

FA Women's Premier League

# Leeds United Ladies v Watford Ladies

Sunday 21 August 2011, 2pm

Throstle Nest, Farsley AFC  
Matchday Programme £1



# RINGWAYS

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**Formed in 1989, Leeds United Ladies has been one of the country's top women's sides for most of the last decade.**

After seven years playing in the Yorkshire & Humberside league, the season 1997/98 saw the first team gain promotion to the AXA FA Northern Premier League. After consolidating and adjusting to National league football for a couple of seasons they then achieved promotion as champions of the Northern Premier League, the same season also saw them play in the semi finals of the Women's FA Cup for the first time. They then gained promotion in 2001/02 to the FA National League where they finished a very credible fourth.

2003/04 saw the team once again in fourth place, and the highest placed team outside London. In 2004/05 the team finished fifth, while 2005/06 saw the team achieve its first appearance in the Women's FA Cup final.

2006/07 was an up and down season with Leeds topping the table over the Christmas period and getting through to the Premier League Cup Final, when they narrowly lost 1-0 in the 90th minute against Arsenal and eventually finished fifth in the league.

Over the summer of 2007 the youth teams amalgamated with the Leeds United Girls Centre of Excellence to form one organisation feeding into the open age team.

The club had several members of the first squad who had progressed through from the youth teams, including England regulars Gemma Bonner and Jess Clarke, Sophie Walton, Olivia Thackray and Mel Sutcliffe.

Rick Passmoor was appointed Manager in July 2007, and brought in new signings including Steph Houghton, Carly Telford, Katie Holtham and Jade Moore, while the partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University brought in players such as Emma Higgins from Northern Ireland.

In 2008, Carla Cantrell and Ellen White arrived, while the summer of 2009 saw the arrival of Nat Staneff, Laura Bassett and Remi Allen.

The blend of home-grown talent with regular England internationals saw the club have its most successful period ever. As well as the Premier League Cup win against Everton in 2010, and a second FA Cup Final appearance in 2008, the club was made Club of the Year in the 2010 Leeds Sports Federation Awards and finished fourth, just three points and a few goals away from Europe. Rick Passmoor deservedly collected the Premier League Manager of the Season award from the FA.

But the successes of 2009-10 came against the backdrop of the end of the partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University, the club having its funding and Super League application withdrawn in January 2010, just two weeks before that Premier League Cup Final win.

In July 2010, the club re-adopted the Leeds United Ladies name when it was taken under the wing of the Leeds United Foundation, but is now independently funded by local businesses and people - such as our Chairman, Steve Russell - with a genuine interest in women's football. Reserves manager Gemma Grainger stepped up to run the first team, but with results going against the club Rick Passmoor came back for the second half of a difficult transitional season.

Despite having a young and inexperienced squad, the club eventually finished fourth in the eight-team league and won the County Cup for the sixth time in the past ten years.

One of the people Rick brought to the bench was former coach Chris Welburn, and in the summer of 2011 he was appointed manager. His work in building up the squad and taking it to greater heights has already begun, with key signings in Sarah Danby, Emma Johnson, Billie Murphy, Amy Turner and Vanessa Leat - and more to follow.

## Major Honours

### FA Women's Premier League Northern Division

*Champions 2000-01*

### FA Women's Cup

*Runners-up 2005-06*

*Runners-up 2007-08*

### FA Women's Premier League Cup

*Champions 2009-10*

*Runners-up 2006-07*

### FA Women's Reserves Premier League Cup

*Runners-up 2008-09*

### West Riding County Cup

*Champions 2007-08, 2008-09, 2010-11*

## CLUB CONTACTS

**Chris Welburn**, Manager  
**Steve Russell**, Chairman  
 - contact either via the Secretary

**Gill Handley**, Secretary  
 gill.handley@ringways.co.uk  
 0113 399 7325 (day)  
 0771 981 5540 (evenings & weekends)

**Gary Taylor**, General Manager/Media  
 media@leedsunitedladies.com  
 0113 347 4849 (all times)

Postal address  
 Leeds United Ladies FC  
 c/o Ringways Motor Group  
 Whitehall Road, Leeds, LS12 5NL



**Firstly may I welcome officials, spectators and players from Watford LFC for our opening game of the 2011/2012 season.**

Here we are at the beginning of another season playing within the FA Women's Premier League and it only seems like yesterday that I was joining the club in 2005 as a member of the coaching staff. A lot has changed since then and 6 years on I was appointed Manager in June 2011.

