2025 Women's National League

The Terrier

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 | ISSUE 4





SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER · KICK-OFF 2PM

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Manager's Notes

GLEN PRESTON

"Moving to a facility of this standard is a clear example of how the club is continually backing us, upgrading almost all areas of our operations to ensure we have the best possible environment to succeed..."

Welcome to our new home for today's historic first league fixture at Emley FC.

The pitch here is beautiful, and the ground itself is exceptional. Moving to a facility of this standard is a clear example of how the club is continually backing us, upgrading almost all areas of our operations to ensure we have the best possible environment to succeed. We are absolutely delighted to be here, and we know the best way to show our gratitude to the club is by delivering performances on the pitch that reflect that ambition.

We head into today's game looking for a strong response to the Peterborough match. Ultimately, we lost that game in the first half, but the character the players have shown since is telling. If you look at our second-half displays against both Peterborough and Stoke, you see exactly what this group is really about. We are a side that goes from strength to strength as the clock ticks on, and I am highly confident we will see that resilience and quality from the very first whistle today.

This afternoon marks the first of a unique back-to-back scenario against Middlesbrough, as we will be welcoming them back here next week for the FA Cup. While their current league position might suggest otherwise, I firmly believe they are in a false position. The underlying data shows their numbers are actually quite strong—they are simply a squad finding that room to gel together. We saw things start to come together for them in their recent performance against Norwich, proving exactly how dangerous they can be. We certainly won't be taking them lightly and know we must be at our absolute best.



On a more difficult note, we have unfortunately lost AK to a severe knee injury. Losing a player of her calibre is a major blow to the squad. While she faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines, she has the full backing of the technical staff and her teammates as she begins her recovery, and the girls will undoubtedly be fighting for her out there today. but, at the same time we welcome two new signings in Emma Taylor who has over 30 appearances in the WSL and has looked exceptional in training, and a new prodigy in Lois Cartmell from Liverpool/ Wales U19 who scored two goals on her debut this week.

Thank you for your continued support, and please get right behind the team this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

UTT!

Glen Preston

Manager,
Huddersfield Town Women

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STOKE CITY 2
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN WOMEN 2

04/10/2026 | FA WNL NORTHERN PREMIER DIVISION



Aimee Kelly equalised for Town in injury time to earn a point at Stoke City to maintain Huddersfield Town Women's unbeaten start to the FA WNL Northern Premier Division campaign.

Delphi Cole gave the hosts a half time lead before Tamira Livingston got Town level in the second half. Stoke then retook the lead with two minutes to go before Kelly's dramatic equaliser.

In a brilliant game between two very good sides, Town started strongly. Louise Biggins went close to connecting with a Livingston cross before Rhema Lord-Mears and Kelly both hit good efforts wide of the mark.

But Stoke, who manager Glen Preston tipped to be one of the teams to beat this season, began to take control of the game.

Captain Beth Stanfield was on hand to block a goal-bound effort as the home side turned the screw.

Bethan Davies was then called into action when she gathered Molinari's cross at the feet of Stamp.

Despite Town's defensive efforts, Stoke took the lead in quite a simple manner. A long ball forward from Town was headed back by the Stoke defence straight into the path of Cole who strode through and finished past Davies.

Cole went close to doubling her tally almost instantly when a quick Stoke counter broke through Town but she couldn't bundle the ball home after a teasing cross.

Although Stoke were dominant, Town weren't without their chances and almost went into the break level when Kelly picked the pocket of a defender and drove towards goal. But she dragged her effort past the far post.

Whatever Preston said to his side at half time worked to great effect because Town came out for the second half with added impetus.

Almost straight from kick off Rebecca Beresford linked up well with Biggins and worked some space in the box for a shot but Crosbie made herself big to deny Town an equaliser.

Crosbie was beginning to become a thorn in the Terriers' side when she brilliantly denied Kelly from point blank range.

Just after the hour, Preston made a change with Laura Elford coming off the bench to bolster the fire power - and the change paid dividends immediately.

