

OFFICIAL MATCH DAY PROGRAMME

DURHAM

ISSUE 1
£3



BARCLAYS
WSL2

VS SOUTHAMPTON
SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2026



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WELCOME TO DURHAM

V SOUTHAMPTON

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FOR OUR
YOUNG
FANS!



FIRST TEAM STAFF

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LEE SANDERS
DAWN HEPPLE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

MARK DONNELLY

HEAD OF SAFEGUARDING

MARC MCPHILLIPS

FIRST TEAM HEAD COACH

WILLIE KIRK

FIRST TEAM ASSISTANT COACH

GEORGE ANTHONY

GOALKEEPING COACH

JON COLLINSON

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DAN WILSON & ANTHONY HODGSON

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DONNOR POWER

LEAD PHYSIOTHERAPIST

NAT BUTTERIDGE

CLUB DOCTOR

DOUGAL SOUTHWARD

PERFORMANCE WELLBEING LEAD

VICTORIA DUKE

SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST

TOM LUSHMAN

MARKETING LEAD

ALLY STEEL



SARAH WILSON

FROM THE SKIPPER

Good morning and welcome to today's Barclays Women's Super League 2 game against Southampton.

We're so excited to be starting the season today, especially at home. We can't wait to get going, and having our fans there from the start is good. We're excited to see everyone again.

We've had a really positive pre-season. Credit to everyone involved within the club - we all came back in a good place, ready to work, especially after a difficult few weeks. We've played some top teams and tested ourselves against the best, which is what you want in pre-season. We have been able to work on what we have been practising and apply this in the games. It has been tough, but really positive.

We've had new staff and players arrive, and it's been a breath of fresh air. You can feel we're starting something new and it's been great. It's been really positive.

Willie brings a wealth of experience and we're really excited to be working with him. The new additions have fitted in so well, we have a mix of some fantastic young players and players with the experience we need in this league to be successful.

We have such a good group. Of course, we have brought in lots of new faces

and sometimes that can go either way - but having a good group, with good people, is so important.

Everyone knows what went on in the summer, but outside of the club I'm not sure everyone really understood the impact it really had on everyone affiliated. We have worked so hard in such a short space of time to be ready; and we are. We know that the fans will back us from the first whistle, so having them there at home on day one is so special for us.

This is a new era, we are so excited to get going, we have been working so hard and we're just excited for everyone to be there with us on this journey.

Thanks as always for your incredible support,

Sarah Wilson

Swizzels
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Squashies

AVAILABLE TO BUY TODAY





WILLIE KIRK

FROM THE HEAD COACH

Good morning and welcome to today's Barclays Women's Super League 2 game against Southampton.

It's great to start the season here at Maiden Castle and I'm looking forward to my first game in front of the fans here.

Last weekend at Liverpool was a tough test, and we knew it would be. We were playing against one of the best teams in the country and I have no doubt that Liverpool will be in the top half of the WSL this season. Our focus when analysing that and moving into this week was the errors that we made which had nothing to do with us playing a top team. There were some things that any team could punish us with, and that's what we need to learn from it. We need to forget the short-term result and focus on the long-term learnings.

On the whole, our pre-season has been a good one. The fitness levels are high and the togetherness of the group is really good. We were a little bit light on numbers at Liverpool with a few players carrying knocks, but we're hoping that we'll have at least two players returning to the squad today. Over the course of pre-season, we have to be happy with where we are, what we've worked on and how the players have bought into it and applied things. I feel we're in a good place going into the game against Southampton today.

There is a lot of ability in this squad, and I'm not sure if the players have enough self-belief. We have a lot of talent and a lot of talent that we can continue to improve as well. I just hope the players can see what I see - I see good stuff every day in training, and that bit of belief could give us an extra five or ten per cent.

This season, we want to play with lots of energy. We want to be aggressive both in and out of possession. We know what we stand for and what we represent - we're a very proud club with a proud history; the players understand that and the new signings now understand that as well.

We'll give the fans everything on the pitch this season and try to make them proud, and we know you'll give us your support from the sidelines as well.

Thanks as always for your incredible support,

Willie Kirk

LAST TIME OUT

Durham Women's last competitive game ended in a 1-0 win over Newcastle United.

Amber Stobbs scored the only goal of the game shortly before half-time to secure all three points.

Durham had their chances throughout; just under twenty minutes in, Beth Hepple delivered a free-kick into the penalty area, but Michaela Forster's header was cleared by the hosts.

Shortly afterwards, Durham won another free-kick, once again taken by Hepple from the right, but Newcastle managed to clear it.

On the half-hour mark, Sheppard kept Durham in the game with a save after a strong effort from Morgan Gautrat.

The breakthrough came five minutes before the break. Michaela Forster's long ball split the Newcastle defence and found Stobbs, who calmly lifted the ball over Anna Tamminen to give Durham the lead.

Newcastle nearly responded immediately, but Sheppard held onto Emily Murphy's effort to preserve the advantage going into half-time.

The second half began with another inviting Hepple cross, but no Durham player was able to connect. The game then settled.

With 20 minutes to go, Mollie Lambert won the ball on the left and drove forward, but her shot went over the bar. Late on, Grace Collinson had a chance after a corner rebound, but Durham held firm.