Since my appointment, I have worked with the players and staff to put our plans in place for the new season and that started initially with recruitment.

During the summer the club has seen a number of players come and join us and also a few depart. On those who left the club, I wish Lou Hunt, Chloe Foster, Letesha Cannonier and Jade Pennock all the best with their next steps in their personal and footballing lives.

Regarding those who have come to be a part of our new squad, I am really pleased to have attracted some quality new

signings and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing them fit into our group with ease and help bring further competition for places.

Billie Murphy has joined us from Arsenal, Vanessa Holmes and Emma Johnson have come from Blackburn, Sarah Danby from Manchester City and Amy Turner from Doncaster Belles. I have also added a dual signed player to the squad in the shape of forward Millie Bright who is currently contracted with FAWSL side Doncaster Belles and has signed for us. I certainly believe we have strengthened the squad and look a stronger squad for this coming season.

So onto today, the first game of a new season is always a tricky one with all teams wanting to get off to a flyer, Leeds are no different and we will be working hard to secure the 3 points, although we will have to show the kind of commitment and application we have produced

in pre-season to take anything from a Watford team who have talented individuals and are a team that will want to make their own impression on the FAWPL from the outset.

I hope you enjoy the game today and you continue to support Leeds United Ladies through the 'ups and downs' as we go through this campaign.

**Enjoy the game,  
Chris**



*Front cover: Captain Clare Sykes takes on Leicester City Women.*

# Player profiles

## 1. Jules Draycott

Goalkeeper

Born 15 Jul 1992

Jules stepped into the first team having helped the reserves retain both league and county cup titles in 2008-09. She has represented England at Under-17 level, including at the World Cup in 2008 and is a Centre of Excellence graduate.



## 2. Emma Coates

Defender

Born 29 April 1991

Emma is another Leeds player who came through from the reserves. Sadly she spent most of the last 12 months recovering from an injury but she's now working her way back into contention.



## 3. Stacey Emmonds

Defender

Born 28 Nov 1986

Stacey is one of the many graduates from Leeds United who move away to gain experience elsewhere, and has already made that experience count since rejoining Leeds last summer. Her season was curtailed by injury but she is once again back in contention.



## 4. Hayley Sharp

Defender

Born: 12 Nov 1990

Hayley is another 'prodigal daughter', part of the winning reserves side in 2007-08 and who made a big impact last season.



## 5. Faye Birkby

Defender

Born 30 Nov 1992

Faye was one of the breakthrough players from the 2009-2010 season's reserves side, when she was voted Reserves Player of the Year.



## 6. Jess Round

Midfielder

Born 18 Feb 1994

Jess joined Leeds at the start of last season after a short time at Sunderland. A graduate from Middlesbrough Centre of Excellence, she has been involved with England at Under 15 and Under 17 levels.



## 7. Emma Lipman

Midfielder

Born 23 February 1989

Emma signed towards the end of 2010 from cross-city rivals Vixens. and has quickly settled in to the heart of the Leeds back four or midfield.



## 8. Clare Sykes - Captain

Midfielder

Born 14 Dec 1984

Captain Clare also joined Leeds in the summer of 2010, and brings experience to the central midfield and, when needed, into the back four.



## 9. Carey Huegett

Forward

Born 23 Jul 1991

'Kez' joined the Centre of Excellence at the age of 8, eventually joining the successful reserves side when only 15 years old. A stylish and skilful player, Kez was a key member of the reserves league and County Cup-winning teams of 2007-08 and 2008-09.



