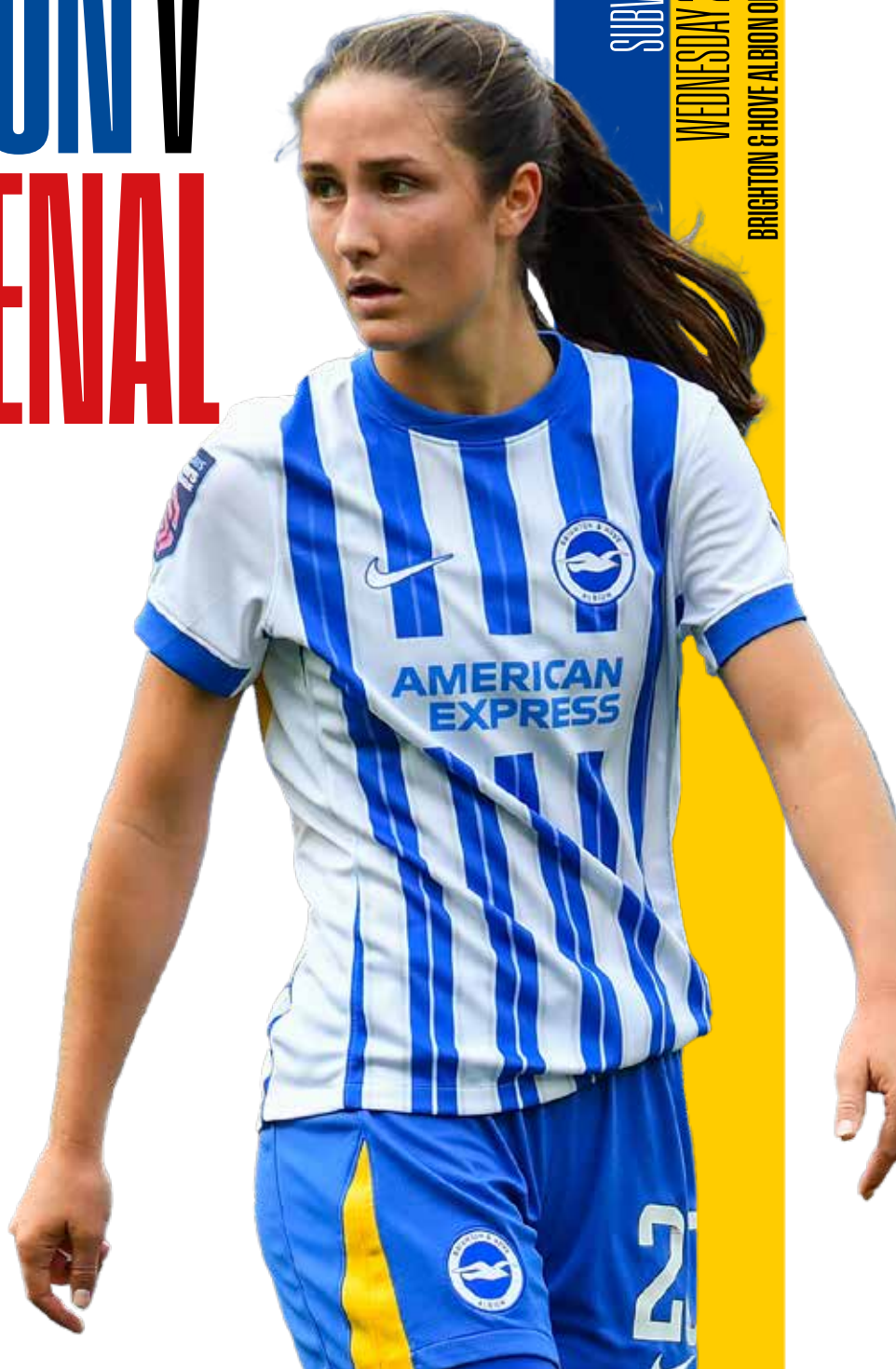


ALBION **v** ARSENAL



SUBWAY WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2025 | 7.15PM

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



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EXPRESS



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DARIO VIDOSIC

Good evening and welcome to Broadfield Stadium for our Women's League Cup quarter-final match against Arsenal

I'd like to welcome Renee Slegers, her staff, players and fans who have made the journey down from north London tonight. I'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Renee on her permanent appointment as Arsenal head coach.

