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ARGYLE



SUNDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2023
KO 2PM

VS CARDIFF CITY

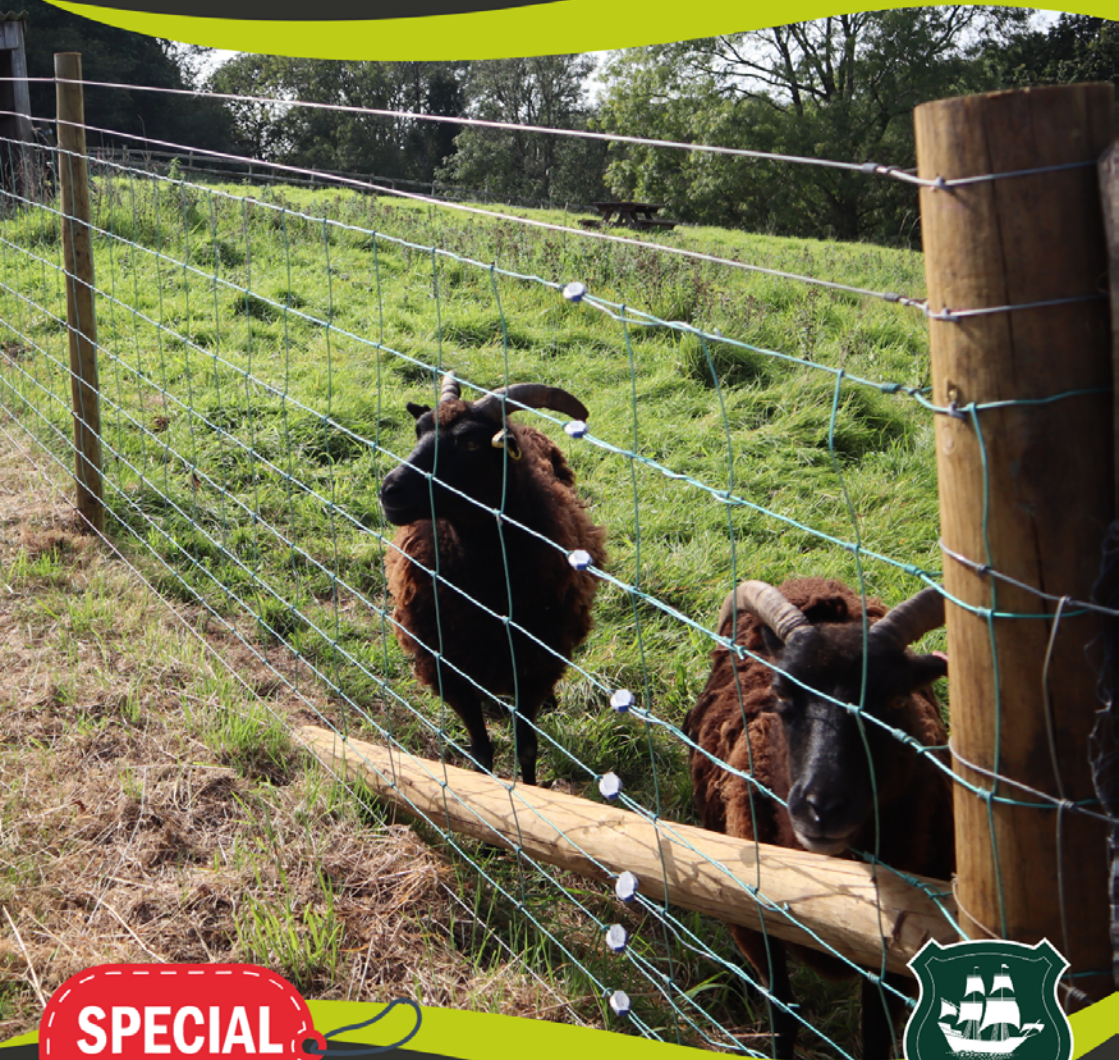


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photo by Lauren Philp



> RYAN PERKS <

MANAGER NOTES

A warm welcome to Coach Road for today's game in the League, and we are delighted to welcome the players, staff and supporters of Cardiff City Ladies.

