

WOLVES V STOURBRIDGE SEAH STADIUM I SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024



🟵 | FEAR NOTHING

35

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PROGRAMME TEAM

Mike Capewell, Tony Leighton, James Orotayo, Jack Thomas, Luke Turner, Jenny Wilkes, Synaxis Design Consultancy

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Good afternoon,

It's great to welcome you back to Telford today, I'm sure you will agree that the pitch is looking fantastic. Thank you for your unwavering support again this season.

There are a few progressions this summer, which is pleasing as we continue to make improvements again this year. We have brought in some exciting players for the new season, and I know all of the staff are looking forward to working with them.

We've also made some big steps with our staffing structure too. Macca will now join us full time which allows us to expand our technical programme to include an afternoon session and increase the gym access.

Christos Christofides has also joined us full time in a Women's physio role, providing an enhanced programme in treatment and rehab. Nathan Maxfield has also stepped up to full time, giving us more emphasis on improving the physical condition of the players.

I'd like to thank all who have been working hard behind the scenes in preparation leading up to this week's fixture, and wish good luck to the team and staff for the 2024/25 season ahead. A special mention for our former captain Anna Price who we'll be honouring on the pitch today after she announced her retirement over the summer.

What an amazing leader and role model and an incredible servant to the club.

Also a special mention for our former captain Anna Price who we'll be honouring on the pitch today after she announced her retirement over the summer. What an amazing leader and role model and an incredible servant to the club.

I hope you enjoy the game.



Jenna Burke-Martin Head of Women's and Girls' Football



Good afternoon,

Welcome to the SEAH Stadium ahead of the season opener today versus Stourbridge Women. I would like to extend the welcome to Aid Clements and his backroom staff and squad. It's great to see Aid back in the game.

I am really proud to stand in the dugout today and manage my first game in a full-time football role. It is something I have dreamt of all my life and to do that at Wolves Women in front of my family and friends I am hugely proud. I cannot thank the Royal Air Force enough for the opportunity they have afforded me to go and achieve a dream.

The excitement has been building through the last few weeks with the players keen to get back to competitive fixtures in what I believe will be the strongest FA Women's National League to date. With some huge teams now operating within the division, we will have to be ready to fight and compete week after week. In further proof of how far the women's game has come, it's really exciting to be a part of it.

As you would expect the summer has seen some departures from the club. Most notably the departure of fan favourite Beth Merrick who has decided to step down to Tier Four to play her football for the coming season. Joining her in leaving were Ellie Wilson, Olivia Ferguson, Meesha Dudley-Jones and Lexie Harrison. I would like to wish all the players the utmost success in their next moves and hope they take some fond memories away from their time at Wolves.

With departures always come new faces, and we are really excited to see how they adapt to the Wolves way in the coming weeks. We have some great additions in Martha MacPhail (Aston Villa), Abi Loydon (WBA), AJ (Abbi Jenner, Birmingham City) and Charlotte Greengrass (Nottingham Forest). I am really excited to be working with these players this season, and from what we have seen in pre-season they have a lot to bring to our group this year. We may not have finished just yet regarding signings, and you may spot a familiar face or two in the crowd as we complete our last bits of business.

As ever I hope you enjoy the fixture today. After a difficult summer, hopefully we can start positively and put on a display you as fans can be proud of.

As we always have over the past few years, there will be highs and lows over the next nine months, but with your support hopefully we can continue to make more memories together. One thing I can promise is throughout the 2024/25 journey you'll see a group giving their all to represent you as fans, the city, and the football club in the right way.

Enjoy the game.

Dan McNamara Manager







"I think you can see it on the pitch. The girls are starting to flourish in the system and the style we're trying to get them to play." ~ Dan McNamara

VES 3 GOALSCORERS: George 5, Hughes 60, Greengrass 62 **VIPSWICHZ**

Sunday 11th August ^{KO}2pm

TEAM

Thomas Morphet Holmes (Hiscox 88) George J.Cross (MacPhail 84) Loydon (Banaras 74) Hughes Greengrass (Smith 66) Johnson Roberts Jenner (Fryer 74)

"Charlotte's really settled well into the group, but obviously she is a goalscorer so it's great to have her in amongst the goals straight away. Really looking forward to that partnership throughout the season."



