

UEFA WOMEN'S EURO 2022 HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Exhibition content - LARGE PRINT

This document is a large-print version of the historical content that appears on the six core structures of the UEFA Women's EURO heritage exhibition. This core part of the exhibition tells the national story of women's football from 1881 to 2022. Host Cities have also created content telling their local stories which appear on an additional two structures. Local stories are not included in this document. A separate large print document describes the images contained in the core exhibition.

These exhibition structures are in-situ in: Wembley Park, Gunnersbury Park, Leigh Civic Square, Milton Keynes Station Square, Sheffield (across the city), Southampton Above Bar, Old Trafford Stadium and Trafford Wharf.

Each structure is made up of three panels. The panels carry the logo of the National Lottery Heritage Fund who have supported this project. They also have a QR code

which links through to Thefa.com/WEURO2022Heritage
where you can find filmed interviews of retired
footballers and their allies.

Exhibition structure one

Side one - UEFA Women's EURO 2022

England is proud to host the final 31 games of the UEFA European Women's Championship 2022 being played in ten stadiums across the country. Sixteen teams from across Europe are competing to win the tournament.

UEFA Women's EURO is held every four years, and this is the 13th time the tournament has taken place. The first UEFA-run event concluded in 1984 when Sweden beat England in the Final 4-3 on penalties.

England last hosted the UEFA Women's EURO in 2005, where England beat Finland 2-1 in front of a European record crowd of 29,092 at the City of Manchester Stadium. Germany beat Norway 3-1 in the Final at Ewood Park, Blackburn.

Women have enjoyed playing football for hundreds of years. This exhibition, supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrates the fascinating history of

women's football. You will meet some of the key people and events that have shaped the game we know and love today.

This summer will be a record-breaking UEFA Women's EURO with more tickets sold for the final than any other European Championship, men's or women's.

Did you know? Cuju (pronounced 'shoo-ju') was played by men and women in China from the third century BC. In Cuju's varied history there were women's teams, and female expert players such as Peng Xiyun, who juggled the ball with her feet, head knees and chest.

Side two - The first women's games

Women's football has a long history. The game as we know it has been played since the 1880s. Fans attended games between both local and international teams.

Fueling a growing rivalry between the two countries, a football match between England and Scotland took place on 7 May 1881. A crowd of about 2,000 gathered

at Hibernian FC's Easter Road ground in Edinburgh to watch Scotland win 3-0, with Lily St Clair scoring the opener. But a week later, a second game played in Glasgow, had to be abandoned when hundreds of men invaded the pitch and the players had to escape in a horse-drawn bus.

Local clubs competed against each other in matches and competitions. Madam Kenney's Famous Edinburgh Team beat Grimsby Town Ladies 1-0 on 23 April 1887 at the Thornes football field in Wakefield. Some teams were formed by women working in the factories. On 2 February 1899, a six-a-side game saw Greener's Violets win by 8-2 over Greener's Cutters. Both teams worked at the same glassworks in Sunderland.

Side three - The British Ladies' Football Club

The British Ladies Football Club (BLFC) was formed in 1895. It was one of the first women's football clubs.

The first BLFC match was held on 23 March 1895 at the Crouch End Athletic ground. Over 10,000 spectators

paid to watch the 60-minute game. The teams were divided into North v South of the Thames. The North won 7-1.

Lady Florence Dixie, a celebrity adventurer, feminist and writer, was club patron. She was one of the leading individuals calling for rights for women. Early female footballers sometimes wore high-heeled boots. Dixie insisted players wore practical clothes, including bloomers, shinpads and proper boots, so they would be free to run around.

BLFC attracted attention to the growing women's rights movement. One of the most well-known campaigns was for Votes for Women - in 1897, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was formed by Millicent Garrett Fawcett (Suffragists) and in 1903, The Women's Social and Political Union was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst (Suffragettes).

Structure two

Side one - The game grows

Women's football grew during World War One. As men went to fight, women took on traditional male roles.

Many women went to work in factories, including munitions factories where they made weapons for the soldiers. Women enjoyed informal kickabouts with their friends during breaks.

