

WSL CONTINENTAL TYRES CUP 2017/18



The first silverware of the season was carried off by Arsenal as they won the Continental Cup for a record-extending fifth time, denying favourites and holders Manchester City in a tight final at Adams Park on 14th March. Netherlands international Vivianne Miedema scored the only goal after fine build-up play from England's Jordan Nobbs. Miedema's compatriot Dominique Janssen had earlier rattled the crossbar as the Gunners impressed. City's best chances fell to Nikita Parris and substitute Jane Ross after half-time, but they couldn't find an equaliser.

This competition is effectively the League Cup for England's elite teams and has been played since the creation of the WSL in 2011. It has been sponsored by Continental Tyres for all eight editions and its official title is the FA WSL Continental Tyres Cup.

Prior to 2017/18, the previous edition of the competition was played in the autumn of 2016 and was run entirely as a straight knockout. For 2017/18 it reverted to an opening group stage, as had been the format in previous seasons. Where group matches finished in a draw both teams were awarded one point, but a penalty shootout then took place to determine which side would collect a bonus point. Victories inside 90 minutes were worth the traditional three points. In the knockout stages drawn matches progressed to 30 minutes' extra-time before penalties.

GROUP 1 NORTH

11.10	Liverpool (WSL 1) Caroline Weir 10, 29, Ellie Gilliatt (og) 52, Sophie Ingle 65, Alicia Johnson 83, Bethany England 90	6-0	Sheffield FC (WSL 2) Att: 352
12.10	Durham (WSL 2)	0-0 (2-3p) Att: 641	Sunderland (WSL 1)
01.11	Sunderland (WSL 1) Lucy Staniforth 28, 57, Dominique Bru- inberg 78	3-1 Att: 228	Aston Villa (WSL 2) Ashlee Brown 90+4
01.11	Sheffield FC (WSL 2) Danielle Cox 2, Melissa Johnson 24, 29, 66, Holly Housley 36	5-1 Att: 122	Durham (WSL 2) Jordan Atkinson 26
05.11	Durham (WSL 2)	0-0 (4-5p) Att: 351	Liverpool (WSL 1)
05.11	Aston Villa (WSL 2) Kerri Welsh 39, Ebony Salmon 82	2-2 (11-10p) Att: 140	Sheffield FC (WSL 2) Holly Housley 16, Melissa Johnson 90+4