

April 2020 Issue 12

The



Halfway Line



EVERYONE LOVES BRAZIL

The romance and history



Also this in issue:

Didn't know they were teammates
The Evolution of the Transfer Record
Teams that should have won titles but didn't

All your usual favourites returning & much much more

Editors note: Pre-match pep talk.

Welcome back readers, pleasure to have you and this month we are reverting back to our usual format. Think of it as reverting back to a 4-4-2 formation having changed in mid week to a 5-3-2 for a European fixture. Magazines, like Football teams need to evolve, so we'll be looking to mix things up in the future.

Don't worry, we aren't going all MK Dons and rebranding ourselves just yet!

Is there a greater feeling of being in a team, hunting as a pack, sticking together like the sight of 12 or more grown men in the Electronics' department of John Lewis, Curry's or Dixon's at 4:45pm on a Saturday afternoon all having escaped the marathon shopping trip to find solace in front of Final Score on Grandstand with the vidi-printer telling you everything you needed to know.

You had all those teammates, but didn't know it! So we've channelled that thought and included in this month's issue an article of teammates you may not have known played together.

Another question: What do a wax strip happy beauty salon and The Halfway Line magazine have in common?

Both love a good Brazilian.

And so we are celebrating them in this issue. Fear not, your children can read this issue as we've chosen to just focus on the flair, skill, success and general good feel about the Brazilian national team, profiling players and reviewing the nations World Cup triumphs.

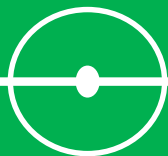
You are lucky to enjoy this production free of charge, but if you are wanting to purchase a modern day footballer it will cost you a small fortune and the cost has evolved on a far greater scale than it has from the days of a 10p Chomp chocolate bar (I googled it – they will set you back 30p in today's money). We've put together a few graphics to show the evolution of the world record transfer fee in this issue.

There is also the return of the usual The Halfway Line regulars for you to take in, as we squeeze the life out of the Best XI Premier League nations, bring you historical line ups, classic kits, quizzes and much more.

Believe it or not we have also gone digital this past month with the launch of The Halfway Line YouTube channel, so please check it out, subscribe, like and all the other things we don't quiet yet understand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbbzJyLUKKM>

And of course as always and most importantly, please enjoy.

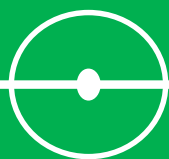


Edwin Van Der Sar – Won the Champions League 13 years apart, in 1995 with Ajax and with Manchester United in 2008



The Halfway Line Up

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Giuseppe Bergomi – Inter Milan stalwart, who incredibly played in 4 World Cups, but never once made an appearance in the qualifying stages



Teams that should have won something (but didn't)

We feature in this issue a special on Brazil and when doing our research it is very much an opinion that the Brazilian World Cup squad of 1982 was one of, if not the best team *never* to have won the trophy. They ultimately lost out to the eventual winners, Italy, thanks largely to a hat trick from Paolo Rossi.

It got us to thinking, which are some of the teams in the past that despite the quality of players at their disposal they were unable to secure the silverware they so desperately strived for. The first team that came to mind was the Dutch national team in the 1970's. They became the first World Cup team (and to date only 2 have suffered this fate) to lose two consecutive World Cup finals. 6 players started both those fixtures, no doubt heart breaking for them. For this article however we are picking out a few teams from more recent times that when looking at their line ups, and the near successful seasons they've had, they can consider themselves unlucky not to have actually won anything.



Bacary Sagna – Former Auxerre right back who had a solid career at Arsenal and Manchester City but never won a league title in Europe



Liverpool 1995/96

I guess the inadvertent credit to this piece is perhaps the Liverpool side of 1995/96 didn't win what they 'should' have done is because of Manchester United and how good they were at the time.

On paper this Liverpool team were winners. The previous season (1994/95) Liverpool were victorious in the Coca-Cola Cup, defeating Bolton Wanderers in the Wembley final. 8 of the starters that day feature in the below XI.