We're delighted to welcome our home support back to Broadfield for the first time this year. We were disappointed not to begin our FA Cup campaign against Durham a couple of weeks ago but we were grateful for the work and support the Crawley Town groundstaff put in to give us a fighting chance to play despite the freezing weather conditions.

The Gunners made it tough for us at the Emirates Stadium in November and it is a result that we would like to rectify this evening.

As I have always said since the beginning of the season, we take each fixture as it comes together as a team. Win, lose or draw, we will learn from each of our opponents and give them all the same level of respect.

After Friday night's narrow WSL loss against Liverpool, we've taken some time to reflect and reassess as a squad.

We wanted to start on the front foot at St Helens and control the game, and while we're pleased to have given the travelling fans an equaliser, ultimately we are disappointed not to have come away with something. We needed to be more clinical and didn't play with the intensity I know we are capable of.

It was a frustrating one to process after the match, but we need to deal with these setbacks as a team and not dwell on past results. We play, we learn and we do better the next time.

The league is becoming even more difficult with top-level opposition every week. Each team in the WSL now knows the threats we possess and will inevitably try to make it challenging for us, especially now we have played everyone at least once. It's our job as a group to find ways to be the best version of ourselves every day in training and games.

Finally, I'd also like to thank the fans who made the 500-mile round trip on Friday night. Your support is something the squad, the staff and I never take for granted.

We're heading into an incredibly busy run of fixtures in the coming weeks, and it's one where we will need our fans more than ever.

Enjoy the match!





FREE BUS TRAVEL

A reminder that a free bus travel service run by Seagull Travel is available to all Women's Super League fixtures at Broadfield Stadium. For more information go to seagull-travel.co.uk

Provision of cup-match transport to Broadfield Stadium will be advised at on-sale, depending on fixtures, demand and availability of coaches.



DUO NOMINATED FOR GOAL AWARD

Two Albion players were nominated for December's WSL Goal of the Month award.

Jelena Cankovic's strike against former club Chelsea and Marisa Olislagers' volley in the 1-1

draw against Tottenham were among the nominees.

Congratulations go to Arsenal's Alessia Russo who won the award for her drive against Aston Villa.

MATCH TICKET PRICING @ BROADFIELD STADIUM

	GRADE A	GRADE B
Adults.....	£12.00	£10.00/£8.00*
65+/Under-18.....	£6.00	£5.00/£4.00*
Family ticket (2x adults, 2x U18s).....	£24.00	£20.00
Group tickets (10+ tickets).....	£6.00	£5.00

*price only available for MyAlbion+ Members

NARROW DEFEAT ON MERSEYSIDE

Albion's return to WSL action ended with a narrow 2-1 defeat against Liverpool on Friday night.

The Seagulls had gone behind to a fine individual goal by Olivia Smith after 31 minutes and the hosts might have extended their lead as they played with confidence.

But Dario Vidosic's side stayed in the game and Nikita Parris scored her sixth goal of the season with a deflected effort midway through the second half.

That looked to have been enough to secure a hard-earned point but nine minutes from time Jorelyn Carabali, facing her own goal, turned Grace Fisk's powerful shot into her own net.



VILLA AWAIT FA CUP WINNERS

Albion will face Aston Villa away in the fifth round of the Adobe Women's FA Cup should we beat Durham.

Our match against Durham, which was postponed on 11 January, has been rescheduled for Wednesday 29 January at Broadfield Stadium, kick-off 7.00pm.



REMEMBERING SARAH WATTS

This weekend we celebrate what would have been Sarah Watts' 60th birthday, a poignant moment marking the 10th anniversary of her passing

Sarah's deep passion for Brighton & Hove Albion began at the age of 9, a love affair that lasted a lifetime, rooted in the Goldstone Ground and shared with her sisters, Mandy and Karen, and later her nephews, James and Andrew. Sarah's family takes immense pride in her remarkable achievements, particularly in her tireless work to combat homophobia in football.