## 10. Tanya Rich

Forward

Born 5 Dec 1984

Last season's top scorer, Tanya came through the ranks at Leeds and was a member of the all-conquering reserves team in 2007-08 before leaving to gain experience elsewhere. She has now revived her partnership with Huegett at the front of the Leeds formation.



## 11. Leah Galton

Midfielder

Born 24 May 1994

Leah is the youngest member of the squad, but still has a wealth of footballing experience under her belt, having become an England regular while still at Leeds Girl's Centre of Excellence.



## 12. Bekki Bass

Midfielder

Born 16 May 1994

Bekki was one of three 16 year olds who joined the squad last year, having graduated from North Yorkshire's Centre of Excellence.



## 14. Sarah Danby

Midfielder

Born 7 April 1991

A tricky left winger who joined Leeds from Manchester City in the summer of 2011. A former Sunderland WFC Player, Sarah will be another good addition to the squad. Sarah studies at Leeds Metropolitan University and has represented England Universities in 2010 and also Great Britain at the World University Games in China in 2011.



## 15. Vanessa Holmes

Defender

Born 29 September 1984

Vanessa was another of Chris Welburn's first signings in July 2011. She brings with her a wealth of Premier League experience, having played top-flight football for most of her career.



## 16. Emma Johnson

Midfielder

Born 12 October 1991

Emma was one of Chris Welburn's first signings in July 2011. A fast and pacy forward, she can play in a number of different positions, across the back, up front and in midfield.



## 17. Amy Turner

Defender

Born 4 July 1991

Amy joined Leeds in August 2011 from Super League side Doncaster Rovers Belles, before which she had played in the US while a student at Hofstra University. She has been involved with the England U15 and U17 squads and will now be looking to continue her development while now playing at a higher level.



## 18. Billie Murphy

Defender

27 January 1993

Billie is a summer signing for Leeds, having previously played for and captained Arsenal Ladies Reserves.



## 19. Millie Bright

Born 21 August 1993

Millie joins Leeds from Doncaster Rovers Belles as one of two dual signings. a strong, athletic forward who is dual signed with ourselves and FAWSL side Doncaster Belles. A product of the Sheffield United COFEX, Millie will be looking to make an impact with us over the next couple of months.



## 21. Nat Staneff

Defender

Born 22 October 1983

Nat signed in 2009 from Nottingham Forest Ladies, where she had played while studying at Loughborough University. A talented, hard-working player, but still with a desire to learn more, Nat brings a wealth of experience to the Leeds defence.



# Sponsorship

## Can you help us get every player sponsored this season?

If the full squad of 20 is sponsored, the club will raise £3,000 towards travel and training facilities as the club competes on four fronts; Premier League, Premier League Cup, FA Cup and County Cup.

Individuals, groups or local businesses are all eligible to sponsor a player, and the benefits include free tickets to every home league and cup game during the season, as well as promotion in the club's matchday programme and the club's web site.

"Player sponsorship is an important source of funds for any club," said Chairman Steve Russell, "and Leeds United Ladies is no exception. By raising sponsorship for players, we can give them the best chance to train and prepare before games, which means that they have the best chance to win those games."

Contact Gill Handley, Secretary, if you would like to sponsor one of our players.

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Clare Sykes	Paul & Diane Cusworth	Scotton Scorchers
Leah Galton	Rilwood Associates	

## SPONSORSHIP DEALS

### Player Sponsorship

What benefits are there for YOU?

- Company branding in every match day programme and on the club's web site.
- A personal 'Thank You' letter from your player.
- Commemorative, signed photo of you with your player.
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- 2 free tickets and programmes for every home league game.
- Invitation to the end-of-season Presentation Evening.

Only £150 - contact the club for more details.

### Community Club Partnership

What benefits are there for YOUR CLUB?