BARCLAYS
WSL2

 **0-1** 

TEAM

- 35** CAT SHEPPARD
- 2** GRACE AYRE
- 3** LAUREN BRIGGS
- 5** SARAH WILSON
- 7** BETH HEPPLE
- 8** MOLLIE LAMBERT
- 10** HANNAH BLAKE
- 15** DEE BRADLEY
- 17** MARIANA SPECKMAIER
- 20** MICHAELA FOSTER
- 21** AMBER STOBBS



THE BIG INTERVIEW

ELLA WILSON

The comeback trail is well and truly on for Ella Wilson.

After sustaining an ACL injury in December, the end is now in sight for the young defender as she nears a return to full action.

"It's been eight months now, so I'm back playing football with the girls," she explained in a sit-down interview with the club's Match Day Programme.

"I'm joining in more and building in the gym and working on my comeback."

The coming weeks will see the 20-year-old build-up her training and game time, with a return to first-team action targeted before the end of the year.

But even before then, the youngster is taking the chance to reflect on her incredible progress to date.

"It just shows the effort I've put in throughout the journey that I'm back out there," she admitted.

"It's getting closer to the end now, getting better and I can see it."

The injury was the first serious one of Wilson's emerging senior career.

Having previously represented Sunderland, Newcastle United and Durham Women's Professional Game Academy, the left-back made her senior debut in the final game of the 2023/24 season at Lewes.

That was followed by more sustained first-team involvement in the following season as Wilson became a key part of the squad who secured a fourth place finish in Barclays Women's Super League 2.

And while this injury could be seen to have curtailed her progress, Wilson is

taking a different perspective - and looking at the opportunities it has presented to develop other parts of her game.

"I didn't really know what to expect," she said of the injury.

"I've never been injured, but it's actually been quite good.

"I've been able to work on myself in the gym, get stronger and learn more about myself than I have before."

So has she surprised even herself in how she has reacted?

"I thought I'd complain more!

"I have complained, but I've also been grafting harder than I ever thought I could do in the gym.

"I've actually started to enjoy it!

"Hopefully I'm going to be stronger and faster than ever."

Key to that positive outlook has been the continued support of the club, her teammates and staff across the departments.

"A lot of the girls have already had this injury in the group, so they helped me with what to expect," she explained.

"And the physios and staff have been amazing. They've pushed me the right amount and that's probably why I've come back so strong and so quickly."

All the hard work is soon set to pay-off as Wilson prepares to gather match minutes ahead of a full return to action.

And while returning to training has been a major milestone, the excitement of competitive action is now a major motivator.

"I don't think I've ever wanted to play a game more in my life!" said Wilson

"It's been a long time coming."



ELLA WILSON FACTFILE

POSITION

DEFENDER

SQUAD NUMBER

6

FORMER CLUB

NEWCASTLE UNITED

DURHAM APPEARANCES

40

DURHAM GOALS

0





When she does return to first-team action, it will be as part of a new-look group at the beginning of a new era for Durham.

The summer saw seven new signings and the arrival of Willie Kirk as head coach - giving the squad something of a refreshed feel.

And for Wilson, the early signs are positive - with the group already gelling strongly.

"It's a nice, fresh restart," she said.

"We've all come together as a group now and it feels like good vibes.

"We've good coaches pushing us hard and we're ready to start."

And while much has changed this summer, one thing that hasn't is the club's incredible supporters.

Having already backed us over the summer, the return to league action brings an excitement at being able to play in front of a packed Maiden Castle once again.

So how much is Wilson looking forward to finally getting back out in front of the Blue Army?

"A lot.

"They've been asking me every game when I'm coming back - and now I can finally say it'll be soon!"

Ella Wilson is available to sponsor for the 2026/27 season.

To find out more, email mark.donnelly@durhamwfc.co.uk



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LATEST NEWS



Durham Women fans will be able to enjoy all the action in the 2026/27 season with an alcoholic drink in their hand. The decision has been made (with shareholder approval) to remove the ruling in the League Competition Regulations relating to the consumption of alcohol in view of the pitch.

Match Day Hospitality packages are available now for our game against Manchester United! Priced at just £40pp (£30pp for Season Ticket Holders), the package includes a Match Ticket, a choice of seat, a Main Course pre-match, Dessert at half-time and access to a fully licenced bar! You can book now at durhamwfc.ticketco.shop



BARCLAYS WSL BARCLAYS WSL2

FANTASY IS LIVE

WSL Fantasy Football is now live! Including both WSL and WSL2, WSL Fantasy is free to play and allows you to select a dream team of players and collect points over the season! You can make a team by downloading the WSL Football App for free.

Durham Women will play more home games than ever before in the 2026/27 season - after WSL Football confirmed changes to the League Cup, which will now be known as the Subway Players Cup. The competition will now consist of a League Phase rather than the previous group stage, in which each team will play six games - three at home, and three away.

SUBWAY PLAYERS CUP



Grace Collinson has signed her first professional contract with the club. A product of the club's pathway system, Collinson joined the club as a nine-year-old and progressed through the ranks to our Professional Game Academy. And now the 18-year-old has penned her first professional terms at Maiden Castle.



DWSC COLUMN

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Welcome from the Durham Women Supporters Club as we kick off the 2026/27 season. After a summer like none before we can say: **"WE ARE STILL HERE!"**

I would like on behalf of the DWSC to thank all of those involved to save the club that we all support.

