



FOOTBALL
V
TRANSPHOBIA



CLAPTON CFC VS
SOCCER ELITE FA
2.00PM SUNDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2025

OLD SPOTTED DOG
London & South East Regional
Women's League Trophy
Semi-Final

CLAPTON CFC

OSKIA SUMMERS
FORWARD

FOOTBALL v TRANSPHOBIA

Today's game is dedicated to Football v Transphobia week, which ends on March 31, Transgender Day of Visibility. We'll be having a bucket shake for two causes: Mermaids, a charity helping transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse young people and their families; and London Trans+ Pride, which this year is on Saturday, July 26.



We're partnering with Baller Friends Collective for today's extravaganza. They'll be DJing and other stuff after the game too. Baller FC was born of a desire to create inclusive spaces to watch women's football after years of traipsing between pubs that refused to show the WSL or relegated it to a tiny TV in a dingy corner. They host watch parties, drawing nearly 500 people to their World Cup Final event in 2023.

LSERWFL TROPHY

Today's semi-final winners will play Dulwich Hamlet Reserves or Bognor Regis Town in the final, depending on their result today. Final date and venue TBC.

CLAPTON COMMUNITY MAKING THE GAME FAIRER FOR EVERYONE

IN 2021, A SPORTS COUNCILS Equality Group report claimed transgender inclusion in competitive sport was incompatible with fairness. In reality, genuine concern for fairness rarely factors into decisions about women's sport.

Since this report, we've seen a wave of sports bodies excluding trans+ athletes from tennis, rugby, swimming and even chess(!).

The FA has come under increasing pressure to follow suit, though retaining its policy that trans+ players must provide intrusively detailed medical test results. With NHS waiting lists for gender-affirming care often more than 5 years, for many, this is an insurmountable barrier.

This is just one of many challenges trans players face. Trans youth charity, Mermaids, found that 70 percent of trans youth have felt their gender was a barrier to participation in sport. Last season, anti-discrimination organisation Kick It Out reported a 150 percent increase in transphobia in football.

Politicians only profess concern about fairness in sport when trans+ women can be made the scapegoat. Yet nothing is said of the real challenges facing women's football. Like the fact half of secondary schools do not give girls equal access to football.

Or that 4 in 5 women experience "high levels" of discomfort wearing football boots, considered a reason for the heightened number of serious ACL injuries in the women's game.

Too often, the needs of women's



"IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT FANS KEEP SHOWING UP TO SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S TEAMS IN EVER GREATER NUMBERS."

footballers are neglected. Last year, Stoke City player Abby Hunt was told her club would not pay for surgery or even an MRI scan after a serious injury. Instead, they let her go.

The rot starts at the top, with billionaire miser and Manchester United owner, Jim Ratcliffe calling the women's team a "small issue". As more dirty money shoves through football at every level, it is simply distraction to seriously suggest that trans+ inclusion threatens the fairness of the game.

It is because CCFC is a fan-owned, fan-run club, that it offers sanctuary to players from every background and gender. That's why it's so important that fans keep showing up to support the women's teams in ever greater numbers. That's how we make the game fairer for everyone.

Tammy Hymas



ALICE SHARPE **WOMEN'S HEAD COACH**

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO BE AT THE OSD for this semi-final game. When we re-established our ambitions for the season in January a cup run was at the top of everyone's list. We have always been a team with a lot of ambition, most of it is based on what happens on the pitch in 90 minutes. Some of it is about our impact on our local community and women and non-binary football as a whole.

This weekend we are celebrating the role and opportunity for the trans community in football. In my day job I talk a lot to my young people about allyship being above and beyond neutrality. We explore what it looks like within their curriculum, within their school community and in their wider community too.

This club is where football is different. Looks different. Feels different. It goes beyond neutrality and aims to create a place of safety

and allyship. Football has been a space where members of our society have been unsafe and unwelcome for generations. It is our responsibility and our privilege to change that.

I like to think we are on our way to creating safety for the trans community on our pitch, in our stands and within the Clapton community. But it is happening in the context of arbitrary rules and restrictions maintained and upheld by society and imposed by the FA. It is happening in the context of overt transphobia by opposition players and fans and the conscious or unconscious bias of officials (depending on how generous I am feeling.)

Allyship is not believing we have created a space of sanctuary despite all the evidence to the contrary. Football belongs to everyone, and until that is reflected by the institutions that hold our sport captive, we need to speak a little louder.