- A visit from a National Premier League player to your club
- Your chosen player's shirt presented to your club at the end of the season
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- Invitation for one of your teams to come and meet the players
- Invitation for one of your teams to be ball girls at a home game (max 12 players)
- Signed first team photo and signed photo of your chosen player
- Tickets at any cup final Leeds United Ladies participate in

Contact the club for more details and pricing.

[www.leedsunitedladies.com](http://www.leedsunitedladies.com)

# Comings and goings



Leeds United Ladies head into the new season bolstered by the recent signing of new players.

Emma Johnson and Vanessa Leat join from Blackburn Rovers Ladies, Sarah Danby from Manchester City Ladies and Billie Murphy from Arsenal.

Amy Turner also joins from FA Women's Super League side

Doncaster Rovers Belles, while Millie Bright and Carmel Bennett will dual sign from Belles and Liverpool Ladies respectively

"I wanted to play for Leeds as it's a big, ambitious club," said Billie, who captained Arsenal Ladies Reserves last season. "I feel that by moving to Leeds my football will improve greatly and I will be able to progress in my career by competing for a place in a good team."

Leaving the club are Jade Pennock and Letesha Cannonier, who have both moved to the US; Chloe Foster, who has returned to Nottingham

Forest Ladies; Rachel Lee who has moved away to study; and Lou Hunt, who is taking time away from the game.

"I'm delighted to have been able to add all five players to the squad," said Leeds manager Chris Welburn. "They bring a mixture of youth and experience at different levels, and I'm looking forward to working with them, as are the rest of the team. The players who have left go with our best wishes; last season was tough as we found our feet in a new situation, and we thank them for everything they did while with us."

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# Last season in review

Ah, last season. We remember it well. But in case you've had a memory lapse since the end of April, here's what you missed. *Words by Jamie Gillham.*

From the previous season's cup-winning squad only Nat Staneff remained as a permanent member of the 2010-11 squad but despite the loss of so many talented home-grown players to the nascent Women's Super League, the squad that travelled to Millwall for the opening league fixture offered hope that despite all the close season difficulties, a successful season lay ahead.

Based on an eclectic mix of talented young players from last season's successful reserve side and the Girls Centre of Excellence, the club had supplemented the squad with experienced leaders such as Clare Sykes and Stacey Emmonds, both of whom had returned home to Yorkshire following successful playing careers in America. The club also managed to secure the loan services of Super League-bound Gemma Bonner, Sophie Walton and Kay Hawke, standing in for the injured Jules Draycott.

The opening game proved to be a welcome shot in the arm for everyone, two goals from striker Carey Huegett enough to see Leeds come away with a moral-boosting 2-1 win. The delight within the squad was evident, as Gemma Bonner said after



Photo: Colin Shorrocks

the game, "It was a really tough game but a great start to the season. Everyone played their part in what was a vital 3 points to get us on the board, and I'm sure there were a few surprised faces in women's football, but not for us!"

Leeds went on to follow up the win with a pair of hard fought draws. Starting the defence of the Premier League Cup was a terrific draw away from home against a strong Sunderland side, followed by a 1-1 result against Barnet, a game which saw new recruit Chloe Foster score her first goal for the club.

Sadly, it couldn't last. The first defeat of the season came in late September as an away trip to Blackburn saw Leeds lose 2-0,

and signalled the start of what would become a difficult autumn. A 3-1 loss at Sunderland followed in the league which in turn was followed by a very disappointing 1-0 home defeat to Nottingham Forest.

Following a comprehensive 4-1 win against Newcastle in the League Cup's second group game Leeds entered the final game needing a win against local rivals Leeds City Vixens to ensure qualification, which duly came through a 3-1 victory and goals from Carey Huegett, Jade Pennock and Hayley Sharp

Yet, Leeds were unable to establish any momentum as their defence of the trophy came to an end with a heartbreaking extra time away defeat to Sunderland.

The defeat was tough to take as Leeds battled bravely in harsh weather against the table-topping Wearsiders, before conceding two extra-time goals to lose 3-1. It was a bitter bill for the squad to endure but as Nat Staneff pointed out, the players were still completely committed to the cause, "Although we've had two losses in the last two weeks, we are growing as a team each week and looked more threatening in attack against Sunderland. I think we are due a win and a good one at that! It seems we could just do with a little bit of luck – it appears it's our opponents that get it!"