~ Amber Hughes

CHELTENHAM Z GOALSCORERS: Lue 14, Owens 74 **V WOLVES 5** GOALSCORERS:

Elbro (Stocking 79)

Holmes (Denham 79)

Johnson (E.Cross)

Jenner (Fryer 62)

George (Hiscox 79)

Loydon (Smith 62)

J.Cross (MacPhail)

Hughes (Trialist 67)

Greengrass (Banaras 45)

Roberts

Morphet

Jenner 3, 34, George 17, Hughes 40, Greengrass 42

Sunday 4th August ^{KO}2pm

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A message from Anna Price...

After 30 years of playing for Wolves, it is time to hang up the boots.

I feel so lucky to have captained my hometown club, who I support, and I feel immensely proud of the experiences I have gained since joining as an eight-year-old girl.

Seeing the game develop like it has over my years as a player has been eye-opening. Paying subs each week, no training kit and volunteers running all aspects of the club is now a distant memory to where we are today. Playing at Molineux in front of 4,000 fans, training at the Sir Jack Hayward training ground and full-time Wolves Women staff steering the club to the next level are just snippets of the growth I have been lucky enough to witness. I appreciate how hard it was in those early days and I am so grateful to all the staff and volunteers who have pushed the club to where it is now.

I value and embrace the opportunities I have been given whilst playing for Wolves. Being asked to be a Wolves Foundation ambassador over the past three years is something that fills me with huge pride. Supporting projects in our city and helping those less fortunate is so important and something that I will continue to do. The 'Feed our Pack' campaign was astounding and I saw first-hand the real challenges people in our city face. Another moment I will always reflect on was the 'Compton to Compton' bike ride challenge where we raised £4,000 for Compton Care, a charity close to my heart.

Thank you to the school I work at for all their support. They have always allowed me to balance a full-time teacher role alongside playing football for Wolves. Being an ex-student at the school I work at is extra special. School gave me so many opportunities to play football as a young girl where other schools wouldn't have. I have done my very best to give students as many opportunities as I had, and more, to play the game I love.

I would like to thank all the coaches and managers I have been lucky enough to work with, alongside every teammate I have had the pleasure of playing with. There is nothing like the bond you have as a group of players and staff, experiencing the highs and lows and sticking together when times are tough. I have made the best of friends and Wolves has really been a second family to me, a constant throughout my life.

A special mention to the current manager, Daniel McNamara, and staff that have worked under him these last few years. We have won league titles, cup finals and played in a National League play-off final for the opportunity to compete in the Championship. These achievements show how far we've come as a club under Macca's leadership and they are memories that will live with me forever.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband, parents, stepparents and brother, alongside my other close family and friends who have supported me throughout my career. I retire as the player with the highest ever appearance record for Wolves Women and I wouldn't have played for the length of time I have without them. I am eternally grateful.

My dream is to see Wolves Women play in the Super League competing against the best teams in England. I hope I have played a part in that journey, and it is now over to the next generation of players to keep that dream alive.

Thank you so much to everyone for all their support over the years and I look forward to what is next.

Anna Price





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As we kick off the 2024/25season today it's worth looking back three decades to 1994, the most successful year in the history of Wolves Women – and we can do so with the recollections of club legend Anne Johnson (nee Blackham).

Still known as 'Fries' to a host of ex-team mates and the friends she made in a 25-year playing career, she was just a 17-year-old 'skinny kid' in her 1993/94 debut season as Wolves won promotion to the top flight for the first and only time.