PLAYER PROFILE: ANNIE MCGRATH

PLACE OF BIRTH:

North London (is red)

WHERE YOU LIVE: I'd tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

DAY JOB: Comedy writer/performer

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Legends FC

ALL TIME FAVOURITE

PLAYER: Thierry Henry

FAVOURITE TEAM, APART FROM

CLAPTON CFC: Arsenal

BIGGEST HIGH IN FOOTBALL: Loved

my CCFC debut. I started on the bench, then got subbed on when we were one nil down. Scored two and we won the game 2-1!

LOWEST POINT IN FOOTBALL: I met

some (male) friends to play five-a-side and when we got to the pitch the receptionist looked at me and said: "sorry love, no spectators".

Of course I did the mature thing of printing a T-Shirt saying "I'm playing, bitch" and went back wearing it the following week.

LIKES AND HOBBIES: Playing pool, running, painting, netball, Wordle, arguing with referees.

DISLIKES: I have a phobia of oranges, so half-time is an absolute nightmare.

FAVOURITE COUNTRY VISITED: Iceland was magical.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Cadbury

Mini Eggs and crispy duck pancakes (not all together).

FAVOURITE FILM: I watched Bend

It Like Beckham every weekend for a year when it came out.

FAVOURITE TV: Happy Valley, Line of Duty, Adolescence...

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Now 44, the perfect album (don't @ me).

FOOTBALLING AMBITION:

Keep improving, keep scoring goals and stay injury free. Or failing that, the Ballon d'Or?

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Arsène Wenger



SOCCER ELITE FA

WELCOME TO TODAY'S VISITING PLAYERS,
COACHES, SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS

GOALKEEPERS

JANELL MATHURIN
CHELSIE SPARKS

DEFENDERS

MARTA BOIRO
MIM CHADWICK
ELENA DIANA
LENNY HOLMES
ANNIE LYONS
JULIA MOULTON
NOORA OIKARAINEN
ALLANA SCOBLE
ALICE SHARPE
KAYLEE SHURETY
EVA VAN DER VLIET

MIDFIELDERS

TAIYAH EVANS
ANA HOLMES
TAMMY HYMAS
CHLOE OWEN
LUCY SPOURS
LI STEINER
EGLE TREZZI
RHIANNE WRIGHT

FORWARDS

TEJU CALLISTO
MARTA CASANOVAS
EMILY LINK
MARIA MENDONCA
AIMEE SHAW
OSKIA SUMMERS
SOPHIE UGUR

SOCCER ELITE FA

- Noelani
- Agyeman
- Storm Arnold
- Ella Bowyer
- Eliza Brooks
- Mary-Jane
- Cameron-Sumpton
- Lacey Campbell
- Madeleine
- Chapman
- Millie Cobham
- Hermione
- Dorsett
- Mikayla Falp
- Sophie Hedges
- Ellie-Mae Hogan
- Poppy Mackenzie
- Daisy Regnier
- Saskia Smith
- Charlotte Sone

THE SOCCER ELITE FOOTBALL Academy play at the same level as us, but in the LSERWFL Division One South while we're in the North. It's their first season at this level after winning an impressive league and cup double last season. That promotion was gained under the name XL FC but this summer they merged into the existing SEFA.

As well as the women's first team, SEFA offer full-time education programmes, academies and youth teams from under 10 upwards for both boys and girls. The club is based at Star Meadow Sports Complex in Gillingham, which is also home to Hollands & Blair of the SCEFL Premier Division.

FORM GUIDE

SEFA reached the semis in the LSERWFL Trophy with two away wins at Montpellier Villa and Hastings United from their own division. In the league they're in ninth spot, just above the relegation zone, but took a big step towards safety with a draw against high-flying Saltdean United Development last week. They've met one team in our division already this season, losing 2-1 to Actonians Reserves in the LSERWFL Cup.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Former Welling United player Storm Arnold is joint top scorer with 6 this season after netting 9 last season.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM

DATE TIME COMP OPPONENTS/VENUE

Apr 03	7.45pm	LSERWFL	(A) Hackney (at Wadham Lodge Stadium)
Apr 06	2pm	LSERWFL	(H) Denham United (at Old Spotted Dog Ground)
Apr 13	2pm	LSERWFL	(A) Actonians Reserves (at Gunnersbury Park)
May 04	2pm	LSERWFL	(H) Brentford (at Old Spotted Dog Ground)

MEN'S FIRST TEAM

DATE TIME COMP OPPONENTS/VENUE

Apr 05	3pm	SCEFL	(A) Staplehurst Monarchs (at Jubilee Sports Ground)
Apr 12	3pm	SCEFL	(H) Welling Town (at Old Spotted Dog Ground)
Apr 19	3pm	SCEFL	(A) Lewisham Borough (at Ladywell Arena)
Apr 26	3pm	SCEFL	(H) Forest Hill Park (at Old Spotted Dog Ground)

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