

# THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

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# **THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE**



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# Welcome

*Hello and  
welcome to  
Issue 56!*

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What a month it has been for women's football. There has been so much happening with the international break, the first trophy handed out and of course the continuation of all the leagues.

This month we look at why Arsenal cannot win the WSL, why Williamson and Walsh are the key to England's success and why the FIFA XI World Team was just so crazy.

All these articles plus all the news from across the leagues.

We also have some exciting news coming soon about our "special issue" coming out for Euro 22 so keep your eyes peeled for that!

We are on the lookout for new writers so get in touch if you are interested in finding out more.

Enjoy the issue!

Helen Rowe-Willcocks

 **Editor-in-Chief**  
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# THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

## CALENDAR 2022

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# WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



# Why the WSL title won't be won by Arsenal



**By Marissa Thomas**

Arsenal started their WSL campaign in the best way possible, by beating the reigning champions Chelsea 3-2 at the Emirates. When the two sides face each other in February, Chelsea will be looking to leapfrog their rivals into first spot. Emma Hayes' side are just two points behind Arsenal and they have a game in hand so they are in the driving seat.

While Arsenal have been top of the league for the majority of the season thus far, they have become more unconvincing as the campaign has continued. December was an awful month for the Gunners and instead of returning rejuvenated from the winter break, it was quite the opposite for Arsenal.

An away defeat at Birmingham City who are bottom of the league, highlighted just how poor Arsenal can be when things don't go their way. The Gunners were 2-0 down at half time but showed no signs of recovery in the second half as they succumbed to their only league defeat of the season. Birmingham deserved to win the match but Arsenal can ill afford to lose such games when there is a league title at stake. Chelsea have lost two matches this campaign but they are now out of the Champions League

and will be looking to get over that disappointment by winning the league.

Leah Williamson's hamstring injury in the November North London Derby undoubtedly changed the course of Arsenal's season. Without their crucial ball playing centre back, Arsenal have struggled on numerous occasions and been caught out due to a lack of pace at the back. Williamson also starts attacks and gets Arsenal moving up the pitch, something that has not been replicated in her absence.

The Gunners have dropped vital points in draws against Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester City and Manchester United. However, the promising sign is that they have come from behind in all three of those draws with two of their equalisers coming in the 92nd minute.

There have been times this season when Arsenal look up for the fight but Jonas Eidevall's side are clinging on to top spot by the skin of their teeth and Chelsea are very much waiting in the wings for their opportunity. If Chelsea beat Arsenal when they welcome their rivals to Kingsmeadow, it's hard to imagine the WSL title with anything other than blue ribbons when the season ends.

## **Skinner named WSL Manager of the Month**

Manchester United head coach Marc Skinner was named Women's Super League's manager of the month for January.

The award comes after he was also awarded the win in December.

Skinner beat Manchester City's Gareth Taylor and Reading's Kelly Chambers.

He told the official website: "It feels amazing. When we won the first one last month, it was amazing, but I have to credit the staff, the players - you can't win this unless it's for them and with them.

"More importantly, our energy is from the fans. As a collective, we all take this award and it can be a cliché when you just talk about it being everyone, but it really is everyone.

"I just take a percentage of this and everyone should share in it.

"I think what it shows is a credit to the players and the growth that we've had. It's never easy to keep clean sheets in this league and we know that," Marc explains.

"But it's something we focus on as a group and the players have shown their absolute quality and commitment to everything we're doing.

"More importantly, it's shown the quality of play that we've produced in the month, but we have to continue to do that."



## **Poppy Soper joins Chelsea**

Chelsea have agreed a dual registration for goalkeeper Poppy Soper.

The dual registration is with Plymouth Argyle for the 19-year-old.

The Welsh senior international has been at Argyle for the past two seasons.

She will now train alongside Ann-Katrin Berger and Zecira Musovic at Cobham to further her development.

She will be available for selection with both teams.

## Dowie wins January Goal of the Month

Reading's Natasha Dowie has won the Women's Super League January goal of the month award.

It was Dowie's curtain-raiser in 2022 against Leicester at the Select Car Leasing Stadium which grabbed the headlines and the award.

Having been played down the left by Vanhaevermaet, Dowie had the time to settle herself before producing an audacious lob from 25 yards out to catch the Foxes' keeper off her line.

On the award, the Royals forward told the official website: "I'm really happy with the award. The finish really pleased me, on my weaker foot as well, but most importantly it was crucial in getting the three points for the team. I'd like to thank all the people that did vote for me, I'm so happy here at Reading we're in great form, and individually it's nice to win these awards.

"Despite this being an individual award, for me, it goes to my teammates too.

"I wouldn't be able to score the chances with my team giving me the chances, and they're making it easy for me at the moment."

## Villa midfielder signs contract extension

Aston Villa have announced that Laura Blindkilde Brown has signed a contract extension until 2025.

Blindkilde Brown penned a first professional contract in September having made 24 goal contributions for our WSL Academy during the 2020/21 season.

The midfielder has since made nine first-team appearances in all competitions and netted her first senior goal against Sunderland in December.



# Manchester City announce new partnership



**By Helen Rowe-Willcocks**

Manchester City announce new partnership

Manchester City have announced a new partnership with JLab.

JLab are a leading personal technology company based in the United States and available in over 80 countries.

The new agreement sees JLab become the Official Headphones Partner of City's women's first team and the brand have also struck the same deal with City Football Group sister club and 2021 MLS Cup Champions, New York City FC.

Speaking about the collaboration, Gavin Makel, Managing Director of Manchester City Women, said: "We are delighted to welcome JLab as an official partner of our women's team.

"Having an international brand of their calibre working with the Club is fantastic, especially in terms of expanding Manchester City Women's reach and profile in the United States of America.

"We have been hugely impressed with the overall commitment to women's sport that JLab have shown and we're very excited to work with them moving forwards."

Win Cramer, JLab CEO, added: "JLab is excited to reach the global soccer community in a meaningful way through partnerships with Manchester City Women's Football Club and MLS Cup Champions NYCFC.

"Being a 'girl dad' this is super exciting for not just JLab, but me personally to support women in sports.

"We're excited to share the JLab experience with more soccer fans in the UK, US and internationally, while supporting a sport that is growing, just like our brand."



S2



# Roman Abramovich:

## What does it mean for Chelsea Women



### By Helen Rowe-Willcocks

As the war in Ukraine rages on, the pain and concern continues to resonate around the world.

On Thursday, March 10, Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, had his assets frozen as part of a range of British government sanctions against even Russian “pro-Kremlin” oligarchs closely linked with Vladimir Putin’s regime.

It means Abramovich can no longer sell Chelsea or make money from owning them.

It also means that the club are now under strict rules on what they can and cannot do and it is a criminal offence if they do not comply.

So what does this mean for Emma Hayes’ side?

**What are Chelsea banned from doing?**

- Only season ticket holders and those who have already bought tickets will be allowed to attend Chelsea games.
- The club are no longer permitted to transfer or loan players.
- Broadcast and prize money is frozen
- The official club shop has been forced to close
- The club is allowed to continue to play fixtures and has been permitted “reasonable travel costs” with a maximum per game of £20,000
- Fans at games are still allowed to purchase food and drink

**What does it mean for Chelsea’s sponsors?**

Three, the British telecoms company, is the team’s principal shirt sponsor—for both the women’s and men’s teams.

The deal is believed to be worth around £40m a year but the company have confirmed they are suspending their partnership with the club.

A spokesperson said: “In light of the government’s recently announced sanctions, we have requested Chelsea Football Club temporarily suspend our sponsorship of the club, including the removal of our brand from shirts and around the stadium until further notice.

“We recognise that this decision will impact the many Chelsea fans who follow their team passionately. However, we feel that given the circumstances, and the government sanction that is in

place, it is the right thing to do. As a mobile network, the best way we can support the people of Ukraine is to ensure refugees arriving in the UK from the conflict and customers currently in Ukraine can stay connected to the people who matter to them. Therefore, we are offering connectivity packages to all Ukrainians arriving in the UK, and those in Ukraine.”

Hyundai, Chelsea shirt sleeve sponsor, have also followed suit but Nike and training kit sponsor Trivago have decided to remain with the European champions.

### **Why are Chelsea players still wearing the Three logo on shirts?**

Three asked Chelsea to immediately remove the logo from their shirts but the players from both teams were seen wearing them for their Premier League and Women's Super League fixtures.

It has been reported that Chelsea remain in discussions with Three and could be struggling to purchase new kits due to the impact of the sanction, which included the club's credit cards from being

frozen by Barclays.

### **What does this mean for the players?**

Chelsea will continue to pay the wages of all employees including players and coaches of both the men's and women's teams.

Emma Hayes' side will be unable to sign any potential targets and they cannot offer contract extensions for current players, which could have a huge impact if the sanctions continue long-term.

As it stands, four women's players will be out of contract this summer.

Jonna Andersson, Maren Mjelde, Ji So-yun, and Drew Spence all have just months left on their current deals and are unable to extend their commitment to the club.

Unless sanctions are lifted before the summer transfer window, the quartet will be made free agents. Chelsea will also be unable to make any new signings once the window opens.

### **Has Emma Hayes said anything about the news?**

It has long been known that Hayes has been close to the Chelsea owner.

Amramovich has shown a keen interest in the women's side, commiserating their Champions League defeat in Gothenburg with them and having a private dinner with him in Israel in previous years.

So far Chelsea Women do not wish to make any further comment.

### **Chelsea Women's titles under the Abramovich era**

- Super League: 4 (2015, 2017-18, 2019-20, 2020-21)
- FA Cup: 3 (2014-15, 2017-18, 2020-21)
- League Cup: 2 (2019-20, 2020-21)
- Community Shield: 1 (2020)



## Kelly signs contract extension

Manchester City have announced that Chloe Kelly has signed a three-year contract extension.

The forward has committed herself to the Women's Super League club with a deal which runs to the summer of the 2025.

Kelly moved to the Academy Stadium from Everton in July 2020 and enjoyed a highly successful debut season, scoring 16 goals in 34 appearances and helping City win the delayed 2019-20 Women's FA Cup before an ACL injury brought an unfortunate and premature end to her maiden campaign.

The 24-year-old is yet to feature this term, but is nearing a return to first team action.

Speaking about the new deal, Kelly told [mancity.com](http://mancity.com): "I'm over the moon to finally put pen to paper on a new deal.

"I'm really happy with the way I've started my time here at City, and long may that continue.

"As soon as I came here, I felt so welcomed into the group—the girls are great. I know I've still got so much to learn and the best is yet to come, but I want to win trophies and I believe that we can do that here at City.

"During my rehabilitation, this has been a time where I've learnt so much about myself off the pitch too.

"I've really enjoyed working with Gareth [Taylor] as well – he's really brought out the best in me so far and especially during my first season, he gave me the confidence I needed to thrive as a player."



## Gut leaves Arsenal

Malin Gut has left Arsenal after making a permanent move to grasshopper club Zurich.

Gut joined the Gunners in the summer of 2020 and made her debut off the bench in the same year in a 6-1 win over Reading in the Women's Super League.

She made 20 appearances for Arsenal but sustained a serious knee injury in May 2021.

A club statement read: "We would like to thank Malin for her efforts during her time with us and wish her the very best moving forward with her career."



# Mead is a new player for club and country this season



## By Marissa Thomas

In February, England's interim manager Hege Riise left Beth Mead out of her first squad because "the player report hasn't been that great".

Mead's omission was a shock and it was a surprise to hear a manager speak so frankly about a specific player.

Mead was left disappointed once again when she was left out of the Team GB Olympic squad in the summer.

With just 18 players to pick from four countries, this exclusion was perhaps a bit more understandable.

Nonetheless, Mead still took it hard.

Nine months later, Mead is in the form of her life for both club and country.

She has three goals and assists in the Women's Super League (WSL) for Arsenal, just one goal away from last season's tally with five games played.

In 17 games so far this season, Mead has 10 goals and 15 assists.

Proving people wrong is a powerful motivational tool as Mead is showing this term.

In the five-goal thriller against Chelsea in their

WSL season opener, Mead was at the heart of everything good.

She was lively throughout as she put in a complete no 9 performance, scoring twice to delight over 8,000 fans at the Emirates.

Proof of the work Mead had done over the summer was shown in her second goal which was a sensational finish curled into the top corner from the edge of the area with her weaker foot.

Chelsea's goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger was so surprised that she told Mead after the match that she didn't know she had a left foot. Mead provided an assist for Vivianne



Miedema in the 5-0 win over Manchester City.

With half over her goal involvement this season coming against Arsenal's title rivals, Mead is showing that she can be hugely influential in the season defining games.

Another explanation for Mead's upturn in form could be the competition for places that was not there last season.

Now Arsenal can call on the likes of fellow England international Nikita Parris, two-time World Cup winner Tobin Heath and Mana Iwabuchi who has also won the World Cup.

Being surrounded by world class players will only improve Mead's quality which will be beneficial for Arsenal and England.

The Lionesses have already seen a huge improvement in Mead this season.

She scored a second-half hat-trick in 14 minutes to break the deadlock against a stubborn Northern Ireland side.

The World Cup qualifier at Wembley finished 4-0 with Mead responsible for 75% of the goals.

Just three days after that superb performance, Mead scored another goal and

provided two assists for Rachel Daly against Latvia.

While it is fair to point that Latvia are bottom of the group with zero points and vastly inferior to England, Mead and the Lionesses were in no mood to go easy on their opponents in the 10-0 win.