The talented young left-winger, who would go on to amass a huge total of 348 Wolves appearances (a record not broken until last term by another club legend, Anna 'Perks' Price), started the campaign on the bench after joining the club from near neighbours and regional league team Dudley.

"I had a few substitute appearances," she recalls, "but then half-way through the season I broke into the starting eleven. I'd never played at that standard before and it was hard, I was a skinny kid and I was easily knocked off the ball.

"But the older players - and most of them were much older than me – were a big help and I didn't take too long to get used to the physical side of the game.

Old Gold'uns by Tony Leighton

"I can remember scoring my first goals, it was in a 2-1 win against Abbeydale Alvechurch and I got both of them. That was a thrill, especially the first goal.

"That whole season was a brilliant experience for me, especially as it ended in promotion. It was a tight finish though - Sheffield Wednesday were neck and neck with us, but we got good results home and away against them towards the end of the season and that tipped the balance in our favour.

"I ended the season thinking, 'this is easy,' but then we went up to the National Division and I soon realised it was anything but easy!"

It may have looked 'easy' on 1994/95's opening day, 4th September, when Wolves gave Millwall Lionesses a 4-1 mauling.

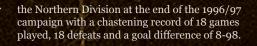
But in the following few weeks they were to suffer 'welcome to the top flight' hammerings at the hands of the era's top two teams, the eventual 94/95 champions Arsenal with a 7-1 scoreline and Doncaster Belles 6-0.

"It was really, really hard," remembers Blackham. "Teams like Arsenal, Donny Belles and Liverpool were just too good for us.

"I can remember an embarrassing moment when we played Donny. I was told to mark (England captain) Gill Coultard, to stay really tight to her.

"At one point she had to leave the field for some reason, and I followed her all the way to the touchline. When she turned round and saw me she gave me a right mouthful – very loudly! I was very coy after that as they gave us a good beating."

Wolves were to spend only two seasons in the top flight – then titled the National Division – before they were unceremoniously relegated back to



"Promotion probably came a bit too soon for us," reckons Blackham, "but what an experience it was playing against the best players and teams in the country."



Stourbridge FC Women

Stourbridge FC Women were formed in 2012, initially known as Stourbridge Ladies, and playing in the Birmingham County League Division Two. Three rapid promotions saw the Glassgirls join the West Midlands Regional League in 2016.

Mid-table finishes in the first three seasons in WMRL Division One South were followed by a stunning 2019/20 season in which the team won all 14 League matches played prior to the campaign being curtailed due to the pandemic. No fewer than 95 goals were scored and just two conceded in that campaign, and the League Cup semi-final was also reached - but never played.

The 2020/21 season saw the team win their opening three league fixtures before lockdown again brought things to an early end, but the autumn was dominated by a thrilling Women's FA Cup run, taking in six rounds. Port Vale, Wyrley, Knowle, Worcester City and Crusaders were all beaten before Wolves ended Stourbridge's run. Despite two abandoned seasons, the summer of 2021 brought good news as the FA announced a system of upward movement to offset the stagnation in the pyramid caused by the pandemic, and Stourbridge were able to apply for and be granted elevation to the WMRL Premier Division at Tier 5.

Their first campaign at that level was a phenomenally successful one, winning the league title by 10 points and suffering just one defeat all season, scoring 123 goals and conceding just eight. The Glassgirls also enjoyed huge cup success, winning the WMRL Premier Division Cup as well as reaching the semi-finals of the Birmingham County Cup for the first time, and the third round of the Women's FA Cup, losing 0-3 at home to FA Women's Championship (Tier 2) side Sheffield United in front of a record crowd of over 400 at the War Memorial Ground.

A second consecutive promotion meant that 2022/23 would see FA Women's National League football for the first time in the club's history, a remarkable achievement in such a short timespan, with the team also rebranded as Stourbridge Women ahead of their fresh challenge.