Buoyed by a well-earned point at home to Millwall in their next game, Leeds went on to prove their captain right and record their first league victory since the opening day with a well earned 2-1 win away at Reading. But any momentum gained from the victory was lost when some wicked winter weather robbed the club of all of its Christmas fixtures. Indeed it was nearly a full month before Leeds could play again as they resumed their league campaign with a trip to struggling Nottingham Forest. But the start of the New Year proved as disappointing as the

end to the previous year as Leeds went down to a 2-1 defeat. The result left Leeds facing the reality that they were now heavily involved in a five team scrap for their Premier League survival, and with only two wins and eight league points from a possible twenty four the club announced that they and manager Gemma Grainger had agreed to part ways. Rick Passmoor re-took the helm, with a mandate to improve results and ensure the club stayed in the FA Premier League. Passmoor's first game in charge came only three days after his appointment as Leeds entertained Reading at Throstle Nest. The switch in manager brought about a change in formation from 4-3-3 to a more traditional 4-4-2. The move proved to be a masterstroke as goals from Tanya Rich, Leah Galton and Carey Huegett helped Leeds to register an emphatic 3-0 win. Speaking after the game Passmoor was quick to credit his players, "Considering the girls don't really know me and I don't know them it was a very professional performance," he said. "They all did their jobs well. I couldn't pick out a stand-out performer, they were all terrific." Leeds followed that win with another comprehensive 3-0 win

away at Watford. Goals from Jess Round, Chloe Foster and Tanya Rich were enough to help Leeds record back to back league wins for the first time this season and helped Leeds move up a crowded league table.

A pair of home games against Blackburn then followed. Firstly Leeds suffered a heartbreaking penalty shootout defeat to go out of this seasons FA Cup before gaining a measure of revenge with a crucial 3-1 league win. The win helped Leeds continue their recent league momentum and ensured the club maintained its 100% league record under Passmoor. Speaking after the game, the new boss was in doubt as to who was responsible, "In the three League games since I returned we've got nine points, scored nine goals and only conceded one. It's all down to the fantastic attitude of the players. Even the girls that didn't play today have played a significant role in this win. I can't give the squad enough credit for the attitude they've shown since I started working with them."

With three games remaining it appeared that Leeds would need at least one more victory from their final three games to ensure

*(continues on page 13)*

# Today's opponents

## WATFORD LADIES F.C. in its present form is the result of a merger between Watford Ladies F.C and Watford Town Girls F.C.

Watford Ladies F.C. was formed in 1970, following a number of letters received by Watford F.C. to start a ladies football team from within the supporters club. Whereupon Committee member Doug Hewish agreed to get things started and advertisements were circulated for any interested players to attend a meeting.

The first meeting took place at Watford Fields Junior School and over 40 girls attended. It was agreed trials would be held at Cassiobury Park, which brought forth a team of 18 players, to be managed by Doug Hewish, and trained by John Williams and Mike Walker.

Originally, the club was known as the Supporters Club Ladies Team, but later became known as "Willy Walker Wonders" after the 2 coaches. Following the departure of John Williams, the name changed again to "Walkers Watford Wonders", and after Mike Walker's departure, to its present name, Watford Ladies F.C. The club performed extremely well in its formative years, and was fortunate to exist during the early years of organised ladies league football.

In 2006 Sian Williams, the former Arsenal, Charlton and England player was appointed as Manager, who along with Coach Matt Ward took the team to new heights by gaining promotion to the FA Nationwide Women's Premier League - National Division, having won the Southern Division title by 10 points and only losing three games all season.

