HISTORY MADE

Celebrating the Birth of Brussels Women’s Warriors

Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain | 2026 Tour Report



Brussels Women’s Warriors together on their debut tour in Catalonia.

A new team. A shared ambition. A milestone worth celebrating.

Two months before stepping onto the field in Barcelona, Brussels Women's Warriors were an ambition. By the end of their debut tour, they were a team with international tournament experience, a third-place finish and a milestone to celebrate: Brussels women's cricket had a new team, a new platform and a future to build.

For managers and organisers Haroon Munir Uddin and Salma Bi, this was the beginning of a legacy. Their ambition was to bring talented women together, create opportunities to represent Brussels and Belgium, and build a team that could compete across Europe and eventually around the world.

The organisers set out to establish what they describe as the first Brussels women's cricket team of its kind. Reaching Spain took persistence, belief and months of work behind the scenes. When the Warriors finally took the field, they carried the efforts of everyone who had helped turn that vision into reality.

From an idea to an international debut

The management team launched an open application process, inviting players competing at a strong standard to put themselves forward. Selection focused on players' ability to meet the team's criteria and contribute to competitive cricket.

The response was encouraging. Players from different countries expressed interest, bringing a range of backgrounds, skills and experience. Some needed permission from other organisations or their cricket boards before committing. Others faced visa difficulties, and, unfortunately, several intended players were unable to travel because their visas did not come through.

There were further challenges: delayed kit orders, uncertainty over tournament entry and difficult selection decisions. At times, the team's participation was in doubt. Management learned tough lessons, but the commitment never faded. The Warriors were determined to reach Barcelona, make their debut and let their cricket speak.

At the heart of the project was a firm belief: talented, committed players should have the financial support they need to compete. The tour was provided at no cost to the players, covering kit, food, travel and accommodation.

For Haroon and the management team, this investment was central to the programme. Sponsorship and practical support could remove barriers, recognise talent and give players the chance to develop. Their approach was clear: invest in the players and create opportunities that can deliver lasting benefits for women's cricket.

Alongside the tour arrangements, management began building the foundations for future recruitment and the development of the women's programme. Salma's role as manager of Kashmiri Roots brought another connection to a project centred on opportunity, representation and the determination to make history.

Once tickets and accommodation were booked and the squad was confirmed, anticipation grew. Individual player profiles appeared on social media and the website, introducing the women who would become the team's first touring squad. The kit reveal, featuring sponsor logos, gave the Warriors a shared identity and recognised the support behind their debut.

The manager and head coach were introduced, and online workshops brought the players together before departure. These sessions provided time to ask questions, confirm arrangements and build a common understanding. The squad would travel to Spain as one unit, ready to support one another.

Joining a growing movement in women's cricket

The Barcelona tournament gave Brussels Women's Warriors a place on a wider stage and an opportunity to contribute to the growth of the women's game.

The team congratulated Sabir Bhai and Khawaja on the new collaboration bringing UFEC and the Catalana Cricket Federation together. Brussels' participation added another team to the competition, demonstrating the importance of encouraging more teams and players to get involved.

The interest surrounding the tour showed what was possible. Women wanted opportunities to play competitive cricket. With the right support, that enthusiasm could become teams, fixtures, development pathways and international exposure.

The Warriors had taken their first step into that future.

Match day: The first ball of a new chapter

Brussels Women's Warriors opened their campaign against NACC England. Salma Bi and Sairah Zafar went out for the toss, with Salma making the call. Brussels won and chose to bat first on a surface that appeared favourable for batting.

The match was reduced to 15 overs per side. With an 8am start requested, preparation time was limited and the turnaround was quick. Head coach Jasmine Ashraf led the warm-up before the opening batters took the field.

It was a demanding introduction: a newly assembled team playing together for the first time, at an international stadium, on an unfamiliar pitch, against a capable opponent. It was also the moment everyone had worked towards. Brussels Women's Warriors were finally playing cricket together.

Early wickets tested the batting order. Zainab Patel scored one from six deliveries.
Zaynah Rehman had good intent but fell short.

Zaiynab Jabraan provided resistance, contributing 15 runs, including three fours.

Nehal Dave, serving as vice-captain, was run out for one after a mix-up left her unable to regain her crease in time.

Vice-captain Sidra Khan produced the standout batting performance. Her 23 from just 16 balls included five fours, bringing much-needed momentum to the innings before she was caught.

Captain Salma Bi supported Sidra during a partnership, scoring five from five deliveries, including a boundary. Her innings ended with an lbw decision she considered questionable.

Wicketkeeper Karmi Parmar made a valuable contribution lower down the order, finishing unbeaten on 15 from 17 balls with two fours. Her determination helped Brussels add runs as wickets fell around her.

Brussels Women's Warriors were all out for 87 in 13.1 overs.

The total was below their expectations, and they had not used their full allocation. There was disappointment, but there was also perspective. This was their first outing together, in unfamiliar conditions, and the match was still there to contest.

The interval team talk focused on positivity, belief and the determination to make the chase difficult. The Warriors took the field ready to fight for every run.

Discipline, pressure and reasons to believe

Brussels responded with a controlled bowling performance that showed the squad's competitive spirit.