Thanks must go to Lee, Dawn, Mark and the other staff at Durham who worked tirelessly to ensure we still have a club to support.

We would also like to thank South Shields FC Chairman and co-owner Geoff Thompson and his co-investor at SSFC who have secured our future for this coming season and beyond.

Welcome to our new manager, our new players, our new club staff and to all of the fans attending the match today.

We hope the Southampton fans have had a good journey up, and we have a good match to send them home with, even if not with the 3 points (we hope!).

This season the DWSC have the same simple objectives as last year...

- 1 - Enhance the Fans Match Day Experience
- 2 - Assist the Club in achieving their objectives
- 3 - Support Charity

Your support through a membership will help us to achieve these goals.

We are keeping the price the same as last season £10 for Adults and £5 for U-16.

Your membership is greatly appreciated.

What we achieved in the 2025/26 season...

- Free Giveaways at nearly all home matches
- Free "My First Game" Items for those fans attending their first match
- Produced affordable items for fans
- Provision of Large flags for the entry of teams at home matches
- Contributed to the PGA teams via the sale of 'Football Cards' at home matches.

What we have planned for the upcoming season 2026/27...

- Offer transport for fans to attend away games
- More charitable contributions
- More Social events
- More Social Media platforms presence and, lots more as the season progresses...

Interested in joining us? Visit us in the Club Room ahead of any game to find out more!



NUSPA

Detox



Spa Day Offer!

A little loyalty, from us to you...

Taking time out to relax and renew is essential to living well, so treat yourself to our exclusive loyalty offer – usually only offered to returning guests!

Just £99 For 2!

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- Sparkling Mimosa
- Robe and towel
- 4 hours use of our relaxing spa facilities

CONTACT US

0191 372 7222

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2026/27 SQUAD



13 ANNA KING
GOALKEEPER
SPONSORED BY:
 **CLARITY AUTISM**

AUTOGRAPH



35 CAT SHEPPARD
GOALKEEPER
SPONSORED BY:


AUTOGRAPH



2 GRACE AYRE
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
JAMES BURTENSHAW

AUTOGRAPH



3 LAUREN BRIGGS
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

AUTOGRAPH



4 MADDY McCOMASKY
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

AUTOGRAPH



5 SARAH WILSON
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
PMJ

AUTOGRAPH



6 ELLA WILSON
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

AUTOGRAPH



7 BETH HEPPLE
MIDFIELDER
SPONSORED BY:
DARRIN HEPPLE

AUTOGRAPH



9 LUCY WATSON
FORWARD
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

AUTOGRAPH



10 GRACE EDE
MIDFIELDER
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

AUTOGRAPH



11 JADE PENNOCK
FORWARD
SPONSORED BY:
PHOENIX LEGAL

AUTOGRAPH



14 BECKY SALICKI
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR

AUTOGRAPH

2026/27 SQUAD



15 DEE BRADLEY
DEFENDER
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR
AUTOGRAPH



17 OLIVIA FERGUSSON
FORWARD
SPONSORED BY:
AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR
AUTOGRAPH



18 ANGELA ADDISON
FORWARD
SPONSORED BY:
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AUTOGRAPH



19 BAYLEY HUTCHISON
FORWARD
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20 MICHAELA FOSTER
DEFENDER
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CHANGING VALUES & INSPIRING GLOBAL GROWTH
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AUTOGRAPH



21 AMBER STOBBS
MIDFIELDER
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AUTOGRAPH



22 GRACE COLLINSON
FORWARD
SPONSORED BY:
parkinson
AUTOGRAPH



23 RACHEL LOWE
MIDFIELDER
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CHANGING VALUES & INSPIRING GLOBAL GROWTH
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24 ELOISE MORRAN
MIDFIELDER
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25 EMMA BROWN
DEFENDER
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JOHN MIDDLETON

FROM THE PRESS BOX

Greetings from the back of the stand!

What a Summer it has been, one that during which there was a time I thought I wouldn't be writing this. I seem to use the word "rollercoaster" quite a bit when talking about WSL2 but it certainly a term that could describe my emotions since the last Home game against Sheffield United.

From the relief of that Final Whistle, and the joy and pride of Amber's winning goal and the performance at Gateshead, to the threat of extinction and then salvation to now; it was quite a journey. I hope we never have a June like it again!

A new era begins today; although we've had a bit of a preview against Celtic, Liverpool and The Radisson Blu!

You cannot help but be impressed by Willie Kirk and his, and the Club's, vision for the season; to rediscover and build on that togetherness we know so well, to have that hard work and determination throughout and make M.C the place no team wishes to visit. Aiming for a mid-table finish, in order to continue to build, is reasonable and sensible in this incredibly tough and unpredictable league, and in the Manager we have someone who will not panic and instill the right environment so that that can be sustained.

The launch event at the Radisson Blu will be remembered by me for many things (so glad the "challenge" was accepted by my important interviewees!) but it also got me into watching 'Ted Lasso'; now fictitiously

managing in our league and famous for many motivational quotes. It was Willie's motto that he lives by that stuck with me and will hopefully be remembered throughout the season -

"If it makes you happy - do it!"