As Secretary of the Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters' Club (BHASC) from 1983, Sarah was a driving force behind efforts to challenge homophobic abuse and discrimination in football. Her collaboration with the Gay Football

Supporters' Network, Kick It Out, The FA, and other organisations helped bring awareness and change to the sport, with The FA recently recognising her contributions.

Sarah was also a key figure in the successful Falmer For All campaign, ensuring the construction of the American Express Stadium. In recognition of her dedication, she was named Capital One Supporter of the Year in 2015.

Sarah's legacy endures through her unwavering commitment to both her beloved club and her community, embodying the spirit of activism, passion and inclusivity. She will always be remembered.

UNITED GAME LIVE ON SKY

A reminder, Albion's WSL fixture at Manchester United on Sunday 26 January, kick-off 6.45pm, will be broadcast live on Sky Sports.

POULTER JOINS POMPEY

Goalkeeper Hannah Poulter has joined Portsmouth on loan for the rest of the season.

The 19-year-old joined Albion in the summer transfer window after spending a year in the United States playing for the University of Southern California.

Dario Vidosic said, "This is a great opportunity for Hannah to play regular football.

"She's a talented young professional with an excellent work ethic and determination both on and off the pitch. I've no doubt she'll be a big asset in the Championship.

"We will be monitoring her progress closely for the remainder of the season and wish her the best of luck."



BRUNA SETS HER SIGHTS HIGH

Signed on loan from Barcelona last summer, Bruna Vilamala was impressed with Albion's first half of the season – and now she's looking for more in 2025



So far, so good. That's the message from Albion forward Bruna Vilamala as she reflects on the Seagulls' opening half of the WSL season.

The 22-year-old arrived on loan from Barcelona last August, having netted 20 goals in 50 league games for the Catalan giants, and has featured regularly in the WSL this term – including scoring the winning goal at Crystal Palace.

"When I came here, the target was what we are achieving up to now, which is to be in the upper places of the WSL table," said the Spain international. "We have done really well in the first part of the season, winning lots of matches, taking lots of points.

"We had good times in the cup as well and so, for me, the first part of the season is almost perfect. It is what we were looking for and I hope that in the second part we can keep working the same and have the same results."

Bruna, along with compatriot Vicky Losada, has brought some of the Barca style to Sussex, but she admits that the WSL has been an eye-opener, compared to life in Liga F.

"It's a very intense league, which I am not used to," she admitted. "It is a lot more physical than the Spanish league, but it is a challenge for me. I have taken it in this way, to learn and adapt to this, and I feel better all the time in this aspect.

"In Spain, the game is a lot more controlled, more tactical. Here it is back and forth, back and forth. There is a lot more transition play, so more physical in this sense."

That's not to say that she doesn't see similarities, certainly in the way Dario Vidosic is trying to get his Seagulls side to play.

"It (the Barcelona style) was a football I have always liked and what we now try to play at Brighton – to have the ball, to have possession and to attack," Bruna pointed out. "This style represents me a lot and I feel so comfortable here.

"When we started to have contact with Brighton about coming, they told me their intention to bring this style to this league.

"Apart from Manchester City and Chelsea, there wasn't another team who did it. I think it is working well up to now and hopefully it continues like that."

The challenge now for the Seagulls is to keep making an impression in the second half of the campaign – both in the league and the two cup competitions.

"I want us to be as high up as possible and if we can, be top four" is Bruna's target for 2025. "It's the same in the cups, go as far as we can.

"We don't say we can't do anything, we don't give anything up as lost, so hopefully that attitude can help us and hopefully this season could be the first one with a trophy for Brighton's women."

Bruna's aim is to play her part in any success moving forward with the Seagulls. She has made seven WSL starts, two in the Women's League Cup – scoring in the 6-2 win against Bristol City – and had proved that her previous injury problems at Barcelona are now a thing of the past.

"Individually, I want to be good, to be fit and to bring as much as I can to the team to win," she added. "I haven't had much luck with them (injuries) during my short career so far, but it is all a form of learning.