One thing is for sure, Beth Mead's player report must look pretty good right now.

## Schnaderbeck joins Spurs

Viktoria Schnaderbeck has joined Tottenham Hotspur on loan from Arsenal for the rest of the season.

The defender joined Arsenal in May 2018 and has made a total of 40 appearances to date. In her debut season in the Barclays FA Women's Super League, she helped the Gunners to a league title in 2018/19.

Schnaderbeck told the official website: "I am really looking forward to joining Tottenham Hotspur, the girls have done so well this season.

"I'm excited to help the team as much as I can. I can't wait to get started."

Tottenham head coach Rehanne Skinner added: "Viki is an experienced centre half who brings a lot of value to the team.

"As Austrian national team captain she also brings strong leadership qualities. Viki will help us to establish control both in and out of possession with her ball quality."

The captain of the Austrian team will wear the number 11 shirt.



### Old Trafford to hold WSL game

Everton will face Manchester United at Old Trafford in the Women's Super League.

The game, scheduled to be played on Sunday, March 27, has been moved from United's regular home at Leigh Sports Village.

United beat West Ham United at Old Trafford last season, with the game being played behind closed doors due to Covid-19 protocols.

Tickets:

£6 Adults

£3 U16

£3 Over 65

*Details of how to purchase tickets will be issued in due course.*

## Robinson signs new contract at Brighton

Midfielder Katie Robinson has signed a new contract with Women's Super League side Brighton & Hove Albion.

The deal will see her stay with the club until June 2024 after the 19-year-old joined Hope Powell's side at the beginning of the 2020/21 campaign.

She missed last season with a knee injury but has become a regular squad member and has made ten appearances so far this season.

Robinson will spend the rest of the season on loan with Championship club Charlton.

Head coach Hope Powell told the official website: "We're delighted Katie is committing herself to what we're trying to achieve as a club by signing this contract.

"She recovered well from what was a bad injury last season and she is improving with the more game time and experience she has.

"By going to Charlton she will get regular minutes whilst continuing to train and develop with us.

"We're looking forward to seeing how she progresses."

## Chaplen ruled out for the rest of the season

Reading midfielder Brooke Chaplen has been ruled out for the rest of the season.

A statement from the club read: "Royals midfielder Brooke Chaplen will be out indefinitely following recent scan results showing a bone tumour in her right leg.

"Brooke will undergo surgery to have the tumour removed and then begin an extended period of rehabilitation.

"As soon as we know more, we will ensure to update all of our supporters.

"We'd like to wish Brooke all the very best – and she has the full support of the club behind her."

# Moore joins Man United



Manchester United have announced the signing of Jade Moore until the 2022/23 season.

The 31-year-old midfielder joins the club having recently spent time with Orlando Pride and Atlético Madrid, after various spells in the WSL throughout her career.

Moore currently has 50 international caps, having made her debut for the senior England team in 2012.

Moore told manutd.com: “I’m delighted to be here at a club like Manchester United; it’s a proud moment after a difficult period for me. It’s great to be back in this league too, I have a lot of experience in the WSL, having played in it for around a decade, and I think I can bring some of that to this team.

“I’m also looking forward to working under Marc again and getting to know my new team-mates, the group here is

thriving and I’m excited to be a part of it.

For me, this was the right move in my career at

this time and I’m going to work as hard as possible to get fit and be in contention.”

Head coach Marc Skinner added: “Jade is a brilliant midfielder, I’ve obviously worked with her in previous roles at Birmingham and Orlando and I know the real qualities she can bring to the squad.

“She is an intelligent player with a great football mind, who has the ability to read and control games.

“She’s been unlucky in the last year with the injury she picked up but we’ve been working with Jade on plans to get her back to full fitness as quickly as possible and we are looking forward to seeing her impact within the squad.”

# Galton wins award



Manchester United winger Leah Galton has won the Women's Super League Player of the Month award for January.

The accolade comes off the back of Galton's impressive performances in both league outings during the opening month of the calendar year.

The winger scored three times and provided an assist as the Reds registered a perfect month in the competition, with home wins over Birmingham City and Tottenham Hotspur.

Galton saw off competition from Arsenal's Beth Mead, Birmingham City's Lucy Quinn, Manchester City's Georgia Stanway, Reading's Natasha Dowie and teammate Aoife Mannion.

It's the Red Devils' second player of the month award in a row after Ella Toone won in December.

Speaking to manutd.com, Galton said: "I think I know I needed to pick it up a little bit after a bit of a slow start so I'm just really happy to get under way."

"I think they [the goals] were all quite similar! I'm just happy to get on the scoresheet and assist for the team.

"Consistency is key at the moment and if we keep playing the way we're playing, I'm sure results will come so we just have to keep that mentality."

## Roebuck hits City century

Goalkeeper Ellie Roebuck has become the latest Manchester City player to make 100 appearances for the club.

The England shot stopper reached the milestone in their Women's Super League trip to Chelsea – just her third appearance of the 2021/22 season after returning from a calf injury at the end of January.

Since joining City in 2015 as a teenager from childhood club Sheffield United's Centre of Excellence, she made her debut as a substitute in the final league game of our 2016 double-winning season and has helped the Club to three Women's FA Cups and a Continental Cup since.

She signed her first professional deal in January 2018 and extended her stay in February last year.

## Stanway becomes City's record women's goalscorer

Georgia Stanway has become Manchester City's new record women's goalscorer.

The 23-year-old leapfrogged Nikita Parris after a hattrick against Nottingham Forest in the Women's FA Cup Fourth Round, increasing her tally to 64 goals.

The forward achieved the feat in 170 appearances, having joined City as a teenager back in 2015.



## Bott signs for Leicester

New Zealand international CJ Bott has joined Leicester City on a permanent contract following her spell with Norwegian first division side Vålerenga, subject to league approval.

After signing for the Foxes, she told LCFC TV: "It feels amazing.

"It's been a long road to get here but it's so great to finally be here and get amongst things and meet everyone.

"It's awesome, so I'm happy now."

Bott will wear the number four shirt.



## **United launch 'Change the Game'**

Manchester United have unveiled a new campaign named 'Change the Game'.

The new campaign highlights the club's continued commitment towards leading the way in changing perceptions and attitudes towards the women's game.

A statement from the club said: "Change the Game' will place the women's team at the forefront of change, as the club continues to challenge the stereotypes that exist in football – both on and off the pitch."

The campaign will drive the game forward by maximising opportunities to grow the fan base and inspire the next generation of players and supporters.

The first key moment in the campaign is the Women's Super League match against Everton on March, 27.

It will be held at Old Trafford and tickets are on sale now.

## **United sign Bruun on loan**

Manchester United have signed Signe Bruun on loan until the end of the season.

The 23-year-old striker joins from Olympique Lyonnais and has previously had spells at Paris Saint-Germain and Fortuna Hjørring.

Bruun currently has 19 caps for Denmark and has scored 14 goals for her country. She was also recently voted as Denmark's Player of the Year.

Bruun told the official website: "It's amazing to be here, I'm really happy to be joining Manchester United. It is a big club with huge history, I have followed the women's project for a while and have seen the progression of the team, and I think this move was a perfect match for me.

"I want to be able to help the team as much as possible during my time here, hopefully with a lot of goals but also a lot of hard work too. I can't wait to get started on the training pitch with the players and staff ahead of a busy period of games."

## **Corsie signs for Aston Villa**

Aston Villa have announced the signing of Rachel Corsie on a two-and-a-half year deal.

The central defender joins the club from Kansas City Current in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL).

Corsie, 32, has had previous spells in England with Notts County and Birmingham City.

Manager Carla Ward told avfc.co.uk: "Rachel is someone I admired greatly while working with her last season.

"When we heard of her availability during this transfer window, we simply couldn't ignore her leadership and overall quality.

"She will guide our young talent and will also give us another dimension at the back. We're delighted to add her to the squad."

# Women's Super League

## 2021/22 Table

WSL

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Arsenal	17	12	4	1	35	40
2	Chelsea	15	11	2	2	28	35
3	Manchester United	16	9	4	3	19	31
4	Tottenham Hotspur	16	8	4	4	7	28
5	Manchester City	15	8	2	5	11	26
6	West Ham United	16	6	5	5	-2	23
7	Reading	16	7	2	7	-7	23
8	Brighton & Hove Albion	17	7	1	9	-8	22
9	Everton	15	5	2	8	-11	17
10	Aston Villa	17	5	1	11	-20	16
11	Leicester City	17	4	0	13	-20	12
12	Birmingham City	17	1	1	15	-32	4

### Top Goalscorers

1. **Sam Kerr** (Chelsea) - 11
2. **Viv Miedema** (Arsenal) - 10
3. **Beth Mead** (Arsenal) - 7
4. **Alessia Russo** (Manchester United) - 7
5. **Fran Kirby** (Arsenal) - 6
6. **Leah Galton** (Manchester United) - 6
7. **Natasha Dowie** (Reading) - 6
8. **Kim Little** (Arsenal) - 6
9. **Ella Toone** (Manchester United) - 5
10. **Katie McCabe** (Arsenal) - 5

# CHAMPIONSHIP



# Liverpool staff cycle for charity



Several staff from Liverpool Women are taking part in a fundraising challenge to raise funds for vital medical treatment for ex-professional Stacey Daniel.

Daniel, 40, is a huge Reds fan and former striker for Leeds Women for many seasons.

She is suffering from a debilitating form of MS and former colleagues hope to fund special treatment to slow down the progress of the disease through their efforts.

Staff will be cycling between Anfield and Elland Road.

Amongst the staff are regional talent club manager Julie Grundy, former Reds captain and now Academy education lead Leandra Little, and

Liverpool-born former England forward Sue Smith.

Smith, who also played alongside Daniel at Leeds, was determined to do her bit for her former teammate.

She commented: "It's the football family, isn't it?"

"Even when you leave a club you still look after each other.

"As soon as we heard the news, we all wanted to do something and this is our little bit.

"I remember Stacey as a flying centre-forward, quick, scored lots of goals, so it's nice to be able to do something to help her."

# New agreement sees players receive changes for the better



The Football Association (The FA) and Professional Footballers Association (PFA) have made a landmark agreement that will see players in the Barclays FA Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship receive enhancements to maternity, injury and illness and termination of contract for long-term injury.

The new agreement will come into effect from the 2022/23 season following consultation with clubs in England's top two divisions of the women's game, with the FA Women's Super League

and FA Women's Championship board ratifying the agreement.

The new maternity policy will form part of a club's licensing agreement, and must be offered to players to ensure license criteria is met. The other uplifts will form part of a revised Standard Contract for Women's Football.

Under the new policy, a player going on maternity leave will be paid 100% of her weekly wage, as well as any other remuneration and benefits for the first 14 weeks, before reverting to applicable statutory rate.

This is a considerable uplift on the current minimum of statutory, and would previously have only applied to players who had been employed by their club from a minimum of 26 weeks. The new policy will have no qualifying period.

As well as maternity cover, the new agreement will also see players receive long-term sickness pay that mirrors the men's game in all new contracts.

Players will now receive their basic wage for the first 18 months if an injury occurs, then one half of their wage for the length of

the injury thereafter. Previously, players received six months' pay.

There will also be more protection for players relating to termination of contract as a result of injury. If a player has been incapacitated for injury or illness for a period of 18 months in a consecutive period of 20 months, a club can be entitled to serve notice, with the length of any notice being 12 months. Prior to this, the notice period was three months.

Kelly Simmons, The FA's Director of the Women's Professional Game, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to put this agreement in place and it is another significant step forward for the women's game.

"Player welfare and wellbeing has always been our number one priority and this new policy ensures players are better supported, whether that's going on maternity leave or as a result of a long-term injury.

"This objective was written into our Women's Pro Game Strategy that we released last year, so I am pleased we have been able to achieve this."



## Hinds signs new deal with Liverpool

Liverpool have announced that Taylor Hinds has signed a new long-term contract.

The 22-year-old joined the Reds in the summer of 2020 from Everton and has played a part in every game for the club since.

Hinds earned the honour of wearing the captain's armband for the first time in their 6-0 Vitality Women's FA Cup victory over Lincoln City.

She has also been recognised at international level with recent call-ups for England U23s, scoring twice against Estonia in December.

Manager Matt Beard told the official website: "Taylor has been incredibly consistent throughout the season, both in games and in training. She's just 22 years old and got her just rewards by getting back into the England set-up.

"We're delighted she's committed her future to the club, we see her future as being very bright and we're looking forward to helping her kick on and develop even further."



## Miller joins Sheffield United

Sheffield United have announced the signing of Lara Miller.

The former Manchester United and Manchester City youngster became Neil Redfearn's second signing of the January window after getting her first taste of senior football at Lewes during the first half of the season.

Speaking to the official website, she said: "My first impressions have been really positive. I've really enjoyed training with the girls, they've been really welcoming and I've loved the training and the whole environment here.

"The playing standard here is really good. There's so many players here with a lot of experience who I can learn from and take as much from all the players and staff as possible."

## London City Lionesses sign Kitching

The London City Lionesses have signed Katie Kitching.

Born in Bedeal, north Yorkshire, Kitching has returned to our shores after playing for the University of South Florida over in the USA.

Starting out at the York Centre of Excellence, Kitching was then picked up by Manchester City, where she was part of their development team playing in the FA WSL reserve league before heading out to the USA.

