

FA Women's Premier League

Leeds United Ladies v Coventry City Ladies

Sunday 4 September 2011, 2pm

Throstle Nest, Farsley AFC
Matchday Programme £1



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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
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0771 981 5540 (evenings & weekends)

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Whitehall Road, Leeds, LS12 5NL



Firstly may I welcome officials, spectators and players from Coventry City LFC for our second home game of the 2011/2012 season and of course welcome those who support Leeds United LFC.

Today is our third game of the FA Tesco Women's Premier League season and we are buoyed by having maximum points from the last two games, but we all know that we need to improve in a lot of areas and keep working hard in training and also on a match day to be in with a chance of moving in the right direction.

The players have worked hard so far and have pleased me with the levels of work rate and energy they have put into the games we have played to date. Our performance at Barnet was built around this and getting the goal late on came as an end result of the hard work put in. I am firm believer that within football circles hard

work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all and it will be key for me to see if we can continue to put a big shift in consistently as individuals and as a team during games over the coming weeks and not let the levels we have shown to date drop.

With regards to our opponents today, there is no doubt that we will face a tough task this afternoon as Coventry City have a lot of quality and crucially experience in their group which I believe is key at this level, but the players are ready for this and are looking forward to the game.

I hope you enjoy the match 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: Millie Bright takes on Watford.
Photo by Steve Gaunt.*

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, versatile and pacy player.



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 Centre of Excellence, 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.



Nat Staneff

As the 2011-12 season kicks off the playing career of one of the club's most consistent recent performers is coming to an end. At least that is for a while anyway. Signed from Nottingham Forest during the summer of 2009, Nat Staneff, the lone surviving squad member from Leeds's 2010 Premier League Cup success is readying herself for the trip of a lifetime.

Born in Wakefield, the commanding 27-year-old centre back is in the midst of playing her final few games for the club. Come October, the former club captain will swap the toils and tribulations of Throstle Nest for the bright lights and excitement of the Southern hemisphere as she sets off to travel the world. Despite her impending departure the Loughborough University graduate is confident that everything is in place for Leeds to enjoy a successful season, "Obviously there's been a great deal of change over recent seasons but I get the sense that the club has once again found some stability and is now ideally placed to move forward with some confidence."

Nat points to the clubs successful pre-season as evidence that the club is moving in the right direction, "This pre-season was brilliant. Chris



Photo: Steve Gaunt

has come in and established his ideas and the girls have really bought in to what he's trying to do. The girls are probably fitter than they've ever been and I'm expecting good things from them this year."

In particular Nat has been impressed with the clubs summer recruitment, "I think the players that have joined will really benefit the club going forward. The big difference I notice between last year's squad and this year's is the competition for places. The squad is bigger and there's more quality. We have a really nice blend of some experienced leaders and some precocious young talent. It's an exciting mix."

While Nat will be swapping the cold and mud associated with a

winter in the Women's Premier League for sundrenched beaches and excitement of a different form, retirement is the last thing she's thinking of, "Well I'll be taking my boots away with me anyway! I was hoping I might be able to find a few games to play in along the way. You never know what's around the next corner."

Throughout her time with the club, Nat has shown herself to be a shining example of what a professional player should be. Consistent, composed, dependable and resilient, one can only hope that Nat's expedition brings her as much joy as her play for Leeds has brought so many of us. From all at the club, we wish her well and hope to see her again soon.

www.leedsunitedladies.com

Golf Day to the fore!

This year's Golf Day will take place on Wednesday 28 September at Cookridge Hall, north-west Leeds.

Our Golf Day package includes:

- 18 holes of golf on the fantastic Cookridge Hall Course
- Coffee & bacon sandwiches on arrival
- Fun warm-up competitions, including a putting competition to prepare for the perfect round
- Stableford Team & Individual Competitions
- Post-match meal, charity raffle & auction; enjoy a hot buffet, meet the players, and bid for top sporting offers
- Presentation of prizes & awards



The cost for a team of four players is £240, and you can enter by downloading the application form from the club's web site at www.leedsunitedladies.com

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Match reports

Two games, two wins and the best start to a season since... well, actually, we're not sure!

Additional words by Jamie Gillham.