"I'm really good now. I do a lot of work to be good on the pitch. I have a plan in the gym and everything to be fine on the pitch and I feel like nothing ever happened."



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MERSEY
MAGIC!

Nikita Parris celebrates her equaliser against hometown club Liverpool last week. As a former Everton and Manchester United star, we think she enjoyed it!

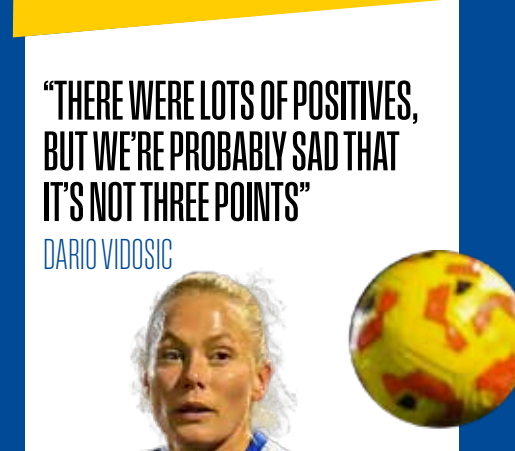




ALBION 1 TOTTENHAM 1

OLISLAGERS 82
ENGLAND 75

SAT 14 DECEMBER 2024
WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
BROADFIELD STADIUM





ARSENAL

It's been a season of change for the north London giants, but one that can still deliver plenty as the second half of the campaign gets underway...

An indifferent start to the current WSL season cost Jonas Eidevall his job in October 2024, but under Renee Slegers – who had been Eidevall's assistant coach – the Gunners have been revitalised.

Indeed, since the 2-1

home defeat against Chelsea – after which the change of coach was made – Arsenal have won six of their last seven WSL games. The only blip was a 1-1 draw at Manchester United and the victories have included a 3-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur and

impressive home wins against the Albion (5-0) and Aston Villa (4-0).

With Slegers' side having featured in the Champions League group stage this season, where they've advanced to the quarter-finals having finished top of Group C

ahead of Bayern Munich, tonight's game is the club's first appearance in the Women's League Cup this season.

Where the Gunners' season takes them, both in league and cups, remains to be seen, but they boast one of

the strongest squads in European football. They signed goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar from Aston Villa last summer, likewise Mariona Caldentey from Barcelona and Rosa Kafaji (BK Hacken).

Slegers' interim position became permanent last week, having overseen a run of 11 wins in all competitions, with 36 goals scored and just five conceded.

"I'm so excited to be continuing our journey together," said Renee, who was named the WSL

Manager of the Month for December. "It's a wonderful honour to represent this club as head coach and I have so much belief in what we can all achieve together.

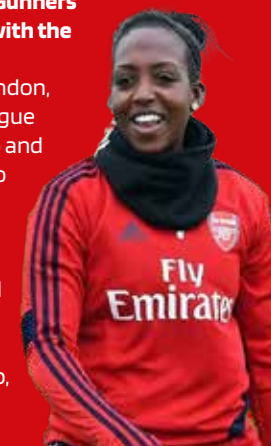
"Over the past few months, I've felt such a powerful sense of collective ownership and responsibility across our players and staff – that has been our strength and I know we will make sure we drive and nurture this feeling as we all move forward.

"It has meant the world to me to feel the

CLUB CONNECTION

Danielle Carter is an all-time Gunners great, having spent 11 years with the club from 2009 to 2020.

During her time in north London, the striker made over 100 league appearances and won FA Cup and League Cup honours. She also made her England debut in 2015, scoring a hat-trick against Estonia. After a season at Reading, 'DC' joined the Seagulls in July 2021 and made 41 WSL appearances in her two seasons with the club, netting seven league goals.



38

years ago the club was formed as Arsenal Ladies

35

honours won by legendary Arsenal coach Vic Akers OBE

15

league titles won, the most recent being in 2018/19

117

England caps won by current Gunners coach Kelly Smith

1

Champions League success, beating Umea in 2007

60,160

is a WSL attendance record, for Arsenal's win against Manchester United last February

GUNNERS IN NUMBERS

closeness and passion of our supporters during this process, and I want to thank you all for that. We want to deliver something beautiful that's inspiring and leads to winning trophies. We all have a big part to play in achieving that."

