

# FAWSL

## FULL-TIME



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*The unofficial magazine of the Barclays Women's Super League*



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# The Editor's View



Welcome to the December edition of FAWSL Full-Time Magazine and thank you for your continued support.

Christmas is coming but before we get there, our Barclays Women's Super League and Barclays Women's Championship clubs have a number of league and domestic cup fixtures to complete. In the cases of Arsenal and Chelsea, they will be clocking up the air miles before the break as they contest their final matches in the UEFA Women's Champions League's group stage.

It's not just a busy time of year for Christmas shoppers, it is one of the busiest months for fans, players and off-field staff alike. This year presents a break of almost a month over Christmas and New Year and I think we will all need it!

What will 2023 bring? Well, it looks set to deliver a thrilling Barclays Women's Super League title race which could involve up to four clubs. Chelsea and Manchester City were slow starters but have recovered and have grown as the season has gone on while Manchester United are playing exceptionally well under Marc Skinner. Arsenal have been at the top in the opening months but they continue to juggle injuries to key players. Can The Gunners keep the momentum going and end that trophy drought?

In the Barclays Women's Championship, we again look set to enjoy a title race which will go down to the wire. London City Lionesses, Bristol City and Southampton have all been exceptional in the first half of the season while the likes of Charlton Athletic and Birmingham City could yet scramble their way towards a promotion push.

A number of attendance records have been smashed across the two leagues in the first half of the season and it seems likely that 2023 will also bring more record-breaking moments. There was a concern that the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 legacy wouldn't be carried forward but that doesn't look to be the case with the game absolutely thriving in the first half of the season.

For me personally, it has been 100mph this season as I have travelled up and down the country, interviewing managers, coaches and players on almost a daily basis. I will now look forward to relaxing for a couple of weeks.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Dan Pentland*

# Eni Old Excuse Isn't It!

*John Howard discusses punditry controversy at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022*

As the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 marches to its conclusion, controversies, VAR and record amounts of injury time could make one forget that there was, and still is, a bit of football being played.

With every major tournament comes a commentary team. Journalists, presenters and ex-players travel to the destination to deliver their expertise and analysis for the viewers watching around the world on TV. We all have our favourites, be it club loyalty, and our dislikes, probably again for the same reason. This tournament has seen both the BBC and ITV have its most diverse panel to date, something that still annoys those firmly entrenched that football is a man's game simply because it is what they grew up with and know.

Let's not forget that it was the women of England that brought home the nation's last footballing trophy following this year's UEFA Women's EURO triumph, something that their male counterparts haven't done since winning the FIFA World Cup on home soil in 1966. Not that the purpose of this piece is to create a 'boys against girls' narrative, it is important to reiterate the rapid growth of the woman's game as well as celebrate a national triumph. It is therefore understandable why Karen Carney, Alex Scott and Eni Aluko have joined Ian Wright, Alan Shearer and Roy Keane in predicting and dissecting the action before and after it unfolds. There are many more names, both male and female, that are out in the Middle East providing an array of knowledge, and many personalities that will help create debate and offer alternative perspectives.

I feel it should be stressed; it is ok to dislike a pundit for their punditry and it can be hard to digest someone who spent their playing career playing well against your team, or an individual that perhaps isn't as big a fan of a current star as you are. Some pundits often make wild predications or comments that clearly suggest that they have not done their research or are perhaps not really suited for a career in television.

Many a male pundit has made ridiculous comments or dropped verbal clangers that have seen them trend on Twitter for all the wrong reasons which leads me to the aforementioned Aluko.

It was after Brazil's resounding 4-1 win over South Korea in the Round of 16 which saw her make a fatal mathematical error. When analysing Richarlison's goalscoring record for his country (19 in 40), the former England international, who won over 100 caps for her country, declared that as a 'goal a game'.



Immediately social media went into meltdown with so many posts poking fun at the 35-year-old, whose crime is simply getting a comment wrong on national television.

### **Is she guilty of something else in the eyes of many?**

Here's the thing, I was not overly impressed with Aluko's punditry. Much like football management, it is not for everyone, although with time and support many can, and have, improved. Yet seemingly a bandwagon was firmly jumped on regarding every woman commentating on football, as though one error was a perfect reason to reignite a gender war that should have gone out with the dinosaurs.

Micah Richards was a wide-eyed teen when his use of the F-word after scoring Manchester City's equaliser in the FA Cup earned him a dressing down from Garth Crookes, as well as sparking a horde of complaints from outraged viewers. Yet with age, club support and experience, Richards has developed into one of today's most engaging and entertaining pundits.

Michael Owen has had a list of verbal clangers that are well documented, while Graeme Souness' obsession with Paul Pogba has provided the brilliant impressionist Conor Moore with plenty of material when impersonating the former Scottish international.

In any of the above male examples, where was the clamour to lump a gender together? There wasn't because your sex does not pre-determine your ability to have knowledge on a topic or be good at talking about it.

There are those players and ex-players that do not display a natural aptitude for speaking. This can change over the fullness of time, but it has nothing to do with whether you are a man or a women.

If you are looking for quality commentary, look no further than Rachel Brown-Finnis. The former Everton goalkeeper's analysis on Barclays Women's Super League games is full of passion, knowledge, as well as a real insight of someone who has played the game and is reminiscent of Ally McCoist's commentary style, who, in my opinion, has been the best expert commentator in Qatar.

Opinion is essential. Without it the world would be bland, nothing would get done and TV wouldn't be worth watching but next time a female pundit makes an honest mistake or is not to someone's preference, I sincerely hope it is not used as an excuse for the dinosaurs to launch yet another feeble argument as to why women shouldn't be commentating on football.

They should and will continue to do so, you lost!





# Singing The Blues

*An update from the biggest women's supporters' club, Manchester City Women OSC*

Welcome to the final Manchester City Women Official Supporters' Club update of 2022.

The last few weeks have been manic as we geared up for our Christmas events alongside our away trips to Reading, Everton and Liverpool. We've also had a number of home games and the team have continued their excellent recent form. At the time of writing, we are preparing for our last two games of 2022, a derby against Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium and a trip to Leicester City in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

We have our OSC AGM before Christmas and we are delighted to announce that we will be joined by Dan Pentland, the editor and creator of this very magazine. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his time and support.

I'm sure many of you tuned in to watch Jill Scott on I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! We had a sneaky feeling that she would do well and it was fantastic to see her crowned 'Queen of the Jungle'. Jill is a good friend and a huge supporter of our OSC, she has been since day one. We all knew what an amazing person Jill is away from the game and it is great to know that the whole country have fallen in love with her.

Another recent celebration was our OSC's seventh anniversary. We are extremely proud of our football family, both our physical members who we see at our games and events and our overseas members who we love to keep in touch with via our online communities. To think we formed as a small group of strangers in 2015 and now we are seven years old is amazing. We laugh, cry, celebrate and commiserate together just like any family really. We have been on an incredible journey and have formed friendships and made memories that will last a lifetime. Here's to the next seven years!

The Year 2022 has been epic. A top three finish, the thrashing of the neighbours at Leigh and an FA Cup final appearance are obvious highlights but our amazing comeback against Chelsea in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup final was my personal stand out memory. The bond between the team and fans that day carried us to a historic comeback victory. To see the team lift silverware is always amazing but this one felt extra special.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dave (Committee member)

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E-mail: mcwfc.officialfanclub@gmail.



# Legacy Numbers

*The Football Association have announced legacy numbers for the Lionesses*



As part of the Lionesses' 50th anniversary celebrations, The Football Association have announced legacy numbers.

Each and every player to have represented the England team at senior level has been given their own unique number to celebrate their achievement. The move sees the Lionesses follow the same path as the England men's side in adopting legacy numbers.

There have been 227 players who have represented the Lionesses in total with Sue Buckett being the first honoured and Brighton & Hove Albion's Katie Robinson being the latest England debutant (number 227). Other

notable players to be honoured include England's UEFA Women's EURO 2022-winning captain Leah Williamson (205), the nation's all-time record appearance holder Fara Williams (140) and record goalscorer Ellen White (174).

Players who are included in the next England squad selection for the Arnold Clark Cup in February will wear their legacy numbers on their shirts for the first time. All 227 players will also receive a special velvet cap displaying their individual legacy number.

Speaking following the announcement of the legacy numbers, Kay Cossington, Head of Women's Technical at The FA, said: "Every former player has played their part in the team's journey and the introduction of legacy numbers is a permanent reminder of their impact and the history of the England senior women's team. All 227 players are valued members of the 'England family' and we hope they can reflect with pride on being part of a small group of women who have transformed football and made an everlasting impact on society.

"We want to thank each and every one who has worn the shirt since 1972 and epitomised what it means to be a Lioness. Their number will always remain unique to them and is a symbol of their legacy in growing the game.

"We remain indebted to many in the women's football family who have helped collate this historic list and the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund. I would like to pay particular tribute to Professor Jean Williams and Patricia Gregory, who have worked tirelessly with FA colleagues over a number of years to bring this project to life."

The full list of legacy numbers can be viewed at <https://www.Englandfootball.com/England/womens-senior-team/Legacy>.

# Conti Cup Final

*Details of the 2022/2023 FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup final have been announced*

The 2022/2023 FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup final will be staged at Selhurst Park, the home of Crystal Palace FC.

The Football Association announced the news off the back of recent conversations with officials at the Premier League club.

