

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

2023 **FINAL** 2024



## WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS WOMEN

**VS**

## RUGBY BOROUGH WOMEN

TUESDAY 14TH MAY 2024 | 7:45PM KO | PIRELLI STADIUM  
ADULTS £10 | CONCESSIONS £5



**ENGLAND  
FOOTBALL**

# COUNTY CUP FIXTURES & RESULTS 2023/24

## SUNDAY AMATEUR CUP

**3 C'S UNITED** 1-2 **FC PREMIER SUNDAY ADULTS WARRIORS**

Sunday 7th April | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## GIRLS COUNTY CUP

**STRATFORD TOWN WOMENS & GIRLS U16** 4-1 **WORDLSEY WASPS U16 GIRLS**

Saturday 13th April | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## ROGER WOOD MEMORIAL CUP

**TROOPER OPEN AGE** 8-0 **EMERALD ATHLETIC AFC**

Sunday 14th April | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## SATURDAY MINOR CUP

**NEXT GENERATION U16 JPL** 1-2 **REDDITCH UNITED U16 JA**

Saturday 20th April | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## SUNDAY VASE

**NORTH SOLIHULL ATHLETIC FC** 5-2 **MAYPOLE UNITED**

Sunday 21st April | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## MIDWEEK FLOODLIT CUP

**CRADLEY TOWN FIRST** 2-6 **FC STRATFORD FIRST**

Tuesday 23rd April | 7:45pm KO | Poundland Bescot Stadium

## JOEL RICHARDS MEMORIAL CUP

**STOURBRIDGE FC U18** 6-8 **TAMWORTH ACADEMY U18 FLOODLIT**

Thursday 25th April | 7:45pm KO | Poundland Bescot Stadium

## WOMENS CHALLENGE VASE

**LEAMINGTON LIONS LADIES FIRST** 4-2 **COVENTRY CITY WOMEN FIRST**

Monday 29th April | 7:45pm KO | Poundland Bescot Stadium

## SATURDAY AMATEUR CUP

**VILLAGE SECOND B** 0-4 **SUTTON UNITED SUFC RESERVES**

Saturday 11th May | 2pm KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## MINOR CHALLENGE CUP

**LYE TOWN YOUTH U16** 0-0 **SOLI HULL U16 M**  
Pens (4-5)

Sunday 12th May | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS WOMEN** vs **RUGBY BOROUGH WOMEN**

Tuesday 14th May | 7:45pm KO | Pirelli Stadium

## SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP

**ASTON VILLA FC** vs **RACING CLUB WARWICK FIRST**

Wednesday 15th May | 7:30pm KO | Villa Park

## SATURDAY VASE

**AFC BENTLEY SATURDAY** vs **AFC COVENTRY RANGERS FC**

Saturday 18th May | 2pm KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## VETERANS CUP

**COUNDON COURT OLD BOYS 035'S VETS** vs **TROOPER VETERANS 035'S**

Sunday 19th May | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena

## SUNDAY YOUTH CUP

**HALFWAY JUNIORS U18** vs **COVENTRY COPSEWOOD JUNIOR U18 BLUE**

Sunday 26th May | 11am KO | BCFA Excellence Arena



To buy tickets for finals at BCFA, click [HERE](#)

# WELCOME

## 2023/24

A warm welcome to all the players, coaches, volunteers and supporters of both competing teams and also the match officials for this prestigious County Cup Final.

With 1000 clubs with a combined total of 5400 teams and 82,000 players playing all formats of the game within our County boundary, every team that makes it to one of our 15 Cup finals should be rightly proud of their achievements.

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**Kevin Shoemake**  
Chief Executive Officer

It is also a big day for our match officials who have dedicated hours, and in some cases many years in the middle and on the side-lines at all levels of the game to have been selected to represent our 1563 Birmingham County FA officials at a final. This is a testament to their own development and a reward for their own performances during the current and previous seasons.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the thousands of volunteers for all the work they do throughout the season to simply help administer and improve their clubs and teams - more often than not unpaid and into the early hours and across many evenings. Without the range of volunteers at every level of the game and at every Club and League, then the game as we know it would not exist, especially at grassroots level. As part of the post-match celebrations, we will be presenting a volunteer award which each finalist has nominated as a thank you from those at each club.

I'd also like to thank my colleagues at Birmingham County FA for all the work they do, and the support they offer participants in order to promote, govern and develop the game and deliver 15 fantastic finals and create memories for those who play, coach, officiate and watch their friends, family and loved ones compete.

Enjoy the game and celebrate your achievements before and after the game, whilst at the same time recognising and respecting the achievements of the opposition and their efforts in making the final along with those of the match officials on a special day for them too.