With her first touch, Elford hooked the ball forward into the path of Livingston who had time to slot the ball past the onrushing Crosbie to level the game with her first of the season.

Neve Birtwistle then went close to giving Town the lead but Crosbie again frustrated Town.

And it was Birtwistle who had what looked to be Town's best chance for a second goal when Kelly timed a pass perfectly to set the midfielder through on goal but she appeared to be caught in two minds and Crosbie gratefully gathered her shot.

As it looked to be heading for a draw, Stoke found another gear to test Town's resolve. And they found what they thought as the winner when Olivia Edwards headed home Kivel's cross at the back post.

But, where most teams would crumble, this Town side don't know when they're beaten. With Stoke looking to keep the ball in the corner, Town recovered the ball for one last chance. Beresford's ball forward was excellently taken by Kelly who ran away from her defender and coolly finished past Crosbie with only seconds remaining.

TOWN WOMEN | Bethan Davies; Rebecca Beresford, Beth Stanfield (C), Autumn Housley, Olivia Page (Laura Elford, 64'), Tamira Livingston; Neve Birtwistle, Lauren Griffiths (Olivia Turner, 74'), Rhema Lord-Mears (Ella Duffield, 82'); Aimee Kelly, Louise Biggins.

SUBS NOT USED | Lois Cartmell, Kacey Bolton-Woollam; Kate Mallin.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED 3 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN WOMEN 2

11/10/2026 | FA WNL NORTHERN PREMIER DIVISION



Huddersfield Town Women's unbeaten start to the FA WNL Northern Premier Division season came to an end with a 3-2 defeat to Peterborough United last weekend.

The game, however, was overshadowed by a serious injury to Town striker Aimee Kelly which led to an almost 30-minute delay in the second half.

The hosts started the game the better of the two sides and took the lead after three minutes when Ellie May glanced home a header at the front post.

Kelly went close to levelling the game up almost immediately when she went through but Corry in the home goal did well to save at the striker's feet.

And the Rhema Lord-Mears had the chance to equalise after Olivia Page brought a long throw under control in the box and laid the ball off to the midfielder but she could only fire over the bar.

The game became a battle in the middle of the park with no clear cut chances for the majority of the rest of the half - until Peterborough blew Town away with two quick fire goals.

Lauren Wilshaw doubled the Posh's lead direct from a corner after 42 minutes before another corner led to Town's downfall again three minutes later.

On the stroke of half time, the ball into the box wasn't dealt with by the Town defence, allowing Evie Driscoll King the freedom to volley home for a 3-0 half time lead.

After the break, Town stepped up a gear where Kelly saw two chances from close range go begging.

Then, a lifeline. Tamira Livingston brilliantly kept the ball alive and drove into the box. Her strength saw her battle past the defender who fell and handled the ball - penalty to Town.

Laura Elford made no mistake and sent Corry the wrong way to cut the deficit.

The Terriers continued to press but couldn't find a way through a resolute Peterborough defence.

As they pushed for a second, Kelly then went down after chasing a ball in the channel. Both sets of players urged medical teams onto the pitch as the severity became quickly apparent.

The game restarted 23 minutes later with Kelly made as comfortable as possible a taken into the dressing room.

The Town players, who looked visibly distressed by the situation, came out firing and instantly found the back of the net.

Louise Biggins was fouled in the box, dusted herself off and smashed home Town's second in the 108th minute.

Town then had shouts for a third penalty turned down after a Posh defender appeared to handle a cross but the third goal wouldn't come and Glen Preston's side fall to their first league defeat of the season.

TOWN WOMEN | Bethan Davies; Rebecca Beresford (Emma Taylor '46), Beth Stanfield ©, Autumn Housley, Olivia Page (Louise Biggins '68), Tamira Livingston; Neve Birtwistle, Lauren Griffiths (Olivia Turner '75), Rhema Lord-Mears (Ella Duffield '106); Aimee Kelly (Kate Mallin '106), Laura Elford.

