

St Helens WFC, 1977. Copyright: National Football Museum

As England prepares to host the UEFA Women’s EUROs this summer, a National Lottery funded project will tell the stories of the country's female pioneers of the game.

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The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded £500,000 to the ‘UEFA Women's EURO 2022 – Women's Football Heritage’ project, led by Rotherham Council and Milton Keynes Council in partnership with the Football Association (FA).

Unheard voices

For the first time, information about every England player, captain, goal scorer and match score since 1972 will be researched and recorded. It will be shared alongside the information that already exists about men’s football.

Hosted on the FA’s England Football website, the record will continue to be updated, ensuring future female players in England are part of the wider footballing story. The project will particularly explore the role of the LGBTQ+ community in women’s football.

> We're delighted to support this project, which will give fans and players the chance to celebrate the history of women's football and communities the chance to discover their connections to the game.
>
> *- Eilish McGuinness, CEO of The National Lottery Heritage Fund*

In a year which also marks 141 years since the women's England team first played competitively, the project will challenge the perception of football being 'new' for women and improve how the sport is understood.



Dick, Kerr Ladies, formed in Preston, 1917. Copyright: National Football Museum

Summer of celebration

An exciting summer of celebrations, exhibitions, memory films, oral histories and community activities is being held across the nine UEFA Women's EURO host cities: Brighton & Hove, London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Rotherham, Sheffield, Southampton, Trafford and Wigan & Leigh.

Venues include Brighton Museum, Sheffield Winter Gardens, National Football Museum and Wembley Park. The stories and objects will shine a light on the experiences of women footballers that have never been told.

See what's on

Eilish McGuinness, CEO of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: "Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, the hidden history and unheard voices of women's football will be shared for the first time, capturing the full story of the beloved sport.

“We’re delighted to support this project which will give fans and players the chance to celebrate the history of women’s football and communities the chance to discover their connections to the game.”

Sharing sporting heritage

National Lottery funding has helped projects share the heritage and unheard voices of many sports across the UK. Recent examples include:

- Group of people on mountain pose for camera
  The Pinnacle Club's first meeting in 1921

  The Pinnacle Club Centenary Project – marking 100 years since the Pinnacle Club was set to support women climbers in the UK.
- Sport in the Community: Shaping NI for 100 years – Sported Foundation are exploring how sport has acted as a vehicle for change in Northern Ireland.
- Port Talbot Harriers and Athletics Club – the multisport club are celebrating their 100 year anniversary in 2021.

Have a project idea?

We fund heritage projects large and small, providing grants from £3,000 up to millions of pounds.

Take a look at our funding programmes to see if one might be right for you.



Julia Lee refereeing in 1986 Andrew Varley Agency



ebrated in Yorkshire

Netball games with Sported charity. Credit: Sported NI



Years

100 years of women scaling new heights with the Pinnacle Club