Play well and play fair and enjoy the memories and friendships that the fixture brings.



Kevin Shoemake  
CEO - Birmingham County Football Association







"MY COACH  
WAS ALWAYS  
HAPPY AND  
LAUGHING AND  
JOKING -  
IT MADE ME  
TRY HARDER."

**COACHES. IT STARTS WITH YOU.**  
STAY POSITIVE. BE SUPPORTIVE. SHOW RESPECT.





# MEET THE OFFICIALS

2023/24



Aaron Ford



Matthew Joyce



Luke Bowles



Jack Shepherd

**Referee:** Aaron Ford (2W)

**Assistant Referee:** Matthew Joyce (1WAR)

**Assistant Referee:** Luke Bowles (2WAR)

**Fourth Official:** Jack Shepherd (3W)

*Number in brackets indicate Referee Level  
(Women's Pathway)*



# BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

## History of Winners

1996 / 1998 -	Aston Villa Ladies (2)
1998 / 2000 -	Wolverhampton Wanderers Ladies (2)
2000 / 2008 -	Birmingham City Ladies (8)
2008 / 2009 -	Aston Villa Ladies
2009 / 2010 -	Birmingham City Ladies
2010 / 2011 -	Aston Villa Ladies
2011 / 2015 -	Coventry City Ladies (4)
2015 / 2017 -	Sporting Club Albion Ladies (2)
2017 / 2019 -	Coventry United Ladies* (2)
2021 / 2023 -	Wolverhampton Wanderers Women (2)

\*Now known as Rugby Borough Women since June 2023  
Numbers in brackets indicate consecutive wins.

### Current Holders

2022 / 23

## Wolverhampton Wanderers Women





# WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS WOMEN



**Wolves Women, an integral part of the Wolverhampton Wanderers family, are a National League Northern Premier Division team managed by Dan McNamara.**

Having topped the Division 1 Midlands league table during a pair of Covid-19 affected seasons (having only lost one league game in two years), Wolves finally earned promotion in 2021 via upward movement, and have the longer term aim to return to the upper echelons of the women's game.

With that ambition firmly in mind, the women's and girls' section is benefiting from the solid support of their parent club and a combined academy, sharing facilities at the Compton Park training ground, including sports science, analysis and physiotherapy.



# MANAGERS COMMENTS



Good evening all,

What a fantastic occasion tonight promises to be as we find ourselves in our third consecutive Challenge Cup Final. After beating West Bromwich Albion and Stourbridge in the previous two finals, we'd love to make it three in a row and create another great memory with our players, staff and dedicated supporters.

This will be a tough challenge against a side who have finished third in the Southern Premier Division. They have also won the competition twice before in 2017/18 and 2018/19 under their Coventry United name and we haven't played against them since then.

It's been a season of mixed emotions for Wolves Women, but I believe we should be very proud of what we have achieved. Highlights include the history-making FA Cup run which took us all the way to the fifth round for an encounter with WSL side Brighton and Hove Albion, and our incredible recent turnaround against Nottingham Forest, coming from 3-0 down to win 4-3.



Our fans have been amazing again both home and away, and we look forward to seeing you all next season as we continue to build on what we have achieved so far.

I know you'll be here tonight getting behind us all the way.

Be loud and proud.

- **Dan McNamara**







# RUGBY BOROUGH WOMEN

**Rugby Borough Women's First Team compete in the Women's National League South which is the highly competitive third tier, managed by Lee Burch.**

The players are semi-professional with the aim of being promoted back into the championship and returning to being full time. The women's team renamed as Rugby Borough in May 2023 from Coventry United Ladies FC. The change occurred due to the women's team at Coventry not having a place to call home - instead they played at Butts Park Arena, home of Coventry Rugby. Welcomed with open arms, Rugby Borough was the perfect fit.

Rugby Borough finished 3rd in the League this year (2023/24), narrowly missing out on 2nd place.





# MANAGERS COMMENTS

Welcome everybody to today's Birmingham County Cup Final and I hope everyone enjoys the game. As our first season as Rugby Borough Women we are really pleased to have made the County Cup final, looking at the amount of good sides in this competition compared to others this has to be the strongest in the country in my opinion.

Our first season has been a successful one moving from Butts Park as Coventry United and playing in the FAWNL South. We have finished third with positive runs across the cup competitions. Having a complete squad rebuild full of young hungry players has meant we have developed a lot over the season and we have been in strong form and playing well coming into today's game.

We know we will need to be at our best today against a Wolves side full of experience and quality. They have played in big occasions before and have a strong staff who have them in good form coming into today's game also. Overall this has the potential to be an excellent game and showcase for the area.

