporting director qualification



Dawn Scott has gone back to the classroom part-time to study for Manchester Metropolitan's Masters of Sport Directorship (MSD) qualification.

The sport scientist played a major role in the US's back-to-back Women's World Cup wins and was appointed physical performance coach for the senior England women's team in November last year

Scott, who was appointed by the FA to lead the delivery of "game-changing physical performance service" to Phil Neville's Lionesses, has embarked on the renowned MSD, which she will study as part of a cohort of 25 other sports professionals over the next two years.

England cricket director Ashley Giles was among the first students to graduate from the course in 2017 and has credited his studies at Manchester Metropolitan University with helping to shape the way he carries out his role for the ECB.

England and Manchester City goalkeeper Karen Bardsley, who was earlier this year appointed by the FA as an independent non-executive director of women and girls' football in Manchester, is also an MSD graduate, as is Sheffield Wednesday's head of sport science and medicine Tony Strudwick, while Manchester City's sport science head Sam Erith is due to graduate next summer.

Dawn Scott said: "I'm passionate about women's sport and have been a practitioner in the women's game for over 20 years now. I am always looking to grow and develop personally and professionally, especially to gain more impact as a leader, and longer term want to transition to a more strategic role.

“The MSD was really appealing as it covers so many topics that I want to learn more about and apply to my current role, as well as use to shape my future career ambitions.”

Mark Batey, who heads the MSD at Manchester Metropolitan University, said: “The MSD is now in its seventh year and over that time it has without doubt become recognised as the go-to course for sports industry professionals who want to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge that are needed for the strategic, top-level roles such as sporting director.

“Not only is the MSD transformational in terms of students’ individual careers but its blend of high-performance leadership, governance and commercial management, together with practical insights into harnessing creativity and innovation, are now having a resoundingly positive impact on sports organisations worldwide.”

He added: “Amid the current uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic, we are seeing particularly high levels of interest in the MSD course as sports professionals look to future proof their careers for the years ahead.”

The academically rigorous two-year, part-time MSD is designed to develop the commercial skill sets and personal attributes required to succeed as a top-flight sporting director. The course features masterclasses from world-renowned speakers and engaging sessions that combine expert insight with practical tools. Working alongside fellow sporting directors, students cover leadership, managing high-performing organisations, creativity and innovation, sporting governance and compliance, and finish with a dissertation.



# Finland

## 1-0

# Scotland



Scotland suffered their first defeat in the European Championship qualifiers against Group E leaders Finland.

Finland, who are now four points ahead in the group table, secured the win with a Eveliina Summanen goal in the second half.

Scotland started stronger with Erin Cuthbert firing a loose ball towards goal but it was saved by goalkeeper Tinja-Riikka Korpela.

Caroline Weir then sent Thomas through but the West Ham forward shot wide.

Finland had the attacking impetus early in the second period with Franssi's shot from 20 yards tipped over by Alexander.

But from the corner, Natalia Kuikka's header was cleared off the line by Lizzie Arnot and Summanen buried the rebound - the first goal Scotland have conceded in four Group E matches.

Speaking after the game, Shelley Kerr said: “It’s frustrating we’ve come away with nothing after putting in all the plans to get the win.

“Credit to Finland who hurt us on the second phase of a set play which normally we would deal with.

“There wasn’t a lot in the game. We controlled more of the game than they did but at the end of the day they’ve got the three points.

“We’re disappointed but we know what’s at stake and what we’ve got to do now. We’ve got to beat a good Portugal team away from home and then beat Finland at home.

“We’ve dropped three points and Finland and Portugal have dropped two so far. Nothing changes for us.

“It’s good that we have two games next month. Hopefully we get some of our players back and we’re in a strong position to get two good results.”

Kerr's team, who have a game in hand, visit Portugal late next month before welcoming Finland to Edinburgh on 1 December. The final two qualifiers with Cyprus (away) and Portugal (home) will take place in February.



CORASIE

4

EVANS

77

DOUGHERTY

3

WORLD CUP  
FIFA

WORLD CUP  
FIFA

WORLD CUP  
FIFA



# Wales

## 0-1

# Norway

Wales hopes of reaching a first major finals suffered a blow with another 1-0 defeat to Norway.

An impressive first half saw Wales go into the break level but a second half goal from Frida Maanum was enough for the group leaders to secure victory and qualification to the tournament which will now take place in 2022.

Tactically it was a dream first half for Wales, who frustrated a Norwegian side that instantly got back on the front foot after the interval with Karina Saevik testing O'Sullivan from close range before Ingrid Wold fired over just before the hour mark.

It was moments later that Wales were finally breached and they'll be disappointed to have contributed to their own downfall with Kayleigh Green overrunning the ball and Hughes unable to make the interception as Thorsnes shielded the ball and Maanum fired home from 20-yards.