Whilst ambitions at the start of the campaign were understated, the Glassgirls once again took almost everyone by surprise, brushing aside an opening day defeat to go on a 19-match winning run, securing the Division One Midlands title with two games to spare. Cup competitions brought more success as they went on to reach the finals of both the FA WNL Plate and Birmingham County Cup.

Last season was Stourbridge's first as a Tier 3 club, and started with a heavy defeat as they struggled initially to adjust to the higher level. But they soon grabbed a few points and a big home win over local rivals West Bromwich Albion, eventually securing a position of safety despite going winless in their final to league fixtures.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 2023/24

				н	ом	E			A	WA	Y			тот	AL			
Pos	Team	Р	w	D	L	F	Α	w	D	L	FΑ	w	D	L	F	Α	GD	PTS
1	Newcastle United	22	9	1	1	48	8	10	1	0	31 3	19	2	1	79	11	68	59
2	Burnley	22	8	1	2	31	12	7	2	2	23 9	15	3	4	54	21	33	48
3	Nottingham Forest	22	9	0	2	30	6	6	2	3	29 15	15	2	5	59	21	38	47
4	Wolverhampton Wanderers	22	8	1	2	35	11	6	1	4	23 13	14	2	6	58	24	34	44
5	Stoke City	22	7	1	3	26	18	3	3	5	15 19	10	4	8	41	37	4	34
6	Halifax	22	7	2	2	21	13	1	5	5	13 26	8	7	7	34	39	-5	31
7	Derby County	22	4	2	5	17	17	5	0	6	24 17	9	2	11	41	34	7	29
8	Liverpool Feds	22	4	4	3	17	18	3	2	6	18 30	7	6	9	35	48	-13	27
9	West Bromwich Albion	22	6	1	4	18	17	2	1	8	11 25	8	2	12	29	42	-13	26
10	Stourbridge	22	3	1	7	18	39	1	3	7	11 36	4	4	14	29	75	-46	16
11	Huddersfield Town	22	2	3	6	12	26	0	0	11	8 39	2	3	17	20	65	-45	9
12	AFC Fylde	22	1	3	7	9	31	0	0	11	10 50	1	3	18	19	81	-62	6

PLAYER STATS 2024/25

#	Name	League		WFA Cup		Lge Cup		всс		2024-25		Wolves Total	
		apps	gls	apps	gls	apps	gls	apps	gls	apps	gls	apps	gls
1	Maddie Elbro											25	0
3	Anna Morphet											141	47
4	Summer Holmes											82	3
5	Emma Cross											249	3
7	Tammi George											137	41
8	Merrick Will											23	1
9	Jade Cross											265	169
10	Abi Loydon											0	0
11	Amber Hughes											78	67
12	Charlotte Greengrass											0	0
13	Bec Thomas											105	0
14	Martha MacPhail											0	0
15	Layla Banaras											10	0
17	Katie Johnson											70	8
18	Hannah Fryer											23	1
20	Ania Denham											8	1
21	Destiney Toussaint											45	24
22	Beth Roberts											43	5
23	Josie Smith											8	0
25	Amelia Hiscox											1	0
27	Abbi Jenner											0	0
31	Skye Owen											4	0
	-												

And in Other News...

Welcome to new signings Abi Loydon, Charlotte Greengrass and Marty MacPhail who have all joined the Wolves Women ranks this summer, along with Abbi Jenner on loan from Birmingham City.

Layla Banaras is back for another season, dual registered with Blues Pro Game Academy, while Ania Denham, Josie Smith and Skye Owen return from their loan spells at Sporting Khalsa.

Maddie Elbro returns to her childhood club after completing a soccer scholarship in the United States, and Amelia Hiscox has progressed through the ranks to the first team.

It's been a busy summer for Wolves Women players, with several involved in the kit launches for both the new home and away SUDU kits.

Meanwhile Destiney Toussaint joined the men's team on their pre-season visit to the USA, taking part in soccer schools, a kick-about with Steve Bull, and a fan meet up as part of the JD Sports away kit launch.