On Sunday, Slegers celebrated her first game in permanent charge with a convincing 5-0 win against strugglers Crystal Palace, thanks to goals from Leah Williamson, Beth Mead, Alessia

Russio and a brace from Caldentey.

"I'm super happy with the result," Slegers said after the match. "I'm happy with the clean sheet and five goals – a variety of goals.

"In the second half we looked more like ourselves, found better connections, positioning and speed in our attacks with better decision-making. I'm very happy with the four goals we scored in the second half."



NIKE FLIGHT 2024/25
BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



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100 NOT OUT!



Poppy Pattinson recently made her 100th WSL appearance. She talks about reaching the milestone and assesses Albion's campaign to date...

How would you describe the opening half of the season, Poppy?

The WSL table doesn't lie and we're obviously all very happy where we're sitting right now, but the season doesn't finish here – there's still a lot of work to do. There's what has always been known as the established top four and we want to be amongst that, to separate ourselves from the rest of the table.

Was it disappointing, therefore, to kick off the second half of the season with defeat at Liverpool last Friday?

It just didn't click for us. We're a possession-based team and we didn't have the ball enough to do what we wanted, and when we did it was a bit sloppy given the standards we have set. We have to learn from this moving forward and we go into tonight's game knowing that we have to perform ten times better in order to get a result. We've got a lot of fixtures coming up, and every game is a big game, so we just have to keep working hard.

There's the top four to aim for as you say, but every team seems to be pretty competitive this season...

I say this all the time; you don't know what you're going to come up against game by game in this league. Every team's tough, every

DID YOU KNOW?

While Poppy made her 100th WSL appearance against Tottenham last month, she also made her 100th career appearance against Spurs too. That came last season in the WSL game at the Amex Stadium.

team brings their challenges, but I think we're more than ready for that. Teams are also looking at Brighton now – after the way we played in the first half of the season – and know we are a tough team to play against, so they work even harder against us. We've made it harder for ourselves in that respect but that's a good thing as it shows we are making progress. We just need to play how we've played since the start of the season and hopefully keep coming out on top.

How would you assess your own performances down the left flank this season, given you have received plenty of positive comments?

It's a team game and what counts at the end of the game is the result. That's down to how the 11 players on the pitch have performed as a team unit. Personally, I go into every game wanting to beat my opponent

and those 1v1 battles are big for me. I'm happy with how I'm playing right now, I think I'm in good form, but I never want to settle for that. I want to keep getting better, keep adding to the assists and be a key player in the team.

This is your third season at the club but obviously your first under Dario. How have you found working for him?

I'd definitely say we're thriving right now. My first two seasons here you could probably say were up and down, but we've definitely found our feet this season. With Dario coming in and the staff who are working alongside him, we're very connected. There's a clear plan and the staff and players work well together. There's a great group of players here.

You recently made your 100th WSL appearance in the game against Tottenham before Christmas. That must have been a proud moment...

Yes, very proud. When I first heard about it and saw that I was close to that number, it was a bit of a surprise because all games just roll into one for me. You focus on the next game and putting in a good performance, but to reach 100 games is very special and hopefully there are many more to come.

“TO REACH 100 GAMES IS VERY SPECIAL AND HOPEFULLY THERE ARE MANY MORE TO COME”



LIVERPOOL 2 ALBION 1

SMITH 31, CARABALI OG 82
PARRIS 66

FRI 17 JANUARY 2025
WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
ST HELENS STADIUM



"IN GLIMPSES WE DID LOOK GOOD
BUT THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH OF
THOSE GLIMPSES"