The starting line up is actually from the 1996 FA Cup final. A clash of the titans, as Liverpool took on arch rivals Manchester United.

The final itself, a poor one by all standards was won by the Red Devils, with a solitary strike from Eric Cantona, but is perhaps better known for the suits the Liverpool players wore to the game. The bright cream coloured suits made the headlines and the players were somewhat tarnished with the 'Spice Boy' labels from then on. Not winning anything didn't help matters.

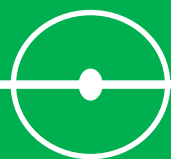
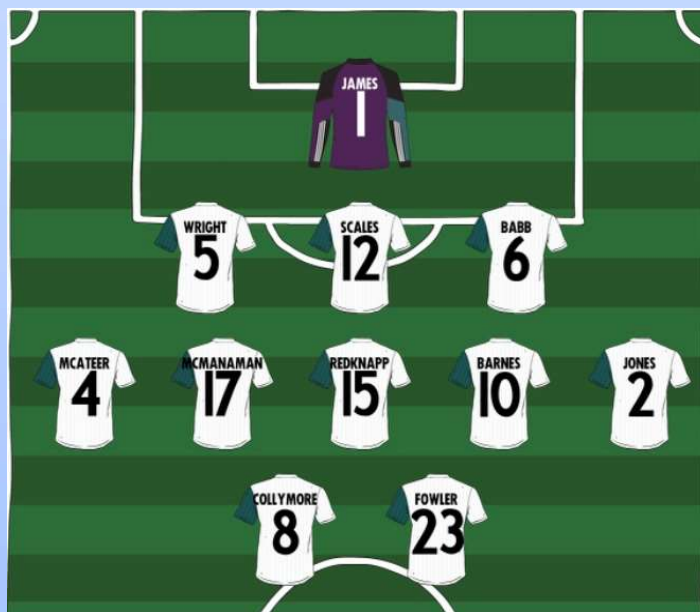
Manchester United also won the Premier League that year, completing the domestic double, but going through this Liverpool team, they can count themselves unlucky not to have bought home any silverware. They themselves finished 3rd in the Premier League that season.

In goal was the then 25 year old David James, and future England number one. In defence featured Mark Wright: when he transferred to Liverpool from Derby (£2.2m) he was the countries most expensive defender. John Scales and Phil Babb were bought for expensive fees, the latter then becoming the countries most expensive defender at £3.6m. Jason McAteer the previous season was arguably the best player in the country outside of the top division. In Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp, you had 2 of the most talented, young English midfielders supporting the vastly experienced John Barnes.

Upfront was the real quality. Undoubtedly the two most naturally gifted goal scoring strikers in the league in the 1990's, Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore.

Interestingly, aside from the aforementioned Coca-Cola Cup and the 3 cups he won under Gerard Houllier in the 2000/01 season, that was it for Fowler for club successes.

As for Stan Collymore: the £8.5m signing from Nottingham Forest in July 1995 (a British record at the time) can point to a trophy cabinet containing nothing! One Player of the Month award and 3 international caps for England was his lot for his entire career – seems like such a waste.



Ivan Rakitic – The first player to win the Champions League a year after winning the Europa League while playing for two clubs



Newcastle United 1995/96

Same season as the Liverpool side we have just gone through. Truth be told the fact Newcastle United didn't win the Premier League this season is as much as Manchester United were of course really good, but my goodness, Newcastle United contributed significantly in having one hell of a meltdown.

On 20th January 1996 the club were 12 points clear at the top of the League table. There were only 15 games remaining. They ultimately finished second, to Manchester United, by some 4 points off the top.

The team we have featured below is from the widely acclaimed fixture Liverpool versus Newcastle United, at Anfield on 3rd April 1996, that carries the banner of "The greatest game (ever) in the Premier League." I am not sure Newcastle United fans would agree, and I am sure Kevin Keegan doesn't "Love it" either.