A big thank you to all the travelling fans today, we have appreciated your support throughout the season and know you'll be a big voice tonight for us.



- **Lee Burch**





# Score Big for Your Club!

Join easyfundraising and raise funds simply by shopping online!

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/birmingham-fa](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/birmingham-fa)



Over £5 million raised for sports clubs and teams



Trusted by over 10,000 football clubs



"Why wouldn't you?  
It's quick. It's easy and  
it makes free money  
for your club"

Michael (FC Union Bristol)

# WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

# WOLVES WOMEN

## ROUTE TO THE FINAL

### ROUND ONE

SUTTON COLDFIELD  
TOWN FC WOMEN FIRST

0 - 1

WOLVERHAMPTON  
WANDERERS  
WOMEN FIRST

### QUARTER-FINAL

WOLVERHAMPTON  
WANDERERS  
WOMEN FIRST

4 - 0

BOLDMERE ST  
MICHAELS WOMEN  
FIRST

### SEMI-FINAL

WOLVERHAMPTON  
WANDERERS  
WOMEN FIRST

2 - 2  
PENS (4-2)

WEST BROMWICH  
ALBION WOMEN  
FIRST





# SAVE TODAY, PLAY TOMORROW

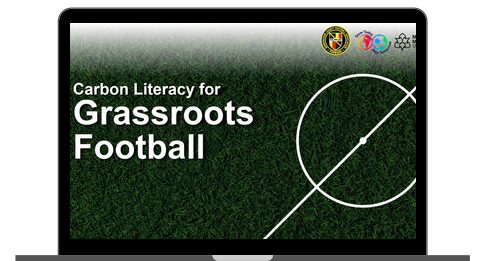


Save Today, Play Tomorrow the first of its kind sustainability programme in the UK that looks to pioneer the ambitious goal of creating a low carbon greener game. As the regional governing body, BCFA recognise the need to act now to ensure the beautiful game significantly reduces its environmental impact, whilst helping to educate those involved in football at all levels to make informed decisions that will shape how much future generations will be able to enjoy and sustain the game in the long term. As such, this award winning and unique initiative underpins all BCFA do and is their 'one big ambition'.

The programme has 4 workstreams that are aligned to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals or SDG's, these are Health & Wellbeing, Positive Education, Climate Action & Reconnecting Football with Nature (Biodiversity).

The overall aim of Save Today, Play Tomorrow is to achieve a more environmentally sustainable game by empowering, educating & engendering football clubs of all sizes with over 20 products & services, partnerships and initiatives that deliver measurable climate positive outputs. **Look at what your club could get involved in:**

**Carbon Literacy for Grassroots Football Course** – A bespoke education course that gives learners the fundamental basics about climate change and how the grassroots game can be part of the wider solution through practical & cost-effective changes. Right now, you can become Carbon Literate qualified for £10! By registering [here](#).



**Green Energy Product** – A 100% REGO certified renewable energy product specifically created for the grassroots football market, providing market competitive prices for clubs to begin their Net Zero journey. Register your interest [here](#).

**Sustainability League** – Join the first ever climate positive football league and your club could WIN £500 per month towards its operating costs.

**Football Rebooted** – Aiming to keep 1 million pairs of pre-worn boots out of landfill and in circulation for longer using 60 of our grassroots clubs as local collection & distribution hubs. To join them register your interest [here](#).



# SAVE TODAY, PLAY TOMORROW



**Liftshare** – Using the Liftshare digital platform we encourage car-pooling to football, reducing the individual financial cost of travel as well as harmful emissions damaging the environment and affecting people's long-term health. Over 800 individuals are now part of the BCFA lift share community accumulatively saving almost £30,000 on fuel and over 22 tonnes of CO2 emissions have been avoided. You can register [here](#) \*over 18's only.



**Weare8 / Green Innovation Fund** – Launching in early April this partnership with the social media platform WeAre8 will see funds generated through advertising being paid forwards directly back into the grassroots game to support green innovation projects. Follow the Save Today, Play Tomorrow our social channels to find out more on how you and your club can get involved!



WeAre8

BCFA were proudly accepted as participatory members of the UN's Sport for Climate Action Framework, the first County FA to do so, using the power of sport to normalise conversations, promote athlete advocacy at all levels, share best practice and implement innovative solutions to combat the increasing threat and negative impact of climate change on the beautiful game.