Munitions factories were dark, dirty, and dangerous for the workers. Factory welfare officers encouraged women to play football to benefit their health and wellbeing and improve morale. Many factories developed their own football teams. The Munitionettes' Cup was established in 1917. Blyth Spartans Munitionettes won the Cup, beating Bolckow, Vaughan & Co 5-0 in the final.

By 1921, there were around 150 women's football clubs. Many matches were played to raise funds for wounded soldiers, or for those suffering from trauma. Some were

played against recovering male soldiers. Matches were very popular with the public, with crowds of up to 45,000 people at major grounds.

Side two - Dick, Kerr Ladies

Some of the women's teams that developed during World War One became famous. The most well-known and successful of these is the Dick, Kerr Ladies. This superstar team was founded in 1917 at Dick, Kerr & Co Ltd, a factory in Preston.

The team was phenomenally successful, winning 746 of 800 matches between 1917 and 1965. They also produced the country's best-ever goal scorer, Lily Parr, who we think scored around 900 goals during her 30-year career.

The Dick, Kerr Ladies were very popular with fans. Former footballer and historian Gail Newsham reports that a match against St Helen's on Boxing Day 1920 at Everton's Goodison Park drew a crowd of 53,000, with thousands more locked outside. She believes it was the

largest recorded crowd for a women's game during that period.

Side three - Banned!

After the end of World War One, many factories closed. Women went back into domestic life or retrained in professions such as bus conductors and nurses. At the same time, people questioned whether football was damaging women's health. Dr Mary Scharlieb of Harley Street described it as the "*most unsuitable game, too much for a women's physical frame*".

The popularity of the women's game also threatened the income of The Football League that was expanding from two to four divisions.

On Monday 5 December 1921, The FA met at its headquarters in London. There, they ruled the game of football was "quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged". It called on clubs to refuse the use of their grounds for women's matches, meaning women were unable to access any professional grounds and

pitches. The women's game was side-lined to public parks for the next 50 years.

Structure three

Side one - The early years of the ban

Women were determined to keep playing football, despite the ban. On 10 December 1921, around 30 teams from across England met in Liverpool to formalise an English Ladies' Football Association (ELFA). This aimed "*to popularise the game among girls and to assist charity*". The idea came from Len Bridgett, Director of Stoke United Ladies F.C.

Teams competed against each other in the first and only ELFA Challenge Cup in 1922. Stoke Ladies won the tournament, beating Doncaster and Bentley Ladies in the final 3-1.

Women continued to play football, but they became increasingly overshadowed by the men's game. In 1947, Kent County Football Association suspended a referee because he was also working as manager of the Kent

Ladies Football Club. It justified its decision saying that "women's football brings the game into disrepute".

Side two - Manchester Corinthians

Despite the ban, new teams started to form. One of the most famous clubs was Manchester Corinthians Ladies Football Club. Percy Ashley, a scout for Bolton Wanderers, founded the club in 1949 so his daughter Doris, a talented footballer, could play in a team.

The Corinthians played at Fog Lane Park in Didsbury, a suburb south of the city. Players often had to clean themselves in the local duck pond after matches as there was no running water in the changing rooms.

The team were very successful, winning many domestic trophies within their first two years. As there were very few local women's teams, Ashley set up a second team, The Nomads, in 1957 so they could play against the Corinthians in charity matches.

The Corinthians competed in international competitions. In 1957, they won an unofficial women's European Championship in Germany. The team was accompanied by Manchester City's German goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann, who acted as their interpreter. More overseas trips followed, including to Portugal/Madeira, The Netherlands, South America and the Caribbean, and Morocco. They won more than 50 trophies and raised £275,000 for charity.

Side three - The Women's Football Association

The mood began to change in the 1960s as women started to campaign more for their social rights. On 1 November 1969, representatives of 44 clubs attended the first meeting of The Women's Football Association (WFA) in London.

Arthur Hobbs, a carpenter and amateur footballer, was the first Honorary Secretary of The WFA and Pat Dunn was the first Chair. In 1967, Hobbs organised a women's tournament in Deal, Kent, with the support of

local miners from Betteshanger Colliery. The Deal Tournament, played on the Colliery's playing fields, showcased and celebrated women's football. It was a pre-cursor to the Women's FA Cup, which was first played in 1971.

