

ALBION **v** LEICESTER CITY

BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024 | 2.00PM

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



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DARIO VIDOSIC

Good afternoon and welcome back to Broadfield Stadium.

We face another tough opponent today in Leicester City and I'd like to welcome head coach Amandine Miquel, their players and staff. It will need another really good performance from us to get the three points.

It was a nice surprise to hear earlier in the week that I'd been named WSL Manager of the Month for October. I think it reflects the hard work everyone involved has put in, not just in October but going back to July and the start of pre-season.

And when I mean everyone, that's not just the players, but the backroom technical and medical staff, as well as all those people behind the scenes, led by Zoe Johnson, who work to support the team on a day-to-day basis in all sorts of areas at the club.

Last time out was our Amex fixture against Manchester United. It was great to have a record crowd getting behind us and, after a challenging first half, I thought we responded really strongly once we settled into the game. We were perhaps unfortunate in the end not to pick up three points, nonetheless it's another point on the board and a result we will be looking to build on today.

We then had our first international break of the season, so the training ground was pretty quiet for a few days, although we managed to get some good sessions in with the girls who didn't go away. There are always a few nerves when the girls come back, but hopefully they have all returned fit and well and ready to help us push on in the next few weeks in both league and cup.

We have already seen just how competitive the WSL is this season, with so little between the clubs. I have seen a lot of Leicester's games preparing for today and I know they have individuals who can hurt us if we're not on top of our game. We also have to be aware that it's been a hectic period, with a lot of players on international duty, so those girls on the bench today have to be ready to come on and make an impact.

Thanks again for your support. The atmosphere at our games here this season has really helped the team and I'm sure you will get behind the girls again this afternoon.



HOPE CELEBRATED ON NEW MURAL

Brighton & Hove Albion has unveiled a stunning mural in the East Stand Lower concourse of the Amex Stadium, featuring Albion's black trailblazers

The mural, the work of local illustrator and friend of the club Jamie Eke, features former women's first-team head coach Hope Powell, likewise Dave Busby, Justin Fashanu and Chris Hughton.

The artwork was the brainchild of the club's education manager Nathan Marshall and is captured superbly by Jamie in his own inimitable style.

"It was Nathan who came up with this fantastic way of celebrating Brighton & Hove Albion's black trailblazers and we

discussed who they have been over time," revealed Sarah Gould, the club's equality, diversity and inclusion manager.

"Dave was Albion's first black player, making his debut over 50 years ago now, while Justin is very much a trailblazer in his own right, given what he achieved on the pitch and, of course, by showing such bravery to come out as England's first gay professional footballer.

"Chris and Hope were our men's and women's first-team managers at the same time, and while both had a huge impact

on the pitch during their time with us, they also did so much to promote diversity in the game, not least by promoting the No Room for Racism message.

"And it's that message of educating people and showing the importance of diversity which we will also be promoting through this mural. Printed copies

will be sent to schools, with

our Foundation running sessions to help educate children through these important figures in the club's history."



WATCH STAND OR FALL AT THE AMEX

We are delighted to announce a series of showings of Stand or Fall: The Remarkable Rise of Brighton & Hove Albion at the Amex in a specially created cinema during November



This brilliant documentary, produced by Matt Lorenzo, is a story 25 years in the making and, told by Albion fans, charts the club's remarkable rise from the brink of extinction to our first season in Europe.

It's an emotional and inspiring film and includes a host of interviews with fans and iconic figures in our history, like Stuart Storer, scorer of the last goal at the Goldstone Ground, and chairman Tony Bloom.

There are spaces for 400 people at each of the seven screenings, with specialists Luna Cinema turning the Mayo Wynne Baxter Lounge into a 400-seat cinema between 14 and 17

November. This includes two showings following the WSL game against West Ham United on Saturday 16 November, and two screenings either side of the England game on Sunday 17 November.

Tickets are priced £15 for adults and £12 for under-18s and over-65s.

SCREENING TIMES

Thu 14 November: 8pm;
Fri 15 November: 5pm and 8pm;
Sat 16 November: 4pm and 7.30pm;
Sun 17 November: 3pm and 8.30pm.