DARIO VIDOSIC



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SEASON 2024/25

		KICK-OFF	TV	RESULT	REFERENCE	POS
SEPTEMBER						
Saturday 21	EVERTON	12.30pm		W4-0	L. Impey	1
Sunday 29	Manchester City	12.30pm	ALBION SPORTS	L0-1	S. Pearson	6
OCTOBER						
Wednesday 2	Birmingham City (LC)	7.00pm		W3-0	A. Fearn	-
Saturday 5	ASTON VILLA	12.30pm		W4-2	R. Atkin	2
Sunday 13	Crystal Palace	2.00pm		W1-0	K. Dowle	4
Saturday 19	MANCHESTER UNITED	12.30pm		D1-1	S. Fullicks	2
NOVEMBER						
Sunday 3	LEICESTER CITY	2.00pm		W1-0	A. Soneye	2
Friday 8	Arsenal	7.00pm		L0-5	A. Fearn	3
Saturday 16	WEST HAM UNITED	12.30pm		W4-2	L. Benn	3
Sunday 24	LEICESTER CITY (LC)	2.00pm		D0-0	J. Horwood	-
DECEMBER						
Sunday 8	Chelsea	2.00pm		L2-4	S. Pearson	5
Wednesday 11	BRISTOL CITY (LC)	7.00pm		W6-2	J. Horwood	-
Saturday 14	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	5.30pm		D1-1	L. Benn	5
JANUARY						
Friday 17	Liverpool	7.00pm	ALBION SPORTS	L1-2	M. Burgin	5
Wednesday 22	ARSENAL (LC)	7.15pm				
Sunday 26	Manchester United	6.45pm	ALBION SPORTS			
Wednesday 29	DURHAM (WFAC)	7.00pm				
FEBRUARY						
Sunday 2	CRYSTAL PALACE	2.00pm				
Sunday 16	West Ham United	3.00pm				
MARCH						
Sunday 2	CHELSEA	2.00pm				
Sunday 16	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00pm				
Sunday 23	Leicester City	3.00pm				
Sunday 30	MANCHESTER CITY	2.00pm				
APRIL						
Sunday 20	LIVERPOOL	2.00pm				
Sunday 27	Everton	2.00pm				
MAY						
Sunday 4	ARSENAL	2.00pm				
Sunday 11	Aston Villa	2.00pm				



Home fixtures in **BOLD BLUE CAPS**
 * own goal ● ● ● ● ● Used substitute
 ○ Unused substitute ● Goal scored

Maria THORISDOTTIR
 Poppy PATTINSON
 Guro BERGSVAND
 Vicky LOSADA
 Aisha MASAKA
 Pauline BREMER
 Nikita PARRIS

2 3 5 6 7 8 9

Jelena CANKOVIC
 Kiko SEIKE
 Fran KIRBY
 Jorelyn CARABALI
 Bex RAYNER
 Maisie SYMONDS
 Marisa OLISLAGERS
 Bruna VILAMALA
 Madison HALEY
 Dejana STEFANOVIC
 Marit AUE
 Hannah POULTER
 Rachel McLAUCHLAN
 Melina LOECK
 Sophie BAGGLEY
 Charlize RUIE
 Evie MILNER
 Tahirah HERON
 Michelle AGYEMANG
 Jessica PEGRAM
 Mia BALMER
 Olivia JOHNSON

10 11 14 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 25 27 28 32 33 47 48 59 60 61 63



2024/25 WSL LATEST TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
1 Chelsea	11	10	1	0	36	6	+30	31
2 ARSENAL	11	7	3	1	25	5	+20	24
3 Manchester United	11	7	3	1	20	5	+15	24
4 Manchester City	11	7	1	3	23	12	+11	22
5 BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	11	5	2	4	18	18	0	17
6 Tottenham Hotspur	11	4	2	5	16	23	-7	14
7 Liverpool	11	3	3	5	11	18	-7	12
8 Aston Villa	11	2	4	5	13	19	-6	10
9 Everton	11	2	4	5	7	17	-10	10
10 West Ham United	11	2	2	7	12	24	-12	8
11 Leicester City	11	1	3	7	3	14	-11	6
12 Crystal Palace	11	1	2	8	8	31	-23	5