That is why we are all here! Whether playing or supporting, having travelled just down the road or from the South Coast, or if you are tuned-in from home. You could say "Football is Life"

Southampton are our first visitors this season. They do come with a reputation of playing great Football and have some familiar faces to the North-East in their ranks. I'm sure they'll bring a good cohort of supporters too! A great way to start the season and certainly a tough test for us.

I hope you can join us inside and outside the ground via www.dhradio.org.uk for live commentary of today's game as begin the Club's, and our, season of WSL2. Really looking forward to it!

Enjoy the game and let's hear the "Wildcat Roar"!

John

@JADMiddy
@DurhamRoarcast

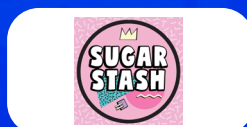
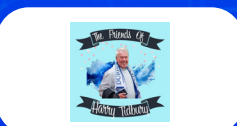
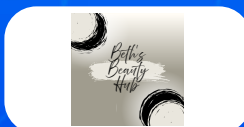
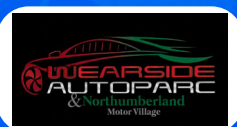
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PATHWAY NEWS



Our U10s, U12s and U14s have had a busy pre season with fixtures against Leicester City, Manchester United and Sheffield United. The U10s and U12s are looking forward to getting started in the RFYL boys league while the U14s will be playing in the JPL.

Our PGA U16 squad travelled to Derby for the Pre-Season Peer to Peer, facing Arsenal, Manchester United, Leicester City & Brighton. We didn't qualify, but the girls put in a brilliant performance and can be so proud of their efforts!



Our PGA U21 side kicked-off their season with a home game against Everton. Eden Varah and Grace Collinson were on the scoresheet as the Blues drew 2-2 with the Toffees.

Keep your eyes on the pitch today as all our Pathway players will be playing a key role in the match day! We'll have representatives from all age groups acting as mascots, the guard of honour and ball girls!



Want to follow our pathway throughout the season?

We have a dedicated X account - @DWFCPathway - which shares updates and information on all our Pathway Teams!

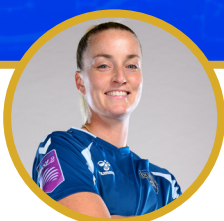
WHO'S MOST LIKELY?

WITH PLAYER NAME



WHO WOULD YOU TRUST MOST TO PLAN THE
PERFECT HOLIDAY?

DEE BRADLEY



WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO BECOME FAMOUS
FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO
FOOTBALL?

LUCY WATSON



WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO ACCIDENTALLY GO
VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

LUCY WATSON



WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE AS YOUR PARTNER
ON THE TRAITORS?

JADE PENNOCK



WHO WOULD YOU TRUST TO COOK YOU A
THREE-COURSE MEAL?

LAUREN BRIGGS



WHO WOULD SURVIVE LONGEST IF THE SQUAD
WAS STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND?

SARAH WILSON

WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO STILL BE INVOLVED IN
FOOTBALL IN 30 YEARS' TIME?

ME - OR BECKY SALICKI





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TODAY**

**IN THE
CLUB SHOP**

**ADULT
£50**

**CHILD
£40**



hummel





35 CAT SHEPPARD



WELCOME TO THE ORBITOR

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Durham Women are delighted to announce a new partnership with Orbitor Performance Ltd - which will see the North East firm featured on the front of our first-team warm-up shirts during the 2026/27 season.

Orbitor Performance Ltd is a sports technology company founded by Claire Budge. The company is developing The Orbitor - an innovative multi-sport ball launcher for home use and designed for football, basketball and netball.

They aim to make independent practice more accessible and help young people build their skills, confidence and enjoyment of sport.

With The Orbitor, which has been designed in the region, young athletes can practice anytime and anywhere while allowing them to improve at their own pace.

And the brand will now feature on our first-team warm-up shirts during the upcoming Barclays Women's Super League 2 season - while the Orbitor will also have a presence around Maiden Castle through ground signage.

Claire Budge, founder of Orbitor Performance Ltd, said: "I'm incredibly proud that Orbitor Performance Ltd is sponsoring Durham Women's warm-up shirts.

"As a North East business focused on helping young people develop their

skills and confidence through sport, this partnership feels like a natural fit.

"Durham Women are inspiring the next generation of female athletes, and we're delighted to support the team and become part of their journey.

"As someone whose daughter has been involved with Durham Women since U14s, this partnership also feels especially meaningful on a personal level.

"It's been fantastic to see the club's impact first-hand over the years, and we're proud to now be supporting them in this way."

Mark Donnelly, Chief Operating Officer at Durham Women, added: "We're delighted to announce this new partnership with Orbitor Performance Ltd.

"We're incredibly passionate about inspiring young athletes in the North East and beyond - so partnering with a company that shares those values is fantastic.

"We're proud to have The Orbitor logo on our warm-up shirts this season and look forward to taking the brand across the country in the new season."



TODAY'S OPPONENTS
SOUTHAMPTON

SOUTHAMPTON

In 1970, Southampton Women's F.C. was formed by female fans of the men's Southampton, but the two clubs were unaffiliated.

Southampton Women's F.C. went on to great success in England, winning the WFA Cup (now Women's FA Cup) eight times.

Another team, Southampton Saints Girls & Ladies F.C. were formed in 1979 as Red Star FC, who were founder members of the WFA Women's National League in 1991. The club adopted the name Southampton Saints Girls & Ladies on affiliating to Southampton F.C. in 1995, and was absorbed by Southampton F.C. in 2001.

