



Mia Hamm (right),
America's female Beckham.

Take us Seriously!

Who cares about women's football?

Good question.

Ask the average person on the street to name three amazing footballers, and they might mention Beckham, Owen, Rooney... all men. But what about Rachel Smith, Jill Scott and Julie Fleeting? Chances are, you won't have heard of them.

Women's football in this country is shamefully ignored, ridiculed and mocked. Men's football is the national sport, along with cricket and rugby. Actually, come to think of it, they are all men's sports – where are all the women?

Imagine this. You are a female footballer, chosen to represent your club in the FA Cup. You train hard. You dream about it at night. You work hard on the pitch. You score goals. Then you read in the paper that a male footballer in the same situation as you is earning five times as much. How would you feel?

The fact is, women's football just isn't as popular. So it isn't on the TV. So people don't know who the stars are, and how high the level of play is. So it isn't as popular. See the problem? It's a vicious circle with sharp teeth, which prevents women players being given the same pay and respect as the men.

It's different in America. Female soccer players in the USA are famous and girls all over the country look up to players like Mia Hamm, the female equivalent of



Julie Fleeting (left) of Diego Spirit, 2003.

Beckham. She earns the huge sums in salary and sponsorship that women in Britain simply can't. How is this possible? Women's sports in the US get equal funding to the men's sports, due to a law called Title IX, which bans discrimination in the funding of sporting activities. We need this law in Britain if women's football is to be as respected, as popular and as lucrative as men's.

When women's football does get on the TV, it isn't widely publicised. In the media, women players are criticised for the outfits they wear, not praised for their skills. Ironically though, women's football is one of the fastest growing sports in the UK.

So isn't it about time it was taken seriously?

JOIN THE TEAM!

- ⚽ Want to learn to bend it like Beckham?
- ⚽ Can you run it through like Rooney?
- ⚽ Think you can tackle like Terry?

NOW YOU CAN!

NEWTOWN GIRLS' FOOTBALL CLUB

We are a small, friendly, up-and-coming club,
and we need more players!

NEEDS YOU!

Think that football is a game for the boys? Think again!!

Girls' football is one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK. Last year, 500 new clubs just for girls were set up all over the country.

Football keeps you FIT, HEALTHY, and best of all, IT'S FUN!

So, if you are a girl aged between 7 and 16, and you want to come and play in one of the most exciting teams in the region, learn new skills, and have a wicked time, give us a call!

Head Coach: Jane Smith 01245 6678987



FOOTIE FACTS — DID YOU KNOW?

- ⚽ The first football was a pig's bladder!
- ⚽ Women's football was popular at the time of the First World War.
- ⚽ The most successful team of the era was Dick Kerr's Ladies of Preston.
- ⚽ Women's football used to be more popular than men's! in the early 20th century, one match drew a 53,000 crowd.
- ⚽ In 1921 the Football Association banned women from playing because they thought it was distasteful (Boo!). The ban was finally lifted in 1971 (Hooray!).
- ⚽ Japan was the first country to have a professional women's football league (in 1992).