*Project Lead Richard Lindsay says of the programme "Climate change is arguably the greatest challenge of our generation. While grassroots football is not the cause; most clubs are SME sized, often loss-making, volunteer led enterprises with a microscale carbon footprint, we know there is an appetite for change with 86% of BCFA clubs believing the game should do more to reduce its environmental impact."*

*Save Today, Play Tomorrow offers huge potential for engagement, as the scale on which people share a close affinity with their community club is perhaps unparalleled in any other sport".*

## Football x Climate Quiz

1. How much CO2e in tonnes did BCFA affiliated clubs collectively pledge to save during last season's Sustainability League? A: 6.1 B: 7.1 C: 8.1
2. How many pairs of boots have BCFA clubs saved from landfill through the Football Rebooted scheme so far? A: 1000 B: 3000 C: 9000
3. In thousands how many miles have BCFA registered players avoided by using the Liftshare app to travel to games? A: 99,000 B: 103,000, C: 107,000





# **WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP**

# **RUGBY BOROUGH WOMEN**

## **ROUTE TO THE FINAL**

### **ROUND ONE**

**RUGBY BOROUGH  
WOMEN**

**5 - 2**

**LYE TOWN  
LADIES FIRST**

### **QUARTER-FINAL**

**RUGBY BOROUGH  
WOMEN**

**4 - 3**

**STOURBRIDGE FC  
WOMEN 1ST**

### **SEMI-FINAL**

**ASTON VILLA FC  
WOMEN U21**

**1 - 6**

**RUGBY BOROUGH  
WOMEN**



# **WOMEN'S CHALLENGE CUP** **VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

Each of our finalists were asked to nominate a Volunteer from each Club to win a 'Volunteer Award'. This is to recognise the contribution made by individuals who have made a positive impact at the club.

These awards will be presented after the match along with the player medals.

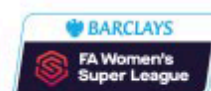
**MAKE  
FOOTBALL SAFE.  
WE ALL HAVE A  
PART TO PLAY.**



In partnership with  
**NSPCC**



Supported by





# WALKING FOOTBALL

## IS A NEW WAY TO PLAY

### #WalkingFootball



#LET  
GIRLS  
PLAY

**Ready to deliver  
fun football sessions  
for girls?**



**PLAY!**



ENGLAND  
FOOTBALL

**Your place  
to play**

# SQUAD

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

**FOOTBALL SESSIONS FOR GIRLS  
AGED 12-14 WHO WANT TO PLAY THEIR WAY**

# BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

# WOMENS CHALLENGE CUP

# 2023 FINAL 2024

WOLVES WOMEN



Layla Banaras  
Sophie Bramford  
Emma Cross  
Jade Cross  
Ania Denham  
Helen Dermody  
Meesha Dudley-Jones  
Olivia Fergusson  
Hannah Fryer  
Tammi George  
Lexie Harrison  
Summer Holmes  
Amber Hughes  
Katie Johnson  
Beth Merrick  
Anna Morphet  
Skye Owen  
Anna Price  
Beth Roberts  
Bec Thomas  
Destiney Toussaint  
Shan Turner  
Merrick Will  
Ellie Wilson

#### Coaching Staff:

Dan McNamara - Manager  
Jenna Burke-Martin - Team Secretary  
Claire Hakeman - Team Secretary

#### Kit Colours:

Gold & Black Shirt, Black Shorts, Gold Socks  
GK Shirt - Pink



RUGBY BOROUGH WOMEN

Evie Brooks  
Nicole Calder  
Jess Camwell  
Eva Cassidy  
Samantha Curwood-Wagner  
Erin Foley  
Lily Greenslade  
Mia Malone  
Alanah Mann  
Liv Milner  
Saskia Morris  
Katy Morris  
Yasmin Mosby  
Angelina Nixon  
Nicky Potts  
Georgia Robert  
Freya Upson  
Demi Walker  
Emily Wallace  
Lucy Whipp  
Charlotte Wilkie  
Macy Winters  
Ebony Wiseman

#### Coaching Staff:

Lee Burch - Manager  
Sian Osmond - Assistant Manager  
Michael Emery - GK Coach  
Ollie Fairs - S and C Coach

#### Kit Colours:

Blue Shirt, Blue Shorts, Blue Socks  
GK Shirt - Green

## TROPHY PRESENTED BY

**Monica Shafaq** - Monica is the Senior Independent Director of BCFA. She is also the Board Lead on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Her tenure has seen the County FA become the leading light in ED&I across the country. Monica has fought for inclusion to be embedded into the culture of BCFA and has taken a keen interest in delivering and developing the County's Inclusion and Advisory Group. As a keen Wolves fan, Monica has a deep rooted passion for local football and has made unbelievable inroads in making the grassroots game more accessible and inclusive.

Supported by BCFA Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Shoemake



ENGLAND  
FOOTBALL

## MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Aaron Ford  
Assistant Referee: Matthew Joyce  
Assistant Referee: Luke Bowles  
Fourth Official: Jack Shepherd