The showpiece will take place on Sunday 5 March 2023 and will kick-off at 3pm. The game will be broadcast live on the BBC.

Selhurst Park has a history of hosting women's domestic cup finals. The stadium was the host venue for the Vitality Women's FA Cup finals between 2001 and 2003. The likes of Rachel Yankey and Katie Chapman have netted important cup final goals at Selhurst Park in the past.

Selhurst Park has also hosted women's football in more recent times. Crystal Palace's women's team faced Sunderland in SE25 last season while their Barclays Women's Championship fixtures against Southampton and Charlton Athletic have also been held at Selhurst Park this season. Crystal Palace are committed to playing their part in the development of the women's game and the hosting of the 2022/2023 FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup final is the latest step forward.

Speaking following the announcement, Kelly Simmons, FA Director of The Women's Professional Game, said "We're really looking forward to working with Crystal Palace over the coming months to put on a really exciting final."

"Selhurst Park hosts some of the best men's players in the world over the course of the season in the Premier League and has also played host to the brilliant Crystal Palace in the Barclays Women's Championship. It is a fitting venue for the final to be held in March."

Tickets for the 2022/2023 FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup final are on-sale now via Crystal Palace's official club website. Prices start at £10 for adults, £5 for concessions and £2.50 for juniors.





# FA Cup Third Round Draw

*Clubs from the Barclays Women's Championship to begin this season's FA Cup adventure*



The 12 clubs from the Barclays Women's Championship will begin their participation in this season's Vitality Women's FA Cup later this month.

The draw for the third round took place at the end of November and was split into northern and southern sections. The 28 surviving non-elite clubs from the second round entered the draw with the 12 elite clubs from the second tier of the women's game. The 12 clubs from the Barclays Women's Super League will come into the competition at the fourth round stage after Christmas.

The northern side of the draw produced one all-Barclays Women's Championship affair with Blackburn Rovers hosting Sunderland. There are home draws for Coventry

United, Birmingham City and Sheffield United against lower division opposition while Durham travel to Peterborough United.

In the southern section, Bristol City will host their Barclays Women's Championship promotion rivals Southampton FC in what could be a thriller at The Robins' High Performance Centre. Crystal Palace, Lewes, London City Lionesses and Charlton Athletic have all been given favourable home draws.

The 20 Vitality Women's FA Cup third round ties are scheduled to take place on Sunday 11 December 2022.

## **Vitality Women's FA Cup Third Round Draw**

### **Northern Section**

Coventry United v Stockport County, Burnley v Norwich City, Peterborough United v Durham, Leeds United v Stoke City, Birmingham City v Huddersfield Town, Blackburn Rovers v Sunderland, Liverpool Feds v West Bromwich Albion, Sheffield United v Nottingham Forest, Newcastle United v Wolverhampton Wanderers, Solihull Moors v AFC Fylde

### **Southern Section**

Cardiff City v Bournemouth Sports, Bristol City v Southampton FC, AFC Wimbledon v Gillingham, Hashtag United v Actonians, Crystal Palace v Watford or Crawley Wasps, Lewes v Southampton Women or London Bees, Ipswich Town v Portishead Town, London City Lionesses v Portsmouth, Charlton Athletic v Milton Keynes Dons, Liskeard Athletic or Oxford United v Plymouth Argyle

# QUIZ CORNER

Welcome to FAWSL Full-Time's Quiz Corner, an opportunity to test your knowledge on the beautiful game and ability to solve puzzles.

This month, we have a real mixed bag of teasers for you. Can you solve our puzzles?!?!

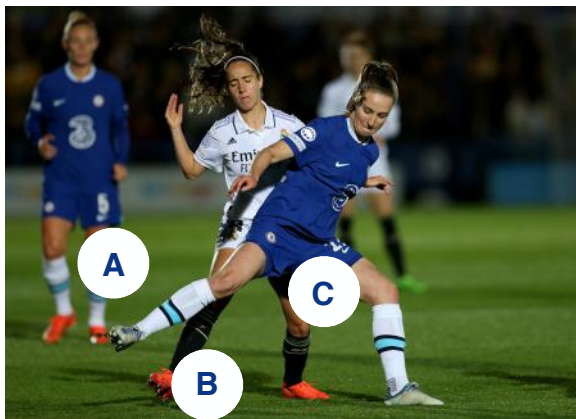
G	P	D	N	A	M	W	O	N	S
O	Y	W	G	C	O	J	S	E	T
S	L	E	I	G	H	A	D	P	K
A	L	Y	S	X	I	D	K	D	Y
N	O	G	A	M	S	O	S	L	E
T	H	W	S	T	Z	N	L	A	K
A	I	B	H	S	C	I	K	T	R
Z	A	G	I	F	T	S	O	C	U
O	I	T	Z	G	I	H	B	E	T
L	X	S	U	S	E	J	I	U	R

## Wordsearch

Can you find these Christmas words on the wordsearch grid?

SLEIGH  
LIGHTS  
TURKEY  
GIFTS  
SNOWMAN  
HOLLY  
JESUS  
SANTA

Can you spot the ball in the image below?



Which of the following clubs have scored the most league goals in 2022?

- A) Coventry United
- B) Leicester City
- C) Reading
- D) Lewes
- E) Sheffield United



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# Arsenal

Website: [www.arsenal.com/women](http://www.arsenal.com/women)

Twitter: @ArsenalWFC

## Fixtures

- 3 Dec - Everton (H)
- 7 Dec - Juventus (H)#
- 11 Dec - Aston Villa (A)
- 16 Dec - Lyon (H)
- 21 Dec - FC Zürich (A)

## Results

- 4-0 - Leicester City (A)
- 2-3 - Manchester U (H)
- 1-1 - Juventus (A)#

# - UWCL

## Goalscorer

- 6 - Beth Mead
- 6 - Stina Blackstenius
- 6 - Frida Maanum
- 4 - Vivianne Miedema
- 3 - Caitlin Foord
- 2 - Kim Little
- 2 - Jordan Nobbs
- 2 - Lina Hurtig
- 1 - Lia Wälti
- 1 - Rafaelle Souza
- 1 - Steph Catley
- 1 - Laura Wienroither

Arsenal's hopes of ending their trophy drought continue to be as strong as ever but the club will need to make their dreams reality without forward Beth Mead.

The England star has ruptured her Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL), bringing her season to an end and leaving her FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023 hopes on a cliff edge.

Everything started in routine fashion for Arsenal last month. The Gunners won 4-0 at Leicester City in soaking wet conditions in the East Midlands.

Up next was a home fixture against Manchester United in front of 40,000 fans at the Emirates Stadium. The Gunners looked set for the win but two late goals from the visitors saw the game turn on its head completely. Forward Mead sustained her season-ending injury in that match, a moment which summed up a very bad day for the North Londoners.

In Europe, Arsenal are closing in on the UEFA Women's Champions League quarter-finals. Jonas Eidevall's side drew 1-1 against Juventus in Turin to leave them top of the group. They can complete the job before Christmas and also leave themselves in a good position domestically.



England captain Leah Williamson has returned to training following a troublesome foot injury.

The 25-year-old defender sustained the injury during a training session ahead of the October international break and she has spent six weeks in rehabilitation.

Arsenal confirmed that Williamson returned to training last month and she will quickly get back up to speed with her fitness.

Williamson made just four appearances in all competitions for Arsenal this season prior to her injury. The player featured in both of the club's opening two matches in the Barclays Women's Super League. The defender also played in both of the European ties against Dutch club Ajax.



Arsenal forward Beth Mead will miss the remainder of the season after rupturing her Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL).

The 27-year-old sustained the injury as The Gunners lost 3-2 to Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium last month. Mead left the field in real pain in second half injury time.

The player has now been assessed by the Arsenal medical team and it has been revealed that Mead has ruptured her ACL.

While Mead will miss the remainder of the season, she also faces a race against time to be fit for the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia and New Zealand 2023. The tournament kicks-off in late July, leaving the forward with very little time to complete her rehabilitation programme.

Arsenal midfielder Kim Little will be sidelined until the New Year with a knee injury.

The 32-year-old sustained the injury during Arsenal's 3-1 victory over West Ham United at the LV Bet Stadium back in October. The Scot will spend the run up to Christmas in rehabilitation with a view to returning to action in early 2023.

Little's injury comes at a time when Arsenal are without some other influential players. Defenders Leah Williamson and Rafaelle Souza have both been out for weeks while forward Lina Hurtig is also now sidelined with injury.

Arsenal's biggest challenge this month will be maintaining high levels of performance without one or two key players. The hectic fixture list will make that tricky.





# Aston Villa

Website: [www.avfc.co.uk/teams/womens/](http://www.avfc.co.uk/teams/womens/)

Twitter: @AVWFCOfficial

## Fixtures

3 Dec - Manchester U (A)  
7 Dec - Sheffield U (A)\*  
11 Dec - Arsenal (H)

## Results

1-0 - Liverpool (A)  
3-1 - Reading (H)  
1-0 - Durham (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

10 - Rachel Daly  
2 - Kenza Dali  
1 - Alisha Lehmann  
1 - Emily Gielnik  
1 - Natasha Harding

Aston Villa are back on track with the Midlands club having enjoyed a perfect November.

After a bright start to the season, Carla Ward's side failed to win a match in 90 minutes in October but the winning feeling returned last month.