Studying at the University of South Florida, Kitching went on to join their first team- playing in their attacking midfield.

Speaking to the official website about the new signing, manager Melissa Philips had this to say: “Katie is a gritty attacking player who is versatile to play across multiple positions.

“She’s got a fantastic mindset coupled with her determination to drive at players and create, she will be a real threat going forward.”

## Bourne joins Blackburn on loan

Tara Bourne has joined Blackburn Rovers on loan from Women’s Super League side Manchester United.

The 18-year-old can operate in both midfield and in defence and becomes Gemma Donnelly’s final January addition.

Bourne joined Sheffield United on loan in the summer but now makes the switch to Lancashire for the remainder of the 2021-22 FA Women’s Championship season.



## Hopcroft joins London City Lionesses



London City Lionesses have signed Shanade Hopcroft from the Colorado Buffs. Born in Aylesbury, Hopcroft was first spotted at the age of nine, when she was snapped up by Chelsea to join their under 10's.

Five years with the South London club followed, before joining Middlesex under 16's and then reserve teams of the London Bee's and Reading.

Hopcroft next headed over the pond to attend Daytona State College, where she would go on to help the Falcons to the 2017-18 conference championship.

In her final season with the team, before graduating in 2018, Hopcroft found the net eight times and bagged 15 assists in 28 games.

Hopcroft then joined the Colorado Buffaloes, where she went on to lead the fifth highest scoring attack in the league, bagging 13 goals and 12 assists.

Boss Phillips told the official website: "Shanade is a competitor who plays with a tremendous amount of passion.

"She has the confidence, technical quality and flair in 1v1 situations along with a knack for goal.

"In addition to her quality on the pitch, she's driven to help the club achieve our ambitions and add value to our current squad.

"She played at the very top level out in the States and we look forward to the wealth of experiences she will bring in the second half of the season and beyond."



## Durham sign Noonan

Durham have announced the signing of Saoirse Noonan.

The Republic of Ireland international joins the Wildcats after a successful 2021, which saw her achieve success at both domestic and international level.

Speaking to the official website, she said: “It’s brilliant to be here.

“This is a really competitive club and they’ve been up there, so I’m buzzing to get going and ready to compete.

“I’d say I’m quite a technical player and dangerous in and around the box – and I’m good in the air.

“I just can’t wait to get going now.”



## Slovenian international joins Blackburn

Blackburn have announced the loan signing of Slovenian youth international Luana Zajmi. The 19-year-old joins on loan from Barclay’s FA Women’s Super League side Leicester City until the end of the 2021-22 FA Women’s Championship season.

The versatile midfielder joined the East Midlands outfit in the summer from ZNK Pomurje in Solvenia. Zajmi won the Zenska Liga with ZNK Pomurje in the 2020/21 season and also gained UEFA Women’s Champions League experience with her former team.

## **Herron signs new contract at Sunderland**

Sunderland have announced that Neve Herron has signed a new contract with the club until the end of the 2022/23 season.

Upon agreeing the 18-month deal, Herron said: “I’m delighted to have signed a contract here.

“I feel like I’ve developed well across the season so far and adapted to Championship level, and I’m certain that Sunderland is the right club at this stage of my career.

“My teammates and coaches have helped massively this season, so I’m very grateful to them. I have a great support on and off the pitch here.”

## **Coan pens first contract**

Blackburn Rovers have announced that defender Hannah Coan has signed her first contract with the Championship club.

Coan joined Rovers permanently in the summer after impressing on loan during the second-half of the 2020-21 season and now the 21-year-old has been rewarded for her fine displays in the blue-and-white halves with her first Rovers contract.

The defender, who has primarily been operating as a left-back this campaign, has played her part in 19 of Rovers’ 20 games this season as she has been a strong presence in the side’s backline.



# Simon Says

**By Simon O'Neill**

*This month I spoke to Blackburn Rovers star Millie Chandarana about her career, how she fell into football and who her favourite players are.*

**How old were you when you first became interested in football?**

I think I was around seven or eight years old and I was playing in PE in my primary school. I then trialled for the boys football team because there was no girls one. After that when I was eight I joined my first girls team in my local area Curzon Ashton.

**Many players prefer play in a specific position. When did you choose your playing position?**

I've had quite a change over the years with positions... growing up I always played Center back, until I was around 18, I then used to switch sometimes between CB and defensive Center mid. In Italy it changed completely and I played as an attacking Center mid because I was more suited to that role over there.

**When did you start to play in organised football teams?**

When I was 8 I joined the girls team Curzon Ashton and we competed in the local league and even went to some bigger tournaments, it was pretty cool

**Are your family supportive of you**

**wanting to play football?**

Yes they are very supportive, it's been a rollercoaster because women's football, until recently, wasn't sustainable as a full time job, so they were worried what might happen. But they know I will always play as long as I can and they support that.

**What was the reaction to your friends when you wanted to play football?**

A lot of my friends do play football as well, but I remember in high school, there wasn't many girls playing football, they preferred netball or non-sporting activities. That was quite difficult to get that support, but I was always known as the one who played football

**Do you play for the same club now as when you first become interested in football? If not which other teams have you -played for?**

I now play for Blackburn Rovers ladies and compete in the championship with them, in the past I was with both Blackburn and Manchester United through their youth academies before playing for Loughborough Foxes and then travelling to Italy to play for UPC Tavagnacco and San Marino Acadmey in the womens Serie A over there.

## **What is it about being a footballer you like most?**

It's a hard question because there's not one thing. If I had to pick one thing I would be actually playing football everyday. There's nothing that can beat it because it's what I've done all my life and now I get to do it almost everyday.

## **What does a typical week look like as part of a training programme?**

We train three evenings and one morning per week and the days we are not team training we are expected to be doing rehab and recovery in preparation for the next training or match, we usually play matches on Sundays but can have some midweek games too.

## **What has been the most important piece of advice you have been given as a footballer?**

I've been given loads of advice but I think I recent one that's stuck with me is that football is all opinions, everyone has their own opinion and sometimes you can't change it, it's just how it is, so always play your game the best you can and your way.

## **Are you aiming to become a coach after your playing career has**

## **ended?**

I've coached a little throughout my career so far but only younger age groups, I don't mind coaching football but I would 100% rather play it. I also prefer coaching 1-1 and small group physical training and mindset development in which I have just started my own business offering to athletes and general population

## **What advice would you give to any other young girls who want to play football?**

I would always say just go out and play, if you want to try it, go and try it, it's a great way to be physically active, mentally stimulated and be able to meet loads of new people all the time.

## **Finally, if you could pick your best 5 women's players to play alongside who would they be?**

Its a tough one, I'll give you a few. I would say, Meghan Rapinoe because she's a great women on and off the pitch too and learning from her would be amazing. I would also say from my time in Italy playing against Vero Boquete and Refiloe Jane was incredible 1, they are quality players.



## **Gane joins on dual-sign deal**

Watford have announced the dual signing of Evie Gane.

The defender is a former Welsh Under-17 and Under-19 international. She has also previously played for Reading, Oxford United, Aston Vila and London Bees at club level.

The nature of the dual-sign deal will mean that Gane will be able to play for both Watford and Portsmouth for the duration of the agreement.

She will wear number 32 while with the Golden Girls, and is eligible for selection immediately.

## **Adebowale-Arimoro joins Watford**

Watford have announced the signing of Juliet Adebowale-Arimoro on a dual-sign agreement with Brighton & Hove Albion.

A talented player who can play centrally or out wide, Adebowale-Arimoro has shone in the FA WSL Academy League so far this season.

Eligible to represent the United States of America and Nigeria at international level, the forward was recently a part of the Nigerian Under-20 squad.

The new addition will be available for selection immediately, and will wear number 33 during her time with the Hornets.

## **Noonan injury update**

Durham have provided an update on forward Saorise Noonan.

The statement read:

Shortly after arriving in England in January, the Republic of Ireland international sustained a knee injury during training.

Durham Women immediately arranged a scan and diagnosis, and no surgery was required.

Since that point, Noonan has been undergoing rehabilitation in Ireland while also flying to England for further medical support from the club's multi-disciplinary team.

As she continues her return from injury, Noonan will register with Shelbourne in Ireland ahead of returning to Durham for the 2022/23 season.

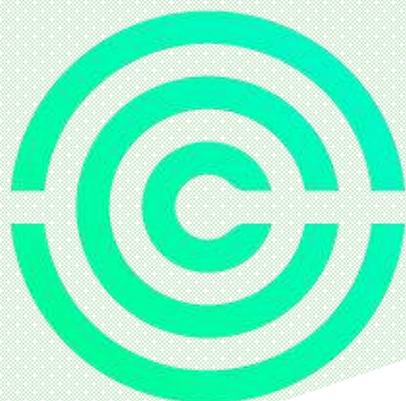


# Women's Championship

## 2021/22 Table

### Championship

		P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	17	13	3	1	29	42
2	Bristol City	17	11	2	4	20	35
3	London City Lionesses	17	9	2	6	7	29
4	Durham	17	9	2	6	3	29
5	Charlton Athletic	17	8	3	6	8	27
6	Crystal Palace	18	8	3	7	-7	27
7	Sheffield United	17	7	5	5	8	26
8	Lewes	17	8	1	8	2	25
9	Blackburn Rovers	18	5	2	11	-17	17
10	Sunderland	17	4	4	9	-10	16
11	Watford	17	1	4	12	-26	7
12	Coventry United	17	2	5	14	-17	1



TheFA Women's

Championship

# WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE



# FANWL Constitution and Reserve Season teams

## Constitution

### Northern Premier

AFC Fylde  
Brighouse Town  
Burnley  
Derby County  
Huddersfield Town  
Hull City  
Loughborough Lightning  
Middlesbrough  
Nottingham Forest  
Sheffield  
Stoke City  
West Bromwich Albion  
Wolverhampton Wanderers

### Southern Premier

Bridgewater United  
Cardiff City  
Chichester & Selsey  
Crawley Wasps  
Gillingham  
Hounslow  
Ipswich Town  
Keynsham Town  
London Bees  
Milton Keynes Dons  
Oxford United  
Plymouth Argyle  
Portsmouth  
Southampton

### Division One North

Alnwick Town  
Barnsley  
Bolton  
Bradford City AFC  
Chester-le-Street Town  
Chorley  
Durham Cestria  
FC United of Manchester  
Leeds United  
Liverpool Feds  
Newcastle United  
Norton & Stockton  
Stockport County

### Division One Mids

Bedworth United  
Boldmere St Michaels  
Burton Albion  
Doncaster Rovers Belles  
Holwell Sports  
Leafield Athletic  
Leek Town  
Lincoln City  
Long Eaton United  
Peterborough United  
Solihull Moors  
Sporting Khalsa  
Wem Town

### Division One SE

Actonians  
AFC Wimbledon  
Billericay Town  
Cambridge City  
Cambridge United  
Enfield Town  
Harlow Town  
Hashtag United  
Kent Football United  
London Seaward  
Norwich City  
QPR  
Stevenage

### Division One SW

AFC Bournemouth  
Buckland Athletic  
Cheltenham Town  
Chesham United  
Exeter City  
Larkhall Athletic  
Maidenhead United  
Poole Town  
Portishead Town  
Southampton Women  
Swindon Town

## Reserve Section

### North Division

Barnsley  
Bradford City  
Brighouse Town  
Chorley  
Durham Cestria

Huddersfield Town  
Hull City  
Leeds United  
Liverpool Feds  
Middlesbrough  
Sheffield  
Stockport County

### Midlands Division

Bedworth United  
Doncaster Rovers Belles  
Leicester City  
Long Eaton United  
Lincoln City  
Loughborough Lightning  
Nottingham Forest  
Solihull Moors  
Sporting Khalsa  
Stoke City  
West Bromwich Albion  
Wolverhampton Wanderers

### South East Division

Cambridge City  
Cambridge United  
Hashtag United  
Ipswich Town  
MK Dons  
Norwich City  
Stevenage  
Watford  
West Ham United

### South Central Division

Actonians  
AFC Wimbledon  
Billericay Town  
Charlton Athletic  
Crawley Wasps  
Crystal Palace  
Enfield Town  
London Bees  
London Seaward

### South West Division

Bridgewater United  
Chichester & Selsey  
Keynsham Town  
Lewes  
London City Lionesses  
Oxford United  
Portsmouth  
Southampton

# AstroPay strengthens partnership with Burnley FC



AstroPay, the global leader in online payment solutions, has further strengthened its partnership with Burnley Football Club by becoming Burnley FC Women's front of shirt sponsor for the remainder of the 2021/22 season and sponsoring the newly installed dugouts at Turf Moor.

The strategic partnership was established at the beginning of the 2021 Premier League campaign, with AstroPay becoming Burnley FC's official sleeve sponsor.

The new partnership with the women's team further strengthens the company's positive relationship with the club.

As sponsor of the women's team, the AstroPay logo will be displayed on the front of Burnley FC Women's home and away shirts, with the range available to purchase in the Clarets Store soon.

In addition, Turf Moor has undergone a range of stadium developments and AstroPay have committed to sponsoring the newly installed dugouts, with their branding visible on headrests and in the technical area.

Mikael Lijtenstein, AstroPay CEO said: "We are pleased to strengthen our partnership with Burnley Football Club, through these new sponsorship deals.

"As two innovative organisations, we share a similar ethos of being forward thinking and creative, which is why the prospect of becoming Burnley FC Women's front of shirt sponsor was so appealing.