Southampton Saints Girls & Ladies continued for another 14 years, before announcing their closure in July 2019.

By 2016 Southampton FC, under new ownership, saw the need for a competitive senior women's team as the profile of women's football in the UK grew.

With the club's Regional Talent Centre, a Southampton Under-16 team was formed, followed by an Under-21 side in May 2017.

The club formed an adult women's side for the 2017-18 season and were admitted to the Hampshire Women's League Division 1. In March 2018, Southampton unsuccessfully applied to enter the FA Women's Championship.

In June 2018, after winning the Hampshire Women's League Division 1, the senior team was listed for the following season's Southern Region



FACT FILE

HEAD COACH
SIMON PARKER

NICKNAME
THE SAINTS

HOME GROUNDS
EASTLEIGH FC
ST MARY'S STADIUM

2025/26 FINISH
5TH

2025/26 TOP SCORER
ELLIE BRAZIL (6)

Women's Football League First Division South.

In July 2018, the club appointed former England international Marieanne Spacey-Cale as head of Women's and Girls' Football. Spacey-Cale has 91 senior England caps.

In the 2018-19 season, the club played in the Southern Region Premier Division, and won the title with a perfect record of 18 wins, earning promotion to the FA Women's National League Division One. They also beat Oxford City Women in the League Cup, achieving a domestic Double.

The club applied for, and were granted, upward club movement in the summer of 2021, being placed in the FA Women's National League Southern Premier Division for the 2021-22 season.

In the 2021-22 season, the club won the FA Women's National League Southern Premier Division to earn a chance to get promoted to the second-tier by beating the FA WNL Northern Premier Division champions in a play-off.

On 21 May 2022, Southampton earned a first ever promotion to the FA Women's Championship (now WSL2) by defeating Wolves 1-0 in the play-off.

Following promotion to the FA Women's Championship, the club announced they would turn professional.

The club finished sixth in their first season in the second tier, and have consistently challenged in the top half ever since.

Spacey-Cale moved into a more senior role in 2024 and was succeeded by Remi Allen.

Last season, in the club's first campaign under new manager Simon Parker, the Saints finished fifth.

LAST GAME



Southampton faced SWPL side Celtic in August as both sides continued their preparations for the new season.

The clash, hosted at the Snows Stadium - home of AFC Totton, ended in a 0-0 draw as both teams used the opportunity to rotate their squads and build-up valuable minutes.

The Saints started with a strong side and brought on a number of PGA players at half-time - but remained competitive in both halves.

Chances were at a premium in the opening stages with the first chance of note coming just after the half hour mark - Celtic's Chloe Craig flashing a cross into the area which couldn't be turned home by Amy Gallacher.

Southampton then struck the bar before the halfway stage in what was the best chance of the game.

There was little to report after the break as the game ended goalless.

ONES TO WATCH



ELLIE BRAZIL

Brazil arrived at the Saints in July 2025, following her departure from Charlton. The 26-year-old won Player of the Year and Player's Player of the Year for Charlton Athletic Women, scoring eight goals in an impressive campaign for the Addicks. A former England youth international, Brazil spent her entire career at the top level, playing for Birmingham - where she finished runner-up in the Women's FA Cup and WSL Cup - Brighton, and Tottenham in the WSL, as well as a year with Fiorentina in Serie A.



ABBIE FERGUSON

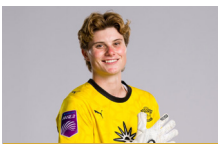
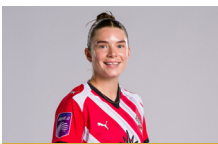
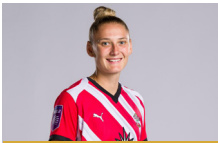
Ferguson had an impressive rise in the Scottish Women's Premier League, and arrived at Saints following her departure from 2024/25 title winners Hibernian. She scored four goals and notched five assists in 27 appearances, and earned the August Player of the Month award at the start of Hibs' SWPL-winning campaign. Capped by her country at multiple youth age groups, she scored five goals on her Scotland Under-19s debut in 2023.



MARY BASHFORD

Mary Bashford arrived at Southampton in July 2025, switching clubs for the first ever time in her professional career. She rose through the ranks at Charlton Athletic as a member of their Regional Talent Club before becoming an established member of the senior side. Bashford kicked off her career at Saints with a brace against Ipswich on her debut in the first game of the 2025/26 WSL2 season.

THE SQUAD

 1 GRACE MOLONEY GOALKEEPER	 13 ALINA SANTOS GOALKEEPER	 2 RACHEL BROWN DEFENDER	 3 MILLY MOTT DEFENDER
 5 AMY GODDARD DEFENDER	 6 ELLIE HACK DEFENDER	 15 NIAMH MURPHY DEFENDER	 23 MEGAN COLLETT DEFENDER
 4 MARY BASHFORD MIDFIELDER	 8 CHLOE PELOW MIDFIELDER	 10 MICHAELA MCALONIE MIDFIELDER	 11 ABBIE FERGUSON MIDFIELDER
 14 LAURA HUGHES MIDFIELDER	 17 LIBBI MCINNES MIDFIELDER	 7 ELLIE BRAZIL FORWARD	 9 EMMA HARRIES FORWARD
 12 MARIA EDWARDS FORWARD	 26 RUBY-RAE TUCKER FORWARD		