Aston Villa played three games in all competitions in November, winning them all. Forward Rachel Daly made a massive contribution, scoring all five of Aston Villa goals.

Ward's side faced a trip to Liverpool in their first game of the month. The Reds probably hadn't got the results that their performances had deserved going into the game and a Daly penalty was the difference as the visitors won 1-0.

Aston Villa then defeated Reading 3-1. The Villans showed great character as they came from a goal down at Villa Park.

The month ended with a 1-0 victory over Durham in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. Ward's side are now closing in on a quarter-final place.

Aston Villa are in form but this month won't be easy as they face Manchester United and Arsenal.



Natasha Harding has been ruled out of action for the remainder of the season with the player having ruptured a quad tendon during a club training session.

The 33-year-old joined Aston Villa in the summer transfer window and has made six appearances for the club in all competitions but her season has come to an early end.

Harding adds to Aston Villa's injury woes with the player having joined Remi Allen, Meaghan Sargeant, Simone Magill and Chantelle Boye-Hlorkah on the sidelines for the long term.

With Aston Villa missing some very experienced players, head coach Carla Ward could utilise the January transfer window to bring in some new faces to bolster the options in her squad. Ward could look to use the loan market once again.



Aston Villa goalkeeper Hannah Hampton is available once again with the player having recovered from minor surgery.

Hampton missed Aston Villa's matches in October, along with a large part of the November schedule, due to what head coach Carla Ward described as a muscle injury.

After a short period of rehabilitation, Hampton returned to the Aston Villa squad for the game against Durham in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. The keeper kept a clean sheet as The Villans recorded a 1-0 win at The Poundland Bescot Stadium.

It is thought that Hampton continues to be head coach Ward's first-choice goalkeeper despite the recent good form of her understudy Anna Leat.

Aston Villa head coach Carla Ward has been nominated for the Barclays Women's Super League's Manager of the Month award for November.

Ward guided The Villans to important victories over both Liverpool and Reading, results which took the club back into the top half of the Barclays Women's Super League table.

Forward Rachel Daly has also been put up for the Player of the Month award. The England international scored all four of Aston Villa's league goals in November.

The pair will learn whether they have been successful in their respective award categories when the winners are announced by the league early this month.





# Brighton & Hove Albion

Website: [www.brightonandhovealbion.com/women/](http://www.brightonandhovealbion.com/women/)

Twitter: @BHAFCWomen

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Manchester C (A)
- 11 Dec - Everton (H)
- 17 Dec - West Ham U (H)\*

## Results

- 5-4 - West Ham U (A)
- 3-3 - Liverpool (H)
- 2-1 - London CL (A)\*
- \* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

- 4 - Danielle Carter
- 3 - Elisabeth Terland
- 2 - Lee Geum-min
- 2 - Katie Robinson
- 1 - Veatriki Sarri
- 1 - Jorja Fox
- 1 - Victoria Williams

Brighton & Hove Albion remain under the interim management of Amy Merricks but the team are in safe hands and are giving their caretaker absolutely everything.

After a tough start to the season which resulted in manager Hope Powell leaving her position, the Sussex club picked up a licence to thrill last month. Results are coming, although Brighton & Hove Albion need to improve at the back.

Merricks' first game in interim charge saw The Seagulls travel to East London to face West Ham United. A truly bonkers game of football saw Brighton & Hove Albion record a 5-4 victory.

The excitement didn't stop there. In their next match, The Seagulls battled to a 3-3 draw with Liverpool in Crawley. Brighton & Hove Albion had conceded the final two goals at West Ham United and that theme continued against Liverpool as Merricks' side threw away two points.

The month ended with a 2-1 victory at London City Lionesses in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

Merricks has brought a freshness to the club and she deserves to be a part of the future management team.





Brighton & Hove Albion forward Katie Robinson made her senior debut for England during the November international window.

The 20-year-old was handed her first senior call-up by England head coach Sarina Wiegman for last month's international friendly double-header against Japan and Norway in Murcia, Spain.

Robinson was a substitute for both matches. She remained unused for the 4-0 victory over Japan but the forward was handed seven minutes of game time at the end of the Lionesses' 1-1 draw with Norway.

The youngster has been one of the most impressive performers for her club so far this season.



Brighton & Hove Albion midfielder Megan Connolly has returned to full training after almost three months out recovering from a double injury.

The 25-year-old fractured her ribs and bruised a kidney whilst on international duty with the Republic of Ireland back in September. Connolly missed the start of the domestic season as a result but she is now fighting fit and is available for selection once again.

Connolly returned to the Brighton & Hove Albion squad for last month's Barclays Women's Super League fixture against Liverpool at Broadfield Stadium. The player was introduced from the bench as she made her first appearance for The Seagulls since the end of last season. The Sussex club were held to a 3-3 draw by a determined Liverpool outfit.

Brighton & Hove Albion could finally be set to fill their managerial vacancy with Swedish coach Andrée Jeglertz having been linked with the role.

The 50-year-old is currently head coach at Swedish top flight club Linköping FC but he has been left in limbo over a contract extension.

Reports in the Swedish media have suggested that Jeglertz is on Brighton & Hove Albion's wanted list and a move to the Sussex club is quite likely.

Jeglertz has almost two decades of coaching experience to his name both at club and international levels. The Swede was a UEFA Women's Champions League winner with Umeå IK back in 2003/2004.





# Chelsea

Website: [www.chelseafc.com/en/about-chelsea/chelsea-fc-women](http://www.chelseafc.com/en/about-chelsea/chelsea-fc-women)

Twitter: @ChelseaFCW

## Fixtures

3 Dec - Leicester C (A)  
8 Dec - Real Madrid (A)#  
11 Dec - Reading (H)  
16 Dec - Vllaznia (A)  
22 Dec - Paris Saint-Germain (H)#

## Results

3-1 - Manchester U (A)  
3-0 - Tottenham H (H)  
2-0 - Real Madrid (H)#

# - UWCL

## Goalscorers

8 - Sam Kerr  
6 - Pernille Harder  
3 - Fran Kirby  
3 - Lauren James  
3 - Erin Cuthbert  
2 - Millie Bright  
1 - Maren Mjelde  
1 - Niamh Charles  
1 - Beth England  
1 - Kateřina Svitková  
1 - Guro Reiten  
1 - Sophie Ingle

Chelsea enjoyed another excellent month in November with the South West Londoners recording three wins out of three in all competitions.

Off the field, manager Emma Hayes has returned after recovering from a hysterectomy. Having their leader back has added further fuel to the feel-good factor surrounding the club.

Chelsea faced their toughest domestic assignment yet at the start of last month as they travelled to Leigh to take on high-flying Manchester United. The Blues capitalised on some individual errors to record an impressive 3-1 away win.

Chelsea were then roared on by close to 40,000 fans at Stamford Bridge as they took on London rivals Tottenham Hotspur. Hayes' side blew Spurs away as they netted three first half goals in a 3-0 win.

The month ended with Chelsea moving to within a win of UEFA Women's Champions League qualification. The Blues defeated Real Madrid 2-0 at Kingsmeadow and now just need a victory in the reverse fixture to qualify for the quarter-finals.

December is a chaotic month for Chelsea but they are in a very good place right now.



Chelsea midfielder Erin Cuthbert has signed a new contract with the club until summer 2025.

The 24-year-old will celebrate six years with The Blues later this month with Cuthbert having joined the South West Londoners from Scottish Women's Premier League (SWPL) club Glasgow City in December 2016.

In her time as a Chelsea player, Cuthbert has helped the club to win 11 domestic trophies while she was a member of the side which reached a first UEFA Women's Champions League final in 2021.

Despite the influx of overseas talent in recent years, Cuthbert remains an important piece of the Chelsea jigsaw and the player is set for an extended stay at Kingsmeadow.



Chelsea midfielder Jessie Fleming has signed a new deal with the club until summer 2025.

Fleming joined The Blues in summer 2020 after playing college football in the United States with UCLA Bruins. Fleming has had to bide her time for playing opportunities but she is now an important member of the Chelsea team

In her two-and-a-half seasons with Chelsea, Fleming has already won six domestic trophies. She has won two Barclays Women's Super League titles, two Vitality Women's FA Cups, the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup and the FA Women's Community Shield.

Fleming will now be aiming for more silverware after signing her new deal.

Chelsea midfielder Pernille Harder is set for 'a significant period' on the sidelines with the player having undergone surgery on a hamstring injury.

The 30-year-old sustained the injury whilst on international duty with Denmark. Harder was substituted early on in Denmark's 2-1 victory over Switzerland in Schaffhausen after stretching for the ball with Ana-Maria Crnogorčević.

Harder swiftly returned to Chelsea to be assessed by the club's medical team and she has since undergone surgery on her injury.

The player will be a big miss for The Blues with the club facing some important matches both domestically and in Europe in the coming weeks.





# Everton

Website: [www.evertonfc.com/women](http://www.evertonfc.com/women)

Twitter: @EvertonWomen

## Fixtures

- 3 Dec - Arsenal (A)
- 7 Dec - Manchester U (A)\*
- 11 Dec - Brighton (A)
- 17 Dec - Durham (H)\*

## Results

- P-P - Tottenham H (A)
- 1-2 - Manchester C (H)
- 3-0 - Sheffield U (A)

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

- 2 - Jess Park
- 2 - Hanna Bennison
- 2 - Own Goal
- 1 - Megan Finnigan
- 1 - Lucy Graham
- 1 - Aggie Beaver-Jones
- 1 - Rikke Sevecke
- 1 - Katja Shoeijs

November was a stop-start month for Everton who were able to play just the two fixtures.