To book your screening tickets, visit tickets.brightonandhovealbion.com/en-gb/categories/screenings

DUO WIN AWARDS

Congratulations to Dario Vidosic, who has been named the Women's Super League Manager of the Month for October.

The Seagulls picked up two WSL wins against Aston Villa (4-2) and Crystal Palace (1-0) last month, while a 1-1 draw against in-form Manchester United at the Amex cemented a fourth-placed position in the table.

October also saw Albion win 3-0 at Birmingham City in the Women's League Cup, helping Dario pip Chelsea's Sonia Bompastor and Manchester City's Gareth Taylor to the award.

Meanwhile, **Kiko Seike** has won the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Player of the Year 2023.

Prior to her move to Albion, the 28-year-old was a key component in Urawa Reds winning their second consecutive league title in Japan, as she scored 20 goals in 22 games.

Kiko said, "I am very happy to receive this prestigious award. I will continue to do my best for my club, the national team and to raise the value of Asian football."



WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP FIXTURES ANNOUNCED

World Rugby has announced the match schedule for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, setting the stage for six weekends of compelling competition in

what promises to be the largest celebration of women's rugby.

The Brighton & Hove Albion Stadium will stage two fixtures over the weekend of 6-7 September.

On Saturday 6 September, we host England v Australia (kick-off 5pm) in Pool A. Then on Sunday 7 September, it's reigning champions New Zealand v Ireland in Pool C (kick-off 2.45pm).

Albion's chief operating officer Paul Mullen added: "We are thrilled to be hosting the two matches, four of the world's best international rugby teams and some of the world's elite female athletes at the stadium.

"It's a huge honour for the club, the stadium and the city – and just as we saw with the football at the Euros here in 2022, the city of Brighton and Hove has a great passion for these iconic sporting events, and the people will come out to support all the teams, not least the home nation England."

Brighton & Hove Council leader Bella Sankey added: "What a fantastic result for Brighton and Hove! England, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland – we couldn't have wished for a better line-up.

"We have some incredibly talented athletes coming to the city next year and I hope these strong, positive role models will inspire many more women and girls to get involved with sport.

"The tournament is a golden opportunity to showcase our city to a worldwide audience and give all teams and fans a very, Brighton and Hove, warm welcome."



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YOUNG LIONESS SHINES



Take a bow Albion forward Michelle Agyemang, who scored her first England U23 goal in the 1-0 win against Portugal on Tuesday...

Congratulations, Michelle! How did you find your first U23 camp for these games against the Netherlands and Portugal?

International duty has been great. It's always nice to have a break from club football and play with some of the best players across the country and against other top nations too. It was a lovely experience; all of the girls have been really nice and welcoming, along with the coaches, which helped me settle into the group and get going on the pitch.

What were the main differences compared to the U19 set-up?

The 23s is a big step-up from the 19s. The speed of play is much quicker and the quality is much higher. That really helps me

challenge my decision-making as I have to be that one second quicker on and off the ball.

How did it feel to be named Player of the Match in that game against Portugal?

Getting the Player of the Match was definitely a positive way to round off the camp. The two games were both challenging in their respective ways (the Netherlands grabbing a 1-1 draw thanks to a stoppage-time equaliser), but it was a surreal moment



to be named Player of the Match. I was really delighted to help the team get a good result.

How are you finding life at the Albion following your loan move from Arsenal?

Being here has been great so far. Coming in at first was nerve-racking with the new group of girls and staff, but everyone at the club has made it so easy for me to settle in and enjoy playing football.

How do you think it's gone so far?

I think I've got off to a good start, which is a great credit to the girls and the coaches as they've helped me get up to speed with our style of play and thrive in our system. There's definitely more to come from this team. It was clear to me from the start that the squad is a really strong, tight-knit group which carries over onto the pitch. That has been evident in our performances so far.

Have you been impressed with the fans – and what was it like playing at the Amex last time out against Manchester United?

