

# WHO ARE YA?!

## The most famous club in women's football, the...

# DONCASTER



### THE CLUB

**Founded** 1969

**Colours** Yellow and blue

**Nickname** The Belles

**Stadium** Keepmoat Stadium

**Record Attendance** 1,797

**Record Win** 46-0 v County Canaries

**Record Defeat** 9-0 v Liverpool, 2013

**Most Appearances** Sheila Stocks, who played for the Belles for over 25 years

**Most Goals** Karen Walker, who scored a hat-trick in every round of the 1992 FA Cup, including the final!

#### Honours

FA Women's Premier League National Division 1991-92, 1993-94; FA Women's Cup 1983, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994

**Top Fact** The Belles were inspired to wear yellow and blue by the brilliant Brazil side of the 1970s!



HOME SHIRT



LEGEND  
GILLIAN  
COULTARD

Many people say the **Doncaster Belles** are the most famous club in women's football. They've been **champions of England** twice, and have played in **13 FA Women's Cup** finals, lifting the trophy **six times**! This season the Belles are flying high in **WSL 2**, and looking forward to their **50th birthday** next year.

### THE MANAGER

**Neil Redfearn** took over as manager at the end of 2017, having previously managed in the men's game at **Leeds** and **Rotherham**. Redfearn played over 1,000 times for 20 clubs – including **Doncaster Rovers** in the 1980s.

### THE HISTORY

The Belles were founded in **1969**, when a group of friends who sold raffle tickets at Doncaster Rovers' **Belle Vue** stadium decided to form their own team.

The Belle Vue Belles (later changed to Doncaster Belles) soon proved themselves, winning the **FA Women's Cup** in 1983, 1987, 1988 and 1990. A new National Premier Division started in 1991-92, and the Belles became its **first champions**, winning all 14 of their matches. They also won the FA Women's Cup (again!) that season – a trophy double they repeated two years later.



The Belles celebrate winning the Cup in 1990

Three former Belles players – **Debbie Bampton**, **Gillian Coultard** and **Karen Walker** – have captained the national team. All three are included in the **National Football Museum's Hall of Fame**. Coultard played for the Belles for 24 years while also working full-time in a factory, and was the first woman to reach **100 caps** for **England**!

From the mid-1990s onwards the increasing strength of teams like **Arsenal**, **Croydon** and **Fulham** saw the Belles' dominance challenged – but in **2011** they were one of eight founders of the new **Women's Super League**.

### DID YOU KNOW?

England Lionesses stars **Millie Bright** and **Jade Moore** both started their football careers with the Belles!



THE BOSS  
NEIL REDFEARN

# BELLES

**MASCOT**  
VALDA THE VIKING



## THE STADIUM

In 2007, the Belles and the Rovers moved together to the brand new **Keepmoat Stadium** in Doncaster. It has a capacity of **15,231**, making it the biggest stadium currently in use in the whole of the Women's Super League! The final of the **FA Women's Cup** was held there in 2013, when Arsenal Ladies beat Bristol Academy 3-0 in front of a crowd of 4,998.

## THE FANS

Keys, purse, match ticket... **bell!** Belles supporters love to bring bells with them to the Keepmoat Stadium. They ring them throughout the game to show their support for the team – and leave the opposition's ears ringing. It's no wonder they've nicknamed themselves the "Noisy Fans"!

## THE RIVALS

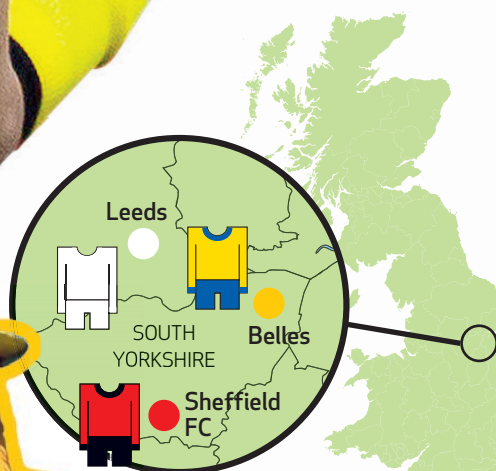
The Belles' local rivals are fellow Yorkshire club **Leeds United Ladies**, but the two sides haven't been in the same division since 2009-10. The rise of nearby **Sheffield FC** has given them a local match in WSL 2. They have also had a long rivalry with **Arsenal Ladies**, especially in the 1990s when the two clubs were closely competing for trophies.

## THE STAR PLAYERS

Doncaster-born **Jess Sigsworth** is the Belles' top scorer this season. The 23-year-old has represented England in four age groups. At the back, **Rhiannon Roberts** is a regular in the Wales squad. She and Belles captain **Leandra Little** form a solid pairing in central defence.

Jess Sigsworth celebrates a goal for the Belles

**NICKNAME**  
THE BELLES



Rhiannon Roberts in action for Wales