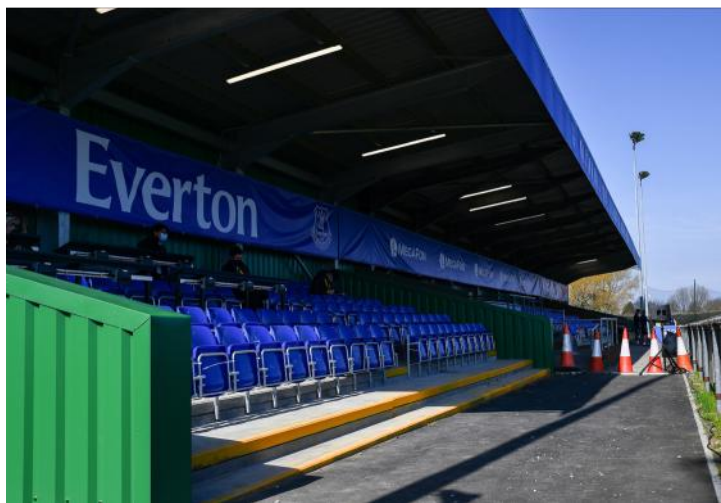
Brian Sørensen's side are looking to build some momentum but the international break, combined with the bad weather, made that incredibly difficult.

Everton made the long trip to Leyton for their first game of last month against Tottenham Hotspur. The fixture was postponed just two hours before kick-off due to a waterlogged pitch, much to the fury of the Everton players and staff.

By the time The Blue Girls faced Manchester City, three weeks had passed since their last game. Everton were improved against The Cityzens but they found themselves on the wrong side of a 2-1 scoreline.

The month ended with a 3-0 victory over Sheffield United in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. Everton are now in a very good position to qualify for the quarter-finals, although it is an incredibly tough group.

Everton go into December facing the prospect of three games on the road in league and cup before they sign-off 2022 at home to Durham.



Everton loanee Jess Park made her senior international debut for England as they defeated Japan 4-0 at the Pinatar Arena in Murcia, Spain last month.

Park was a late call-up into the England squad after the withdrawal of Chelsea's Fran Kirby due to illness. The youngster got the opportunity to make her debut from the bench against Japan and she made her mark, scoring just 79 seconds after her introduction.

The 21-year-old was tipped to receive a first England call-up during the second half of last season but she had to wait until September to receive recognition for her performances. Park was an unused substitute as the Lionesses took on the United States and the Czech Republic in early October but she took her chance when it finally arrived.



Everton forward Nicoline Sørensen will return to the matchday squad this month with the player now back to full fitness after a long-term injury.

The 25-year-old has not played a competitive match since she ruptured her Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) in a fixture against Birmingham City at Walton Hall Park in the early stages of last season.

Sørensen missed the rest of the 2021/2022 campaign while her injury resulted in her being ruled out of the UEFA Women's EURO 2022.

It has been a long road back for the Danish international but she is now fit once again and is looking to make a real impact for Everton boss Brian Sørensen.

Everton manager Brian Sørensen has confirmed that defender Megan Finnigan will be out of action until the New Year with an injury.

The nature of the 24-year-old's injury has not been revealed by Everton but the player will not be seen in action until the start of the second half of the season.

Finnigan is very much at the heart of the Everton team with the player having been on the club's books since the age of nine. The defender has made more than 150 senior appearances for the Merseyside club.

In the first half of this season, Finnigan has made eight appearances for Everton in all competitions. She will be missed between now and Christmas.





# Leicester City

Website: [www.lcfc.com/women](http://www.lcfc.com/women)

Twitter: @LCWFC\_official

## Fixtures

- 3 Dec - Chelsea (H)
- 8 Dec - Sunderland (A)\*
- 11 Dec - Liverpool (A)
- 17 Dec - Manchester C (H)\*

## Results

- 0-4 - Arsenal (H)
- 0-1 - West Ham U (A)

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorer

- 1 - Mackenzie Smith
- 1 - Connie Scofield
- 1 - Aileen Whelan
- 1 - Natasha Flint
- 1 - Own Goal

Leicester City are under new management with the club having opted to sack former boss Lydia Bedford following a winless start to the season.

The Foxes are the only club in the Barclays Women's Super League yet to collect a single point and Bedford has paid for that slow start with her job. The East Midlands club have opted to move their Director of Football Women and Girls, Willie Kirk, into the first team manager hotseat.

Kirk hasn't enjoyed a successful start upon his return to management. His side were outclassed as they were defeated 4-0 by Arsenal at The King Power Stadium. Leicester City looked set for their first point of the season at West Ham United last time out but they went down 1-0 after conceding a late goal.

Barclays Women's Super League champions Chelsea are up next before Leicester City end their league schedule for 2022 with a huge fixture at Liverpool. The club will also contest two matches in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

This could be a long, hard winter for Leicester City. The reopening of the transfer window cannot come quick enough.



New Leicester City manager Willie Kirk says that the club will be recruiting several new players in the January transfer window.

The Foxes are desperate for new faces with the club battling against relegation back to the Barclays Women's Championship after two years in the top flight.

Leicester City arguably went into this season short of quality options and new boss Kirk says that the East Midlands side will be recruiting next month.

The Foxes are understood to be set to cast their net far and wide to identify their transfer targets. Kirk has not ruled out returning to the Scandinavian market where he has had success previously with former club Everton.



Leicester City forward Jess Sigsworth is back on the training pitch as she continues her rehabilitation from an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury.

The 28-year-old Doncaster-born attacker has been sidelined since mid-February after sustaining her injury during a club training session.

Sigsworth has been building up her fitness in recent weeks and the club provided videos of the player back on the training pitch last month.

It is understood that a lot of Sigsworth's training is focused around running, however, her work with the ball is set to increase in the coming weeks. The forward could return to action in the New Year.

Leicester City forward Hannah Cain is now back to full fitness and she is available for immediate selection.

The 23-year-old has spent a whole year on the sidelines recovering from an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury which she sustained in a behind-closed-doors friendly match.

Cain has spent the last few months rebuilding her fitness on the training pitch and the time has now come for her to return to competitive football.

The forward could make her Leicester City return as soon as the Chelsea game on 3 December. The availability of Cain could be a real bonus for Leicester City boss Willie Kirk with the East Midlands club struggling for both goals and points in this season's Barclays Women's Super League.





# Liverpool

Website: [women.liverpoolfc.com/team/women](http://women.liverpoolfc.com/team/women)

Twitter: @LiverpoolFCW

## First Five

- 4 Dec - West Ham U (H)
- 7 Dec - Manchester C (H)\*
- 11 Dec - Leicester C (H)

## Results

- 0-1 - Aston Villa (H)
- 3-3 - Brighton (A)
- 3-3 - Reading (A)
- 1-0 - Blackburn R (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

- 6 - Katie Stengel
- 2 - Missy Bo Kearns
- 2 - Rhiannon Roberts
- 2 - Rachel Furness
- 1 - Megan Campbell
- 1 - Shanice van de Sanden
- 1 - Jas Matthews

Liverpool are beginning to build some momentum after a challenging return to the Barclays Women's Super League. The Reds started the season by beating champions Chelsea 2-1 at Prenton Park before enduring a five-match losing run in the league.

Matt Beard's side have stopped the rot and they will now be looking to end the year with some confidence.

November started with frustration as Liverpool were defeated 1-0 by Aston Villa at Prenton Park, a Rachel Daly penalty was the deciding factor.

Liverpool then found themselves 3-1 down at Brighton & Hove Albion before coming back to draw. Lightning struck twice as Beard's side drew 3-3 at Reading just days later.

The month ended with a 1-0 victory over Blackburn Rovers in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup, a result which leaves Liverpool on the verge of qualification.

Liverpool can go into 2023 with some momentum. Three home games this month provides The Reds with the opportunity to keep the unbeaten run going.





Liverpool midfielder Ceri Holland will be sidelined for several weeks with a groin injury.

The 24-year-old Welsh international sustained the injury in the warm-up ahead of Liverpool's recent Barclays Women's Super League fixture against Manchester City at The Academy Stadium.

Holland's injury was quickly assessed by the Liverpool medical team with the club confirming that the midfielder will be out for a significant period.

It is hoped that Holland could return to action before the Christmas break but Liverpool manager Matt Beard will not want to rush the player back and risk further injury ahead of an important second half of the season.



Liverpool defender Gilly Flaherty made a record-breaking 176th appearance in the Barclays Women's Super League as The Reds drew 3-3 with Brighton & Hove Albion last month.

The 31-year-old Londoner took over the previous record holder Jill Scott with her appearance against The Seagulls at Broadfield Stadium.

Flaherty has played in every Barclays Women's Super League season since the competition began in 2011. The centre-back started out with Arsenal before going on to spend four successful years with Chelsea.

In 2018, Flaherty joined Matt Beard's West Ham United side before reuniting with her former boss at Liverpool during the summer transfer window.

Liverpool defender Niamh Fahey is set to make her 100th competitive appearance for the club later this month.

The 35-year-old has spent the last four-and-a-half years with Liverpool after joining the club from Bordeaux in summer 2018.

