PRESS RELEASE

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**LILY PARR: TRAILBLAZING HISTORY MAKER**

**NEW MUSEUM GALLERY DEDICATED TO FOOTBALL’S FIRST FEMALE SUPERSTAR**

Football’s first female football superstar will get a new permanent museum gallery dedicated to her life and legacy.

The National Football Museum will celebrate Lily Parr – England’s first international women’s footballer - by creating a gallery to the player inside the museum. This gallery is expected to open in spring 2021.

The news comes exactly a year to the day that the museum unveiled a statue to Lily – the first statue ever for a female footballer.

Born in St Helens in 1905, Parr was one of most astonishing and important figures in English football.

Starting her career at hometown team St Helens Ladies, Parr moved on to Dick, Kerr Ladies FC and later Preston Ladies. Operating as an outside left winger, it’s believed she scored more than 980 goals in a 32-year career.

Parr was renowned for having one of the most powerful shots in the game, wowed capacity crowds with her skills, showcased her talents overseas, influenced generations of female players and defied a Football Association ban on the game she loved.

Off the field, Parr trained as a nurse and worked in Preston's Whittingham psychiatric hospital.

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: Interview Belinda Scarlett, National Football Museum curator of Women’s Football about Lily Parr and the new gallery. Contact** **dickie.felton@nationalfootballmuseum.com**

The new gallery has been made possible thanks to a £55,440.00 grant from the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) Biffa Award, which gives grants to museums and heritage organisations to help tell stories of lesser-known historical figures through its History Makers Scheme.

The new interpretation will explore Parr’s career and influence and will open early in 2021 to coincide with the Football Association ban on women’s football exactly a century ago. Parr and many other women, defied authority and continued to play, helping the women’s game to survive.

In 2002, Parr became the first woman to be inducted into the National Football Museum’s Hall of Fame.

In 2019 the museum unveiled a statue to her. The monument, created by sculptor Hannah Stewart, was commissioned by FA sponsor Mars and is the only statue to a female footballer in the UK.

Belinda Scarlett, curator of Women’s Football at the National Football Museum said: “We are thrilled to benefit from the AIM Biffa award which will enable us to create a new museum gallery dedicated to Lily Parr and her achievements.

“I think that people may have heard the name Lily Parr and that she played football. But many have no real understanding of her dramatic story or influence. And more importantly, how her story fits into the narrative of women’s football.

“The impact and legacy of women like Lily on the development of women’s football regionally, nationally and internationally, is highly significant and under-represented.

“We unveiled a statue to Lily Parr at the museum last year. The AIM Biffa Award funding will enable us, in a sense, to bring this statue and her story to life.”

Emma Chaplin, Director of AIM, commented: “The purpose of the AIM Biffa Award History Makers programme is to inspire people through the lives and achievements of extraordinary historical figures. We’re pleased to support the National Football Museum in opening a permanent gallery dedicated to the influential life of Lily Parr.”

Rachel Maidment, Biffa Award Grants Manager, said: “It is a privilege to be able to support the National Football Museum in their quest to tell the story of remarkable sportswoman Lily Parr who was an inspiration to generations both on and off the field. We can’t wait to see this exciting gallery when it is completed in 2021.”

The National Football Museum wants to hear from people who love women’s football and want to get involved in the creation of content for the new gallery. People are asked to fill-in an [online survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LilyParrV5LYW92).

If you know lots about Lily or are a newcomer to the women’s game you can also get in touch: Belinda.scarlett@nationalfootballmuseum.com

Lily Parr played a major role raising the popularity of the women’s game at home and abroad. With Dick, Kerr Ladies FC she pioneered international women’s football travelling overseas to play matches.

She played in significant football games including against St Helens Ladies at Everton’s Goodison Park which attracted a then record crowd of 53,000 and in the first recognised international women’s football match against France in 1920.

[www.nationalfootballmuseum.com](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com)

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

For more details contact dickie.felton@nationalfootballmuseum.com

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM:**

The National Football Museum is currently temporarily closed due to the Covid-19 crisis.

The National Football Museum is a registered charity. It was established and its collection acquired thanks to £9.3m investment by the Heritage Lottery Fund.  Its vision is to become a leading national museum by 2022, exploring why football is the game of our lives.  The museum’s social purpose is to provide equal opportunity for all to enjoy football culture.

In January 2019, the museum became a charging attraction.  All visitors except for those living within the Manchester City Council boundary now pay an admission fee. School groups within the Manchester City Council boundary are also admitted free of charge.

When the Museum reopens it will go back to its regular opening times: Seven days a week 10am – 5pm Last admissions 4.30pm. Open every day excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. The venue is fully accessible for wheelchair access. Cathedral Gardens, Manchester M4 3BG

[www.nationalfootballmuseum.com](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com)



**Biffa Award:**

•            Since 1997, Biffa Award has awarded grants totalling more than £175 million to thousands of worthwhile community and environmental projects across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The programme administers money donated by Biffa Group Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund. [www.biffa-award.org](http://www.biffa-award.org)

**Landfill Communities Fund:**

•            The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling operators (LOs) to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST as Environmental Bodies (EBs).  EBs use this funding for a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill sites.  LOs are able to claim a credit (currently 4.2%) against their landfill tax liability for 90% of the contributions they make. Since its inception in 1996, over £1.6 billion has been spent on more than 56,000 projects across the UK.  For further information please visit [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk) or see HMRC’s general guide to landfill tax.

**AIM Biffa Award History Makers:**

•            Through the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), Biffa Award gives grants to museums, galleries and cultural facilities so that they can tell the stories of some of our lesser known historical figures through the History Makers Scheme.

•            AIM is a national charitable organisation which helps independent and independently spirited museums, galleries and heritage sites prosper by connecting, supporting and representing them.