In 1972, Hobbs stepped down as Honorary Secretary due to ill health. He was succeeded by Patricia Gregory, who had been instrumental in setting up The WFA. Gregory founded and played for White Ribbon, a team in London who participated in the Deal Tournament. She went on to have a long career in football, serving as a member of the UEFA Women's Football Committee from 1979 to 1993.

Structure Four

Side one - Lifting the FA ban on Women's Football

The FA came under increasing pressure to lift the ban on women's football. Late in December 1969, some of The FA Committee agreed that "*ladies' football should no longer be considered to be classed as unaffiliated football*" and on 19 January 1970, The FA Council finally voted to rescind the 1921 resolution. Women could now play on grounds affiliated to the FA and registered referees could officiate women's matches.

But it was not until 1971, 50 years after the ban was put in place, when UEFA decided to take control of women's football through its member associations (then numbering 32), that things began to change. Women's football began to be revived in England and across the world. The Women's Football Association ran women's football on behalf of the FA until 1993. The WFA was run by a team of dedicated volunteers who ran women's football and had paid day-jobs.

Side two - The First Official England Match 1972

The first official England women's match took place in 1972. Fifteen players were selected for the inaugural official WFA international match against Scotland.

England won 3-2, with goals from Sylvia Gore, Lynda Hale and Jeannie Allott. The team captain was Sheila Parker, who began her football career age 13 in 1961, playing for the Dick, Kerr Ladies.

At this time opportunities for women to represent England in international competitions were still scarce. Between 1972 and 1978, there were only 25 international matches.

Before FIFA and UEFA took official control of women's football there were international competitions, sometimes with participation by UK clubs. These tournaments were very popular with spectators and helped prove that there was a large commercial market for international women's football competitions.

An unofficial World Cup was held in Italy in 1970 and in Mexico in 1971 (the final of which drew a crowd of 110,000). A squad, drawn together by the Chiltern Valley Ladies' coach Harry Batt, travelled to Mexico to play using the name The British Independents.

However, this club, which many people thought of as England, did not have the required permissions from The WFA. Subsequently players received a temporary suspension upon their return and Harry Batt was banned for life.

Side three – Inspirational Pioneers

Women's football owes a lot to pioneers of the game. Carol Thomas and Gillian Coultard are two such inspirational pioneers.

Carol Thomas: First Woman to 50 caps for England

Carol Thomas was the first woman to win 50 caps for her country. Her first cap came age 19, in 1974, when manager Tommy Tranter brought her on as a substitute in a game against France. She said: "It was absolutely

amazing just to get the letter telling me I had been selected. Then to go to England training at Crystal Palace, to pull on the shirt and sit in the dugout made me so proud, so when I actually got onto the pitch, it was my footballing dream.”

Thomas was appointed captain of the England team in 1976, weeks before her 21st birthday, and held the position until her retirement in 1985. She was awarded a BEM in the Queen's Jubilee birthday honours, June 2022.

Gillian Coultard: First Woman to 100 caps for England

In October 1997, Gillian Coultard became the first woman to reach 100 caps. She was only the fifth ever England player from the men's and women's game, and the only amateur, to achieve this milestone.

Coultard's achievement is even more impressive given that she was an amateur footballer with a full-time job

and limited access to top-flight football. She fitted in four training sessions and a match every week around her day job and used annual leave to play for England. Coultard retired in 2000 on 119 caps, a record until Rachel Yankey surpassed it in 2012.

Structure Five

Side one - International Competitions

The UEFA European Competition for Representative Women's Teams in the early 1980s was the first official major women's international football tournament. The competition was the predecessor to the Women's EURO. On the global stage, FIFA Women's World Invationals, such as the 1984 event in Chinese Taipei, led to the formation of the Women's World Cup, the first of which was hosted by China in November 1991.

The global women's game is more visible than ever before. Fans can enjoy high-profile domestic and international competitions such as The FA Women's Cup, FA Women's Super League, Olympic Games, and the FIFA Women's World Cup as well as UEFA Women's EURO. Many national newspapers in the UK now have a dedicated women's football correspondent, and the game is covered more comprehensively across the media.

Women have always enjoyed watching football, cheering on both men's and women's teams. In 2018, a Premier League survey found that 23% of match goers were women.