Fahey has been a regular for The Reds throughout her time on Merseyside and she led the club to promotion back to the Barclays Women's Super League last season.

The player is very much a fans' favourite and she has plenty more to offer Liverpool despite being in the latter stages of her career.

Fahey could make her 100th appearance against West Ham United this month.





# Manchester City

Website: [www.mancity.com/news/womens](http://www.mancity.com/news/womens)

Twitter: @ManCityWomen

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Brighton (H)
- 7 Dec - Liverpool (A)\*
- 11 Dec - Manchester U (H)
- 17 Dec - Leicester C (A)\*

## Results

- 3-0 - Reading (A)
- 2-1 - Everton (A)
- 3-0 - Sunderland (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

- 11 - Khadija Shaw
- 4 - Julie Blakstad
- 3 - Lauren Hemp
- 3 - Hayley Raso
- 3 - Own Goals
- 2 - Laura Coombs
- 2 - Mary Fowler
- 2 - Vicky Losada
- 1 - Deyna Castellanos
- 1 - Yui Hasegawa

Manchester City continue to go from strength-to-strength with Gareth Taylor's side having enjoyed another perfect month in November.

After a sticky start, Manchester City have built some really good momentum and there is every chance that The Cityzens can win trophies and push for Europe again this year, if not challenge for the title.

November started with a long trip to Berkshire to face a Reading side who are struggling. Manchester City were never in any danger of dropping points as they ran out 3-0 winners at the Select Car Leasing Stadium.

Next up was the trip to Everton. Manchester City were not at their clinical best but they were good enough to win the game 2-1.

Last month ended with a 3-0 home victory against Sunderland in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

The Manchester derby is the headline event this month. With Manchester City playing good football and getting results, the sky really can be the limit.



England international forward Lauren Hemp is a major doubt for this month's Manchester derby with the player battling a muscle tendon injury.



Hemp pulled out of the England squad for last month's international friendlies against Japan and Norway and she has been sidelined ever since.

The forward has undergone regular scans and it is thought that she has an outside chance of making the Manchester derby on 11 December.

Hemp's absence has left Manchester City head coach Gareth Taylor with a dilemma in attack, however, other players are stepping up to the challenge and are doing a good job in filling the void left by the 22-year-old's absence.



This month's Manchester derby is set to attract a record crowd for a Manchester City home fixture.

The Citizens take on neighbours Manchester United at The Etihad Stadium on Sunday 11 December. At the time of writing, Manchester City are expecting a crowd of close to 40,000.

The two clubs previously faced each other at The Etihad Stadium at the start of the 2019/2020 season. On that occasion, a Caroline Weir wonderstrike handed Manchester City a 1-0 win in front of a crowd of 31,213. That attendance record looks set to be smashed for the club's latest appearance at The Etihad Stadium.

Both sides will be keen to collect three points as they bid for European football next season.

Manchester City forward Khadija Shaw picked up the Barclays Women's Super League's Player of the Month award for October.



The 25-year-old Jamaican international has been in the goalscoring form of her life in the opening weeks of the season and she added five more goals to her tally during the month of October.

Shaw netted braces in victories over Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur while she was also on target against Liverpool.

The forward goes into December with 11 goals to her name in all competitions so far this season. Eight of those strikes have come in the Barclays Women's Super League.



# Manchester United

Website: [www.manutd.com/MUWomen](http://www.manutd.com/MUWomen)

Twitter: @ManUtdWomen

## Fixtures

- 3 Dec - Aston Villa (H)
- 7 Dec - Everton (H)\*
- 11 Dec - Manchester C (A)
- 18 Dec - Sheffield U (H)\*

## Results

- 1-3 - Chelsea (H)
- 3-2 - Arsenal (A)

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

- 3 - Nikita Parris
- 3 - Ella Toone
- 3 - Alessia Russo
- 2 - Maya Le Tissier
- 2 - Leah Galton
- 1 - Katie Zelem
- 1 - Lucía García
- 1 - Hannah Blundell
- 1 - Adriana Leon
- 1 - Jade Moore
- 1 - Vilde Bøe Risa
- 1 - Hayley Ladd
- 1 - Millie Turner

Manchester United remain in the hunt for the Barclays Women's Super League title on the back of an extremely challenging November.

The Red Devils took on the reigning Barclays Women's Super League champions and their nearest challengers last month but Marc Skinner's side remain well-placed to push for a first league title.

The month started with a tough home fixture against Chelsea. There wasn't much in the game but some poor mistakes allowed the visitors to claim a 3-1 victory.

A trip to the Emirates Stadium was up next as Manchester United faced Arsenal and close to 40,000 home fans. It looked like it was going to be one of those days as Skinner's side went into the closing stages 2-1 down but two late goals resulted in them recording a famous victory.

Manchester United go into December as one of the three clubs tied at the top of the Barclays Women's Super League table. The Red Devils will again play in front of some big crowds this month with an Old Trafford return against Aston Villa and a fixture against Manchester City at The Etihad Stadium.



Manchester United midfielder Ella Toone has signed a new long term contract with the club until summer 2026.

The 23-year-old joined The Red Devils in summer 2018 after the club reformed their women's team. Toone was a Barclays Women's Championship title-winner in her first season with Manchester United.

Toone has kicked on as a top flight footballer. She has become Manchester United's all-time record goalscorer and she is closing in on her 50th goal for the club.

On the international stage, the midfielder has cemented her place in England boss Sarina Wiegman's squad. She won the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 with the Lionesses in the summer, scoring in the final at Wembley.



Manchester United head coach Marc Skinner has confirmed that defender Aoife Mannion has returned to full training following the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury which she sustained earlier this year.

The 27-year-old former Birmingham City and Manchester City centre-back has been out of action since February after having to undergo surgery.

Mannion has been rebuilding her fitness and her recovery took another step forward last month when she returned to full training with the rest of the Manchester United squad.

Head coach Skinner has confirmed that Mannion will need to build her fitness over a period therefore she will not be available for selection until after the Christmas break.

Manchester United are understood to have sold more than 30,000 tickets for their upcoming Barclays Women's Super League fixture against Aston Villa at Old Trafford.

The Red Devils first put tickets on-sale some weeks ago and they have recorded huge demand from fans wanting to see their women's team in action at 'The Theatre of Dreams'.

Manchester United's fixture against Aston Villa will see the club play at Old Trafford for just the third time in their history. The Red Devils defeated West Ham United 2-0 in their first appearance at the venue in 2020/2021 before they came from behind to beat Everton 3-1 last season.

A record attendance should be recorded when Manchester United take on Aston Villa on 3 December.





# Reading

Website: <https://www.readingfc.co.uk/teams/reading-fc-women/>  
Twitter: @ReadingFCWomen

## Fixtures

4 Dec - Tottenham H (H)  
11 Dec - Chelsea (A)  
16 Dec - Coventry U (A)\*

## Results

0-3 - Manchester C (H)  
1-3 - Aston Villa (A)  
3-3 - Liverpool (H)  
3-0 - Southampton (A)\*

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

3 - Sanne Troelsgaard  
Nielsen  
2 - Charlie Wellings  
2 - Rachel Rowe  
2 - Natasha Dowie  
2 - Lauren Wade  
1 - Tia Primmer  
1 - Justine Vanhaevermaet

Reading continue to struggle in the Barclays Women's Super League but has a couple of positive results stopped the rot?

The Royals have just about kept their heads above water this season and if not for the poor form of Leicester City, Kelly Chambers' side would be bottom of the league. It has been a long time coming but there may now be one or two green shoots of recovery at the Berkshire club.

There were no surprises as Manchester City defeated Reading 3-0 in their first game last month. The Cityzens were far too good for The Royals.

Reading then let a one-goal lead slip as they lost 3-1 at Aston Villa before they battled out a thrilling 3-3 draw with Liverpool in what was a real see-saw match.

The Berkshire club ended the month with a 3-0 win at Southampton in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

Reading go into December with a four-point cushion on bottom club Leicester City. This month will be tough with games against Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea but Reading should get to Christmas in a relatively comfortable place.

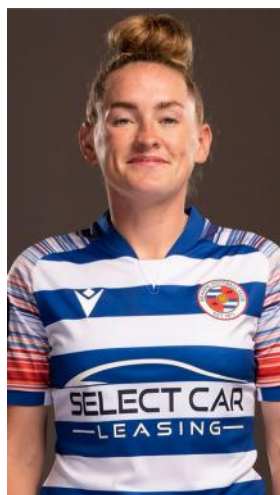


Reading goalkeeper Grace Moloney has returned to the squad following a period of absence due to a personal matter.

The 29-year-old started Reading's first two matches in this season's Barclays Women's Super League but she missed six weeks of action following those games.

Moloney started last month's Barclays Women's Super League fixture against Aston Villa on the bench but she was brought on in the second half after fellow goalkeeper Jackie Burns was sent-off.

Reading have now got some great competition for the goalkeeping jersey. Moloney has long been The Royals' first-choice goalkeeper but deputy Burns is now pushing her hard after moving to Reading in the summer.



Reading midfielder Rachel Rowe was awarded the Barclays Women's Super League's Goal of the Month gong for October.

The 30-year-old Welsh international netted a dramatic late winner as Reading came from a goal down to defeat Leicester City 2-1 at the Select Car Leasing Stadium. Rowe also scored the equalising goal against The Foxes.