The game finished 4-3 to Liverpool, and could be used to summarise the Magpies season. Goals, drama, highs and sadly, ultimately lows.

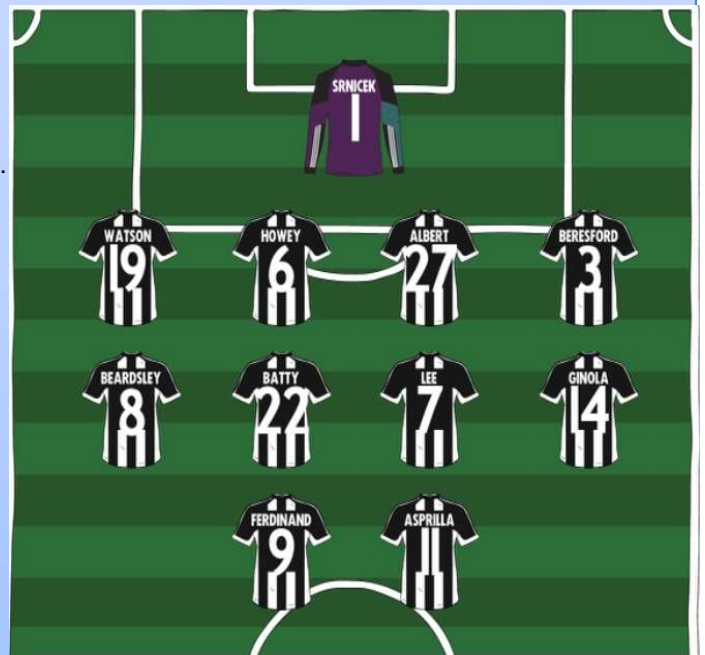
A lot is made of the transfers Newcastle United made intra season, bringing in David Batty and Faustino Asprilla. It has been suggested the duo disrupted the team, but doing the maths, the team were desperate for another goal scorer. There was far too much reliance on Les Ferdinand. Prior to Asprilla's debut, Ferdinand was accountable for 42% of the team's Premier League goals (20/47). He ended the season with 25 league goals and the PFA Player of the Year award.

In goal, the job was split between Shaka Hislop and Pavel Srnicek, and right back spot also split, but with Steve Watson and Warren Barton. The latter, at £4m becoming at the time the most expensive British defender.

The other attack minded defenders were Steve Howey, Philippe Albert and John Beresford.

The age defying Peter Beardsley was still going strong and contributed 8 league goals, as did Rob Lee from midfield alongside the charismatic David Ginola who hit the floor running in his first season in the Premier League.

Asprilla may not have been the perfect foil for Ferdinand but certainly fitted the 'entertainer' tag associated with Kevin Keegan's side.



Dejan Stankovic – The only man to represent three nations at the World Cup (Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro and Serbia)



Bayer Leverkusen 2001/02

We could have picked the Chelsea team from 2007/08, who came runners up in the Premier League, lost the League Cup final and the Champions League final. Instead we pick the Bayer Leverkusen team from 2001/02 who followed the 1986 Barcelona side to be runners up in the Champions League, domestic League competition and the main domestic Cup competition.

Taking the Champions League effort first. They went about it the hard way to be fair to them. Through the 3rd round qualifying round, to the 1st Group stage where they faced Barcelona, Lyon and Fenerbahce. They qualified for the second group stage, only to be put up against Deportivo La Coruna, Arsenal and Juventus. The latter two sides actually spanked Leverkusen (4-0 & 4-1 respectively) but both failed to qualify. Leverkusen did however and put out Liverpool in the quarter finals and fellow English giants, Manchester United in the semi finals!

All they had to do now was beat Real Madrid in the final!!! It was the team featured below that started against the Spanish giants, and they actually played very well against them. Unfortunately for the German side they lost to perhaps the best ever goal scored in a Champions League final, executed by Zinedine Zidane.