The club was awarded Charter Standard Club status in 2004 and has continued its growth to provide football for girls of all ages from 6 upwards. In 2006 a link was established with Watford FC through its Community, Sports and Education Trust. A partnership agreement was signed by both clubs giving Watford Ladies their first support from the men's club since the 1970's. The club runs

10 teams from its juniors in Herts Girls Football Partnership League, Home Counties and Greater London Women's Leagues right up to the Women's Premier League. In November 2009 the club said farewell to Sian and Craig Rydeheard took on the task of managing the First team to the end of that season. The team is now managed by Neil Hart, currently starting his 2nd season in charge. Watford Ladies FC is proud to be a true grass roots football club run by volunteers. For more info see our web site: [www.watfordladiesfc.com](http://www.watfordladiesfc.com)

### Players

#### Brooke Nunn (Midfield)

Brooke joins from Arsenal where she was played for the Academy, Reserves and First teams. A midfielder with close control and great ability on the ball, Brooke has previously represented England at U17 level. Looking to now establish herself within the ranks of the Golden Girls, Brooke's creative flair could be very important during the coming season.

#### Cally Rowell (Midfield)

Cally joined the club at the beginning of last season after a number of years at the Arsenal Academy and within their Reserve Team set up. Cally can play at full back but is more at home in midfield, particularly in an advanced role where her passing and creative qualities can be shown. She started last season strongly but then a knee injury cruelly cut her season short. She is battling her way back to fitness and it won't be long before she is putting serious pressure on those in the First Team for her place.

#### Chloe Gunn (Midfield)

Chloe is just starting her third season in the Watford senior set up after graduating from the Centre Of Excellence at the beginning of the 2009/10 season. "Gunny" is a versatile

player who is equally at home in midfield as she is at full back. She is tough competitor, a ball winner and she likes to drive forward with the ball. She was a member of the side that won the Herts County Cup in 2010. She has had a number of first team opportunities over the last two seasons and will be looking to add more this season.

#### Cori Daniels (Defence) - captain

The current captain of Watford Ladies Football Club, Cori is a commanding defender with a wealth of experience in the Women's Premier League. As a youngster Cori came through the youth system at Arsenal before she joined the Golden Girls ranks. In the 2011-12 squad, no member has served longer in the club and this is testament to the positive impact she continues to have on the group. A good leader and intelligent player.

#### Emma Sherwood (Forward)

Emma signs for the 2011-12 season from Chelsea, where she has played since the age of 14. Having played two seasons in their U16s she then made the transition into the senior squad. A striker, Emma has a great understanding of the game and her clever runs allow her to expose any gaps in opposition defenses. A great start at Watford saw her grab a brace in second game in Watford colours. During her time in Chelsea's Reserves, Emma won the County Cup and during her two seasons with the under 16s won the Dana Cup in Denmark and the Reserve League.

#### Faye Marsh (Defence)

A natural leader on and off the pitch, Marsh plys her trade in Central Defence. Formerly of Arsenal, the defender was unfortunately ruled out for much of the previous campaign. However, now fully fit and raring to go Faye has regained her place in the GB Universities squad and will play in her second World

Student Games in China. A tough tackling defender who has shown fantastic attitude and determination of late.

#### Georgia Mays (Defence)

Georgia enters her second season with the senior teams having graduated from the Girls Centre of Football Excellence. She is a current Female Academy player who plays in defense, mostly at full back. Georgia had an exceptional season during the previous year which has seen her in contention to challenge for opportunities within the First Team. Her great strength is her ability to read the game and anticipate opponent's moves, often intercepting or making important tackles. Georgia has a huge amount of potential and as such is currently on stand by for England U19s.

#### Holly Miles (Defence / Midfield)

Holly joined the club at the beginning of the 2008/09 season from Bath after

being picked up from the summer trials. Holly is now one of the senior members of the First Team and has been an outstanding servant for the club over the last few years. She is a hard working and combative midfielder who can play centrally or out wide and she possesses a good range of passing as well as a stinging shot, which has seen her score some top drawer goals for the club. Holly has great fitness and will always fight for her place in the side, something which will continue for this season.