Rowe's second goal was a superb effort from distance. The player won possession of the ball just inside the Leicester City half before dancing her way towards goal and striking home a shot from 25 yards.

It was a magical moment for Rowe and Reading and the player quite rightfully collected the Barclays Women's Super League's Goal of the Month award.

Reading forward Emma Harries could make her 50th appearance for the club in all competitions this month.

The 20-year-old England youth international goes into December on 48 appearances. The youngster will therefore hit the 50 mark should she feature in two of The Royals' three matches this month.

Harries joined Reading at the age of just eight. She spent a long period in the club's well-respected Regional Talent Centre (RTC) before making her senior debut against West Ham United in 2020.

Reading rate Harries extremely highly and she has gone on to establish herself as one of the most important players in the team.





# Tottenham Hotspur

Website: [www.tottenhamhotspur.com/teams/tottenham-hotspur-women/](http://www.tottenhamhotspur.com/teams/tottenham-hotspur-women/)  
Twitter: @SpursWomen

## Fixtures

4 Dec - Reading (A)  
11 Dec - West Ham U (H)  
14 Dec - Everton (H)  
18 Dec - Southampton  
(A)\*

## Results

P-P - Everton (H)  
0-3 - Chelsea (A)  
5-1 - Coventry U (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

4 - Ashleigh Neville  
3 - Drew Spence  
2 - Nikola Karczewska  
2 - Jess Naz  
1 - Molly Bartrip  
1 - Eveliina Summanen  
1 - Rosella Ayane  
1 - Kerys Harrop  
1 - Amy Turner  
1 - Leena Gunning-  
Williams  
1 - Own Goal

Tottenham Hotspur have ground to make up in the Barclays Women's Super League after a frustrating November.

A postponement and a defeat meant that Rehanne Skinner's side didn't collect any points last month and they find themselves in the bottom half of the table.

A spell of heavy rain put an end to last month's home fixture against Everton. The game was called off just a couple of hours before kick-off with the pitch at The Breyer Group Stadium waterlogged.

Spurs returned to action with a fixture against Barclays Women's Super League champions Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. It was always going to be a real challenge for Spurs and they struggled as they went down 3-0.

The month ended with an FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup win. Spurs defeated second tier strugglers Coventry United 5-1 in Leyton.

December will be a very busy month for Spurs. They face Reading, West Ham United and Everton in the Barclays Women's Super League and will also look to qualify for the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup quarter-finals.





Last month's Barclays Women's Super League fixture between Tottenham Hotspur and Everton was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at The Breyer Group Stadium.

London was battered with heavy rain in the hours leading up to the match. A pitch inspection was conducted by the match referee and the fixture was postponed a little over two hours before kick-off.

Tottenham Hotspur made the move from Barnet FC's home of The Hive London to Leyton Orient FC's Breyer Group Stadium over the summer. The Lilywhites hope that the move will help grow the fanbase over the long term.

A new date for the Everton fixture will be announced in due course.



Tottenham Hotspur forward Kit Graham is making good progress as she bids to return to fitness following an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury.

The 27-year-old has been sidelined since November 2021 after rupturing her ACL during a Barclays Women's Super League fixture against West Ham United. Graham had to undergo surgery and has spent a long period in rehabilitation.

The player has now returned to the training pitch and is progressing well with ball work having been reintroduced. It is hoped that Graham will be available for selection soon after the Christmas break.

Graham is one of four Spurs players to be recovering from an ACL injury at the present time.

Tottenham Hotspur's teenage attacker Leena Gunning-Williams scored her first professional goal on her senior debut as The Lilywhites defeated Coventry United 5-1 in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup last month.

The 17-year-old was included in the matchday squad for the first time for the fixture at The Breyer Group Stadium and she came off the bench to feature for Spurs.

Gunning-Williams played the final 17 minutes of the match, netting Spurs' fifth and final goal deep in second half injury time.

The youngster is an England youth international and she is a very exciting prospect for the future with the player having starred for Spurs' academy side.





# West Ham United

Website: [www.whufc.com/news/women](http://www.whufc.com/news/women)

Twitter: @westhamwomen

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Liverpool (A)
- 11 Dec - Tottenham H (A)
- 17 Dec - Brighton (A)\*

## Results

- 4-5 - Brighton (H)
- 1-0 - Leicester C (H)
- 2-0 - Birmingham C (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup

## Goalscorers

- 6 - Dagný Brynjarsdóttir
- 5 - Viviane Miedema
- 2 - Lisa Evans
- 1 - Honoka Hayashi
- 1 - Izzy Atkinson
- 1 - Kate Longhurst
- 1 - Own goal

November provided West Ham United fans with the good, the bad and the ugly with The Hammers going on something of a rollercoaster ride.

The month began with a home fixture against managerless Brighton & Hove Albion in the Barclays Women's Super League. The visitors arrived in East London in poor form, conceding goals and scoring very few themselves but the game produced a real shock result, a 5-4 thriller which ended in Brighton & Hove Albion's favour.

West Ham United needed to bounce back quickly and they did that in their next match. Paul Konchesky's side made hard work of opponents Leicester City but a late goal saw them record a 1-0 win.

The Hammers' final game of the month brought a 2-0 home victory over Birmingham City in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. The result keeps West Ham United's qualification hopes alive.

West Ham United end the year by clocking up the miles. Three games on the road in succession will be a challenge despite the East Londoners' good form.



West Ham United's assistant manager Edu Rubio has left the club to take up a similar position at Premier League club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Rubio was appointed West Ham United assistant boss in the summer after Paul Konchesky stepped up to become the club's new manager. Rubio worked hard to support Konchesky during his time in his role but he has now moved on to a new challenge.

At new club Wolves, Rubio will link-up with head coach Julen Lopetegui once again. The pair previously worked together at the Spanish FA.

Rubio leaves West Ham United in a good place with The Hammers having impressed this season.



West Ham United have appointed their former goalkeeper Jimmy Walker as the assistant manager of their women's team.

The 49-year-old joined The Hammers' coaching staff in the summer and will now step up to be an assistant following the recent departure of Edu Rubio to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Walker spent five years with West Ham United as a player between 2004 and 2009. The keeper was a Sky Bet Championship play-off winner with the club in 2004/2005 while he collected an Emirates FA Cup runners-up medal in 2005/2006.

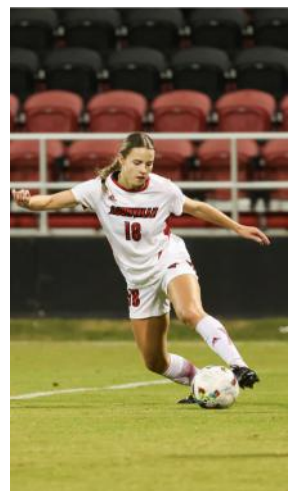
Walker will work alongside West Ham United manager Paul Konchesky in his new role.

West Ham United are understood to be interested in signing former Arsenal attacker Anouk Denton.

The 19-year-old currently plays her football in the United States with Louisville Cardinals but she could be set to return to England in the New Year.

It has been suggested that West Ham United are the favourites to land Denton's services, although Leicester City manager Willie Kirk is also monitoring the situation.

Denton was formerly a member of the Arsenal academy and she went on to make her senior debut for The Gunners in 2020. The youngster has previously played for West Ham United with Denton having enjoyed a period on loan with the East Londoners in 2020/2021.





# Birmingham City

Website: [www.bcfc.com/womens-team](http://www.bcfc.com/womens-team)

Twitter: @BCFCwomen

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Blackburn R (A)
- 11 Dec - Huddersfield T (H)^
- 17 Dec - London CL (H)\*

## Results

- 2-3 - London CL (A)
- 1-0 - Bristol C (A)
- 0-2 - West Ham U (A)\*

- \* - Conti Cup
- ^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

- 3 - Jade Pennock
- 3 - Louise Quinn
- 2 - Ashley Hodson
- 2 - Lucy Quinn
- 1 - Harriet Scott
- 1 - Siobhan Wilson
- 1 - Jamie Finn
- 1 - Libby Smith

Birmingham City continue to struggle for consistency, something that head coach Darren Carter has desperately demanded from his side. That being said, November was always going to be tough with the Blues facing two promotion rivals in the Barclays Women's Championship and a top tier side in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

The month started with the long trip to Dartford to face London City Lionesses. The game survived a late pitch inspection and the two sides played out a thriller. Sadly for Birmingham City, they were on the wrong end of a 3-2 scoreline.

Next up was an equally as tough fixture as Birmingham City travelled to league leaders Bristol City. The Blues made a mockery of the standings as they secured a hugely impressive 1-0 win. That result saw the hosts defeated for the first time this season.

Birmingham City rounded off November with a trip to West Ham United in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. The Blues lost 2-0 as their qualification hopes suffered a blow.

It has been a tough year for the Midlands side but they will hope to end it by building some momentum this month.





# Blackburn Rovers

Website: [www.rovers.co.uk/teams/ladies](http://www.rovers.co.uk/teams/ladies)  
Twitter: @RoversLadies

Blackburn Rovers continue to lead the way in terms of teams who have improved the most in this season's Barclays Women's Championship.

The Lancashire club have been battling relegation in the last couple of seasons but there will be no such drama this year with Gemma Donnelly's side growing week-on-week.

After enjoying an unbeaten October in the Barclays Women's Championship, Blackburn Rovers defeated Sunderland 1-0 in their first game of November. The Lancashire club then battled to an impressive 1-1 draw with Southampton in awful conditions at Ewood Park.