"The club are making great strides in women's football, and we wanted to be a part of the journey.

"We very much look forward to continuing to develop our partnership

with the club and achieving great things together.”

AstroPay, which is also the Official Payment Solution Partner to Burnley Football Club, was founded in 2009 and since then has been successful in providing efficient, secure and reliable digital payment solutions for business and individual customers across Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Carl Sanderson Head of Business Partnerships at Burnley FC said: “We are thrilled that AstroPay have further strengthened their support by becoming front of shirt sponsor for the women’s team and by sponsoring the new dugouts.

“The club are committed to growing the women’s game, as is demonstrated through exciting partnership and sponsorships such as this. Women’s football is on the rise and is reaching more people than ever before, it’s an incredibly exciting area to be a part of which is why we are pleased to collaborate with AstroPay on this deal.

“We’re also incredibly proud of the developments within the stadium in recent months and are pleased AstroPay, as a valued partner of Burnley FC, have committed to sponsoring the dugouts too. We look forward to continuing to work closely with them throughout the season.”





# Northern Premier News

## Brighthouse Town launch development centre

Brighthouse Town have launched their Girls Football Development Centre.

The Academy will run every Monday starting on January, 10, 2022.

Information:

Girls aged 6-10

Lightcliffe Academy, HX3 8TL



## Bee leaves Burnley

Burnley have announced the departure of first team manager Matt Bee.

The statement said: "As Burnley FC Women continue transitioning to a more professional level, Matt Bee will be leaving his post as first team manager.

We are grateful for Matt's time and achievements at Burnley and wish him the best for the future.

The Club will not be commenting further at this time but will communicate additional details in due course."

## Greenhalgh re-signs for Burnley

Striker Sarah Greenhalgh has re-signed for Burnley as a dual registration with AFC Darwn.

Greenhalgh, was top goal scorer for the Clarets in their title-winning promotions in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

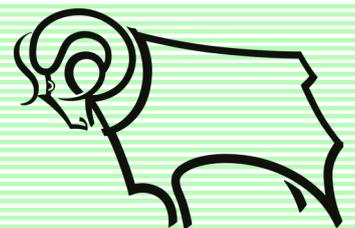
Sarah Greenhalgh said: "I'm really excited about being back at Burnley. There are lots of new talented players who I'm looking forward to playing with.

"I'm looking forward to being back at this standard. I'm happy to pick up where I'm left off, after enjoying the promotion into this league with the girls, I'm happy to experience playing at this level and hopefully continuing to enjoy success with Burnley."

## Derby and University launch scholarship

Derby County Football Club Women and the University of Derby are today launching their football journalism scholarship programme for 2022, with successful candidates having the chance to report on the UEFA Women's Euro 2022.

Three scholarships are available for students wishing to play football



for Derby County Football Club Women while studying on Europe's only dedicated Football Journalism BA (Hons) degree course.

Duncan Gibb, Chief Executive of Derby County Football Club Women, told the official website: "This is a fantastic opportunity for talented football players to join an ambitious club with facilities that are second to none while continuing their studies for a career in the media.

"There really is no offer like this anywhere else in the UK."

### **Punjabi Rams and Mitchell Promotions support Women's team**

Derby County Football Club Women's CEO, Duncan Gibb has praised the recent support shown by long term partners, the Punjabi Rams and Mitchell Promotions, whilst also acknowledging the commitment shown by all of the clubs' partners during pre-season.

"The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the UK business sector has been widely documented and has led to companies that would normally look to invest finances on brand awareness having to cut their cloth accordingly. I've spoken to my equivalent at several National League clubs, and what has become apparent is that Derby County Football Club Women somewhat bucked the trend in reporting a record pre-season in terms of sponsorship revenues through our club partners.

"The Punjabi Rams not only held a major fundraising raffle that seemed to capture the Derby County supporter network imagination, three of their members (who also own businesses) provided added investment to help towards the final total."



### **Preston returns as manager of Huddersfield**

Huddersfield Town have confirmed the departure of first team manager Steve Appleton.

Glen Preston, former manager of Guiseley Vixens, as he returns for his second stint in the role at Huddersfield.

Preston says he is ready to take up the challenge:

"It feels great to be back! It's been a crazy few days where everything has happened so fast. But ultimately, it's a great feeling for me and a big honour to be here.

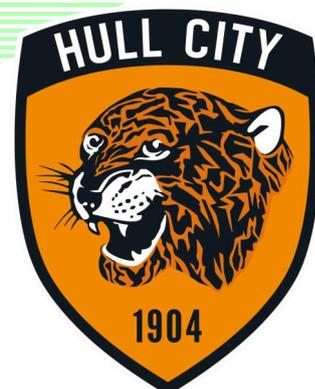
The first time I managed Huddersfield Town Ladies it was one of the best moments of my career, we had great success over two years and so it was not a difficult decision at all to come back and take on this great challenge."

### **Hull City ambassador inducted into Hall of Fame**

Carol Thomas has been inducted into the National Football Museum Hall of Fame.

Hull City Ladies was announced in 2019 that Carol Thomas was the Tigress first club ambassador. The former England international women's defender succeeded Sheila Parker as captain in 1976, holding that position until her retirement in 1985.

In her time as captain she set some exceptional milestones; she became the first England captain to surpass 50 caps and also captained her side to their inaugural trophy.





# Northern Premier News



## Stewart departs Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough have confirmed defender Courtney Stewart has left the club.

The former Sunderland defender joined the club in the summer but has been advised to take a break from football on medical advice.

The statement said: "Everyone at the club wants to respect that and wish her the very best in the future."

"While Courtney has sadly been unable to make an appearance for the club, we have loved having her around the club and want to wish her the very best of luck in her future."

## Sheffield FC team up with Her Game Too

Sheffield FC have announced a new partnership with Her Game Too to raise awareness of sexist abuse within the realms of football.

"It's brilliant to partner up with Sheffield FC, showing that the oldest club in the World is one of the most forward-thinking," said Victoria Wood of HerGameToo. "They are a club who do so much for equality in the community already so they match the values of HerGameToo perfectly."

"Discrimination has no place in football and we can't thank Sheffield FC enough for backing our movement and for helping us to stamp sexism out of the game."

"As the World's First Football Club we support the hergametoo initiative .



## Walklett signs for Albion

Albion Women have completed the signing of Kerry Walklett from Southern Premier Division side Keynsham Town.

"We are delighted to add Kerry to the squad," said Head Coach Jenny Sugarman.

"She brings bags of experience both at this level and the level above, which will no doubt help us on our journey."

"I can already see the attitude and work ethic she possesses and we hope that she can also add to our attacking threat with goals and assists but also helping to bring the best out in her team-mates."



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# Southern Premier News



## **Bridgwater United announce new partnership**

Bridgwater United has announced a new partnership with Body Mechanics.

Body Mechanics are a Bridgwater based pain and movement specialists providing injury care and performance improvement training to both the general public and sporting teams.

CEO Adam Murry remarked, "This is yet another partnership with a brilliant local company that provides further support to our First Teams in reaching our collective ambitions as a club.

"I'm really excited to be working alongside Laurence, Spence and the team."

## **Chichester & Selsey defender in hospital**

After a collision with a player during a Southern Premier Division game with Hashtag United, Emma Alexandre was sent to hospital.

The Chichester & Selsey defender had to have a second procedure on Tuesday, December 14.

Wishing her a speedy recovery.



## **Crawley Wasps partner with Crawley Town**

Crawley Town have formed a 'long-awaited' partnership with Crawley Wasps.

Speaking on behalf of the partnership, Revenue Manager Alex Watts said: "We want football to be accessible for both men and women of Crawley and with the support of Jack and the team at Crawley Wasps we will be able to make this happen.

"As a club we are engaging with the key stakeholders in the area through initiatives such as our Crawley Town Gratitude Scheme. It is encouraging to see the response from people like Jack who want to become involved with the club for the benefit of the community.

"We plan to reciprocate the support to be in a situation where fans are coming to watch Crawley Town on the Saturday and then Crawley Wasps on the Sunday."



## Peskett to undergo surgery

Ipswich Town winger Sophie Peskett has been ruled out indefinitely.

The 19-year-old winger, who became Ipswich's first ever professional player back in the summer, suffered a knee-injury in September.

After waiting for the results, it has now been confirmed that she has torn her ACL in addition to further damage to her knee.

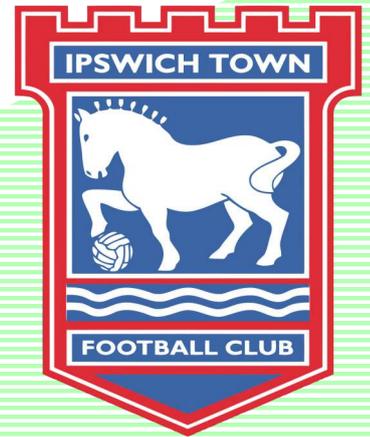
Speaking to the club website, Sophie said: 'After suffering a knee-injury a few weeks ago, unfortunately it has been confirmed that I have ruptured my ACL and will require surgery.

"Obviously I'm absolutely gutted as this is a massive season for me, my teammates and the club as a whole, and I didn't see my season ending like this.

"I'm so grateful for the support I've received from the girls, the staff and everyone else at Ipswich Town - it's meant the absolute world to me.

"I'm ready to work as hard as I possibly can throughout my recovery so I can be back playing alongside my teammates as soon as possible.

"Finally, I'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has wished me well and supported me throughout this injury process. I honestly can't wait to be back playing in front of our incredible fans."



## Bell joins London Bees

Jade Bell has joined London Bees in a new deal.

The experienced winger comes to the Bees after spending three seasons with MK Dons.

Whilst at Stadium MK, she played against the Bees as Sian Osmond's side ran out 5-1 winners last month.

Bell previously spent time at Cambridge United and also won back-to-back Championship titles whilst playing for Texas A&M University Commerce FC.

During her time in the States, the 28-year-old also turned out for FC Dallas.

Jade will wear the No. 20 shirt.

## Oxford United call up women's player

Oxford United men currently have 13 first team players unavailable which has left an opening for one of the women's team.

Manager Karl Robinson asked Beth Lumsden, from the women's team, to train with the men's side.

The midfielder has been taking part in training sessions for the past few weeks.

"It's been such a good experience. I've done it for about three or four weeks now, once a week, there's a session in the morning, followed by a gym session and an evening training session with the women as well," Lumsden told The Mirror.

"We were talking and Karl was there and he was really encouraging, he's been brilliant. The men are a lot quicker, it's not so much physically but it pushes you mentally to make decisions quicker and then I take that into games."





# Division One News



## Walker earns 100 appearances

Chorley Women captain Laura Walker has made 100 appearances for the Division One North side.

The achievement came in their league game against Liverpool Feds on Sunday, November 7.

Debuting on August 6th 2017 in the away Friendly at Bury Development , these figures do not include 30 Friendly Appearances , with 6 Goals scored.

A statement from the club read: "Well Done to Laura , who works so hard for our club , both on and off the football field."

## Surgery for Durham Cestria player

Durham Cestria reserve team player Cassie Donald has undergone knee surgery.

Donald ruptured her ACL in a recent game.

The statement from the club read: "Everyone at the club wishes you all the best of luck with your recovery, we're with you every step of the way."

## Double knee fracture for Kennerley

FC United of Manchester's Eve Kennerley suffered a double leg fracture in their Vitality Women's FA Cup first round match against Brighouse Town.

Eve had successful surgery on the 16th November and is now beginning her recovery period.

She will be out for the rest of the season.

## Nelson joins Newcastle United

Newcastle United have announced the signing of Erin Nelson from Durham Cestria.

The 20-year-old winger started her career at the Magpies and told the official website that she was happy to be back.

"I was in the academy when I was very young. It feels good to be back. I am excited to get started.

"I will bring pace to the side, and get at players and try to take them on. I will try to link up well with my other forwards."



## Belles RTC sign Powell

Alexis Powell has joined Doncaster Rovers Belles Regional talent centre after a successful period in the Belles training centre.

Powell is the first player to make the switch from the Training Centre to the RTC after being identified as having elite potential.

RTC club manager Chantelle Haigh added: "Alexis has settled in really well and we're delighted to have her with us. We hope she's the first of many young players from across the borough that are able to find their way to Doncaster Rovers Belles via the Training Centre."



## Vacancies at Leek Town

Leek Town Ladies are looking for a first team coach and a reserve team manager/coach.

Both roles require a certain level of qualification.

For more information contact [leektownfcgirls@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leektownfcgirls@yahoo.co.uk)

## Bournemouth sign Bradley

Bournemouth have announced the signing of Jade Bradley to the club.

The experienced midfielder joins the Cherries from Portsmouth, having spent four years with the club.

Bradley told [afcb.co.uk](http://afcb.co.uk): "I had a good chat with Steve and he wants to see the club progress. The players have brought in to that and they know what we want as a club.

"Steve knows what we want, as do the backroom staff, so it's nice for all of us to be aligned with our goals and ambitions."