Leeds 2-0 Watford Sunday 21 August

Leeds kicked off their 2011-12 Premier League Campaign with a hard-fought 2-0 home win against Watford.

With three of this summer's new recruits in the starting line up Leeds began the game in positive fashion as Tanya Rich flashed an early volley narrowly over the bar from thirty yards.

However as the match began to settle it was the visitors who started to take a stranglehold on the game. On 13 minutes Watford centre half Sahara Osborne Ricketts was unfortunate to see her looping header crash agonizingly back off the crossbar. Some three minutes later livewire winger Sarah Wiltshire escaped down the left only to see her drilled right foot shot well saved by Leeds keeper Jules Draycott.

As the half progressed Watford continued to look the more threatening but despite their superior possession they were unable to find a way through some resolute Leeds defending. With both midfields working overtime to press and harry it appeared that quick paced



Photo: Steve Gaunt

counter attacks may be the only way to break the deadlock. On the stroke of half time one such counter attack looked to have done so as Wiltshire once again found some space only to see her first time volley fall inches over the bar.

As the second half began it appeared that Watford would once again grab the ascendancy as within a minute midfielder Kate Natkiel curled a majestic long range effort off the underside of the bar.

To Leeds credit they never stopped working and their efforts were rewarded as the home side slowly began to take over the game. With their superior fitness and manager Chris Welburn's

astute half time adjustments Leeds began to establish control of midfield and as such found joy in exposing both the visitors' flanks.

As Leeds stretched the play with some incisive and quick interplay they began to enjoy more and more success as both Leah Galton and Clare Sykes were unlucky to see decent efforts go narrowly wide of goal.

In the 80th minute Leeds finally found the breakthrough that their second half play had warranted as new signing Millie Bright was brought down in the box when clean through on goal. Captain Clare Sykes took the responsibility from the spot and made no mistake as she drilled

a ferocious penalty into the roof of the net.

As Watford threw everyone forward in search of an equaliser Leeds utilised the space in behind to counter attack with devastating results. Following neat work from Leah Galton on the left, striker Millie Bright was able to muscle her way in-between two Watford defenders to poke home from ten yards with the final kick of the game. The goal was just rewards for the striker who capped a fine debut on what was her eighteenth birthday.

Speaking after the game manager Chris Welburn was delighted to have picked up the three points. "I thought we struggled early on to deal with their shape and structure but once we got in level at half time and made a few changes we really started to get on top," he said. "The girls showed tremendous desire and excellent fitness levels. It was a great way to start the season."

Barnet 0-1 Leeds Sunday 28 August

A Hayley Sharp header three minutes from the end of normal time was enough to give Leeds United Ladies a deserved win and keep their 100% start to the season going.

Leeds had had much the better of the first half, with Tanya Rich causing problems for the Barnet defence down the right and Leah Galton doing the same down the left. But neither player's crosses were met by their team-mates – which meant that Barnet came closest to scoring in the half, Sowden's free header in front of the Leeds goal from a Cheryl Williams free kick drifting tamely wide of the far-side Leeds post.

Barnet came back at Leeds in the second half, but Leeds were still creating chances they couldn't convert. Sharp's ball out from the back evaded the Barnet defenders, allowing Clare Sykes to latch on to it – but she scuffed her shot wide of the far post. Emma Lipman then headed wide from a Galton cross, while Millie Bright took advantage of a mistake by Jade Dempster to fire in from 18 yards out, which Barnet keeper Cherie Rowlands just got a hand to.

With a draw looming large, a Rich corner failed to beat the first defender; the ball came back to her and a Barnet player handled to give away a free kick. Leeds manager Chris Welburn opted to bring on Vanessa Holmes for her league debut. Her first task was to take the free kick, which fell perfectly in the box for a diving header from Sharp.

There was still enough time for Leeds to get a second, which they almost did when Rich found herself in space about 20 yards out but her goal-bound effort was tipped away by Rowlands.

Today's opponents

Coventry City Ladies FC was founded in 1991 although various Coventry Ladies sides were playing as long ago as 1910.

The present club started in the West Midlands Regional League and finished Champions in successive years in 1995-96 and 1996-97 achieving promotion to the FA Northern Premier.

They stayed in the league for 5 years before being relegated to the newly formed Midland Combination League in 2001-02.