The month ended with a defeat but there was no shame in Blackburn Rovers losing 1-0 at top tier side Liverpool in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

Donnelly and her side must take huge credit for recent performances. The development of the team has gone through the roof and Blackburn Rovers deserve some respect as a mid-table outfit in the division.

Three home games allows Donnelly's side the opportunity to kick on further this month.



## Fixtures

4 Dec - Birmingham C (H)  
11 Dec - Sunderland (H)^  
15 Dec - Sunderland (H)\*

## Results

1-0 - Sunderland (H)  
1-1 - Southampton (H)  
0-1 - Liverpool (A)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

6 - Saffron Jordan  
2 - Farah Crompton  
1 - Millie Chandarana  
1 - Ellie Leek



# Bristol City

Website: [www.bcfco.uk/bristol-city-women](http://www.bcfco.uk/bristol-city-women)

Twitter: @bristolcitywfc

## Fixtures

4 Dec - Durham (A)  
11 Dec - Southampton (H)<sup>^</sup>  
16 Dec - Lewes (A)\*

## Results

P-P - Lewes (A)  
0-1 - Birmingham C (H)  
1-2 - Charlton A (A)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

6 - Shania Hayles  
5 - Abi Harrison  
3 - Emily Syme  
2 - Ffion Morgan  
1 - Jess Woolley  
1 - Chloe Mustaki

Bristol City are having a wobble with Lauren Smith's side having fallen to their first defeats of the season.

The Robins absolutely cruised through the first two months of the season but they have been handed their first real mental test of the new campaign with Bristol City having suffered back-to-back defeats in league and cup.

It wasn't just results which left Bristol City frustrated last month. Smith's side travelled to Lewes for their opening match of November only to see the game postponed an hour before kick-off.

Bristol City returned to action the following week with a home game against an inconsistent Birmingham City side. The Robins went down 1-0 as they were defeated for the first time this season.

A tough FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup fixture at Charlton Athletic was up next but Bristol City lost again, this time by a 2-1 scoreline.

The Robins need to rediscover some of that consistency which served them so well in the opening months of the season.





# Charlton Athletic

Website: [www.cafcwomen.co.uk](http://www.cafcwomen.co.uk)  
Twitter: @CAFCWomen

Charlton Athletic will look back on November as a month of 2-1 wins with The Addicks having won all of their games by that scoreline.

Karen Hills' side needed a big month and they got one. Charlton Athletic are playing catch up but they are still in the hunt for the Barclays Women's Championship title.

Last month started with the long trip to Durham. The Addicks coped with a physical opponent and an unpredictable pitch as they went on to record a 2-1 win.

Charlton Athletic recorded another impressive win in their next game. They won 2-1 at Selhurst Park to spoil what was meant to be a big occasion for opponents Crystal Palace.

The month ended with a 2-1 home victory over Bristol City in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. The Robins had been in great form but Charlton Athletic showed class of their own.

Charlton Athletic have proved that they can beat the very best and now they just have to try and do that on a consistent basis between now and May.

## Fixtures

4 Dec - Sheffield U (H)  
11 Dec - MK Dons (H)<sup>^</sup>  
18 Dec - Crystal P (H)\*

## Results

2-1 - Durham (A)  
2-1 - Crystal P (A)  
2-1 - Bristol C (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
<sup>^</sup> - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

5 - Emily Simpkins  
4 - Melissa Johnson  
4 - Kiera Skeels  
2 - Ella Rutherford  
1 - Emma Follis  
1 - Corinne Henson  
1 - Angela Addison  
1 - Elisha N'Dow  
1 - Own Goal





# Coventry United

Website: [www.coventryunited.co.uk](http://www.coventryunited.co.uk)

Twitter: @CovUnitedLFC

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Sunderland (H)
- 11 Dec - Stockport C (H)<sup>^</sup>
- 16 Dec - Reading (H)\*

## Results

- 0-3 - Southampton (A)
- 1-5 - Durham (H)
- 1-5 - Tottenham H (A)\*

- \* - Conti Cup
- <sup>^</sup> - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

- 2 - Mary McAteer
- 2 - Meesha Dudley-Jones
- 1 - Ebony Wiseman
- 1 - Anna Wilcox
- 1 - Simran Jhamat
- 1 - Fran Orthodoxou

Coventry United's difficult campaign goes on with The Red and Greens still searching for that long-awaited first win of the season in the Barclays Women's Championship.

Head coach Lee Burch continues to get absolutely everything from his squad but sadly, Coventry United continue to struggle to claim any points whatsoever.

The November fixture list looked to be incredibly tough for Coventry United beforehand and it proved to be just that as Burch's side slipped to three more defeats.

Coventry United took on Southampton at St Mary's in their first game of the month. The Red and Greens defeated The Saints in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup in October but there was to be no repeat as Southampton won 3-0.

A heavy 5-1 defeat at home to struggling Durham followed before Coventry United went down fighting against top tier side Tottenham Hotspur. The Warwickshire club were defeated 5-1 but they weren't disgraced.

The next game against Sunderland provides the opportunity for Coventry United to keep their survival hopes alive. A defeat could spell the end of elite level football.







# Crystal Palace

Website: [www.cpfc.co.uk/palace-women/](http://www.cpfc.co.uk/palace-women/)  
Twitter: @cpfc\_w

It has all gone sour for big spending Crystal Palace who are really struggling for form.

The Eagles went into the season with promotion dreams but they are likely to need at least another year in the second tier unless they can put together a phenomenal run of results.

Last month started with the postponement of Crystal Palace's home fixture against Sheffield United. While Hayes Lane has a 4G pitch, there were problems with waterlogging with visiting boss Neil Redfearn criticising the quality of the surface.

A return to Selhurst Park was up next as Dean Davenport's side faced Charlton Athletic. Crystal Palace lost 2-1 to Southampton in their last appearance at their traditional home and they suffered the same disappointment against The Addicks.

Things got worse for Crystal Palace in their final game of the month as they went down 4-1 at home to Lewes in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

Crystal Palace have to improve and quick, it is as simple as that.



## Fixtures

4 Dec - Lewes (A)  
11 Dec - Watford (H)<sup>^</sup>  
18 Dec - Charlton A (A)\*

## Results

P-P - Sheffield U (H)  
1-2 - Charlton A (H)  
1-4 - Lewes (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

4 - Elise Hughes  
2 - Molly-Mae Sharpe  
1 - Isabella Sibley  
1 - Annabel Blanchard  
1 - Coral-Jade Haines  
1 - Anna Filbey  
1 - Fliss Gibbons



# Durham

Website: [www.durhamwfc.co.uk](http://www.durhamwfc.co.uk)

Twitter: @DurhamWFC

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Bristol C (H)
- 11 Dec - Peterborough U (A)^
- 17 Dec - Everton (A)\*

## Results

- 1-2 - Charlton A (H)
- 5-1 - Coventry U (A)
- 0-1 - Aston Villa (A)\*

- \* - Conti Cup
- ^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

- 4 - Saoirse Noonan
- 4 - Beth Hepple
- 4 - Rio Hardy
- 3 - Sarah Robson
- 2 - Jess Clarke

Durham's difficult start to the new season rolled into November but they have battled back and have regained some pride and respect in recent weeks.

The month started with a 2-1 home defeat to an in-form Charlton Athletic side. The Wildcats attracted some negative comments after that result. Manager Lee Sanders made the decision to speak out after the game, promising that the team would get back into their groove in the future.

Durham's reaction to Sanders' statement was excellent. They travelled to the Butts Park Arena to face struggling Coventry United and they went on to record a 5-1 win. Rio Hardy netted a hat-trick in that game against her former club.

The Wildcats ended the month with an FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup fixture against Aston Villa. Durham pushed the top tier side all of the way before going down 1-0.

This season will be a long one for Durham but what they have now got to do is take heart and momentum from their last two performances. They face a real test in their next match against high-flying Bristol City at Maiden Castle.





# Lewes

Website: [www.lewesfc.com/team/womens-1st](http://www.lewesfc.com/team/womens-1st)  
Twitter: @LewesFCWomen

Lewes are growing rapidly under the guidance of Scott Booth with The Rookettes on course to enjoy a really successful season.

The Sussex club started the campaign with an identity of being hard to beat. That image has now grown and Lewes are proving that they can beat the very best that the Barclays Women's Championship has to offer.

Last month started with frustration as Lewes' newly-installed Dripping Pan pitch was left waterlogged by heavy rain. That resulted in their home fixture against Bristol City being postponed.

The Rookettes returned to action with the mammoth trek to Sunderland. In a game of fine margins, Ellie Hack netted the winner for Lewes seven minutes from time.

Lewes recorded their best result of the season in their final match of the month, a 4-1 victory at Crystal Palace in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

Booth's side are in great form. A top half of the table finish and a cup run are well within their capabilities.