# FANWNL

## 2021/22 Tables

### Northern Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Wolverhampton Wanderers	17	13	3	1	29	42
2 Derby County	19	12	3	4	25	39
3 Fylde	17	11	4	2	24	37
4 Nottingham Forest	19	11	3	5	16	36
5 Huddersfield Town	17	10	2	5	16	32
6 Burnley	17	9	3	5	19	30
7 Brighouse Town	15	7	3	5	13	24
8 West Bromwich Albion	17	6	4	7	-4	22
9 Stoke City	19	5	1	13	-22	16
10 Middlesbrough	18	5	1	12	-22	16
11 Loughborough Lightning	17	4	3	10	-23	15
12 Sheffield	15	2	1	12	-29	7
13 Hull City	17	0	3	14	-42	3

### Southern Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Ipswich Town	20	16	3	1	53	51
2 Oxford United	20	15	2	3	43	47
3 Southampton	15	12	2	1	52	38
4 Gillingham	20	11	5	4	8	38
5 Bridgewater United	19	10	4	5	23	34
6 Crawley Wasps	18	10	0	8	12	30
7 London Bees	22	9	2	11	0	29
8 Portsmouth	19	8	4	7	21	28
9 Cardiff City	20	7	2	11	-11	21*
10 Plymouth Argyle	18	7	0	11	-14	21
11 Milton Keynes Dons	21	5	5	11	-12	20
12 Keynsham Town	20	5	0	15	-61	15
13 Chichester & Selsey	19	4	1	14	-36	13
14 Hounslow	17	0	0	17	-78	0



TheFA Women's  
National League

# FANWNL

## 2021/22 Tables

### Division One North

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Liverpool Feds	15	14	0	1	34	42
2 Newcastle United	15	13	1	1	53	40
3 Leeds United	14	8	3	3	11	27
4 Durham Cestria	15	7	2	6	11	23
5 Norton & Stockton Ancients	15	6	2	7	-4	20
6 Stockport County	17	5	4	8	1	19
7 Chorley	13	4	7	2	0	19
8 Bradford City	14	5	3	6	-3	18
9 FC United of Manchester	17	5	2	10	-28	17
10 Barnsley	14	4	2	8	-10	11*
11 Chester-le-Street Town	16	2	5	9	-17	11
12 Alnwick Town	13	0	1	12	-48	1

### Division One Midlands

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Boldmere St Michaels	18	14	2	2	37	44
2 Doncaster Rovers Belles	18	13	2	3	31	41
3 Lincoln City	17	11	2	4	22	35
4 Long Eaton United	17	9	3	5	15	30
5 Leek Town	17	7	3	7	-7	24
6 Solihull Moors	17	6	3	8	2	21
7 Peterborough United	16	6	3	7	-4	21
8 Sporting Khalsa	15	5	4	6	-5	19
9 Leafield Athletic	14	5	2	7	-5	17
10 Wem Town	16	3	4	9	-15	13
11 Burton Albion	15	3	2	10	-18	11
12 Bedworth United	18	2	0	16	-53	6



TheFA Women's  
National League

# FANWNL

## 2021/22 Tables

### Division One South East

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Hashtag United	21	18	1	1	64	55
2 Billericay Town	20	16	3	3	47	51
3 AFC Wimbledon	17	12	3	3	29	39
4 Actonians	22	10	7	7	24	37
5 Queens Park Rangers	19	11	2	2	8	35
6 London Seaward	22	6	8	8	-10	26
7 Cambridge United	18	8	1	1	-11	25
8 Cambridge City	18	6	5	5	-3	23
9 Enfield Town	20	4	5	5	-5	17
10 Stevenage	20	5	2	2	-39	17
11 Harlow Town	20	5	1	1	-37	16
12 Norwich City	19	4	2	2	-28	14
13 Kent Football United	18	1	2	2	-39	5

### Division One South West

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Cheltenham Town	14	11	2	1	26	35
2 AFC Bournemouth	15	10	4	1	37	34
3 Chesham United	13	8	2	3	10	26
4 Exeter City	10	6	2	2	19	20
5 Southampton	10	6	2	2	17	20
6 Maidenhead United	15	5	3	7	-3	18
7 Portishead	15	4	4	7	-14	15*
8 Swindon Town	14	3	3	8	-6	12
9 Larkhill Athletic	15	2	3	10	-25	9
10 Poole Town	15	0	1	14	-61	1

*\*adjustment made*



TheFA Women's  
National League

# GRASSROOTS



# Luton achieve funding goal



Luton Ladies have netted a funding boost from a local power company to help cover the cost of training venues during the winter months.

The football club has received a £250 Team Sport award from UK Power Networks, the company which distributes electricity across the East of England.

The money will go towards securing the use of training facilities for the Eastern Region Premier Division club who have expanded hugely since their formation in 1997.

Employee Jeff Stewart, a field engineer at UK Power Networks, applied for the award as his daughter, Grace, 20, plays for the club's reserve side in the Greater London League, while he helps as a volunteer first aider.

Jeff said: "The women's game has grown significantly in the past decade and it's

been fantastic to support Grace in her own part of that journey.

"I've always been a fan of the Luton Town men's team so when Grace joined up with the youth section of Luton Ladies seven years ago I was more than happy to help out myself as a volunteer.

"This funding will be put towards the cost of hiring winter training facilities which is by far the biggest overhead for the club at this time of year so it's great to receive."

The Team Sport Award scheme encourages UK Power Networks staff to volunteer in the community and is aimed at promoting healthy living, teamwork and developing sporting opportunities.

Hundreds of community and sports groups have benefited from grants since the scheme was set up. During 2021, 77 teams benefitted to a combined sum of £19,250.

# Over 90,000 girls take part in FA session



On Wednesday, March 9, over 90,000 girls from schools across England joined in with The FA and Barclays' inaugural Biggest Ever Football Session as part of The FA's Let Girls Play campaign.

Taking place the day after International Women's Day, the nationwide sessions raised awareness of the importance of unlocking equal opportunities for girls to participate in football in schools.

A record 1,450 primary and secondary schools united to take part in the sessions, affirming their commitment to providing girls with equal access to football.

With the support of The FA's delivery partner, Youth Sport Trust, the schools were provided with resources from the England Football Physical Education team to deliver the bespoke sessions throughout the day.

Teachers hosted festivals before school tournaments and joined up with other

schools to bring together girls who share the same passion: to play football.

Currently, only 63% of schools offer girls' football in PE lessons and only 40% of schools offer girls regular extracurricular football. The FA's ambition, as seen in the Inspiring Positive Change strategy, is to have 75% of schools providing equal access to football for girls in PE lessons and 90% of schools offering regular extracurricular football by 2024.

The Biggest Ever Football Session is part of the Let Girls Play campaign which launched last year to support The FA's strategic ambition for equal access. The campaign is backed by Barclays as part of their record-breaking investment in women and girls' football and commitment to the game. The majority of schools who hosted a session are part of the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships, a programme run by Barclays and The FA which aims to influence key decision makers within

schools and support the training of teachers to make this ambition a reality.

The FA's Head of Development Louise Gear, who attended a session at Gorse Hill Primary School in Manchester, said: "To see that over 90,000 girls have taken part in our Let Girls Play Biggest Ever Football Session has filled me with immense pride.

"We launched our strategic ambition and Let Girls Play campaign to raise awareness of the importance of providing girls with equal access to football and seeing so many schools unite on this across the country is fantastic. With it being such a huge year for women's football in this country, more girls than ever will feel inspired to play football and The FA and Barclays want to play an important part in that.

"We want to thank everyone who took part in the day and joined us in our commitment to unlocking equal pathways."

Former England International and Barclays football ambassador Kelly Smith, MBE, who attended a session at Oakington Primary School in London, added: "It was a privilege to visit Oakington Primary School and see the Let Girls Play campaign in action.

"Seeing so many girls unite to celebrate their love of the game and desire to play football was really special. There were nearly 200 girls taking part at this school which was amazing. Moments like this make me extremely proud to be part of such an important campaign and event that The FA and Barclays have created."

Lisa Bates head teacher at Gorse Hill Primary School, one of the schools taking part in the campaign, added: "We're so thrilled to have taken part in the Let Girls Play Biggest Ever Football Session and do our part for providing girls with equal access to football in schools. The girls were so excited to be part of the session and knowing thousands of other girls were doing the same across the country made it even more special. We've seen first hand the benefits of children playing football from an early age, not just physically, but mentally too so it was important for us to be part of this momentous occasion."

To find out more about the campaign and see how you can help make a difference to giving girls equal access to football in schools, go to [www.EnglandFootball.com/LetGirlsPlay](http://www.EnglandFootball.com/LetGirlsPlay). To join the movement via social media, follow Facebook, Instagram and Twitter using #LetGirlsPlay.





# Grassroots News

## Stratford Town announce new academy



Stratford Town have announced that they are setting up a new Academy for Girls.

The first trial day was held on Wednesday, February 23.

The academy will be run by Uefa B and FA licenced coaches, and with the education programme be able to earn the equivalent of three A levels.

This will be aimed at current year 11 leavers or year 12s who may want to pursue a career within the football and sports industry.

The new programme will run in line with the current boys academy where the girls would study a NCFE Level 3 Sports Qualification which is the equivalent of 3 A-Levels whilst also playing football full time. This allows some excellent progression pathways such as UK Universities, Working within the Sports Industry or USA Scholarships.

## Amber Valley Ladies announce new medic

Amber Valley have announced the appointment of Simran Chutta as First Team Medic.

Qualified with a BSc and MSc in Biomedical Science specialising in Sports Science, Sim will be responsible for the team's healthcare.

Simran has a wealth of experience having ran several sports camps at local schools, played football for university, provided first aid at the U17 and U23 Euros and delivered a football engagement and participation program in Nottinghamshire.

A spokesperson for the club said: "We are delighted that Sim has agreed to join us and will further underpin the growth and sustainability of the club."

## Stevenage announced Grassroots Club offer

Stevenage FC Foundation have today announced a female specific grassroots club offer. The offer will give local female clubs or clubs with female teams the chance to partner and engage with both Stevenage FC Foundation and Stevenage FC Women in a variety of different ways.

Clubs can opt for delivery of club specific sessions or football camps as well as coach Coach Development Opportunities and Wildcats support. As part of the offer, clubs will also have the opportunity to partner with FA Women's National League side Stevenage FC Women through mascot packages, ticket offers and player visits.

Dani Toyn, Stevenage FC Women General Manager & Head of Community Engagement at Stevenage FC Foundation said, "We are really excited to launch this Female Grassroots Partner Offer. Grassroots football is at the heart of the community and where the majority of girls start their football journey".

"We want to use this offer to provide support and opportunities to local female clubs whilst strengthening and building relationships".



# Institute for Wellbeing in Sports: The Amazing Story of Katie McGuire



With women's football getting more prominent in the United Kingdom, more young girls are taking up the sport from a young age.

Gone are the years where girls looked up to just male players. Now girls look up to those they can watch such as Chelsea and England star Fran Kirby, Manchester City and England defender Lucy Bronze and even players in the lower leagues such as Norton Ladies club captain Kate McGuire.

This season Norton and Stockton made it through to the second round of the FA Cup, making them the last remaining side in the competition.

The side were beaten 2-1 by Leeds but were lead out by McGuire.

McGuire was proud to walk the side out for the first time in the Club's history that they have reached this stage.

McGuire's story is an inspiration for any girls or women wishing to get involved in football.

Joining the club at the age of 8 years old, when girls grassroots football was in its infancy, she has remained at the club for over 20 years and has never played for any other team.

McGuire has played thousands of times for the Club and has accomplished everything from helping the team gain promotion to the FA Women's National League to lifting back to back County Cups.

She has now reached over 100 appearances under Head Coach Chris Burton and to achieve this, at the standard of football the women play in, is incredible.

Norton & Stockton Ancients FC is a club that has built its foundations on supporting everyone involved with the club from players, coaches, volunteers and fans. It epitomises everything that grassroots women's football should be, it is truly a family club that embraces at all levels wellbeing and inclusion for all. There are multiple teams in the club from the juniors right up to the Senior Women's squad and there is a real culture cemented of nurturing ability, guiding, mentoring and supporting participants to be the best that they can.

What is inspirational about the club is that many of the Senior Women also coach younger girls teams and give them the confidence to believe that they can fulfil their potential both in life and sport.

The continued success of the Senior Women's team reverberates across the whole club and there are so many younger girls who aspire to be like their heroes.

McGuire and the whole team know the importance of being positive role models and they heavily invest in taking the time

to encourage the younger teams to help them on their own footballing journey.

### ***Who are the Institute for Wellbeing in Sports?***

The Institute is the Number One provider of a vast range of specialist services such as the highly prestigious Positive Wellbeing in Sports Charter and Standards, Aftercare Support for Elite Athletes and grassroots participants, educational re-start programmes, empirical research in sports psychology, Leadership and Development training at all levels to increase wellbeing in sport, external evaluations of organisations and federations to facilitate change, corporate guidance on how to implement human approaches to wellbeing in sport and career and life coaching for participants in sport.

*“Our Mission is to ensure that all participants in sport have increased positive mental health to enable them to achieve their optimum ability and be fulfilled in their lives, campaign for a fairer system to enable inclusion for all in sport and to raise awareness and the profile of wellbeing in sport.”*



Pro Meam, Pro Tuam, Pro Nobis

# CUPS



# Adidas unveil official Champions League final ball



Adidas have unveiled their official match ball for the 2021/22 Uefa Women's Champions League final.

The ball will be used for all matches in the knockout stages of the Women's Champions League.

The ball is inspired by the mountains of the Piedmont region in Italy, where this season's final will take place on May 21.

The ball design heavily features the Alps, which are located near to Turin, with a mirrored star shape featuring in the imagery.