Blakstad fired wide as Norway looked to make the game safe, but Wales finished strongly with chances of their own as they pushed and pushed to equalise.

Fishlock came closest, firing just wide through a crowded box while Wales saw two penalty appeals waved away by referee Irina Mirt.

"If I'm honest I am probably more angry than anything else," Ludlow told BBC Sport Wales after the match.

"I am angry about the goal in the sense that it is a switch-off moment from us.

"Obviously we had a game plan to try and nullify them and we were doing it pretty well. I am sure it wasn't a great spectacle to watch for 60 minutes, but it was playing into our hands.

"A lack of concentration and organisation for the goal [cost us] and with the level of player they have, it is going to be difficult situation to deal with, unfortunately.

"We tried to go after them in the last 25 minutes and we created enough chances. But if you create chances in international football you have to take them."





# Belarus

## 0-1

# Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland produced an impressive performance to beat Belarus 1-0 in their European Championship qualifier.

This comes despite having to play over an hour of the game with 10 players.

Shiels changed the shape of his team at the break, introducing Linfield Ladies teenage defender Abbie Magee for her debut and dropping the outstanding Sarah McFadden into the heart of the defence after Ashley Hutton had to be replaced.

Goalkeeper Jacqueline Burns was sent off in the 27th minute for bringing down Anastaysia Shcherbachenia.

Three minutes before half-time Rachel Furness headed in the winner at the back post from Demi Vance's corner.

“They showed Northern Ireland spirit tonight, they dug in — and remember it was 0-0 when we had Jackie sent off,” said Shiels.

“We won the last hour 1-0 with a player less, so that was testament to the work that they have put in and training really, really hard to get into this position.”

The win sees Northern Ireland move up to third in Group C, two points clear of Belarus.

Former world champions Norway have qualified with six wins from six but second-placed Wales are three points ahead of Northern Ireland, having played one game more.

The nine group winners, plus the three runners-up with the best records will automatically qualify for the tournament in England in 2022, while the other six runners-up will play off for the remaining berths in the 16-team finals.



UEFA  
WOMEN'S  
EURO 2022  
ENGLAND

# INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS



# 2021 Championship chatter

Wednesday, October 21			
B	Denmark	4-0	Israel
Thursday, October 22			
C	Wales	4-0	Faroe Islands
F	Sweden	7-0	Latvia
I	Greece	1-0	Montenegro
Friday, October 23			
B	Poland	3-0	Azerbaijan
A	Russia	1-0	Slovenia
A	Turkey	0-0	Kosovo
H	Lithuania	0-4	Romania
E	Cyprus	0-3	Portugal
A	Netherlands	7-0	Estonia
E	Scotland	3-0	Albania
B	Spain	4-0	Czech Republic
G	France	11-0	North Macedonia
D	Ukraine	1-0	Ireland
F	Hungary	1-2	Slovakia
Saturday, October 24			
G	Serbia	4-1	Kazakhstan
Tuesday, October 27			
A	Russia	4-2	Turkey
H	Romania	0-2	Switzerland
C	Belarus	0-1	Northern Ireland
B	Italy	1-3	Denmark
C	Wales	0-1	Norway
F	Slovakia	2-0	Latvia
A	Kosovo	0-6	Netherlands
G	Austria	0-0	France
D	Moldova	0-3	Poland
I	Greece	0-4	Ukraine
E	Finland	1-0	Scotland
H	Lithuania	0-9	Belgium
E	Portugal	1-0	Cyprus
B	Georgia	1-2	Israel
F	Sweden	2-0	Iceland

**MANCHESTER**



UEFA  
WOMEN'S  
EURO 2021  
ENGLAND



MEGASTORE

ENTRANCE

E3

EX10

EX12

UEFA  
WOMEN'S  
EURO 2021  
ENGLAND

# 2021 Championship chatter

Group A									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Netherlands	9	9	0	0	42	3	39	27
2	Russia	8	6	0	2	18	5	13	18
3	Slovenia	8	4	0	4	20	12	8	12
4	Kosovo	8	3	1	4	6	20	-14	10
5	Turkey	8	0	2	6	4	26	-22	2
6	Estonia	7	0	1	6	1	25	-24	1

Group B									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Denmark	9	9	0	0	48	1	47	27
2	Italy	8	7	0	1	25	5	20	21
3	Bosnia &	9	5	0	4	16	17	-1	15
4	Israel	8	2	1	5	10	16	-6	7
5	Malta	8	1	1	6	5	30	-25	4
6	Georgia	8	0	0	8	3	36	-35	0

Group C									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Norway	6	6	0	0	34	1	33	18
2	Wales	7	3	2	2	13	4	9	11
3	Northern Ireland	6	2	2	2	9	14	-5	8
4	Belarus	5	2	3	3	9	9	0	6
5	Faroe	6	0	6	6	0	37	-37	0