Whether we've been at home at Crawley, or the Amex, or playing away, the support from the fans has been amazing and you can feel it on the pitch. We're really fortunate to have a committed set of fans behind us all the time. Playing at the Amex was an amazing experience considering I've never played there before. The stadium had a nice feel to it and it was a great game to match the occasion. I'm definitely looking forward to playing there later this month.

The fans can really play their part in a successful season, right?

The fans definitely make their presence felt from the first to the last minute, which is so important for the team. Whether we're chasing the game or winning comfortably, knowing that the fans are behind us and supporting us all the way is a real blessing.

What have you made of the progression of the WSL?

As the league is so competitive, no game is an easy one, meaning we always have to be ready no matter what is thrown at us by the opposition. Its unpredictability makes the league so much more exciting to play in. But we know the quality we have in our team helps us go out on the pitch with confidence, no matter who we're up against on a matchday. That has helped us produce great results so far.

How have you found working with Dario?

I have enjoyed playing in his system as there is a lot of freedom for forward players – and that allows me to play my game, enjoy being free on the pitch, to get on the ball more and to showcase what I can do. I think Dario has settled in really well; he gets on well with the girls and has implemented his style of play into the team, which has been successful.



“IT WAS A SURREAL MOMENT TO BE NAMED PLAYER OF THE MATCH. I WAS REALLY DELIGHTED TO HELP THE TEAM GET A GOOD RESULT”

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Head coach Dario Vidosic was pleased with how his side reacted in the second half to earn a share of the spoils.

"It's probably a tale of two halves for us," he reflected. "We needed something a little bit different (in the second half), to be more aggressive.

"We saw that there was space in behind, so we had that threat as well. I thought we were a bit braver and we played quicker.

"We started to get into the spaces quicker and caused them numerous

issues. It's a good one to learn from."

"For the first 30 minutes we let them off the hook, we didn't play our game," added Parris. "After that I felt we dominated the game, we scored, and I thought we could go on and win the game.

"But it's a building process, and we're in a good place to kick on for the rest of the season. It was also nice to score at this amazing ground and the fans were fantastic. We need them to keep coming through the turnstiles and supporting us."

RECORD BREAKERS!

Albion broke their home attendance record for a WSL game last month when 8,369 watched our 1-1 draw against Manchester United at the Amex Stadium

With both sides looking to go top of the table with a win, it was the visitors who struck first on ten minutes when Grace Clinton poked home a Celin Bizet cross.

Buoyed by their goal, United pushed for a second, with ex-Seagull Elisabeth Terland

bringing a save out of goalkeeper Sophie Baggaley, while Clinton hit the underside of the crossbar – Baggaley doing well to foil Hinata Miyazawa on the follow-up.

Albion should have been back on level terms through sub Madison

Haley, but an equaliser did arrive on 52 minutes when another sub – Maisie Symonds – sent a thunderbolt effort goalwards.

Ex-United striker Nikita Parris then showed great reactions to steer the ball beyond Phallon Tullis-Joyce,

sparking wild scenes of celebration on and off the pitch!

In the final minutes, Fran Kirby saw a 25-yard effort kept out by the United keeper, while the alert Baggaley again foiled Terland at the other end of the pitch.





LEICESTER CITY

The Foxes have made a solid start to the new WSL campaign, with five points from their opening five games

It was all change at the King Power Stadium this summer, with Frenchwoman Amandine Miquel appointed as the club's new manager.

She arrived after spending the previous seven seasons with Reims, having led the club to the French top flight in 2019 after a 30-year absence. Miquel took the reins

from interim manager Jennifer Foster, who maintained the side's top-flight status last season with a 10th-place finish. "I am very excited for this new project," Miquel said

upon her appointment. "Right now, the WSL is one of the best leagues in the world and it's the place to be. I am very pleased that I have the opportunity to be here.

"I want to get the best out of every player and help the team climb the table. We want to make our fans proud of their team. "For any manager, the idea is to take the team to the next level. There is big potential here with this team and the club has equally ambitious objectives.

"I definitely have my own footballing philosophy. Football has to be a show, we have to be ambitious, and we want to play offensive football. It's important for everyone to have that fighting spirit."