SUB NOT USED | Kacey Bolton-Woollam.

GOALS | Laura Elford ('58 pen), Louise Biggins ('108 pen)

BOOKINGS | Laura Elford ('33), Aimee Kelly ('75)



GETTING TO KNOW...
LAURA ELFORD

AGE: 31

POSITION: Striker

STRONG FOOT: Right Foot

FROM: Barnsley.

WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST FOOTBALLING MEMORIES?
My first footballing memory from a playing perspective is signing for my first every team, Barugh Green, at nine-years-old.

Off the pitch, I just remember playing football with my dad in the park.

WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN DRIVES?
I simply just love football and want to be the best player I can possibly be, whilst also encouraging other young girls to follow their dreams and believe they can also achieve this.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A PLAYER?
I would say I'm a strong, combative and powerful player.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A PERSON?
As a person, I'm fun, competitive and highly motivated – very similar to how I am as a player.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT PLAYING FOR TOWN WOMEN?
In football, it was definitely when I earnt my first professional contract, which I had worked so hard to achieve.

In a personal capacity, it was probably when I bought my first house.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?
Away from football, I am a PE Teacher at a secondary school.

I also run a meal prep business called 'The Prep Pantry' and I have a working Cocker Spaniel called Effy.

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS?
I want to win as much as possible for the team and the Club in terms of silverware and see how far we can go.

On a personal level, I want to keep growing my business!

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Visitors And Fixtures

We extend a warm welcome to everyone connected to our opponents before wishing them a safe journey home afterwards.

MIDDLESBROUGH | PLAYER STATS

	PLAYER	GLS	PENS	APPS	MINS	SUB APP	UNUSED
1	Armani Maxwell	2	0	10	756	2	0
2	Ellen Rae Turnbull	2	0	10	572	5	0
3	Rebecca Ferguson	2	1	9	694	1	0
4	Bridget Galloway	1	1	10	618	2	0
5	Olivia Watt	1	1	8	653	1	0
6	Abby Towers	0	0	10	854	1	0
7	Annie Mitchell	0	0	3	135	1	0
8	Ava Ruth Chapman	0	0	2	67	1	0
9	Eleanor Jane Christon	0	0	10	755	1	0
10	Ellen Louise Packham	0	0	9	715	1	0
11	Erin Nelson	0	0	1	90	0	0
12	Grace Boyes	0	0	3	203	1	0
13	Keira Lynn Skelton	0	0	4	267	1	0
14	Lauren Robson	0	0	6	252	3	0
15	Leanna Giles	0	0	8	582	1	0
16	Lois Ellen Husband	0	0	1	70	0	0
17	Megan Borthwick	0	0	7	630	0	0
18	Millie Bell	0	0	9	566	3	0
19	Niamh Boothroyd	0	0	4	211	2	0
20	Ruby Milly Cook	0	0	3	270	0	0
21	Sarah Elizabeth Burn	0	0	8	367	5	0
22	Sarah Robson	0	0	8	573	1	0



2026/27 HTAFC WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM FIXTURE LIST