On to the Bundesliga....It is hard to grab defeat from the hands of victory, but Leverkusen nailed it. 2 defeats in their last 3 league games saw them concede the title to Borussia Dortmund, by **ONE point!!** Worth mentioning the club side have never won the German League, ever in their 116 year existence.

Onto the Domestic Cup (the FA Cup equivalent) and some 4 days before the Champions League final. (They had already lost the league by now.) They came up against Schalke, who had finished 5th in the Bundesliga. Despite going up one-nil thanks to a Dimitar Berbatov strike, the team found a way to lose 4-2, and therefore walked away from the season with absolutely nothing.

To compound their misery, German national team players Butt, Ramelow, Schneider, Ballack and Neuville managed to get Germany to the World Cup final in the Korea/Japan finals and again lose in the final, to Brazil.

At least Lucio won something that season!



Jose Mari Bakero – Made up the midfield trio of the Barcelona ‘Dream Team’ alongside Josip Guardiola and Michael Laudrup



England 2004

Shut your eyes, head to the memory bank and remember 21st June 2004.

You are likely to be in fan zone outdoor area at a pub, or perhaps round a mates house with ITV on the box.

It's a glorious day in England, the sun is shining and the nation are dreaming. Dreaming of actually seeing the England nation team win something.

Having somehow lost to France, despite being 1-0 up after 91 minutes, the team had bounced back and torn Switzerland apart.

The final group stage game was against an undefeated Croatia team, and the winner of the game would progress.

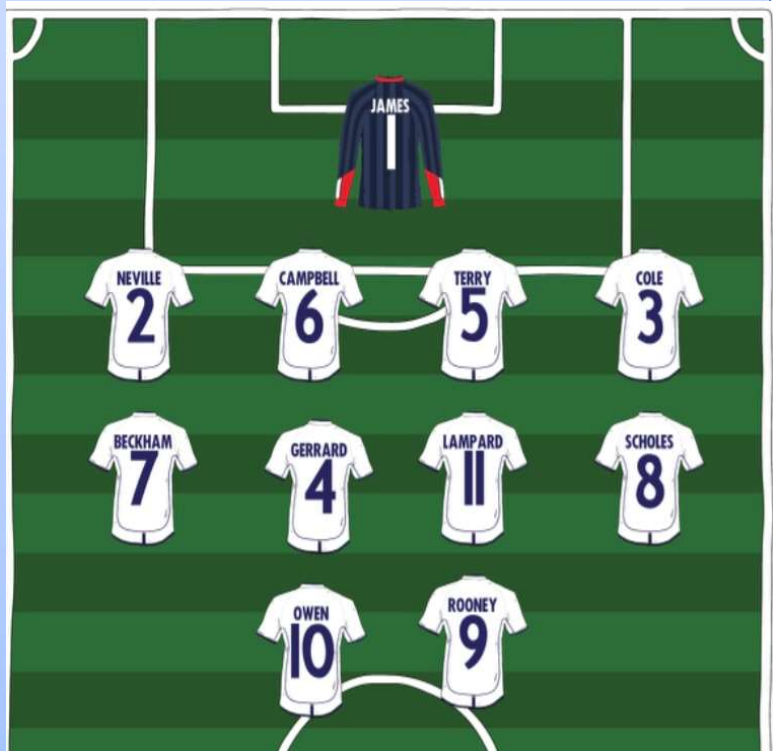
The sun shone stronger that day in Lisbon and the England side, well, smashed it. The team won 4-2 and the world witnessed the arrival of a certain Wayne Rooney. He was unplayable at times that day. Easy to forget he was just 18 years of age at the time.

The way the tournament was shaping up, it really could have been England's chance. Spain, Italy and Germany were all knocked out at the Group stages.