Group D									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Poland	7	4	2	1	16	2	14	14
2	Spain	5	4	1	0	22	1	21	13
3	Czech Republic	7	4	1	2	17	9	8	13
4	Moldova	5	1	0	4	3	25	-22	3
5	Azerbaijan	6	0	0	6	1	22	-21	0

Group E									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Finland	5	4	1	0	17	2	15	13
2	Portugal	4	3	1	0	6	1	5	10
3	Scotland	4	3	0	1	16	1	15	9
4	Albania	6	1	0	5	3	20	-17	3
5	Cyprus	5	0	0	5	0	18	-18	0

# 2021 Championship chatter

Group F									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Sweden	7	6	1	0	34	2	32	19
2	Iceland	6	4	1	1	21	4	17	13
3	Slovakia	6	3	1	2	6	10	-4	10
4	Hungary	7	2	1	4	11	19	-8	7
5	Latvia	8	0	0	8	2	39	-37	0

Group G									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	France	6	5	1	0	29	0	29	16
2	Austria	6	5	1	0	21	0	21	16
3	Serbia	7	4	0	3	21	11	10	12
4	North Macedonia	7	1	0	6	5	39	-34	3
5	Kazakhstan	6	0	0	6	2	28	-26	0

Group H									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Switzerland	7	6	1	0	20	2	18	19
2	Belgium	7	6	0	1	33	5	28	18
3	Romania	7	3	0	4	12	16	-4	9
4	Croatia	6	1	1	4	6	18	-12	4
5	Lithuania	7	0	0	7	1	31	-30	0

Group I									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	P
1	Germany	6	6	0	0	37	0	37	18
2	Ireland	7	4	1	2	10	7	3	13
3	Ukraine	7	4	0	3	14	20	-6	12
4	Greece	7	2	1	4	6	15	-9	7
5	Montenegro	7	0	0	7	1	26	-25	0

# Germany, Belgium & Netherlands to bid for 2027 WWC



Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium have announced a joint bid to host the 2027 Women's World Cup.

The three countries' football associations said they had presented plans to Fifa and will draft further details in the upcoming months.

Last Year Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands said they were working on a joint bid.

Germany hosted the Women's World Cup in 2011, while the Netherlands staged the Women's Euro 2017 championship. Belgium has never held a major women's

tournament.

"Women's football in our countries is indeed in differing phases of development, but we share the aspiration to give the sport a boost nationally and globally by organising this World Cup," said the three countries in a joint statement.

The 2023 edition will be held in Australia and New Zealand.

England will host the next European Championships in 2022.

The tournament was due to be played in 2021 but has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

# Around the World





# News from around the world

## Germany celebrates 50 years of women's football

Germany are celebrating 50 years of their international team.

Women's football was recognised in DFB's statutes on October 31, 1970.

They contested their first official international match on November 26, 1982.

Following the tradition of the men's team, Switzerland was chosen as West Germany's first opponent.

Doris Kresimon scored the first international goal in the 25th minute.

In the second half, 18-year-old Silvia Neid contributed two goals to the 5-1 victory; Neid later became the assistant coach in 1996 and the head coach in 2005.

Since then, Germany have won two Fifa Women's World Cups.

## Artist Sheebah Karungi makes contribution to Uganda U17 team



Celebrated Ugandan female artist Sheebah Karungi has made a contribution of 1500 packs of Holic sanitary pads to the Uganda U-17 National women football team.

The function was held shortly after the team's training session at the StarTimes Stadium, Lugogo.

Sheebah could not hide her excitement meeting the Women National team: "Praise God. I am so proud of you. I come from a back ground where i started working at 14 years.





# News from around the world

“So I am so proud of you that you are young women but going to do something big for your selves and the country.

“You do not know how great you are already.

“Keep pushing and I know you are going to make it but first things first I want you to be comfortable and that is why we decided to extend this gesture to you.

Sheebah added; “We have come to give you Holic Pads and also offer you something beautiful which will make you comfortable when playing on the pitch and beating Cameroon.

“I do not want you to wake up in the morning with a lot of discomfort because of the menstrual times.

“We want you to feel comfortable and do what you do best so regardless whether you are in your red zone or not. We want you to win because you are destined for greatness.”

## **Iran’s women’s football league to begin in November**

The 12th edition of the Iran’s women’s football league will start on November 27.

The competitions draw ceremony will be held in Tehran.



The Kowsar Women Football League is a women's football league run by the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran.

Shahrdari Bam is the most decorated team in the football league with six titles.

## **‘Safa is disrespecting women’ according to South African national team**

The South African women’s national team has been forced to play the Cosafa Women’s Championship with covered-up Nike kits.

The news comes because the South African Football Association’s new technical sponsor has not accommodated women.