## Fixtures

4 Dec - Crystal P (H)  
11 Dec - London Bees (H)<sup>^</sup>  
16 Dec - Bristol C (H)\*

## Results

P-P - Bristol C (H)  
1-0 - Sunderland (A)  
4-1 - Crystal P (A)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

4 - Ellie Hack  
3 - Emily Kraft  
2 - Paula Howells  
2 - Emma Thompson  
1 - Amelia Hazard  
1 - Izzy Dalton  
1 - Amber Keegan-Stobbs  
1 - Own goal



# London City Lionesses

Website: [www.londoncitylionesses.com](http://www.londoncitylionesses.com)  
Twitter: @LCLionessesFC

## Fixtures

4 Dec - Southampton (H)  
11 Dec - Portsmouth (H)<sup>^</sup>  
17 Dec - Birmingham C  
(A)#

## Results

3-2 - Birmingham C (H)  
2-0 - Sheffield U (A)  
1-2 - Brighton (H)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

6 - Sarah Ewens  
4 - Amy Rodgers  
3 - Atlanta Primus  
3 - Shanade Hopcroft  
1 - Jamie-Lee Napier  
1 - Lily Agg  
1 - Lucy Fitzgerald  
1 - Lois Heuchan  
1 - Grace Neville  
1 - Karin Muya

London City Lionesses go into December top of the Barclays Women's Championship table after recording back-to-back league wins last month.

The Pride have been playing catch up but a sequence of good results has hauled them to the top of the table.

Last month started with a tough home fixture against Birmingham City. Midfielder Shanade Hopcroft was the hero as her hat-trick helped London City Lionesses to record a hugely impressive 3-2 win.

Next up was a trip to Sheffield United. London City Lionesses faced the unique challenge of playing in front of around 11,000 home fans but they were not distracted by the historic occasion and were able to win the game 2-0.

The month ended with a defeat in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup. London City Lionesses put in solid performance but went down 2-1 at home to Brighton & Hove Albion.

December brings a huge promotion six-pointer against Southampton before London City Lionesses end the year with domestic cup fixtures.





# Sheffield United

Website: [www.sufc.co.uk/women](http://www.sufc.co.uk/women)

Twitter: @sufc\_women

Sheffield United are searching for a new head coach after Neil Redfearn opted to step down from his position last month following a poor run of results.

The Blades started the season quite brightly but they have found the challenge more and more difficult as the campaign has gone on. Redfearn has done well keeping Sheffield United competitive in the Barclays Women's Championship but he believed that the time was right to move on.

Sheffield United were left frustrated as their first game of last month at Crystal Palace was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. The Eagles' 'all-weather' surface didn't prove to be up to the conditions.

When Sheffield United finally got underway in November, they were well beaten, The Blades going down 2-0 at home to London City Lionesses. That game was the last for head coach Redfearn.

The month ended with a 3-0 defeat to top tier club Everton in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup.

What happens next at Sheffield United is anyone's guess.

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - Charlton A (A)
- 7 Dec - Aston Villa (H)\*
- 11 Dec - Nottingham F (H)^
- 18 Dec - Manchester U (A)\*

## Results

- P-P - Crystal P (A)
- 0-2 - London CL (H)
- 0-3 - Everton (H)

- \* - Conti Cup
- ^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

- 3 - Courtney Sweetman-Kirk
- 3 - Mia Enderby
- 2 - Maddy Cusack
- 2 - Charlotte Newsham
- 2 - Georgia Walters
- 2 - Bex Rayner
- 1 - Grace Riglar
- 1 - Rhema Lord-Mears
- 1 - Own Goal





# Southampton

Website: [www.southamptonfc.com/women](http://www.southamptonfc.com/women)  
Twitter: @SaintsFCWomen

## Fixtures

- 4 Dec - London CL (A)
- 11 Dec - Bristol C (A)<sup>^</sup>
- 18 Dec - Tottenham H (H)\*

## Results

- 3-0 - Coventry U (H)
- 1-1 - Blackburn R (A)
- 0-3 - Reading (H)\*

- \* - Conti Cup
- <sup>^</sup> - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

- 4 - Katie Wilkinson
- 2 - Lexi Lloyd-Smith
- 2 - Ella Pusey
- 1 - Ella Morris
- 1 - Laura Rafferty
- 1 - Beth Lumsden
- 1 - Lucia Kendall

Southampton continue to make good progress in the Barclays Women's Championship and they should go into 2023 well-placed to challenge for promotion to the top flight at the very first time of asking.

The Saints remain unbeaten in the Barclays Women's Championship since the opening day of the season. They are up to third position in the league table and have London City Lionesses and Bristol City in their sights.

Southampton's marquee signing Katie Wilkinson finally got up and running for the club last month. The forward netted a hat-trick against her former club Coventry United before scoring in a 1-1 draw with Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park.

November ended with a bit of a reality check as The Saints were defeated 3-0 by Reading in the FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup, although it should be noted that the starting line-up was much-changed.

This month brings a huge promotion six-pointer at London City Lionesses. If Southampton can record a good result at Princes Park, Marieanne Spacey-Cale's side will go into the New Year in a very good place.





# Sunderland

Website: [www.safc.com/news>ladies](http://www.safc.com/news>ladies)  
Twitter: @SAFCWomen

Sunderland continue to struggle with The Lady Black Cats having lost three out of three in all competitions last month.

It feels like we didn't learn a lot from the club's latest results, they continue to defend well but remain short of an out and out goalscorer. The continued absence of Keira Ramshaw is not helping their cause.

Sunderland are falling ever so short at the moment and that was highlighted as the Wearside club recorded back-to-back 1-0 league defeats last month. Melanie Reay's side first went down 1-0 to Blackburn Rovers at The Sir Tom Finney Stadium before being defeated by Lewes at the Eppleton Colliery Welfare Ground by the same scoreline.

The Lady Black Cats then returned to FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup action against holders Manchester City. Sunderland restricted The Cityzens' goalscoring opportunities but they were unable to cause an upset as they lost 3-0.

Next up is a crucial relegation six-pointer against Coventry United at the Butts Park Arena before Sunderland end the year with a trio of domestic cup fixtures, two of which are against Blackburn Rovers.

## Fixtures

4 Dec - Coventry U (A)  
8 Dec - Leicester C (H)\*  
11 Dec - Blackburn R (A)^  
15 Dec - Blackburn R (A)\*

## Results

0-1 - Blackburn R (A)  
0-1 - Lewes (H)  
0-3 - Manchester C (A)\*

\* - Conti Cup  
^ - Women's FA Cup

## Goalscorers

2 - Emily Scarr  
1 - Brianna Westrup  
1 - Emma Kelly  
1 - Katy Watson



# CATCH A MATCH

Upcoming fixtures in the Barclays Women's Super League, Barclays Women's Championship, FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup and UEFA Women's Champions League

## Barclays Women's Super League

- 3 Dec - Manchester U v Aston Villa (12.30pm)
- 3 Dec - Arsenal v Everton (2pm)
- 3 Dec - Leicester C v Chelsea (3pm)
- 4 Dec - Reading v Tottenham H (12.30pm)
- 4 Dec - Liverpool v West Ham U (2pm)
- 4 Dec - Manchester C v Brighton (2pm)

## Barclays Women's Championship

- 4 Dec - Durham v Bristol C (12pm)
- 4 Dec - Charlton A v Sheffield U (1pm)
- 4 Dec - Blackburn R v Birmingham C (2pm)
- 4 Dec - Coventry U v Sunderland (2pm)
- 4 Dec - Lewes v Crystal P (2pm)
- 4 Dec - London CL v Southampton (2pm)

## UEFA Women's Champions League

- 7 Dec - Arsenal v Juventus (8pm)
- 8 Dec - Real Madrid v Chelsea (8pm)

## Barclays Women's Super League

- 11 Dec - Manchester C v Manchester U (12.30pm)
- 11 Dec - Brighton v Everton (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Liverpool v Leicester C (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Tottenham H v West Ham U (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Aston Villa v Arsenal (4.15pm)
- 11 Dec - Chelsea v Reading (6.45pm)

## UEFA Women's Champions League

- 15 Dec - Arsenal v Lyon (8pm)

16 Dec - Villaznia v Chelsea (5.45pm)

## Vitality Women's FA Cup

- 11 Dec - Birmingham C v Huddersfield T (1pm)
- 11 Dec - Sheffield U v Nottingham F (1pm)
- 11 Dec - Blackburn R v Sunderland (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Charlton A v MK Dons (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Lewes v London Bees (2pm)
- 11 Dec - London CL v Portsmouth (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Peterborough U v Durham (2pm)
- 11 Dec - Bristol C v Southampton (3pm)
- 11 Dec - Coventry U v Stockport C (3pm)
- 11 Dec - Crystal P v Watford (7pm)

## Barclays Women's Super League

14 Dec - Tottenham H v Everton (7pm)

## FA Women's Continental Tyres League Cup

- 15 Dec - Blackburn R v Sunderland (7.45pm)
- 16 Dec - Coventry U v Reading (7pm)
- 16 Dec - Lewes v Bristol C (7pm)
- 17 Dec - Brighton v West Ham U (12pm)
- 17 Dec - Everton v Durham (12.30pm)
- 17 Dec - Birmingham C v London CL (2pm)
- 17 Dec - Leicester C v Manchester C (3pm)
- 18 Dec - Charlton A v Crystal P (12pm)
- 18 Dec - Manchester U v Sheffield U (12pm)
- 18 Dec - Southampton v Tottenham H (2pm)

## UEFA Women's Champions League

- 21 Dec - FC Zürich v Arsenal (5.45pm)
- 22 Dec - Chelsea v Paris Saint-Germain (8pm)



QUIZ CORNER ANSWERS - SPOT THE BALL: Ball B; GOALS: E - Sheffield United