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SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION



KIDS ZONE

**HEAD INSIDE FOR SOME FUN
ACTIVITIES FOR BEFORE, DURING
AND AFTER THE GAME!**

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

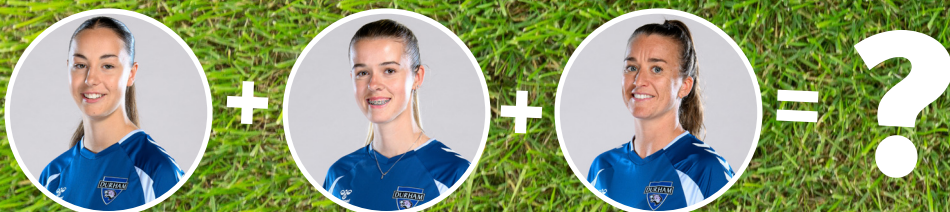
SHEPPARD
KING
AYRE

BRIGGS
MCCOMASKY
WILSON

HEPPLE
WATSON
EDE

CAN YOU FIND ALL THE PLAYERS NAMES?

WORDSEARCH



ADD UP THE SHIRT NUMBERS OF THESE PLAYERS AND
 CALCULATE THE FINAL NUMBER!

FOOTBALL MATHS

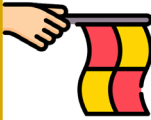
BADGE QUIZ



CAN YOU NAME THE CLUB FROM
THIS SNIPPET OF THEIR BADGE?

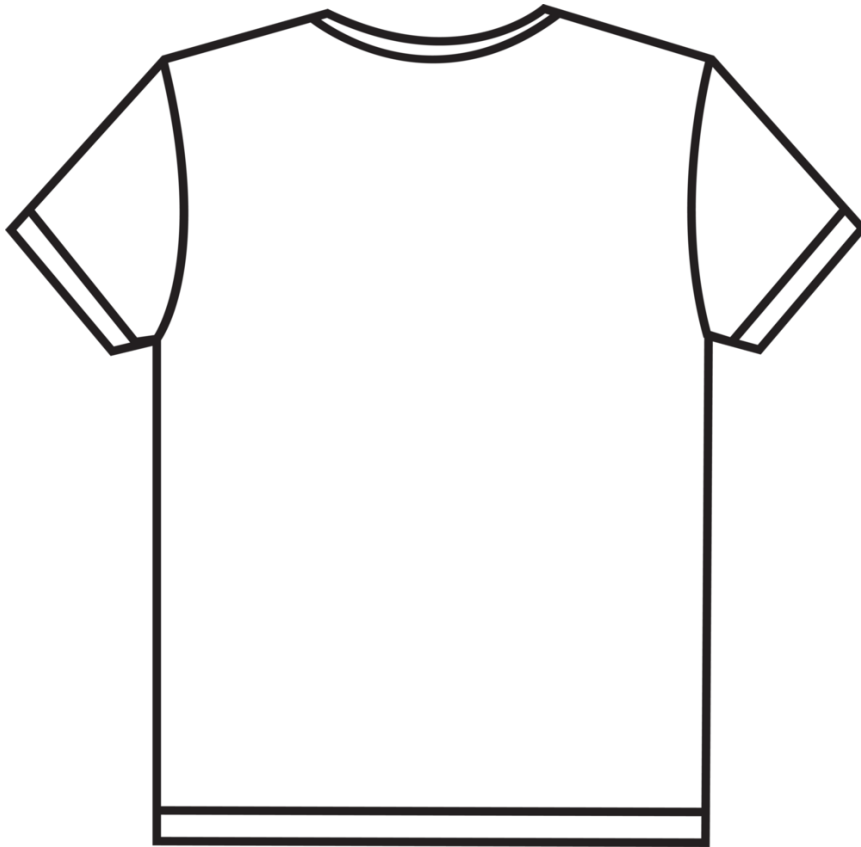
FOOTBALL BINGO

HOW MANY OF THESE CAN YOU SPOT
AT TODAY'S GAME?

 DURHAM SCORE A GOAL		 SPOT OUR MASCOT, CANDY	 THE REFEREE GIVES A CORNER
	 A PLAYER GETS A YELLOW CARD	 THE REFEREE GIVES A GOAL KICK	 A GOALKEEPER MAKES A SAVE
 THE REFEREE GIVES A FREE KICK	 DURHAM HAVE A SHOT	 DURHAM MAKE A SUBSTITUTION	
	 THE REFEREE GIVES A THROW IN	 A GOALKEEPER CATCHES THE BALL	 OFFSIDE!

DESIGN YOUR OWN SHIRT!

DESIGN YOUR OWN DURHAM WOMEN SHIRT
BELOW. SEND IT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND
YOU COULD WIN TICKETS TO AN UPCOMING
HOME GAME!



EITHER TWEET YOUR DESIGN TO @DURHAMWFC OR EMAIL IT TO US ON
MARK.DONNELLY@DURHAMWFC.CO.UK

WRITE A REPORT!

USE THE SPACES BELOW TO WRITE A MATCH REPORT FROM TODAY'S BIG GAME!



DURHAM TEAM

DESCRIBE THE ACTION AND THE BIG MOMENTS IN THE MATCH BELOW...