Last weekend's FA Cup win over Oxford was obviously full of drama and a great game for everyone involved. It ebbed and flowed on the day, with fantastic character from our players to twice pull back level.

It then came down to the lottery of penalties and even more credit to the girls for demonstrating superb composure under huge pressure. We suffered a 5-0 loss to Oxford in the league, so to respond with this performance, executing the game-plan perfectly, is a huge credit to the players.

As a club, it was fantastic for everyone to enjoy the moment and we saw with the impact made by our substitutes, plus the support of those that didn't come on, that we have a special bond within the team this season.

The celebrations showed what it means to the club and obviously very special for those people behind the scenes that make a match-day possible.



RUNNING ANY FOOTBALL TEAM TAKES A CREDIT DEAL OF EFFORT AND DEDICATION, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE INVOLVED

Running any football team takes a credit deal of effort and dedication, and we are grateful to everyone involved.

After the game, we told the players to enjoy the moment but today is back to our bread and butter of the league, and another vital game. Three points would give us a cushion above the drop zone and allow us to potentially look up to the top half of the table.

That is our target for today and would be a brilliant way to complete 2023.

Ryan

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CARDIFF CITY

The story so far

Cardiff City were founded in 1975 as Llanedeyrn Ladies Football Club after a local charity match. After a few years in the South West League and a lot of success gained in 5 a side competitions, in 1981 the club decided to change its name to Cardiff and later that season won the All England five a side trophy, becoming the first club to take the trophy outside of England, a record still held today.

Over its 48 years the club has had many name changes before becoming Cardiff City Ladies FC in 1999. It has always been an independent club owned by its members apart from a short time in 2002/03 when it linked with the men's outfit, however, during that time whilst forging a link with the men's set up we retained our own identity, and later became totally independent again at the start of the 2003/04 season.

In 92/93 the FA of Wales took an interest in women's football for the first time, by inaugurating the Welsh Women's Cup. Cardiff were

successful in getting to the final, played at the prestigious National Stadium as a curtain raiser to the men's Welsh Cup Final, this being the first women's game ever to be staged there. Cardiff went on to win the Welsh cup on a record 11 occasions, bringing with it entry into the Champions League Competition, and allowing Cardiff to have played International club football against the best club teams from all over Europe in Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Slovakia and Denmark.

Cardiff City LFC have been in the FA Women's League since 1976 and after many successful years in the FA women's pyramid reaching the then FA Premier National League in 2005/6 season enjoying playing amongst the top 12 teams in the country before the new formation of the FAWNL in 2013. That year we were runners up in the FA League Cup final held at Burton Albion, losing to Sheffield in the final and being the first non English women's side to compete in an FA final. In season 2016-17 we made it back to the final, unfortunately losing to Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 in the last kick of extra time.

Season 21/22 saw the club hit a difficult patch being relegated from Tier 3 for the first time in its history. This prompted changes within by having a rebrand to change team colours to all red, change its badge and make subtle changes to modernise its outlook. Having kept the majority of the squad the club bounced straight back up at the first attempt being promoted out of Tier 4, and also enjoyed a successful FA Cup run being the only FAWNL side left in the last 16 teams, and only Independent club left in the competition, eventually losing to Lewes in a thrilling game.

Over the years the club has also provided many Welsh International players, at all age levels under 16's 17s 19's and senior level.

As the oldest and most successful club in Wales, Cardiff City LFC are very proud of its achievements and rich history. This season took the decision to secure investment from two likewise thinking co- owners to secure financial security and hopefully take the club onto the next level whilst sharing the same values and morals.



PLAYER SPONSORS 2023/24

ARGYLE WOMEN'S TEAM



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MATCH ACTION

Argyle Women 2 Oxford United 2

Penalty shoot-out: 5-3 to Argyle

Argyle are through to the fourth round of the Adobe Women's FA Cup following a dramatic to-and-fro encounter with Oxford United at Coach Road, Newton Abbot.

The Greens prevailed, winning 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out, following 120 minutes of action which ebbed and flowed, eventually finishing 2-2 after extra-time.