Congratulations to our Under 16s side who travelled to Northern Ireland over the summer to take part in the Northern Ireland Super Cup tournament. It was a great experience for the young side who acquitted themselves well in games against Galway United, Shelbourne, Athlone Town, Northern Ireland and Surf Select and also enjoyed a visit to the Titanic Experience in Belfast.

Upcoming fixtures

We have drawn Stoke City at home in the determining round of the FA WNL Cup. The game will be played here at the SEAH Stadium on Wednesday 28th August with a 7.45pm kick-off.

Anna Morphet

at the home kit

launch shoot



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Destiney Toussaint in the USA

FAWNL TEAM Home fixture 1st sub Name Own goal 2024/25 Adobe WFA Cup 2nd sub Team Away fixture Yellow card 3rd sub Goal scored Red card League Cup 🐨 | FEAR NOTHING B'ham Challenge Cup 4th sub Penalty scored

DATE OPPOSITION RES/KO POS ATT REFEREE	SUBSTITUTES
AUGUST	
18 STOURBRIDGE	
25 Derby County	
28 STOKE CITY	
(LgCup Determining Round)	
SEPTEMBER	
1 NOTTINGHAM FOREST	
8 Burnley	
15 HULL CITY 22 Stoke City	
22 Stoke City 25 Sporting Khalsa	
2.5 Sporting Kilulou	
OCTOBER	
6 RUGBY BOROUGH	
13 West Bromwich Albion	
27 HALIFAX	
NOVEMBER	
10 Liverpool Feds 17 Stourbridge	
17 Stoubhage	
DECEMBER	
15 DERBY COUNTY	
JANUARY	
5 Nottingham Forest	
12 BURNLEY	
FEBRUARY	
2 Rugby Borough	
12 SPORTING KHALSA	
23 STOKE CITY	
MARCH	
9 Hull City	
23 WEST BROMWICH ALBION	
APRIL	
13 Halifax	
27 LIVERPOOL FEDS	



Fixtures correct at time of going to print.

To see our fixtures please scan the QR code or visit **wolves.co.uk/fixtures/womens-first-team**

Admission to Wolves Women league games at SEAH Stadium is free for Wolves and Telford United season ticket holders.

For non-season ticket holders, tickets can be purchased online in advance from the Telford United website for a reduced price of £5 for adults, £4 for concessions and £1 for 3-16s. Payment is also accepted on the gate via card or cash with admission costing £6 for adults and £5 for concessions.

Thank you for your support.



SEAH STADIUM SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2024

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WOLVES

1	Maddie Elbro
3	Anna Morphet
4	Summer Holmes
5	Emma Cross
7	Tammi George
8	Merrick Will
9	Jade Cross
10	Abi Loydon
11	Amber Hughes
12	Charlotte Greengrass
13	Bec Thomas
14	Martha MacPhail
15	Layla Banaras
17	Katie Johnson
18	Hannah Fryer
20	Ania Denham
21	Destiney Toussaint
22	Beth Roberts
23	Josie Smith
25	Amelia Hiscox
27	Abbi Jenner
31	Skye Owen

STOURBRIDGE

Chyna Mcintosh	
Daisy Clements	
Demi Phillips	
Erin Griffiths	
Grace Rogers	
Gwen Horgan	
Harriet Grimshaw	
Jessica Hood	
Jessica Beddall	
Jessica Howard	
Leonie Joyce	
Lizzie Bennett-Steele	
Megan Hadley	
Olivia Ashfield	
Pharyn Ashton	
Phoebe Hill	
Rosie Embley	
Seanna McCann	
Sinead Fletcher	
Thea Clearkin	
Tilly Fantom	
Millie Rogers	



MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Sam Anderson | Assistant referees: Ryan Dobson, Stuart Parker

NEXT UP AT SEAH STADIUM

Stoke City Wednesday 28th August 2024, 7.45pm | FA WNL Cup



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