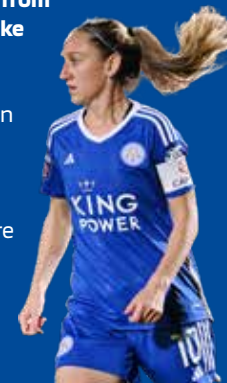
To help achieve those ambitions, defenders Asmita Ale and Sari Kees were brought in from Tottenham Hotspur and OH Leuven respectively, midfielder Ruby Mace from Manchester City, and Reims forward duo Noemie Mouchon and Shana Chossenotte.

City opened their WSL campaign with a 1-1 draw at Liverpool, with Jutta Rantala netting a second-half equaliser. Back-to-back home defeats followed against Arsenal (0-1) and Crystal Palace (0-2), leaving the

CLUB CONNECTION

Aileen Whelan joined the Seagulls from Everton in 2017 and went on to make 80 WSL appearances.

The former England U23 international moved to the Foxes in 2022 and was captain for her two campaigns there. The 33-year-old announced her retirement at the end of last season, stating: "I'm sure it's the right decision. Making the transition won't be easy, but it's something I've been working on for a while."



FOXES IN NUMBERS

20

years ago the club was formed before becoming acquired by King Power in 2020

4

clubs managed by Amadine Miquel: Bergerac, Niort, Reims and Leicester

6

championships won, the highest being the FA Women's Championship in 2020/21

3

players have appeared at the World Cup while at City: Courtney Nevin, CJ Bott and Ashleigh Plumtre

8

players have made over 50 appearances for the club, including Aileen Whelan

5

goals were scored when the two sides last met back in March, with Albion winning 3-2

side in that all-too-familiar tenth position. However, a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa preceded a first win of the season last time out against Everton. Yuka Momiki was on target after just eight minutes against the Toffees, which lifted the side to seventh in the WSL table.

"We're happy to have this first three points," Miquel said after the game. "The performance isn't quite what we want yet, so there are parts to work on, but

the overall performance with the mentality to defend was good.

"On paper we are seeing the progress, but on the pitch, the content isn't there quite yet. As I said, the mentality is there and the mindset to defend to the last second. We just need to improve how we can defend because I think we can do even better, when we're tiring. But on paper, two clean sheets is ideal. It was important to get the first win."



NIKE FLIGHT 2024/25
BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE



THE STAKES

HAVE NEVER



BEEN

HIGHER



WHERE GREATNESS LIVES

'A NEW PHILOSOPHY'

Chris Roberts was appointed as our assistant head coach in the summer. He told the matchday programme about his move to the club and his excitement at working with Dario Vidosic

First of all, Chris, how are you finding life down south?

Brighton have been very welcoming for my family and me, which is one of the most important things. I wanted to get my family settled here and the club have been great with that. Everything after that has been about football, and it's a really good group to work with, with fantastic staff. The club has a great structure around the team, and it's been really seamless for me to step in and begin coaching here. It's been an exciting start at what is the beginning of our journey.

Was it a bit of a wrench to leave Everton, your former club?

I was at Everton for a long time and I have great memories from my time there. My partner Lisa and our three young kids were all settled, but it was the right time for me to change in terms of my career. The conversation that happened with regards to my move to Brighton was so positive and extremely professional. I was very impressed with everything the club had to say. It seemed like a very good fit for me and I hope that I'm a really good fit for this club – it's definitely worked out that way so far.

How are you finding working with Dario?

Dario has been fantastic. He is very clear on how he wants the team to play and his attention to detail is fantastic. His constant level of detail is excellent and one of the real positives of what we do here. I have worked as an assistant for most of my career, it's the role that I enjoy, while Dario has been quite clear in that he wants to lead in his coaching career, so I think, naturally, we both fit into that groove really well – we've got on great since we met. I also love the way that he sees the game; it's very much in line with how I see the game which helps, so we match up really well. We've also got a great relationship with the wider staff and I think that will radiate onto the pitch in terms of our players seeing a common goal.

It's been a very good start to the season, but, as you say, this is only the start of the journey, right?