Womens League Cup FIXTURES

TONIGHT

QUARTER FINAL

Brighton & Hove Albion v Arsenal

Chelsea v Durham

Manchester United v Manchester City

Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham United



2024/25 Albion ROLL CALL

	WSL		LC		FAC	
	APP	CLS	APP	CLS	APP	CLS
2 Maria Thorisdottir	6	-	-	-	-	-
3 Poppy Pattinson	10	-	3	-	-	-
5 Guro Bergsvand	11	-	3	1	-	-
6 Vicky Losada	11	-	2	-	-	-
7 Aisha Masaka	-(1)	-	-(1)	-	-	-
8 Pauline Bremer	7(2)	1	1(1)	1	-	-
9 Nikita Parris	9(2)	4	1(2)	2	-	-
10 Jelena Cankovic	4(3)	1	1(2)	-	-	-
11 Kiko Seike	7(3)	5	2	-	-	-
14 Fran Kirby	8	3	-(1)	1	-	-
16 Jorelyn Carabali	10	-	1(2)	-	-	-
17 Bex Rayner	-(2)	-	1	-	-	-
18 Maisie Symonds	2(7)	-	2	1	-	-
19 Marisa Olslagers	10(1)	1	2(1)	-	-	-
20 Bruna Vilamala	7(3)	1	2	1	-	-
21 Madison Haley	3(5)	-	2	-	-	-
22 Dejana Stefanovic	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Marit Aue	-(1)	-	1	-	-	-
25 Hannah Poulter	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Rachel McLauchlan	5(3)	1	3	1	-	-
28 Melina Loeck	-	-	3	-	-	-
32 Sophie Baggaley	11	-	-	-	-	-
33 Charlize RUIE	-	-	-	-	-	-
47 Evie Milner	-	-	-(1)	-	-	-
59 Michelle Agyemang	-(9)	1	3	1	-	-
61 Mia Balmer	-	-	-(1)	-	-	-
63 Olivia Johnson	-	-	-(1)	-	-	-



Matchday OFFICIALS

Referee: Lisa Benn

Assistant Referees:

Lorraine Catchpole & Ella Broad

Fourth Official: Joanne Horwood



Programme PRODUCTION

Head of media Paul Camillin

Publications editor Luke Nicoli

Proofreader Jade Craddock

Photographer Paul Hazlewood

Design Alchemy

Contributors Heather Miller, Bruce Talbot



ALBION

HEAD COACH: DARIO VIDOSIC

2 MARIA THORISDOTTIR
3 POPPY PATTINSON
5 GURO BERGSVAND
6 VICKY LOSADA
7 AISHA MASAKA
8 PAULINE BREMER
9 NIKITA PARRIS
10 JELENA CANKOVIC
11 KIKO SEIKE
14 FRAN KIRBY
16 JORELYN CARABALI
17 BEX RAYNER
18 MAISIE SYMONDS
19 MARISA OLISLAGERS
20 BRUNA VILAMALA
21 MADISON HALEY
22 DEJANA STEFANOVIC
23 MARIT AUJEE
27 RACHEL MCLAUCHLAN
28 MELINA LOECK
32 SOPHIE BAGGALEY
33 CHARLIZE RULE
59 MICHELLE AGYEMANG



GUNNERS

INTERIM HEAD COACH: RENEE SLEGGERS

1 MANUELA ZINSBERGER
2 EMILY FOX
3 LOTTE WUBBEN-MOY
5 LAIA CODINA
6 LEAH WILLIAMSON
7 STEPH CATLEY
8 MARIONA CALDENTY
9 BETH MEAD
10 KIM LITTLE
11 KATIE MCCABE
12 FRIDA MAANUM
13 LIA WALT
14 DAPHNE VAN DOMSELAAR
16 ROSA KAFABI
17 LINA HURTIG
19 CAITLIN FOORD
21 VICTORIA PELOVA
22 KATHRINE KUHLE
23 ALESSIA RUSSO
25 STINA BLACKSTENIUS
26 LAURA WIENROITHER
28 AMANDA ILESTEDT
32 KYRA COONEY-CROSS
40 NAOMI WILLIAMS
53 VIVIENNE LIA
56 FREYA GODFREY
60 LAILA HARBERT
62 KATIE REID

NEXT AT HOME

DURHAM

ADOBE WOMEN'S FA CUP

WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025 | 7.00PM