For adidas, the ball represents that one symbol of possibility – the vehicle that can inspire the next generation of footballing talent and grassroots

communities around the world.

In an effort to highlight the importance that grassroots football plays in giving footballers a springboard to reach greater heights, adidas has invited some of its adidas Football Collective (aFC) community members from the Turin region to take part in the launch.

The ball will be used for all the remaining matches in the UEFA Women's Champions League this season, with the quarter-finals getting under way on 22 March and the final taking place at Juventus Stadium in Turin on 21 May.

# Champions League: Meet the quarter-finalists

## Bayern München vs Paris Saint-Germain



### Bayern München (GER)

UEFA coefficient ranking  
(end of 2020/21): 5

How they qualified: German  
champions

Group stage: Group D  
runners-up (W4 D1 L1 F15  
A3)

Group stage top scorers:  
Jovana Damnjanović, Lea  
Schüller : 3

Previous European best:  
Semi-finals

Quarter-final record: W2 L2

### Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)

UEFA coefficient ranking  
(end of 2020/21): 4

How they qualified: French  
champions

Group stage: Group B  
winners (W6 Do Lo F25 A0)

Group stage top scorer:  
Jordyn Huitema: 6

Previous European best:  
Runners-up (2014/15,  
2016/17)

Quarter-final record: W5 L1

## Real Madrid vs Barcelona



### Real Madrid (ESP)

UEFA coefficient ranking  
(end of 2020/21): N/A

How they qualified: Runners  
-up, Spain; W2-1 agg vs  
Manchester City

Group stage: Group B  
runners-up (W4 Do L2 F12  
A6)

Group stage top scorer:  
Caroline Møller: 3

Previous European best:  
Debut

Quarter-final record: N/A

### Barcelona (ESP, holders)

UEFA coefficient ranking  
(end of 2020/21): 2

How they qualified: Holders,  
Spanish champions

Group stage: Group C  
winners (W6 Do Lo F24 A1)

Group stage top scorer:  
Alexia Putellas: 5

Previous European best:  
Winners (2020/21)

Quarter-final record: W4 L3

## Juventus vs Lyon



### Juventus (ITA)

UEFA coefficient ranking  
(end of 2020/21): 33

How they qualified: Italian  
champions; W12-0 vs  
Kamenica Sasa, W4-1 vs St.  
Pölten, W3-0agg vs Vllaznia

Group stage: Group A  
runners-up (W3 D2 L1 F12  
A4)

Group stage top scorer:  
Cristiano Girelli: 4

Previous European best:  
Round of 32

Quarter-final record: N/A

## Lyon (FRA)

UEFA coefficient ranking (end of 2020/21): 1

How they qualified: Runners-up, France; W4-2agg vs Levante

Group stage: Group D winners (W5 Do L1 F19 A2)

Group stage top scorers: Ada Hegerberg, Catarina Macario: 3

Previous European best: Winners (2010/11, 2011/12, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, record)

Quarter-final record: W11 L1

## Arsenal vs Wolfsburg



### Arsenal (ENG)

UEFA coefficient ranking (end of 2020/21): 22

How they qualified: Third place, England; W4-0 vs Okzhetpes, W3-1 vs PSV Eindhoven, W7-0agg vs Slavia Praha

Group stage: Group C runners-up (W3 Do L3 F14 A13)

Group stage top scorers: Caitlin Foord, Vivianne Miedema: 2

Previous European best: Winners (2006/07)

Quarter-final record: W6 L7

## Wolfsburg (GER)

UEFA coefficient ranking (end of 2020/21): 3

How they qualified: Runners-up, Germany; W6-3agg vs Bordeaux

Group stage: Group A winners (W3 D2 L1 F17 A7)

Group stage top scorer: Tabea Wassmuth: 8

Last season: Quarter-finals  
Domestic honours: 6 x League champions, 8 x Cup winners

Previous European best: Winners (2012/13, 2013/14)

Quarter-final record: W6 L3



# Manchester City comeback seals Conti Cup win over Chelsea



A second-half comeback from Manchester City saw them overcome Chelsea to lift the Women's Continental League Cup.

Gareth Thomas' side beat Chelsea 3-1 at Plough Lane on March 5.

A frantic opening period saw both sides have a number of attempts on goal and had a penalty shouts denied.

Chelsea opened the scoring when Sam Kerr got on the end of Guro Reiten's cross and Niamh Charles came close to doubling their lead just before half

time, but the volley went over the bar.

Soon after the second half began, Manchester City found their equaliser.

With Charles off the pitch receiving treatment, City saw their chance and Caroline Weir put the ball past Ann-Katrin Berger and into the back of the net.

Just moments later, Chelsea were almost back in the lead but goalkeeper Ellie Roebuck's diving save denied Pernille Harder.

By this stage,

Manchester City were coming into their own and Ellen White netted a cross from Lauren Hemp.

With just over 20 minutes to go, City made it 3-1 with Weir getting her second of the game to secure the win for the fourth time in the club's victory.

Manchester City manager Gareth Taylor to BBC Two:

"I'm really proud of the players, I thought we were immense second half.

"We knew we weren't great first half and we spoke about belief and faith at half-time and I don't think the players could have shown any more of that in the second half and we were deserved winners.

"We were fully deserved winners of the competition. Everyone has been magnificent and they deserve this."

On match-winner Caroline Weir: "She scores important goals but she realises the importance of the team and the second half was all about that.

"This gives us massive belief going forward – Chelsea are a very good team they have the edge against us, it's the first time we have scored against them this season and you have to say we could have scored more."

Speaking to BBC Two, Chelsea manager Emma Hayes said: "First half we did enough without having control of the ball. That is what let us down today, we didn't keep the ball well enough. When it be-

comes quite transitional, they get the goal in the second half and momentum shifted. The best team won the game over 90 minutes.

"It is easy to make emotional remarks now. When it goes 2-1, then 3-1, it becomes even more open. I have never seen us concede as poorly as we did.

"I thought we were missing a lot of experience and it showed. We are unbeaten against this team 10 times in a row but it was their day today. Congratulations to them."

### Stats



# Vitality Women's FA Cup prize fund increases



The Football Association has today announced a new landmark investment into the Vitality Women's FA Cup that will see the competition's prize fund receive a significant uplift to £3m per year.

The new agreement will be introduced from the start of the 2022/23 season and will see funds spread across each round of the competition, resulting in greater investment across both the women's

professional and grassroots game.

The FA Board signed off on the new proposals at a meeting last Thursday, highlighting The FA's commitment in continuing the impressive growth of the women's football – across every level of the game.

The Vitality Women's FA Cup has grown in stature, with 417 teams entering the competition this season, while

interest has significantly increased over the last decade, which resulted in the Final being permanently moved to Wembley Stadium connected by EE in 2015.

This new financial commitment from The FA looks to recognise and acknowledge that increased profile and commercial interest in the competition.

Now that the uplift in prize fund for the Vitality Women's FA Cup has been agreed,

work will begin on how that money is divided and allocated, with the aim being for all clubs that enter the competition to benefit.

One commitment that The FA will be making, is that a disproportionate amount of this new fund will be invested into the early rounds of the competition. This will ensure those clubs further down the pyramid entering those rounds, really feel the benefit of the prize money earned.

Sue Campbell, Director of Women's Football at The Football Association, said: "I'm delighted to be able to make this announcement of increased funding for the

Vitality Women's FA Cup because it's going to benefit so many clubs across the women's football pyramid.

"The FA Cup, whether men's or women's, is the biggest and best domestic cup competition in the world, and this increased investment from The FA highlights that we want clubs competing in it to be rewarded, while also highlighting our ongoing commitment to the women's game.

"Women's football continues to be in a growth phase and we are always looking to make improvements and investment to drive it forward and break new boundaries. This is certainly one of the most

pleasing during my time with the organisation, because I know it means so much to so many."

More details will be announced in due course on the structure of the new funding and how it will be distributed across the different stages of the Vitality Women's FA Cup next season.

This season's Vitality Women's FA Cup is at the Quarter-Final stage, with the Final to be played at Wembley Stadium on Sunday 15 May. Tickets can be purchased by visiting:  
[www.thefa.com/tickets](http://www.thefa.com/tickets)



# 2021/22 Vitality Women's FA Cup fixtures, key dates & information

## Third Round Results

Stourbridge	0-3	Sheffield United	Burnley	0-4	Liverpool
Plymouth Argyle	5-0	Clapton Comm.	Brighouse Town	0-1	Sunderland
Stoke City	1-2	Nottingham Forest	West Bromwich Albion	5-1	Long Eaton United
Leeds	0-6	Durham	Huddersfield Town	3-1	Loughborough Lightning
Chesham United	0-10	Billericay Town	Nettleham	4-2	Northampton
Chorley	0-3	Newcastle	Bridgwater United	1-0	Crystal Palace
AFC Wimbledon	0-2	Ipswich Town	Liverpool Feds	0-1	Blackburn Rovers
Portsmouth	1-2	Southampton	Ashford Town	1--6	London City Lionesses
Bristol City	5-0	Lewes	Watford	0-4	Coventry United
Gillingham	TBC	Charlton	Southampton	TBC	Exeter City





The 2021/22 Vitality Women's FA Cup Fourth Round draw was made on talkSPORT2's Women's Football Weekly show earlier this evening and it can be seen in full below:

Southampton v. Bristol City

Newcastle United v. Ipswich Town

Plymouth Argyle v. Gillingham or Charlton Athletic

Liverpool v. Lincoln City

Brighton & Hove Albion v. Reading

Nottingham Forest v. Manchester City

Aston Villa v. Chelsea

Billericay Town v. Coventry United

Durham v. Blackburn Rovers

West Bromwich Albion v. Southampton Women's or Exeter City

Sheffield United v. West Ham United

Birmingham City v. Sunderland

Bridgwater United v. Manchester United

Huddersfield Town v. Everton

Tottenham Hotspur v. Leicester City

Arsenal v. London City Lionesses

All 16 ties in the Fourth Round will be played on Sunday 30 January 2022 and further details will be announced at the earliest opportunity.

# HOME NATIONS



## England's friendlies confirmed in preparation for Euro22



England's final preparations before UEFA Women's EURO 2022 will include two home internationals against fellow tournament contenders in June.

England, unbeaten in nine matches under Sarina Wiegman, will take on Belgium at Wolverhampton Wanderers' Molineux Stadium - scene of last month's Arnold Clark

Cup triumph - on Thursday 16 June. The Lionesses will then welcome the Netherlands, the reigning European champions, to Leeds United's Elland Road on Friday 24 June. Both matches are set to kick off at 8pm.

An overseas fixture against opposition to be confirmed will then be played before Wiegman's squad return to England to begin the last preparations for the opening match of the UEFA European Championship against Austria at Old Trafford, Manchester on Wednesday 6 July.

Wiegman said: "Although at the moment we are fully focused on the two upcoming April qualifiers, with the Euros approaching you also feel the excitement growing.

"These matches against Belgium and the Netherlands will be just the challenge we need in the last weeks of our work to be ready for the EUROS.

"I hope we can continue the progress we have shown so far and build on the strong team spirit and togetherness that we will need to have in the final tournament.

"And of course playing Netherlands, and seeing so many familiar faces again who Arjan and I have worked with for many years gives a special touch to a game against good opposition.

"I am excited to be going back to Wolverhampton. We were given a tremendous welcome against Germany. I am also very pleased to have the match in Leeds. I know it is an area that has a big passion for football and I hope we can give the fans plenty of excitement at both matches."

England have also confirmed the Lionesses will be based at the national football centre St. George's Park in Staffordshire in the build-up to the two warm-up fixtures and the opening match of the EURO.

The June warm-up fixtures will follow two 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers away to North Macedonia and Northern Ireland on 8 and 12 April respectively with the Lionesses top of qualifying Group D on the road to Australia and New Zealand.

England's year began in February with 1-1 and 0-0 draws against Canada and Spain in turn before a 3-1 defeat of Germany at Molineux ensured the Lionesses were winners of the inaugural Arnold Clark Cup.

# The Walsh-Williamson Pivot: Can It Work?



**By Charlotte Stacey**

Over the past couple of years, under Phil Neville and Hege Riise, England have typically played with a 4-3-3 formation. This was usually reinforced with a rather bland game-plan and a chronically predictable line-up. Unsurprisingly, no matter how many times the system was used, it never quite worked.

The term 'plateau' would be reasonable to use. No visible improvement was seen since the semi-final of the 2019 World Cup. At first it was understandable but a hangover can only last for so long. Since then, many of the Lionesses' disappointing results have been pinned on defensive fragilities. Whilst it is fair to argue there certainly have been occasions in which England were defensively poor, the fact they struggled to make very

little impact through the middle and final thirds points to problems further up the pitch.

England's midfield has been a sticking point in their development. As aforementioned, England typically played using a 4-3-3 formation, yet lacked the personnel in midfield to successfully pull it off. The Lionesses used this system to field one defensive midfielder and two attacking ones. But looking at England's midfielders there is a clear imbalance that has led to a disconnect between attack and defence.

Of their options, Keira Walsh is England's only 'trade' defensive midfielder whereas Georgia Stanway, Ella Toone, Jordan Nobbs and Fran Kirby are all distinctly attackingly minded. What is missing is the

player to bridge the two; a box-to-box midfielder. Jill Scott is England's only current prospect here however she has not played a full ninety minutes of international football for quite some time.