Zaiynab Jabraan opened the attack with three tidy overs, conceding just 12 runs. Zainab Patel was the pick of the bowlers for economy, giving away only seven runs across her three overs and maintaining pressure when it mattered.

Nehal Dave took the Warriors' first wicket of the day. Sidra Khan then added a significant wicket to her batting contribution, dismissing Fatima Habib for 41, with Amina Kausar taking the catch.

Fatima's innings had put NACC in a strong position, and the breakthrough came too late to turn the result. NACC reached 89 for two in 13.1 overs, winning by eight wickets.

The Warriors were left to consider how different the contest might have been with another 20 runs on the board. Even defending a modest total, they had taken the chase into the fourteenth over.

There were clear lessons about building partnerships and making full use of the available overs. There was also evidence to support Salma's belief in the squad as an all-round team: disciplined bowling, important contributions with the bat and a willingness to keep competing under pressure.

The players wanted another chance to show their talent. They came away determined to learn, improve and return stronger.

Then the heavens opened.

Heavy rain and thunder forced the cancellation of the rest of the tournament. The Warriors would have no further opportunity to put the morning's lessons into practice or demonstrate the full range of ability within the squad.

A team taking shape beyond the boundary

The weather ended the cricket, but the Warriors continued building their team.

Further workshops, chaired by Amreen and Sidra, throughout the evening gave the players time to reflect, learn and discuss the future. A sightseeing activity offered an opportunity to bond away from the field before everyone gathered for the medal ceremony.

These shared experiences mattered. Players who had come together for a tour were developing the trust, friendships and understanding needed to carry the team forward.

Third place and a debut worth celebrating

At the medal ceremony, Brussels Women's Warriors were called forward as a debut team and awarded third place.

Spain finished fourth. Their match against Vienna had been cut short after the Austrian side scored more than 175 runs. NACC took second place, while Vienna, Austria, were named tournament winners, having recorded the highest total of the day.

For Brussels, the ceremony was a moment to celebrate the journey from an idea to a team standing together at its first international tournament.

Salma delivered a short speech welcoming those present and thanking the hosts for inviting the Warriors. She acknowledged the difficulties that had almost prevented their participation and made their long-term commitment clear.

Brussels Women's Warriors had put themselves on the map and they intended to keep moving forward.

She spoke about welcoming teams from around the world, developing fixtures and creating more opportunities for women and girls to experience cricket at a good standard. Player pathways, sponsorship and continued support would remain central to the programme, giving talented players exposure, opportunities to develop and a route towards selection for future tours.

Salma also had a special surprise for the squad. Calling each player forward, she presented every member with a Brussels Capital Warriors women's medal to commemorate the occasion. A team photograph captured the moment: the first squad together, celebrating a milestone they had helped create.

Celebrating the people behind the milestone

The closing celebrations offered an opportunity to thank the hosts, organisations, sponsors and supporters who had helped bring the Warriors to Spain.

Salma paid particular tribute to Haroon Munir Uddin for helping establish the foundations of this legacy. His belief gave her and other women the opportunity to bring players together, form a team and pursue competitive cricket.

That support carried the project through uncertainty and helped turn an ambition into booked flights, a confirmed squad, team kit and eleven players taking the field.

A special award was also presented to Brussels Women's Athlete Experience Coordinator Sefena Iqbal. She worked tirelessly behind the scenes, coordinating logistics, helping the players reach new locations safely and supporting management with her expertise. Her contribution was an essential part of the tour's success.

Every player, organiser and supporter had a part in reaching this moment. The medals recognised participation; the celebration recognised the collective effort that had made participation possible.

The beginning of a lasting legacy

Barcelona 2026 gave Brussels Women's Warriors one completed match, a third-place finish and valuable experience. It also gave them a milestone that no storm could take away: their debut had happened, their team had come together and their journey had begun.

The next steps are clear. Develop the players. Strengthen recruitment. Secure sponsorship. Build pathways. Arrange fixtures that give the squad more opportunities to compete and show what it can do.

The ambition is substantial, and the commitment behind it is strong. This team exists to give women a platform, invest in their talent and build a lasting presence for Brussels and Belgium in the wider cricketing community.

The Warriors arrived in Spain determined to begin. They left with experience, stronger bonds and a shared purpose.

Brussels Women's Warriors mean business and they are only just getting started.

Thank you to our history-making squad

Alina, Nelly, Zainab, Sidra, Noor, Amina, Zaiynab, Kaifa, Selina, Karmi, Ziggy, Ayesha and Gul-e-Uswa: thank you for being part of this first chapter. You will always be part of the team's founding story.

Thank you to our management and support team

Jasmine, Sefena, Haroon, Shazaib, Kiki, Sabir, Amreen, Khawaja, Naveed, Hashim, Zahid and Hina: thank you for the work, expertise and belief that helped make this debut possible.

A special thank-you to our families

A special thank-you to the families who flew out and supported their daughters on this debut tour. Your presence, encouragement and support helped make this milestone even more memorable.

Congratulations to everyone who helped create this milestone. The birth of Brussels Women's Warriors is a moment to celebrate and a future to build together.

A moment to celebrate



Celebrating the debut tour at the 2026 medal ceremony in Catalonia.

Brussels Women's Warriors mean business and they are only just getting started.