#### Josie Green (Midfield)

Josie is extremely experienced player considering she is still only 18 years old. Having played in the Womens Premier League, Josie can also claim to International Honours playing for Wales at U17, U19 and Senior levels. Often playing either in centre midfield or at full back Josie has great ability and vision on the ball and breaks up play well. A great deal of potential.

#### Kate Natkiel (Midfield / Forward)

'Natters' finished the 2010-11 in fine style scoring important goals against West Ham and Cardiff City in an exceptional run in by the Reserve team. Kate is a forward, who is equally at home playing on the right of midfield. She possesses good technical and shooting ability and has shown exceptional commitment to work on a number of other aspects of her game. Having been involved with the First team, Kate will look to start the new season as she left the previous and earn a place within Neil Hart's squad.

#### Katie Owen (Midfield)

A former player of Chelsea, Kate is a tough tackling midfielder who also possesses good ability in the air. Having represented England at youth level, Kate is now looking to build on the experience she has gained thus far in the Womens Premier League. An interesting fact about Kate is that she actually knocked

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# Watford's players

Watford out of the FA Cup, aged 15, with a last minute winner as a substitute.

## **Lauren Davey (Goalkeeper)**

An experienced goalkeeper with International honours, Lauren has played for England at youth level. A graduate of the Girls Centre for Football Excellence, Lauren spent a season in the Reserves before cementing herself as Watford's number 1 before a cruel injury took most of the previous season from her. Now back in and fit again Lauren will look to regain the fitness and form that has brought her success so far.

## **Leanne Jones (Defence)**

Leanne capped off a fantastic season during 2010-11 by winning the Reserve Team Manager's Player of the Year and adding to her International involvement with Wales, where she has now played at U17 and U19 levels. Leanne is a quick central defender who reads the game exceptionally well. Having played a number of times for the First team last year, she will now look to build on that experience and stake a claim for more opportunities.

## **Lois Roche (Midfield)**

Lois joined this summer from Arsenal where she was a regular in both the Reserve team and Academy squads. She is a tough tackling central midfielder with exceptional technical ability and determination, both attributes she will look to utilise as she looks to firmly establish herself in the senior set up at Watford. Lois has represented Ireland at a number of youth levels and recently earned her first call up to the Senior squad in May 2011.

## **Megan Wynne (Forward)**

Megan is now in her 3rd season in the senior set up after moving up from the Watford Centre Of Excellence in 2009. She was rewarded with First Team experience very early on in that season and has kept her place ever since. She is a battling wide player who is very comfortable with the ball at her feet and

she can bring her attacking team-mates around her into play with her bursts forward. She will be looking to continue the season how she finished the last. Her efforts have seen a number of international call ups to both Wales U19s and Senior Squads.

## **Meghan McKeag (Defence)**

Meghan joins Watford having previously played at Chelsea, Arsenal and Millwall where she amassed a great deal of playing experience. A former student of the University of Hertfordshire, Meghan has also gained International experience with England at youth level. Having previously played further up the field Meghan has now settled into the left back position. Good energy and technical ability.

## **Paige Logie (Forward)**

Paige made her first team debut against Blackburn at the age of 16, moving up directly from the Girls Centre of Football Excellence. Having impressed during pre-season, Paige has a tireless work ethic and as such, creates many chances for herself and her team mates. During the 2011-12 she often played between the Reserve and First Teams and will now look to build on her experience and gain a regular place in Neil Hart's squad.

## **Sahara Osborne Ricketts (Defence / Forward)**

Upon joining from Arsenal at the start of last season, Sahara has experience in the US playing at College level. A no nonsense centre back, 'Biff' can also adjust to the rigours of playing up front and scored the all important goal which kept Watford in the Women's Premier League at the end of the previous campaign. All exceptional athlete with good determination, Sahara has been a welcome addition to the squad since her arrival.