Opinion that women’s football in South Africa will improve is slowly dissipating.



# News from around the world



Safa took the right steps after their debut at the 2019 Women's World Cup, introducing a more competitive league for women.

However, there are still a lot of problems in the country.

The senior national women's side head to Port Elizabeth without having properly prepared—the team last played together in March against Lesotho in a friendly match.

Other countries like Zambia and the Mountain Kingdom used the October Fifa international week

to prepare for the Southern Africa competition, Safa were mum about preparatory plans for both the defending champions and the national U17 women's side.

Now to add to the turmoil, the launch and unveiling of Safa's technical sponsor Le Coq Sportif excluded women's wear and the women's side will not be able to wear the new kit.

## First women's football team of Yi nationality forms in China

The Sichuan National Football Competition and Training Base has welcomed a group of special players.

Hailing from the Liangshan Mountains of Sichuan province, they are members of the first women's football team of the Yi nationality in China.

The girls will start a new life of studying and professional football training after traveling a long distance to the base.

The Liangshan Mountains, among other regions, are still relatively poor, and efforts have been made to step up poverty alleviation and promote the popularization of football, leading to the idea of forming a team.

From this September, coaches designated by the Sichuan Football Administrative Center and the Sichuan Football Association came to primary schools at the





# News from around the world

Liangshan Mountains and selected 28 players. On Oct. 22, the girls began their training, while continuing their primary school education.

“It takes time, and I hope I can coach the girls to success so that after returning to their hometowns they can help villagers to broaden their minds and lift themselves out of poverty using sport,” said Coach Chen Hua told people in China.

## **Women’s football match cancelled as Slovenians test positive for Covid-19**

Estonia were set to host Slovenia for a Uefa Women’s Championship qualifier but the game was cancelled.



Almost the entire Slovenian team was diagnosed with Coronavirus.

Twenty-two members of the squad tested positive after the team arrived in Tallinn for the qualifier.

“The Slovenian women’s team was in a training camp in Maribor where they were tested multiple times based on our information, last on October 20.

“The Slovenians took a charter to Moscow where they played a UEFA qualifier against Russia on October 23.

“They arrived in Tallinn on another charter flight on October 24 where they were tested again,” Mihkel Uiboleht, head of PR for the Estonian Soccer Association, said in a Health Board press release.

It is currently unsure when the game will now be played.

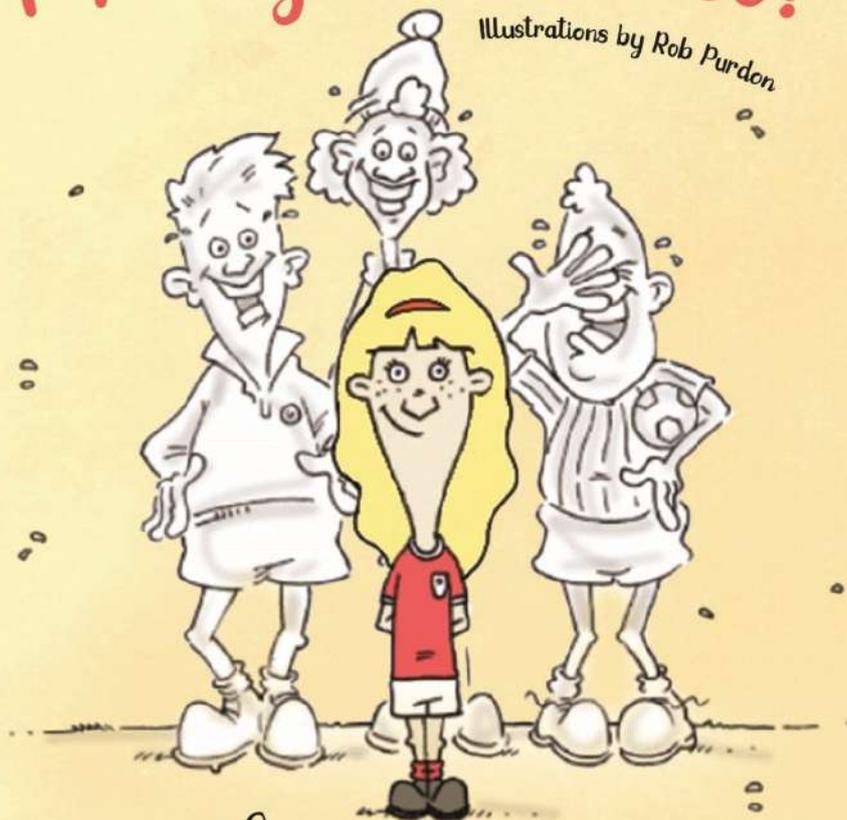
Slovenia currently sit third in Group, with Netherlands and Russia ahead of them on 27 and 18 points respectively.

Slovenia have 12 points with two games remaining.

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