So, either the formation needs to be adjusted or the squad does. Enter Sarina Wiegman. As if she read our minds and collective disdain, Wiegman has come in and pleasingly changed things up. Wiegman has played variations of the 4-3-3, but she has also used a 3-5-2 formation and most recently a 4-2-3-1.

It is the 4-2-3-1 that needs to be delved in to. Wiegman used this system in England's first game of the Arnold Clark Cup against Canada, the first 'testing' side they had faced since her induction. Alessia Russo played as the sole striker

in front of Lauren Hemp, Ella Toone and Fran Kirby. Behind them sat England's usual defensive midfielder Keira Walsh alongside - drum-roll please - Leah Williamson in a double pivot.

To understand why this pivot works, we must first understand how the two play. Walsh is a technical ball player with the unfathomable vision to pick out passes that can switch momentum at the drop of a hat. Walsh is also deceptively strong and has no qualms tussling one-on-one to win over possession.

On the other hand, Williamson is naturally a more physical player who demonstrates a strength when using her body to shield and interrupt. Williamson likes to create pressure by carrying the ball directly yet is also known for her ability to accurately pinpoint switches of play.

Williamson's role within the England side has long been speculated. At club level, Williamson anchors the backline as a consistently well performing centre-half, however, her driving runs and proficient ball progression means she can easily slip into a higher position.

England are fortunate to boast the choice of several centre-backs; Lotte Wubben-Moy, Jess Carter, Steph Houghton, as well as the class talents of Millie Bright and Alex Greenwood. Therefore, pushing Williamson into a midfield role makes a lot of sense. It solves the conundrum of logistically playing Bright, Greenwood and Williamson at the same time whilst knitting the midfield into a more cohesive unit.

When using a double pivot, generally speaking, one player will remain close to the defensive line whilst the other moves more freely in supporting attacking phases of play. Interestingly, of the two, it is actually Williamson who is more likely to suit the progressive role despite playing as a defender in the domestic league. However, the beauty of the Walsh-Williamson pivot is that both can comfortably operate as either meaning they can be used interchangeably.

Defensively, this system offers a greater safety net. In times of pressure both Walsh and Williamson are able to fall back and protect the backline, in so creating a 'box' to close of central lanes in conjunction with the centre-backs. A Walsh-Williamson-Bright-Greenwood box is one that should be difficult to breach. Of course, this means oppositions will likely stretch play using the wings. However, a centre-back being dragged out wide to close down an approaching threat can be offset with a member of the double pivot dropping deep to cover.

In times of transition the pair can strike while the iron's hot in spraying equally exquisite passes to motion counter-attacks. Further to this, both are capable of becoming supporting bodies to their forward line harbouring the intelligence to do so without compromising defensive protection.

Having played together through the England ranks, Walsh and Williamson know each other's movements well enough to gauge the workings of the pivot between them. One

will remain deep whilst the other careers forward, one covers the centre-back whilst the other is alert to spring a counter, one draws the opponent whilst the other fills consequent the space.

The double pivot, by its nature, is a partnership, a constant give and pull between its two occupants. For England, the partnership of Keira Walsh and Leah Williamson has already shown great potential. In just a single game using the 4-2-3-1 system, the Lionesses looked sharp in what was arguably their best forty-five minutes of football in over two years. Their play purposely connected far more smoothly through the thirds and the resulting unity reasserted excitement in their stirring supporters.

With the Euro's in mind, Wiegman's decision to 'experiment' looks to be the best thing that could have happened to England. Whilst we cannot assume Wiegman will always stick to the 4-2-3-1, one certainly hopes it becomes a frequent occurrence. The Walsh-Williamson pivot is not yet perfect, but it's a start.



## Scotland Women's National Team home kit launched

Scotland have launched a new home kit in celebration of International Women's Day.

Available exclusively in a women's cut, the kit is a fresh look for Pedro Martinez Losa's side as they push for a World Cup spot.

Captain Rachel Corsie and her team-mates will wear the colours with pride, as they look to build on a solid showing in the recent Pinatar Cup campaign.

The navy blue kit features the iconic adidas three stripes, and the material is part of the adidas Prime Blue collection - with a high-performance yarn made with 50 per cent parley ocean plastic. That's upcycled plastic waste intercepted on shorelines and coastal areas, which prevents it from polluting our oceans.



## Northern Ireland U17s ease past Faroe Islands

Northern Ireland's U17s made it two wins out of two in a WU17 Euros qualifying mini tournament in Israel.

In their first qualifier Alfie Wylie's side produced a stirring comeback to defeat Luxembourg, however it was a lot less frenetic as they eased past Faroe Islands on a 3-0 scoreline this afternoon.

Northern Ireland dominated the game and should have had a few more goals than the three scored by Sophie Gargan, Mikayla Wildgoose and substitute Emily Reid.

Northern Ireland WU17s: Ellie Scott, Sarah Tweedie, Aoibhe O'Neill, Abi Sweetlove, Mikayla Wildgoose, Aimee Kerr, Rhyleigh Marks (captain), Rachel McIntyre, Naomi McLaughlin, Sophie Gargan, Olivia Stubbs.

Substitutes: (used) Emily Reid, Grace Montgomery, Niamh Coyle, Megan Neill, Claragh Quigg; (unused) Erin McAllister (GK), Keri Halliday, Niamh O'Donnell, Cerys Madden



## Fahey makes 100 caps

Liverpool Women captain Niamh Fahey has reached 100 caps for the Republic of Ireland.

The 34-year-old was given the honour of captaining her country in the Pinatar Cup opener against Poland in Spain.

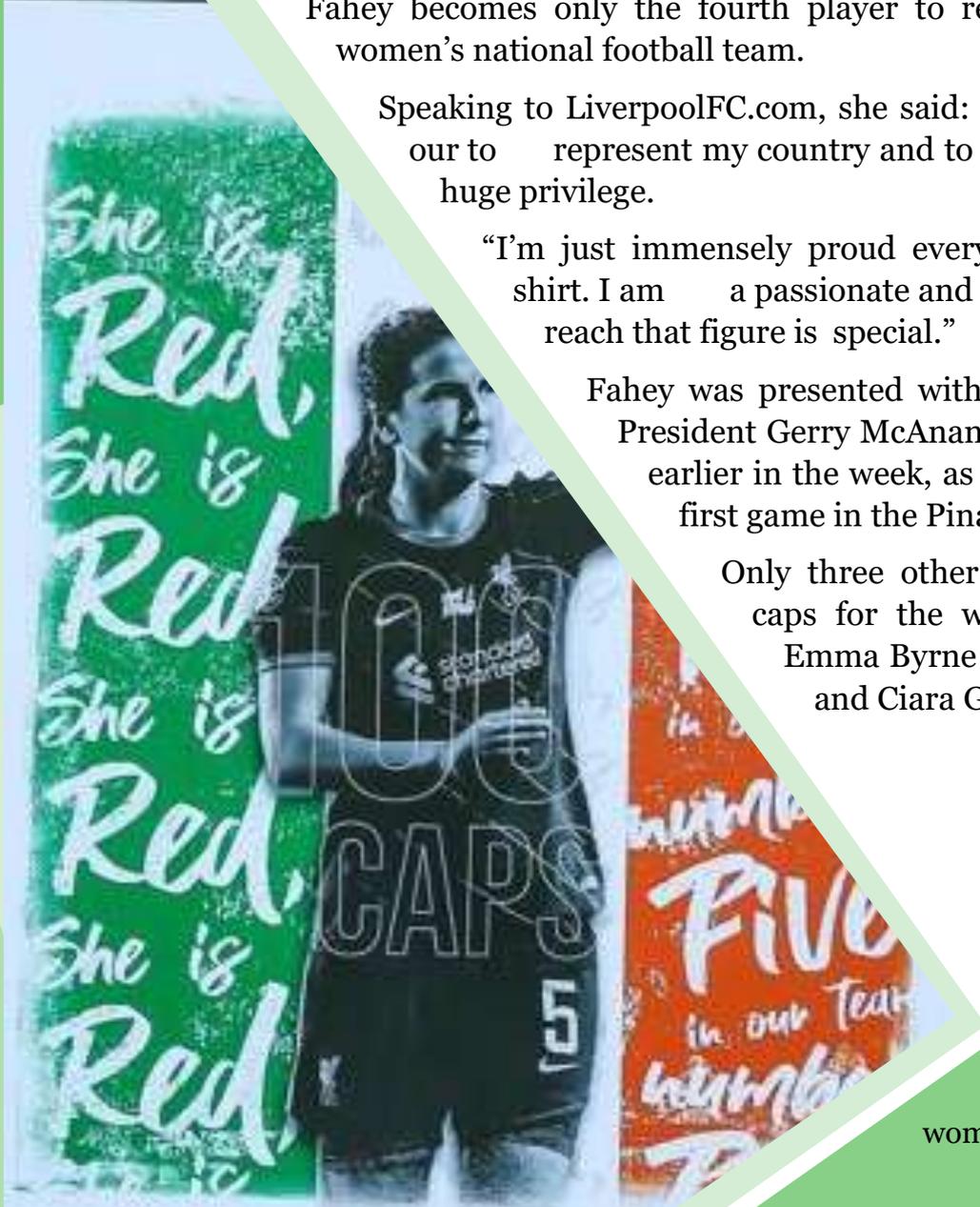
Fahey becomes only the fourth player to reach the milestone for the women's national football team.

Speaking to LiverpoolFC.com, she said: “It’s been an absolute honour to represent my country and to have done so 100 times is a huge privilege.

“I’m just immensely proud every time I pull on the green shirt. I am a passionate and a proud Irish woman and to reach that figure is special.”

Fahey was presented with a special gold cap by FAI President Gerry McAnaney and Manager Vera Pauw earlier in the week, as the team prepared for their first game in the Pinatar Cup.

Only three other players have reached 100 caps for the women's national team – Emma Byrne (134), Áine O’Gorman (111) and Ciara Grant (105).



## Wales launch new kit

Wales have launched a new women's kit in line with International Women's day.

The new adidas bespoke Women's kit will make its debut when the Cymru side face France in their upcoming FIFA World Cup Qualifying match on Friday the 8th of April at Parc Y Scarlets, Llanelli.

The FAW recently joined forces with the Welsh Government to launch unique educational resources aimed at tackling online hate towards girls and women. The resources centre around an engaging and powerful film featuring several Cymru International players highlighting and reacting to real life examples of online misogyny and hate speech.



# UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2022 ENGLAND



# LinkedIn announced as latest sponsors for Euro 2022



UEFA and The FA have announced LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, as the latest national sponsor of UEFA Women's EURO 2022, joining existing partners The LEGO Group, Pandora and Starling Bank.

The tournament, which is due to be the biggest European women's sporting event in history, will be hosted in England this summer from 6-31 July.

As a national sponsor of UEFA Women's EURO 2022, LinkedIn will spotlight the game's female trailblazers who have supported one another on their path to professional success, inspiring everyone with their stories as it commits to 'make work work for women.'

LinkedIn's activations will demonstrate how the platform and its community can support women to achieve their goals, whatever their profession or industry, and drive content and conversations around women's empowerment, leadership, wellbeing and diversity.

Guy-Laurent Epstein, Director of Marketing at UEFA, said: "We are delighted to have LinkedIn join us as a national sponsor of UEFA Women's EURO 2022. The addition of this major brand further enhances what is already an extremely strong roster of commercial sponsors associated with the competition. This collaboration offers

significant opportunities to further promote the competition through their platform and bring it to new audiences. We look forward to working together on what is set to be a record-breaking tournament that further grows the women's game."

Ngaire Moyes, Vice President, Communications and Brand, International at LinkedIn said: "At LinkedIn we're championing a gender equal world that's diverse and inclusive, and it's a privilege to support UEFA Women's EURO 2022 which actively shares and celebrates these values. The tournament is set to be a landmark event that will provide professional female footballers with a platform to showcase their remarkable talent and achievements. Off the field, we're increasingly seeing sports professionals use LinkedIn to share interesting stories and insights into their careers, and we know how powerful they can be to encourage and inspire others."

The announcement comes on the same day tournament organisers have launched the 'Inspired By England 2022' Instagram channel that will become the home to all inspiring stories and content from fans, sponsors, partners and community groups in the build up to the tournament and beyond.

# History of women's football to be revealed and celebrated by UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Heritage Programme



Arts Council England has awarded £800,000 to UEFA Women's EURO 2022 in England to run an exciting arts and cultural programme alongside the tournament, thanks to National Lottery players.

Three specially commissioned projects, each led by artist Emma Smith, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Idle Women, will celebrate the rich history of women's football and its players and harness culture to encourage more people, particularly women and girls, to be inspired by the tournament.

There will also be the opportunity for the public to create an original anthem to celebrate UEFA Women's EURO 2022 in England, expressing the passion evident in the women's football community through music.

Running throughout the tournament from 6-31 July, in collaboration with the nine Host Cities around the country – Brighton & Hove, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Rotherham, Sheffield, Southampton, Trafford and Wigan & Leigh - the programme will reach nearly 3 million people and invite sports audiences and participants to engage with culture at an important moment for the country.

The arts programme will be managed by The Football Association, the national governing body of football in England. It will be the first time the organisation has run such a programme alongside a major tournament and it hopes to establish female role models for both girls and boys through the arts.

Over 26 action-packed days, 31 UEFA Women's EURO 2022 matches will be played by 16 teams across nine English cities from 6 - 31 July. A record number of fans are set to attend in person with a further 250 million across the world watching the action unfold on TV. It promises to be the biggest women's European sporting event in history.