MY PLAYER OF THE MATCH FROM TODAY'S GAME IS...

ANSWERS

Football Maths: Collinson (22) + Wilson (6) + Stobbs (21) = 49
Badge Quiz: Burnley

**WEDS 30 SEPT
7PM KICK-OFF
SOUTH SHIELDS FC**



**SUBWAY
PLAYERS
CUP**



DURHAM V MANCHESTER UNITED



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McCOMASKY

**INTRODUCING
OUR SUMMER
SIGNINGS**



JADE PENNOCK

Our first summer signing, the forward joined Durham after spending two years overseas - helping Central Coast Mariners to the A-League title in Australia before featuring for Sporting Jax in America. Previously, Pennock featured for Doncaster Belles, Sheffield United and Birmingham City - winning the BWSL2 Player of the Year with the latter.



DEE BRADLEY

After spending the second half of last season on loan at Durham, Bradley rejoined on a permanent deal this summer. The Irish international spent the first half of last season with Burnley having previously been a fan favourite at Maiden Castle - scoring a number of memorable goals in Blue. She featured regularly last season, scoring the goal that secured our safety against Sheffield United.



RACHEL LOWE

The Australian midfielder joined Durham after impressing with Melbourne Victory in the A-League, earning the highly-coveted Victory Medal prize last season. Lowe has also played for Sydney FC and Western Sydney Wanderers, developing a reputation as one of the leading goal-scoring midfielders in the Australian top flight. She also has one senior cap for the Matildas.



OLIVIA FERGUSSON

Another player who returned to England after a spell abroad, Fergusson has featured for Espanyol in Spain and Wellington Phoenix in the A-League in recent years. The versatile forward - who can play centrally or in wide areas - has vast experience in WSL2 and has previously helped Bristol City and Leicester City to promotion out of the league.



MADDY McCOMASKY

McComasky joined Durham after a year in America's USL with Fort Lauderdale United. The towering defender can play anywhere across the backline or in defensive midfield, and previously featured for Western Sydney Wanderers in the A-League.



BAYLEY HUTCHISON

Forward Hutchison signed for Durham after leaving Scottish champions Hearts, with whom she scored 27 goals over the last two seasons. A Scotland U23 international, the young forward came through the ranks at Aberdeen and hit the senior scene with the Dons - scoring 28 goals in 2023/24 to finish as the SWPL's top scorer.



EMMA BROWN

Our final summer signing was centre back Brown - who joined the club after spending the last five years in the USA. Prior to her move Stateside, the defender featured for Middlesbrough and earned caps for England's youth teams. In America, she teamed-up with Nova Southeastern University before transferring to Middle Tennessee State for her Senior and Graduate years, leading the team in minutes across her two seasons.

WANT TO SPONSOR A SUMMER SIGNING?

Several of our summer signings are still available to sponsor!

Packages are priced at just £500+VAT and offer incredible exposure and value for money.

To find out more, email mark.donnelly@durhamwfc.co.uk



2026/27 SISTER CLUBS

WELCOME TO THE NETWORK!

Durham Women today welcome our 2026/27 Sister Clubs to our opening game - as they prepare to take part in our annual Sister Club Parade!

The Sister Club Network gives local grassroots clubs the opportunity to become affiliated with a Barclays Women's Super League 2 side.

Junior clubs are able to reap a number of benefits from this partnership, which gives them unique participation opportunities as well the opportunity to watch Barclays Women's Super League 2 games for FREE.

The programme has run successfully for close to a decade, with a number of clubs being part of the Sister Club Network for all that time!

Today, members from our Sister Clubs will be paraded on the pitch at half-time as we kick-off the Network in style!

Over 4,500 young players are set to benefit from the Sister Club Network this year - and there's still time to sign-up your club!

Visit durhamwfc.co.uk/sister-club/ to find out more and to register for FREE!

You can also email mark.donnelly@durhamwfc.co.uk for further information.



2026/27 Sister Clubs

Consett Lionesses
 Belmont United
 Beamish Lionesses
 Deerness Valley
 Newton Aycliffe Youth
 Durham United YFC
 Chester-le-Street Amazons
 Catterick Garrison Football Centre
 Newcastle West End
 Durham FC
 Coxhoe United Lionesses Cubs
 FC Darlington Locomotives
 AFC Amble Juniors
 Chester-le-Street Football Club
 Shincliffe Juniors
 Hartlepool Lake Youth
 Catterick Village Roses
 Boldon Girls
 Wideopen FC
 West Cornforth Miners
 Northallerton Town Juniors
 Boro Rangers U11s
 Wearside FC Pinks



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

SCAN BELOW AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR VISIT TODAY!