Side two - The UEFA Women's Champions League

In May 2000, the UEFA Women's Cup was born. It achieved immediate success, 33 teams entered, and the first final drew a then-European record crowd for women's club football of 12,000. The competition also sparked an immediate rivalry between FFC Frankfurt and Umeå IK who, between them, won every title bar two until 2008/09. One of the first global stars of the game, Marta, came to prominence playing for Umeå, while Frankfurt had the likes of Steffi Jones and Birgit Prinz, household names in Germany, among their ranks.

In 2009/10, the tournament was relaunched as the UEFA Women's Champions League, with 53 clubs competing to win the trophy. The new era brought new

champions to the fore, Olympique Lyonnais, who have taken the title seven times.

Barcelona made the news in April this year when their first leg semi-final against Wolfsburg drew a world record crowd of 91,648 at Camp Nou.

Side three - The FA Women's Super League

The FA Women's Super League (WSL) launched as a summer league in May 2011, with eight teams competing for the title. This replaced The FA Women's Premier League National Division as the highest level of women's football in England. The league became fully professional in 2017 although, prior to this, The FA offered centralised contracts to 17 England players.

Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea are the most successful teams, with Chelsea winning an impressive six titles. The top three teams each season qualify for the UEFA Women's Champions League.

The WSL has increased the visibility of women's club football across the world, attracting star players from overseas and broadcast partners in Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, New Zealand and the US.

Structure Six

Side one - UEFA Women's EURO – how it started

UEFA first investigated the status of women's football in a 1970 report and a dedicated committee was established the following year. But it was not until a decade later that a UEFA women's football conference gave the green light for a European national teams' competition.

Matches were played over two 35-minute halves. The first ever fixture took place on 18 August 1982 when Finland entertained Sweden, the visitors running out 6-0 winners. The qualifying format of four groups of four teams produced the semi-finalists for the competition. Winners of the semi-finals progressed to the final, which was played on a home-and-away basis in May 1984. After winning 1-0 in Sweden, Sweden beat England on penalties at Kenilworth Road following a 1-1 aggregate draw.

Side two - Growth and exposure

Since the first tournament in 1984, the championship has continued to grow and develop. In 1987, Norway became the first country to host a one-venue final round, with four teams taking part. The hosts defeated defending champions Sweden in the final. Home advantage also proved to be profitable two years later when the tournament was played in West Germany. Heidi Mohr emerged as one of the stars. In the same year, the competition reached a significant milestone when it was given official 'championship' status.

In 2005 the tournament was hosted in England, with a then European-record 29,092 fans watching England beat Finland 3-2 in the opening game at the City of Manchester Stadium.

The tournament had become an eight-team event in 1997, increasing to 12 teams in 2009. The last UEFA Women's EURO took place in 2017 when, for the first time, 16 teams competed for the trophy. An inspired

Netherlands side, coached by Sarina Wiegman, were carried to victory on home soil, beating Denmark 4-2 in the final.

Did you know? Germany has won the tournament more than any other country, lifting the trophy a record eight times. Following West Germany's win in 1989, the reunified German team completed another winning campaign in 1991. An undoubted powerhouse of the game, they won six titles in a row between 1995 and 2013.

Side three - Women's youth competitions

The first UEFA Under-18 event for women took place in 1997/98. Denmark beat France to take the inaugural title. In 2001/02, this became the Under-19s championship. Many countries, including Sweden, Germany, France, Spain, Russia, Italy, England and the Netherlands, have won the trophy.

In 2007/08, 10 years after the first youth competition for women, a second was launched, with the Under-17 championship. Introducing this age category brought the women's game into line with the men's, giving female footballers the same pathway into the international game.

Further steps to maximise development of young players were taken in the 2021/22 season with the introduction of a new league-style format for both competitions. The preliminary rounds include promotion and relegation, ensuring teams have something to play for throughout their participation in the event.

The youth competitions give aspiring international players the opportunity to gain a feel for tournament football. The tournaments have acted as a springboard for many future stars such as Vivianne Miedema and Stina Blackstenius. The championships also offer smaller nations, such as Lithuania and the Faroe Islands, the chance to host large footballing events.