The first and second half of the regulation 90 minutes each saw goals in stoppage time. Lacy-Jai Liggett put Oxford in front seconds before the half-time whistle blew, but Argyle answered with a strong second-half performance, capped by

a Fern Orchard equaliser as the game seemed to be over.

In the second period of extra-time, Oxford won a penalty, converted by Zoe Barratt, but Argyle reacted instantly, with Imy Crawford's spectacular effort levelling the game for a second time.

In a shoot-out, the Pilgrims were perfect from the spot, scoring all five penalties, and advancing to the next round.

Argyle had the first chance of the game, with Rosie McDonnell hitting a 20-yard effort wide after just five minutes, but it needed Jasmine Read in the Greens' goal to save smartly

from Barratt from a very dangerous Oxford attack just a few minutes later.

Argyle defender Taya Pomfret almost played her side into trouble, but made a superb recovery tackle, and drove away with the ball, sparking a spell of Argyle pressure which ended with a shot from Rebecca Dandridge from just outside the area, which drifted off-target.

United did get in front before the break, though, through Liggett's goal. A cross from the left was challenged for bravely by Wiseman, and the ball fell kindly inside the six-yard area for Liggett, who steered home.

Like the first half, the second period saw precious little in the way of clear opportunities for either side, but Argyle certainly began to increase their possession, with Oxford perhaps looking to protect their slender advantage. It was hardly raining chances, but the Greens were definitely on top.

Argyle captain Panagiota Papaioannou had to be withdrawn midway through the half with a leg injury, with Lucy Hack seamlessly slotting into the backline. With 12 minutes remaining, Perks sent on Jade Berrow for Katie Dickson, and switching to a 3-5-2 system in order to commit

more forward and find the elusive equaliser.

With the game now much more open, it took a brave block from Pomfret and a vital tackle from McDonnell to prevent United extending their lead.

Crawford got another long-range effort on target, which was saved, and it looked like Oxford had seen the game out, but Perks' final roll of the dice paid huge dividends. With four minutes remaining of the 90, he brought on Orchard for Sara, and Orchard was soon in the thick of the action.

Whitmore's surge down the left flank left her marker in her wake, and a cut back picked out Orchard's run perfectly. A sweet first-time finish later – Orchard's first Argyle goal – and the game was sent to extra-time, as Orchard celebrated among a forest of green shirts.

Momentum was with the Pilgrims at the start of the

additional 30 minutes; they began on the front foot, with Mia Endacott firing not far over from the edge of the area. That said, it took an excellent stop from Read, with Barratt through on goal, to maintain parity.

There were more heroics to come from Read who, in the second period of extra-time, saved from point-blank range from King. The remarkable save was compounded as Read smothered the loose ball to keep United poachers at bay.

With less than ten minutes remaining, Oxford were awarded a penalty, as the unfortunate Pomfret, who had an excellent game, raised an arm to stop a shot, and stopped the ball's trajectory. Barratt struck firmly home from the spot, and that appeared to be that.

Not so.

This amazing game had another twist in it yet. Dandridge kept a remarkably cool head as she beat two defenders

on the edge of the area, teeing up Crawford to smash in from 20 yards. Cue delirium – and penalties.

In the shoot-out, former Argyle player Leah Burridge missed Oxford's second penalty, which gave the Greens the advantage. All five of Argyle's takers – Rose, Endacott, Berrow, Pomfret and Whitmore – dispatched their efforts, meaning Argyle proudly take their place in the fourth round of the cup.

Argyle: 1 Jasmine Read, 2 Katie Dickson (11 Jade Berrow, 78), 3 Rosie McDonnell, 4 Jemma Rose, 5 Panagiota Papaioannou (capt) (6 Lucy Hack, 67), 7 Charlotte Whitmore, 8 lmy Crawford, 9 Ellie Sara (20 Fern Orchard, 86), 10 Rebecca Dandridge (15 Georgie Knott, 118), 18 Taya Pomfret, 29 Mia Endacott. Substitutes: 42 Lily Felgate (gk), 13 Grace Smith, 14 Tamsin Medd-Gill, 23 Katelyn Bell.