STATS & FACTS

FIXTURES & RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT			KO	SCORE
6 SEPT	SOUTHAMPTON	H	BWSL2	12PM	
13 SEPT	LEICESTER CITY	A	BWSL2	3PM	
20 SEPT	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	BWSL2	12PM	
27 SEPT	SHEFFIELD UNITED	A	BWSL2	2PM	
30 SEPT	MANCHESTER UNITED	H	SPC	7PM	
4 OCT	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	BWSL2	12PM	
18 OCT	BURNLEY	A	SPC	2PM	
21 OCT	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	SPC	7PM	
25 OCT	WATFORD	A	BWSL2	12PM	
1 NOV	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	SPC	12PM	
8 NOV	SUNDERLAND	H	BWSL2	12PM	
11 NOV	EVERTON	A	SPC	7PM	
15 NOV	WOLVES	A	BWSL2	12PM	
22 NOV	SHEFFIELD UNITED	A	SPC	2PM	
20 DEC	IPSWICH TOWN	H	BWSL2	12PM	
10 JAN	BURNLEY	A	BWSL2	2PM	
24 JAN	BRISTOL CITY	H	BWSL2	12PM	
27 JAN	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H	BWSL2	7PM	
31 JAN	SUNDERLAND	A	BWSL2	2PM	
7 FEB	IPSWICH TOWN	A	BWSL2	1PM	
14 FEB	WOLVES	H	BWSL2	12PM	
14 MAR	NEWCASTLE UNITED	A	BWSL2	2PM	
21 MAR	LEICESTER CITY	H	BWSL2	12PM	
28 MAR	SOUTHAMPTON	A	BWSL2	12PM	
4 APR	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	A	BWSL2	2PM	
11 APR	WATFORD	H	BWSL2	12PM	
1 MAY	BRISTOL CITY	A	BWSL2	5:30PM	

TODAY'S GAMES

Watford v Burnley (Friday, 7:30pm)
Durham v Southampton (12:00pm)
Ipswich Town v Nottingham Forest (2:00pm)
Sheffield United v Leicester City (2:00pm)
Sunderland v Bristol City (2:00pm)
Newcastle United v Wolves (2:00pm)

LEAGUE TABLE

	TEAM	PLD	PTS	GF	GA	GD
1	BRISTOL CITY	0	0	0	0	0
2	BURNLEY	0	0	0	0	0
3	DURHAM	0	0	0	0	0
4	IPSWICH TOWN	0	0	0	0	0
5	LEICESTER CITY	0	0	0	0	0
6	NEWCASTLE UNITED	0	0	0	0	0
7	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	0	0	0	0	0
8	SHEFFIELD UNITED	0	0	0	0	0
9	SOUTHAMPTON	0	0	0	0	0
10	SUNDERLAND	0	0	0	0	0
11	WATFORD	0	0	0	0	0
12	WOLVES	0	0	0	0	0

PLAYER STATS

PLAYER	STARTS	SUB ON	GOALS	YELLOW	REDS
ANNA KING					
CAT SHEPPARD					
GRACE AYRE					
LAUREN BRIGGS					
MADDY McCOMASKY					
SARAH WILSON					
ELLA WILSON					
BETH HEPPL					
LUCY WATSON					
GRACE EDE					
JADE PENNOCK					
BECKY SALICKI					
DEE BRADLEY					
OLIVIA FERGUSON					
ANGELA ADDISON					
BAYLEY HUTCHISON					
MICHAELA FOSTER					
AMBER STOBBS					
GRACE COLLINSON					
RACHEL LOWE					
ELOISE MORRAN					
EMMA BROWN					



UP NEXT

AT MAIDEN CASTLE

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

12PM KICK-OFF

MAIDEN CASTLE, DH1 3SE



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TEAM NEWS



DURHAM

13	ANNA KING	● ● ●
35	CAT SHEPPARD	● ● ●
2	GRACE AYRE	● ● ●
3	LAUREN BRIGGS	● ● ●
4	MADDY McCOMASKY	● ● ●
5	SARAH WILSON	● ● ●
6	ELLA WILSON	● ● ●
7	BETH HEPPL	● ● ●
9	LUCY WATSON	● ● ●
10	GRACE EDE	● ● ●
11	JADE PENNOCK	● ● ●
12	LUCY NOBLE	● ● ●
14	BECKY SALICKI	● ● ●
15	DEE BRADLEY	● ● ●
17	OLIVIA FERGUSSON	● ● ●
18	ANGELA ADDISON	● ● ●
19	BAYLEY HUTCHISON	● ● ●
20	MICHAELA FOSTER	● ● ●
21	AMBER STOBBS	● ● ●
22	GRACE COLLINSON	● ● ●
23	RACHEL LOWE	● ● ●
24	ELOISE MORRAN	● ● ●
25	EMMA BROWN	● ● ●

START
SUB ON
GOAL



SOUTHAMPTON

GRACE MOLONEY	1
ALINA SANTOS	13
RACHEL BROWN	2
MILLY MOTT	3
MARY BASHFORD	4
AMY GODDARD	5
ELLIE HACK	6
ELLIE BRAZIL	7
CHLOE PEPLW	8
EMMA HARRIES	9
MICHAELA MCALONIE	10
ABBIE FERGUSON	11
MARIA EDWARDS	12
LAURA HUGHES	14
NIAMH MURPHY	15
LIBBI MCINNES	17
MEGAN COLLETT	23
RUBY-RAE TUCKER	26

START
SUB ON
GOAL

REFEREE: JULIA KINGS

ASSISTANT REFEREES: DORA JAKAB & MARK CUNLIFFE

FOURTH OFFICIAL: ANDREW MILLER

Programme Printed By Reeds

Editor & Designer: Mark Donnelly | Contributors: Willie Kirk, Sarah Wilson, John Middleton, Lee Dolby
All information is correct up until Tuesday 1st September, which is when this programme was sent to print.