## **Sarah Wiltshire (Forward)**

Sarah is a winger/forward who is now entering her 4th season at the club after

joining from Arsenal in 2008. She is a very quick and skilful player who has developed a real eye for goal, scoring 11 goals in the National Premier League last season to earn the Top Goalscorer title. Sarah has represented England at both U17 and U19 level previously and was part of the squad for the U17 World Cup in New Zealand. Her willingness and determination to drive the team forwards to create chances and score goals will be key to the team's success.

## **Sophie Waller (Midfield)**

Sophie completed her first season of senior football during the previous campaign, having graduated from the Girls Centre for Football Excellence. Possessing good speed and quick feet Sophie is exceptional at beating players and getting the ball into dangerous goal scoring areas. As such Sophie earned a call up to the England U19 training squad and is currently on stand up for the team. A good year previous, Sophie will look to build on her experience and to continue to improve.

## **Viki Wotton (Defence)**

Viki joined the club at the beginning of last season from Chelsea and by the second half of the season had put herself in the frame as left back for the First Team. She is equally at home on the right flank and is an excellent reader of the game with quick reactions and a tough tackle. Towards the end of the season she suffered from both foot and nose injuries, both of which were broken, and she is currently working very hard to become injury-free and match fit. When she achieves this, she will put extreme pressure on anyone in her position.

*(continued from page 9)*

their place for next season, but with the prize in sight, Leeds stumbled. A hard fought 1-0 away defeat to Champions Sunderland was followed by an away day 3-0 drubbing at the hands of Premier League Cup winners Barnet.

The back-to-back defeats meant that Leeds needed to win their final league game to guarantee survival, or rely on other results to survive. Despite throwing everything at Watford, Leeds were unable to find a breakthrough in a hard fought 0-0 draw. The draw was enough to leave Leeds in fourth place but only three points clear the

relegation zone. In order for Leeds to stay up they needed relegation rivals Watford, Barnet or Blackburn to either lose or at the very least not win by more than five goals. Results did indeed go Leeds's way, with Blackburn and Millwall being relegated and Leeds eventually finishing fourth.

With their league campaign complete Leeds switched their focus to the County Cup, and the final once again pitted them against cross-city rivals Leeds City Vixens, who had beaten them in last season's final.

Leeds dominated the game from the off and never looked like losing as a pair of second half goals from Rachel Lee and Carey Huegett gave Leeds a deserved 2-0 win, enabling Clare Sykes to hoist the trophy.

As manager Passmoor said afterwards: "This trophy is just reward for the commitment and dedication the players have shown this season - a very satisfying way to finish the season."



Photo: Steve Gaunt





## Leeds United Ladies

- 1  Jules DRAYCOTT
- 2  Emma COATES
- 3  Stacey EMMONDS
- 4  Hayley SHARP
- 5  Faye BIRKBY
- 6  Jess ROUND
- 7  Emma LIPMAN
- 8  Clare SYKES (captain)
- 9  Carey HUEGETT
- 10  Tanya RICH
- 11  Leah GALTON
- 12  Bekki BASS
- 13
- 14  Sarah DANBY
- 15  Vanessa HOLMES
- 16  Emma JOHNSON
- 17  Amy TURNER
- 18  Billie MURPHY
- 19  Millie BRIGHT
- 20
- 21  Nat STANEFF

## Watford Ladies

(from)



- Lauren DAVEY
- Brooke NUNN
- Cally ROWELL
- Chloe GUNN
- Cori DANIELS (captain)
- Emma SHERWOOD
- Faye MARSH
- Georgia MAYS
- Holly MILES
- Josie GREEN
- Kate NATKIEL
- Katie OWEN
- Leanne JONES
- Lois ROCHE
- Megan WYNNE
- Meghan McKEAG
- Paige LOGIE
- Sahara Osborne RICKETTS
- Sarah WILTSHIRE
- Sophie WALLER
- Viki WOTTON

**Manager: Chris Welburn**  
**Coach: Claire Robinson**  
**Physio: Alan Scorfield**

**Manager: Neil Hart**



**Officials**  
**Referee: Tony Murphy**  
**Assistants: Ann Marie Lee, Aaron Bannister**