

WHO ARE YA?!

DURHAM WOMEN



THE CLUB

Founded 2014

Colours Blue

Nickname The Wildcats

Stadium New Ferens Park

Record Attendance 1,629 v Chelsea, 2019

Durham Women have one of the smallest budgets in the top two divisions, but they have put together a really exciting young squad of players.

Instead of battling against relegation, they are giving the big clubs such as Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur a run for their money at the top of the table as they seriously challenge for promotion from the Women's Championship to the Super League!

THE MANAGER

Lee Sanders set up a girls' football club in 2006 because his 12-year-old daughter needed a team to play for. That club would become **Durham Women**, and these days he's still organising pretty much everything at **New Ferens Park** – from tactics and training to booking coaches to take players to away matches.

THE HISTORY

This won't take long, because the club have a pretty short history! When the FA introduced a second division to the **WSL** for the 2014 season, Durham Women was a brand new name on the list – the result of that team formed by Lee Sanders in 2006 merging with the **Durham University** women's club.

As the only club in the current **Women's Super League** and **Championship** not connected to a men's team, Durham don't have much money to spend on players. That makes it impressive that they've competed in the Championship in each of their six seasons so far, because while football

Durham players celebrate victory over Man Utd



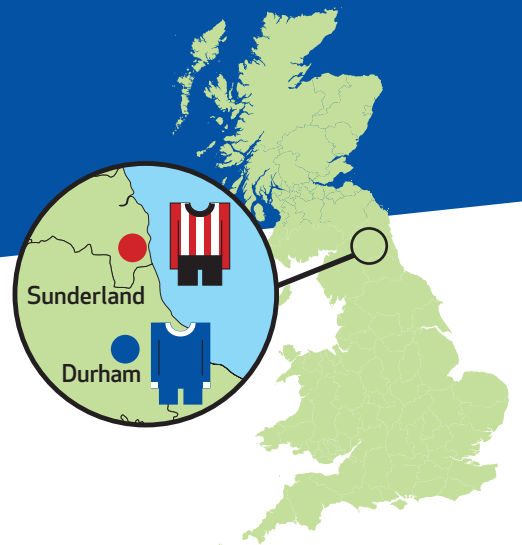
MASCOT CANDY

Beth Hepple scores against Man Utd



MEN

The Wildcats have dug their claws into the FA Women's Championship!



DID YOU KNOW?
Manchester United have dominated the Championship this season, winning 14 out of 16 games before April – but their one draw and one defeat have both come at the hands of Durham!

THE FANS

As the only senior football team, male or female, who play in Durham itself, the Wildcats get plenty of support at their games. They've smashed their attendance record twice already this season – 912 fans saw the win over Manchester United, before FA Cup fever took hold and 1,629 filled New Ferens Park for the quarter-final visit of Chelsea. Expect another big crowd when they host **Tottenham Hotspur** on 11th May for what could be a final day promotion decider!

THE RIVALS

Sunderland's Black Cats, based just 15 miles away, did the double over the Wildcats in Durham's 2014 WSL debut season, but the two teams haven't played in the same league since. That makes **Sheffield United** Durham's current closest league rivals, even though they are over 100 miles away!

THE STAR PLAYERS

Beth Hepple, a 22-year-old midfielder, has been at the club for more than ten years and has contributed plenty of goals and assists in that time. Striker **Zoe Ness** is in her second spell with Durham and will be hoping to keep her place in Scotland's squad for the World Cup.

is a full-time job for the players at some clubs such as league leaders **Manchester United**, Durham's young squad have to juggle their work or studies alongside training and matches.

That didn't stop them dishing out a 3-1 defeat to United in December, and they gave **Chelsea** an **FA Cup** test in March, losing 1-0. As the season approaches its end, the **Wildcats** are well in the hunt for promotion to the WSL – what an achievement that would be!

THE STADIUM

Durham is a city in the north-east of England famous for its cathedral, and the team's home, **New Ferens Park**, is on its outskirts. You can sit in the stand for the best view, or get close to the action by standing along the touchlines. The artificial pitch means the ground can host lots of matches and training, whatever the weather.



Super striker Zoe Ness

Durham teach Man Utd a lesson!

FA Cup holders Chelsea visit New Ferens Park