National Lottery Project Grants is the Arts Council's open access programme for arts, museums and libraries projects. The fund supports thousands of individual artists, community and cultural organisations thanks to National Lottery investment.

National Lottery players raise £30 million for good causes each week, funding arts, heritage, sports, voluntary and charity projects around the UK. Over £43 billion has been raised for Good Causes since

the National Lottery began in 1994.

Darren Henley, Arts Council Chief Executive said:

"The Football Association's first ever arts programme will transform the streets and boroughs where people live throughout the Women's EURO 2022 this summer.

"The combined forces of culture and sport have the power to improve lives, regenerate neighbourhoods, support local economies and bring people together nationally and internationally.

"I am proud Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants has been able to support the delivery of three vibrant, celebratory cultural projects for the Women's EURO 2022.

"Reaching out to local communities both in the nine Host Cities and across the nation, they will have a deep and lasting effect for girls, women and young people, which in turn uplifts us all.

"What better way to build on England's global reputation for creativity and leave a tangible legacy for the future Ellen White's and Lucy Bronze's of the country."

Chris Bryant, Tournament Director UEFA Women's EURO 2022, said:

"UEFA Women's EURO 2022 is set to be the biggest women's European sporting event in history.

"This significant funding from the National Lottery and the chance to work with Arts Council England provides us with the opportunity to deliver a programme that celebrates

culture and encourages more people, particularly women and girls, to be inspired by the tournament.

"We are delighted to be working with such prestigious artists and organisations on bringing this programme to life.

"As we work towards tournament kick off on 6 July we will be reaching out to local artists, musicians and community groups via our host city partnerships to share in the moment and deliver a programme of events in each region.

"By bringing football and arts together under one project we can attract new audiences to each and leave behind a legacy for future generations."

Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society, Nigel Huddleston, said:

"Improving participation and visibility for all women's sports is a priority for the government, so I'm thrilled the FA's EURO 2022 programme is celebrating the rich culture and history in women's football.

"We are set for a blockbuster year of events, with the Commonwealth Games, Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and UNBOXED alongside more history-making moments in women's football, and I hope we can inspire people to get into sport."



# Pandora launches new Euro 22 range



Pandora have unveiled a new collection for the Uefa Women's Euro 2022, inspired by inspirational women on the pitch.

The Uefa Women's Euros will begin on July 6 with both England and Northern Ireland busy preparing for their summer fixtures.

Pandora UK has launched a new football themed collection as the UEFA Women's Euro 2022's official national jewellery sponsor.

The brand teamed up with England Lionesses Nikita Parris and Rachel Daly, just two sporting

role-models who inspire women and young girls to pursue their goals and dream big.

Pandora's Sparkling Football Charm (£45) is the perfect gift for footballers and fans of the beautiful game.

The sterling silver charm gets you match ready with sparkling cubic zirconia inside pentagons of the football.

For those on a budget, the Sneaker Shoe Dangle Charm is a sneaker with small heart details on the soles with two flush-set clear cubic zirconia in the top of the charm.

You can get in the patriotic spirit and sport the sterling silver England Love Heart charm for £35.

The heart-shaped Pandora charm features a red enamel heart and the word 'England' in a classic italic style.



# Russia banned from Euro 2022



Russian football clubs and national teams have been suspended from all Fifa and Uefa competitions following the country's invasion of Ukraine.

The world and European governing bodies have released a joint statement announcing tough sanctions in the wake of Russia taking military action against neighbouring Ukraine.

A number of national footballing federations had already announced that their teams will refuse to face Russia, including the English FA.

The decision rules the women's team out of this

summer's Euro 2022 competition, taking place in the UK.

FIFA and UEFA's statement reads: "Fifa/UEFA suspend Russian clubs and national teams from all competitions.

"Following the initial decisions adopted by the FIFA Council and the UEFA Executive Committee, which envisaged the adoption of additional measures, FIFA and UEFA have today decided together that all Russian teams, whether national representative teams or club teams, shall be suspended from participation in both FIFA

and UEFA competitions until further notice.

"These decisions were adopted today by the Bureau of the FIFA Council and the Executive Committee of UEFA, respectively the highest decision-making bodies of both institutions on such urgent matters.

"Football is fully united here and in full solidarity with all the people affected in Ukraine. Both Presidents hope that the situation in Ukraine will improve significantly and rapidly so that football can again be a vector for unity and peace amongst people."

# Around the World



# USA Women finally end equal pay battle



US Women's National Team players have ended a six-year legal battle with their federation over equal pay, agreeing a deal worth \$24m (£17.7m) plus bonuses to match the terms of the men.

The US Soccer Federation and the women's team announced the deal Tuesday, which will see the players receive \$22m, around a third of the figure they had originally sought.

US Soccer also agreed to establish a fund with \$2m to benefit the players in their post-soccer careers and charitable efforts aimed at growing the sport for women.

US Soccer committed to providing an equal rate of pay for the women's and men's national teams including World Cup bonuses, subject to collective bargaining agreements with the unions that separately represent the women and men.

"We are pleased to announce that, contingent on the negotiation of a new collective bargaining agreement, we will have resolved our longstanding dispute over equal

pay and proudly stand together in a shared commitment to advancing equality in soccer," the players said in a joint statement with US Soccer.

USA midfielder Megan Rapinoe said: "For our generation, knowing that we're going to leave the game in an exponentially better place than when we found it is everything.

"That's what it's all about because, to be honest, there is no justice in all of this if we don't make sure it never happens again.

"It's a herculean task to win a World Cup, certainly in the fashion we did with all that we were fighting for off the field and this felt just as herculean or probably bigger in so many ways. I'm excited about moving forward."

# The FIFA World XI: Are you taking the mick?



**By Jamie Davies**

Last month, FIFA announced the world's best 11 in women's football and this has caused a few concerns as familiar traditional faces returned but there were much better options available.

Let's be honest, the football awards in men and women's football is always having us fans sit and debate who is the greatest of them all.

From the Ballon d'Or to the Puskas Award – some of us are never satisfied with the results (don't get me started on Lionel Messi winning the 2021 Ballon d'Or!).

But this year's FIFA World XI for women's football felt like more as a joke than ever as some of the squad selections were very questionable.

In case you haven't seen it yet, here it is below and see what you think...

## **FIFA FIFPRO Women's World 11**

Goalkeeper: Christiane Endler (Paris Saint-Germain/Olympique Lyonnais)

Defenders: Millie Bright (Chelsea FC Women), Lucy Bronze (Manchester City WFC), Magdalena Eriksson (Chelsea FC Women) and Wendie Renard (Olympique Lyonnais)

Midfielders: Estefanía Banini (Levante UD/Atlético de Madrid Femenino), Barbara Bonansea (Juventus FC Women) and Carli Lloyd (NJ/NY Gotham FC)

Forwards: Marta (Orlando Pride), Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal WFC) and Alex Morgan (Tottenham Hotspur FC Women/Orlando Pride/San Diego Wave FC)

So let that sink in for you for a minute and surely you're like me wondering how some of those names made the list for 2021 ahead of others?

Well let's take a look at the full nomination list that consisted of 23 players over all.

Nominated

Goalkeepers: Laura Benkarth (FC Bayern Munich, Germany), Ann-Katrin Berger (Chelsea FC, Germany), Christiane Endler (Paris Saint-Germain/Olympique Lyonnais, Chile)

Defenders: Millie Bright (Chelsea FC, England), Lucy Bronze (Manchester City FC, England), Kadeisha Buchanan (Olympique Lyonnais, Canada), Ellie Carpenter (Olympique Lyonnais, Australia), Magdalena Eriksson (Chelsea FC, Sweden), Irene Paredes (FC Barcelona, Spain), Wendie

Renard (Olympique Lyonnais, France)

Midfielders: Estefania Banini (Levante UD/Atletico Madrid, Argentina), Barbara Bonansea (Juventus FC, Italy), Aitana Bonmati (FC Barcelona, Spain), Delphine Cascarino (Olympique Lyonnais, France), Carli Lloyd (NJ/NY Gotham FC, USA), Alexia Putellas (FC Barcelona, Spain)

Forwards: Pernille Harder (Chelsea FC, Denmark), Samantha Kerr (Chelsea FC, Australia), Marta (Orlando Pride, Brazil), Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal FC, The Netherlands), Alex Morgan (Tottenham Hotspur/Orlando Pride/San Diego Wave FC, USA), Gabrielle Onguene (CSKA Moscow, Cameroon), Megan Rapinoe (OL Reign, USA)

Before we get into the grilling, let's point out the players that made the 11 that deserved a spot in the world's finest after what was a very impressive 2021 for them individually.

Up front, Vivianne Miedema is like the Robert Lewandowski of women's football – you can always rely on the Dutch international to score you a goal no matter who it is against. She missed out on potential Olympics medal success last summer but has put that behind her to drive her Arsenal back at the top of the Women's Super League (so far!).

A second mention has to be Chelsea defender Millie Bright who has continued to be one of the best at the back helping the blues reach their first Champions League final in 2021. Unfortunately, the final against Barcelona was a night

to forget as her team conceded four goals. But they still made progress in Europe, they shouldn't forget that.

Lucy Bronze and Magdalena Eriksson are also defenders you can't go wrong with but you do feel having Bronze selected is because of her recent success of being awarded the FIFA Best Player award.

After that, this is where the questions start looking at the world 11.

With the goalkeepers, Christiane Endler had a terrific year gathering over 80% of cleansheets in 2021 while Chelsea's Ann-Katrin Berger was very close behind at 79%. Either choice was going to be a safe one.

The defender's group didn't seem right not to have Barcelona's centre back of Irene Paredes in the 11 as I'm sure many would have replaced Wendie Renard despite her career being a glittering one. Paredes was part of a Barcelona team that rarely lost in any competition last year and as this is being written – Paredes' team haven't lost a match in the Spanish league this season after over 20 games played so far.

Now let's have a look at the midfielders – where we straight away have to go on about Carli Lloyd as somehow the American made the list. Lloyd's appearance at Tokyo 2020 was to be her last major tournament for the USA. But to have her in the world 11 doesn't feel right as you feel it is more of a tribute to her international career instead of her contribution in 2021. It is a crime Barcelona's Alexia

Putellas, who won the FIFA Ballon d'Or less than 2 months ago, not feature in this world 11. We love you Carli but Alexia needs to be there.

And finally the forwards, I already stated that Miedema has had a superb 2021 for Arsenal so it was expected to see her make the call but Marta and Megan Rapinoe feels like another traditionalist move by the voters where the past's greats never fail to make the list. But I'm afraid, I'll have to disagree with the Brazilian and the American and replace them with Chelsea's deadly duo of Sam Kerr and Pernille Harder who won every trophy for the blues apart from finishing just short of a first European cup back in May in Gothenburg. Kerr especially has been one of the most consistent up front for Emma Hayes by finding the net on so many occasions while also scoring that delicious chip in December's FA Cup final against Arsenal.

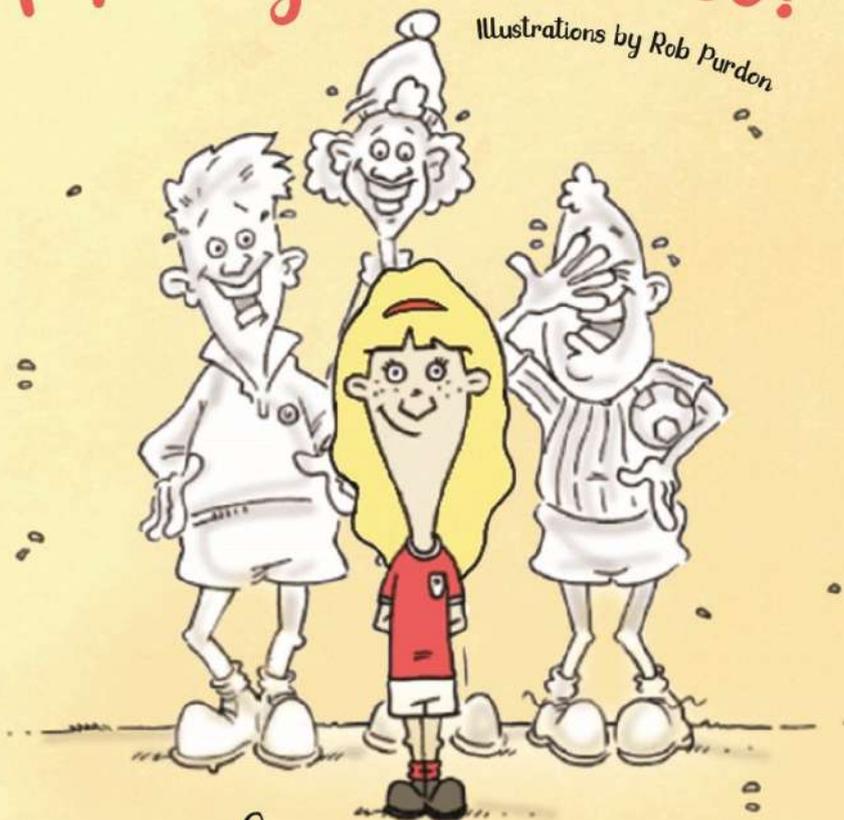
So a few suggested changes to the original world 11 list but at the end of the day, everyone's opinions are different but let's hope the choices are a lot more thought about in 2023 instead of going with the usual suspects.



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