Neil Wilson took the club back to the FA Northern Premier in 2003-04. Despite the club reaching the Final of the Birmingham County Women's Cup the club only stayed in the league for 1 season before being relegated again.

Stuart Wilson was then appointed as Manager of the first team and Director of Coventry City Centre of Excellence at the start of the 2004-05. The Centre of Excellence enjoyed considerable success with a succession of players invited to join Aged England Training Camps, many of whom went on to provide the back

bone of the Senior side that went on to gain FA National Premier status. We also secured a strong partnership with the local university to provide scholarships for sports related studies and Senior players encouraged and supported in their efforts to gain FA Coaching Qualifications.

In 2005-06 Stuart was joined by Neil Wilson and they guided the Club to two successive Runners-Up places before being recruited by Birmingham City Ladies in the FA National Premier. Paul Cudby was appointed in 2008-09 as part of the clubs 'Think Premiership' campaign, again finishing Runners-Up before finally achieving promotion as Champions back to the FA Northern Premier in 2009-10.

The Sky Blues achieved back to back promotions at the first attempt to reach the FA National Premier League for the first time in the Clubs history.



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The Leeds United Foundation Apprenticeship Programme

We are now taking applications for this NEW and UNIQUE training programme. In partnership with the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and Life Skills, this 48 week training programme is designed to give youngsters a unique insight into the sports industry, and equip them with the necessary tools and knowledge to succeed.

Open to youngsters aged 16-18 years old (on enrolment and still on the 19 March 2012) this apprenticeship programme comes with a £75 per week salary and delivers the following industry qualifications:

NVQ Level 2 in Customer Services (Identifying the skills needed in a commercial sporting environment)

NVQ Level 2 in Activity Leadership (Identifying the skills needed in the field and coaching environment)

Sports Leadership Award

Key Skills in Maths and English: These will be delivered should candidates not already hold A-C (GCSE)

Your general week will consist of theory sessions in the Leeds United Education Suite situated within the stadium itself. This facility allows candidates to learn in a truly inspirational environment with a plasma screen and touch screen tactics board for a thoroughly interactive learning environment.

In addition to the theory based classroom qualification, you will gain invaluable experience as an ambassador of the Leeds United Foundation in an area of coaching and tutoring within Health, Sports Participation, Social Inclusion, Disability and Education.

By combining all of the qualifications listed above, we believe that we have created a unique training programme which will provide candidates with a far more rounded learning experience and potential CV. In addition the practical element provides a controlled environment in which to put any new knowledge into action, as well as a healthy and fun section to the training programme.

If you wish to apply or have any queries, please see the information below.

Interviews: from Monday 5 September 2011

Contract starts: Monday 19 September 2011

Contract ends: Friday 17 August 2012

Do you want to apply?

Simply write in and tell us a little bit about yourself and why you wish to be a part of this programme, also attaching your CV:

rick.passmoor@leedsunited.com / michael.kinsey@leedsunited.com

Rick Passmoor & Michael Kinsey

Elland Road Stadium

Elland Road

Leeds

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Sponsorship

Can you help us get every player sponsored this season?

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	

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- 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.
- Framed, signed team photo.
- 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.

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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
- Twenty FREE child tickets to EVERY home league game
- Invitation for up to four of coaches to come to a first team training session with a question & answer with the first team manager afterwards
- 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.



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

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



Coventry City Ladies

- Sue WOOD
- Abbie HINTON
- Callan BARBER
- Crissy TORKILDSEN
- Danni SAULTER
- Emily SIMPKINS
- Gina GOULDING
- Hayley PHILLIPOWSKY
- Helen DERMODY
- Jade FORMASTON
- Katy WARD
- Kayleigh STEELE
- Kerrie MANLEY
- Leah RAWLE
- Leanne MCKENNA
- Maz GAUNTLETT
- Milly DURRANT
- Nat WILCOX
- Natasha LYNCH
- Sarah MORGAN
- Sinead BUTLER
- Kerry BARTLETT
- Sarah MORGAN
- Courtney SWEETMAN-KIRK

Manager: Paul Cudby
Coach: Sean Green



Officials
Referee: Jane Simms
Assistants: Tony Johnson, Ashley Mallett