FIXTURES

AUGUST

Sun 20 Billericay Town L 0-6
Sun 27 Exeter City W 4-1

SEPTEMBER

Sun 3 Ipswich Town L 1-7
Sun 10 Cheltenham Town W 3-2
Sun 17 Oxford United L 0-5
Sun 24 Rugby Borough L 2-6

OCTOBER

Sun 1 Cardiff City Cup L 1-3
Sun 8 Chatham Town W 1-1
Sun 15 Portsmouth L 1-3
Sun 22 Hashtag United L 0-2

NOVEMBER

Sun 5 London Bees W 5-1
Sun 12 Ilminster FAC W 13-0
Sun 26 AFC Stoneham FAC W 4-2

DECEMBER

Sun 10 Oxford United FAC W 2-2*
Sun 17 Cardiff City (H)

JANUARY

Sun 7 Chatham Town (H)
Sun 14 Nottingham Forest (H)
Sun 21 Cheltenham Town (A)
Sun 28 Oxford United (H)

FEBRUARY

Sun 4 MK Dons (A)
Sun 11 Rugby Borough (H)
Sun 18 Torquay United (A) Cup
Sun 25 Portsmouth (A)

MARCH

Sun 3 Ipswich Town (H)
Sun 10 Cardiff City (A)
Sun 24 Hashtag United (H)
Sun 31 London Bees (A)

APRIL

Sun 21 Billericay (A)

MAY

Sun 5 Milton Keynes Dons (H)

*won 5-3 on pens



CLUB NEWS

ARGYLE TO FACE NOTTINGHAM FOREST IN ADOBE WOMEN'S FA CUP

Argyle Women have been drawn against Nottingham Forest, at home, in round four of the Adobe Women's FA Cup.

The Greens went into the fourth round via a dramatic victory against Oxford United on Sunday.

The sides drew 1-1 in 90 minutes, then 2-2 after extra-time, with Argyle prevailing 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out.

The reward is a fourth-round tie against Forest, who are third in the FA Women's National League Premier Division North,

which is the third tier of English Women's football. Argyle are in the southern equivalent.

The game is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 14 January. The location of the fixture and ticket details will be released in due course.

VACANCY | WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

A position has arisen for a dedicated and hard-working person to join our media team, as a Website and Social Media Manager.

This role is a key part of our passionate and dedicated marketing and communications team and therefore we're looking for a suitable character to complement our existing ethos, with a clear focus on creative and engaging content, energy and enthusiasm

and a genuine passion for what they do.

The role will be responsible for delivering consistent best-in-class management of the official club websites, Apps and Social Media platforms.

It will lead the creation of site content and features, to continually improve the website user experience and support the football club's mission as well as leading on the implementation

of the Club's tone of voice across all platforms, sharing ideas on engaging content that stands out from the crowd and being on the front-foot regarding trends and best practice.

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 24 December. Applicants should send a CV and covering letter to Alastair.Cliffe@pafc.co.uk

VACANCY | EVERGREEN SUPPORTER ENGAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

A new vacancy has arisen in the growing Supporter Engagement Team at Home Park, working in the Evergreen Suite.

We are looking for a committed, hard-working and personable individual looking to further their

career and support the club in our ambition to progress Evergreen.

The successful candidate will provide assistance with supporter queries, as well as generate revenue by selling club products throughout the season,

in addition to delivering special projects.

Please send your CV and covering letter to tim.herbert@pafc.co.uk before the closing date of Wednesday, 27 December.



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4 Jemma Rose
5 Panagiota Papaioannou
6 Lucy Hack
7 Charlotte Whitmore
8 Imy Crawford
9 Ellie Sara
10 Rebecca Dandridge
11 Jade Widdows
13 Grace Smith
14 Tamsin Medd-Gill
15 Georgie Knott
18 Taya Pomfret
19 Erin O'Shea
20 Fern Orchard
21 Maddi Curno 🍀
22 Emily Elliot
23 Katelyn Bell
24 Grace Perrins
29 Mia Endacott
42 Lily Felgate 🍀

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21 Ruby Scahill
22 Amy Long
23 Cerys Jones
24 Nia Rees
25 Hannah Mills
27 Summer Kilby
28 Ebony Dover

Match Officials

Referee: Gareth Dunn

Assistants: Mike Wheeler-Foulkes & Murat Kaymaz