DATE	OPPOSITION	
AUGUST 2026		
Sun 16	Norwich City (A)	1-1
Sun 23	**Loughborough Lightning (H)**	**5-1**
Wed 26	**Bradford City (FA WNL Cup) (H)**	**3-0**
Sun 30	Boldmere St Michaels (A)	4-2
SEPTEMBER 2026		
Sun 6	Leeds United (FA WNL Cup) (A)	0-3
Sun 13	**Derby County (H)**	**2-1**
Sun 20	**Hull City (H)**	**2-1**
Sun 27	Halifax (FA WNL Cup) (A)	2-1
OCTOBER 2026		
Sun 4	Stoke City (A)	2-2
Sun 11	Peterborough United (A)	2-3
Sun 18	**Middlesbrough (H)**	
Sun 25	**Middlesbrough (Adobe Women's FA Cup) (H)**	
Thu 29	Liverpool Feds (A)	
NOVEMBER 2026		
Sun 1	**Wythenshawe (FA WNL Plate) (H)**	
Sun 8	**West Bromwich Albion (H)**	
Sun 22	Rugby Borough (A)	
DECEMBER 2026		
Sun 6	**Norwich City (H)**	
JANUARY 2027		
Sun 10	Loughborough Lightning (A)	
Sun 24	**Boldmere St Michaels (H)**	
FEBRUARY 2027		
Sun 7	Derby County (A)	
Wed 10	**Liverpool Feds (H)**	
Sun 28	West Bromwich Albion (A)	
MARCH 2027		
Sun 14	Hull City (A)	
Sun 28	**Stoke City (H)**	
APRIL 2027		
Sun 4	**Peterborough United (H)**	
Sun 18	Middlesbrough (A)	
MAY 2027		
Sun 2	**Rugby Borough (H)**	

PLEASE NOTE: fixtures are subject to change, so always check our media channels. Home games kick off at 2pm and take place at the Stafflex Arena.

THE FA WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION NORTH | LATEST TABLE 2026/27

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Rugby Borough	7	6	0	1	15	18
2	West Bromwich Albion	7	5	0	2	6	15
3	Stoke City	7	4	2	1	11	14
4	Huddersfield Town	7	4	2	1	7	14
5	Norwich City	7	2	4	1	2	10
6	Liverpool Feds WFC	7	3	0	4	0	9
7	Derby County	7	3	0	4	-4	9
8	Boldmere St Michaels	7	3	0	4	-8	9
9	Loughborough Lightning	7	2	1	4	-6	7
10	Boldmere St Michaels	7	1	3	3	-9	6
11	Middlesbrough	7	1	1	5	-5	4
12	Hull City	7	1	1	5	-9	4

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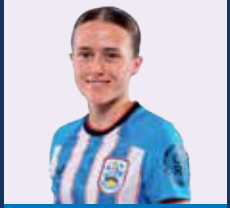
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RHEMA **LORD-MEARS**

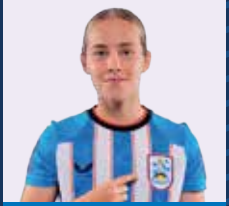


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MANAGER Glen Preston

1	Kacey **BOLTON-WOOLLAM**
2	Beth **STANSFIELD**
3	Beth **IBBOTSON**
4	Kate **MALLIN**
5	Autumn **HOUSLEY**
6	Lauren **GRIFFITHS**
8	Ella **DUFFIELD**
10	Laura **ELFORD**
11	Rebecca **BERESFORD**
12	Rhema **LORD-MEARS**
14	Emma **TAYLOR**
16	Molly **FIRTH**
19	Brierley **KEANE**
20	Louise **BIGGINS**
21	Brooke **KEANE**
22	Francesca **BROWN**
23	Serena **FLETCHER**
24	Tamira **LIVINGSTON**
25	Aimee **KELLY**
26	Neve **BIRTWISTLE**
28	Mia **GOSLING**
31	Lois **CARTMELL**
33	Bethan **DAVIES**

MIDDLESBROUGH WOMEN

MANAGER Joe Lillie

Armani **MAXWELL**
Ellen Rae **TURNBULL**
Rebecca **FERGUSON**
Bridget **GALLOWAY**
Olivia **WATT**
Abby **TOWERS**
Annie **MITCHELL**
Ava **CHAPMAN**
Eleanor **CHRISTON**
Ellen **PACKHAM**
Erin **NELSON**
Grace **BOYES**
Keira **SKELTON**
Lauren **ROBSON**
Leanna **GILES**
Lois **HUSBAND**
Megan **BORTHWICK**
Millie **BELL**
Niamh **BOOTHROYD**
Ruby **COOK**
Sarah **BURN**
Sarah **ROBSON**

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Referee: Leigh Gell
Assistant Referee: James Moody
Assistant Referee: Rosie Scott

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