







Matchday

GEM MT ARIA HEIL LONDON BEES 2025



LONDON BEES VS CRYSTAL PALACE

Women's National League Cup Sunday 28th September **Bees Stadium**

















There are many ancestral spirits behind the London Bees, but its earliest roots date back to a group of ladies working at Transport for London's District Line.

In the 1970s the women, looking for a team to play football, banded together and entered the Hounslow & District League – forming the platform for a remarkable rise.

Named in honour of their workplace, District Line Ladies FC appeared in leagues across Greater London before tasting promotion to the Women's FA National League Southern Division in the early 1990s.

It did not take long afterwards before the squad merged with Wembley FC – becoming Wembley Ladies FC and reaching their zenith in an FA Cup final defeat to Millwall Lionesses in 1997.

Meanwhile Barnet Ladies FC, established by Barnet director Graham Slyper in the mid-80s, had become officially affiliated with the men's club.

It prompted another merger in 1998 after Wembley's FA Cup finalists began to leave the club, including teenager and eventual England legend Kelly Smith.

Barnet FC Ladies have been a virtual mainstay in English football's top tier ever since before London Bees, a brand new franchise, was welcomed into the Women's Super League fold for 2014.

London Bees first ever fixture in WSL2 resulted in a 3-0 victory over Oxford United Ladies, with 16-year old Lucy Loomes scoring their first ever goal.

In 2016, the Bees experienced their best season to date, taking home a record points haul for the season as well as a historic run to the semi-finals of the Continental Cup, knocking out Chelsea en route. The 2017 Spring Series saw the Bees get off to a great start and top the league in the early stages.

This season marks the second year of Dan McKimm's tenure as manager of the London Bees. The Bees currently sit top of the FA Women's National League Division One South East, the fourth tier of women's football in England, after a perfect start with three wins from three matches. With promotion the clear goal, the Bees will be hoping to build on this early momentum and turn a strong start into a truly memorable season.





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London Bees end their unbeaten league run after a hard fought 2-1 loss against Norwich City.

It was clear in the opening minutes that both teams were on form, fighting to be the first to put the ball into the back of the net.

Norwich City were the first to be presented with a chance as they received a corner however, the score styed nil nil as they received the long ball and made an attempt on goal – only for the ball to fly over the back of the net.

This near miss appeared to spur the Bees on, with the Norwich defence working tirelessly to keep the Bees away.

Eventually they broke through with Whitelock receiving the ball by the corner flag and crossing the ball towards the goal.

The pass was collected by Fowle who smashed the ball into the back of the net and the Bees were ahead.

After a foul, the visitors were awarded a penalty taken by Symonds who sends the ball past Ginn and into the bottom right corner.

Play continued with both teams battling in the midfield both hoping to pull forwards and score.

A corner for the Bees was dealt with by Norwich who sent the ball towards the other end of the pitch.

They then took their chance to play a ball into the net, a chance that was denied by Ginn who caught the ball expertly.

It was Norwich goal scorer, Symonds, who was next to score, winning the ball and taking a strike on goal which flew past Ginn as half time approached.

Half time: London Bees 1 - 2 Norwich City

The Bees had two chances early on in the second half, having been awarded two fee kicks on goal back to back.

Sadly they were unable to convert either of these set pieces into goals.

Manager Dan McKimm sensed a need for change as time went on, making three changes in ten minutes.

Isherwood, Durn and Kenly all came onto the pitch for Larkin, Heil and Martins consecutively.

One more change came soon after, with Vigo coming on in the place of Burrows.

In the 90th minute, play was paused after a Norwich City player went down with a serious injury.

Play resumed and the full time whistled soon sounded.

Full time: London Bees 1 - 2 Norwich City

Line-up: Ginn, Hoteit, Heil (Durn 64'), Flynn, Martins (Kenly 66'), Burrows (Vigo 84'), Fowle, Larkin (Isherwood 59'), Wozniak, Campbell, Whitelock

Goals: Fowle (9)



CRYSTAL PALACE

Crystal Palace Women's Academy are taking part in this competition this season. Having gained semi-professional status in 2018 and joining the FA Women's Championship, they established themselves as a competitive side before making history in 2024 by winning the Championship and securing their first-ever promotion to the Women's Super League. That debut season, however, proved a difficult test, and despite moments of promise the Eagles were relegated back to the second tier in 2025.

The club play their home matches at the VBS Community Stadium in Sutton, though they also feature at Selhurst Park on occasion, and have been fully integrated into the Crystal Palace F.C. structure since 2022. Their progress reflects both investment and ambition, with a strong base of players and staff determined to take the team back into the WSL at the first opportunity.

Recent results underline the challenges of transition, with Palace falling to a 2–0 defeat against Dulwich Hamlet and a 6–1 loss to Hashtag United. Nevertheless, their experience at the top level and the foundations laid in recent years make them a side with both quality and resilience, and they arrive looking to regain form and momentum in what is an important stage of their campaign.

SQUADLIST

Manager

Dan McKimm

(GK) Tia Ginn (GK) Emma Roberts Mira Hoteit Aria Heil Olivia Clement Rebekah Wozniak Sandra Martin Aimee Durn Millie Isherwood Sam Lanza Megan Burrows Brionne Fowle Francesca Vigo Betty Larkin Sophie Davidson Shamoy Campbell Layla Kenly Destiny Rosier-Welsh Ronnie Richards Lily Whitelock Isla Callinson

Match Officials