It's almost like we're all starting with a fresh slate with a lot of the new signings but also with Dario, myself and some new staff. It's a new coaching philosophy which we're implementing to the group for the very first time. It's really

positive that the club was able to bring in so many good players and hopefully that's really positive for the players who were here before to now be part of this journey together. Huge credit goes to Dario for implementing his vision so quickly; it's been a good start and we're excited to see how far we can take this group of players.

We had a record home crowd for our last game at the Amex, so have you been impressed with the fans?

The fans have been fantastic at both Broadfield and the Amex, you can really hear and feel their support. We want the fans to be on that journey

with us every step of the way and we want to display a brand of football that they enjoy watching. When they're with us, you can really feel it and it really helps the players. They've played their part already this season, especially in the home games, when we've really felt their presence.

What do you make of the WSL – is it getting stronger in your opinion?

I think this league is now one of, if not the most, competitive leagues in the world. It's attracting the best coaches, the best players, and the best support staff around the teams. I think the challenge from every team in the league is different; there are loads of different playing styles, and I respect them all. Every game is a challenge and you can't take any team for granted, which is probably the biggest strength of the league, that top can lose to the bottom.

What are your thoughts on Leicester today?

It's a very different Leicester squad to the one we saw last year. The style is completely different. We know we're going to face a team that's highly organised and very difficult to break down, with a lot of quality players that can hurt you if you allow them. We'll be prepared and we'll give them respect like we do with all our opponents. It's going to be a tough game, but we will try to get our performance right in the way that we want to play. If we can get that right, we're a match for anybody in the league on our day.

"IT'S BEEN A GOOD START AND WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE HOW FAR WE CAN TAKE THIS GROUP OF PLAYERS"



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

10	Jelena CANKOVIC
11	Kiko SEIKE
12	Fran KIRBY
13	Jorelyn CARABALI
14	Bey RAYNER
15	Maizie SYMONDS
16	Marisa OLUSLAGERS
17	Bruna VILAMALA
18	Madison WALEY
19	Dejana STEFANOVIC
20	Marit AUJE
21	Hannah POULTER
22	Rachel MCMAUCHLAN
23	Melina LOECK
24	Sophie BAGGALLY
25	Charlize BLUE
26	Michelle REYEMANG



Wendie Renard

2024/25 WSL
FIXTURES

TODAY
Manchester United v Arsenal
Crystal Palace v Manchester City
Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham United
Aston Villa v Liverpool
Everton v Chelsea



Matchday OFFICIALS

Referee: Adewunmi Soneye
Assistant Referees:
Sam Ogles & Aimee Keir
Fourth Official: Ella Broad



Programme **PRODUCTION**

Head of media Paul Camillin
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Design Alchemy
Contributors Heather Miller, Bruce Talbot



WELCOME TO TODAY'S MASCOTS

Olivia Harmsworth
Heidi Harmsworth
Hattie Waters
Lily Waters
Grace Hawkins
Joscelyn Whitehead

Lola Bonwick
Ben Palmer
Nell White
Lara White
Beau Hutchings
Athena Lopalco



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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
25 HANNAH POULTER
27 RACHEL MCLAUCHLAN
28 MELINA LOECK
32 SOPHIE BAGGALEY
33 CHARLIZE RULE
59 MICHELLE AGYEMANG



FOXES

MANAGER: AMANDINE MIQUEL

1 JANINA LEITZIG
2 COURTNEY NEVIN
3 SAM TIERNEY
4 CJ BOTT
5 SOPHIE HOWARD
6 SAORI TAKARADA
7 DEANNE ROSE
8 JUTTA RANTALA
9 LENA PETERMANN
10 NOEMIE MOUCHON
11 JANICE CAYMAN
12 ASMITA ALE
17 JULIE THIBAUD
18 EMILIA PELGANDER
19 DENNY DRAPER
20 MISSY GOODWIN
21 HANNAH CAIN
22 SARI KEES
23 LIZE KOP
27 SHANNON O'BRIEN
28 SHANA CHOSSENOTTE
29 YUKA MOMIKI
30 RUBY MACE
31 CHANTELE SWABY

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WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

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