Cruelly England were drawn against the hosts, Portugal and the quarter finals did not pan out as hoped. A game ending injury to Rooney after just 27 minutes, a late equaliser conceded, a disallowed goal and a woeful penalty shoot out saw the Three Lions lose and go home empty handed.

The fact Greece won the tournament I think makes it harder to accept this group of players didn't win anything, specifically this competition in 2004. The so called 'Golden Generation' were outclassed by Brazil in 2002 and the defeat to Portugal 2 years later in the 2006 World Cup wasn't the same team.

Also worth remembering this was also without the suspended Rio Ferdinand, so the squad had depth as well as talent, but in 2004 it just wasn't meant to be. It's 2021, and we are still waiting.....



Henrik Larsson - Was the top goalscorer in the Scottish Premier League for five of the six seasons that he competed in, the only exception being the 1999–2000 season, most of which Larsson missed due to a broken leg



KIT MASH UP

Usually it is us at The Halfway line who love a mash up, and we are no strangers to messing around with football kits and we may feature more in the future.

However in May 2019 we were beaten to it. To celebrate the historic twinning between their fans, Italian clubs Parma and Sampdoria "exchanged" their shirts. Essentially as one off, the team wore kits 'inspired' by their opponents colours & designs.



The teams wore the special one-off kits in the Serie A game on 5th May 2019 and fittingly as they are so close, the game ended in a 3-3 draw and the spoils shared.

Could ever imagine this happening between 2 teams in the UK?!



Saul Niguez – So highly regarded at Atletico Madrid, in 2017 he signed a 9 year contract! Won the Golden Boot at the 2017 U21 European Championship



Never missed a game it seems Best XI

The line up below as 11 players that have played over **1000 games in their careers!** No mean achievement I am sure you would agree.

Peter Shilton – Played for Leicester City, Stoke City, Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Derby County, Plymouth Argyle, Bolton Wanderers, Leyton Orient and England (all levels) = **1390** games!

Javier Zanetti – Talleres, Banfield, Inter Milan and Argentina (all levels) = 1114 games!
Paolo Maldini – AC Milan and Italy (all levels) = **1041** games!

Roberto Carlos – Played for Uniao Sao Joao, Palmeiras, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Fenerbahce, Corinthians, Anzhi Makhachkala, Delhi Dynamos and Brazil (all levels) = **1138** games!

Clarence Seedorf – Ajax, Sampdoria, Real Madrid, Inter Milan, AC Milan, Botafogo and The Netherlands (all levels) = **1017** games!

Yasuhito Endo – Yokohama Flugels, Kyoto Purple Sanga, Gamba Osaka, Jubilo Iwata and Japan (all levels) = **1064** games and counting.....!

Xavi Hernandez – Played for Barcelona, Al Sadd and Spain (all levels) = **1135** games!

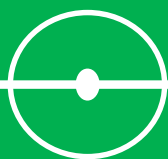
Frank Lampard – West Ham United, Swansea City, Chelsea, Manchester City, New York City and England (all levels) = **1044** games!

Cristiano Ronaldo – Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus, Portugal (all levels) = **1092** games and counting.....!

Raul Gonzalez – Real Madrid, Schalke, Al Sadd, New York Cosmos and Spain (all levels) = **1064** games!

Marcelinho – Campinense, Paraguacuense, Santos, Rio Branco, Sao Paulo, Marseille, Gremio, Hertha BSC, Trabzonspor, Wolfsburg, Flamengo, Coritiba, Sport Recife, Gremio Barueri, Boa, Fortaleza, Internacional de Lages, Joinville, Oeste, Ypiranga, Portuguesa, Treze, Perilima, Brazil (all levels) = **1092** games!

Managed by **Guy Roux** – There may be managers to have managed more games (ala Sir Alex Ferguson) but Guy Roux managed Auxerre for over 40 years! A 36-year stint was followed by a ‘brief’ 4-year tenure when he was re-employed by the club. He oversaw over **2000** matches as the manager of Auxerre.



Patrick Kluivert – Scored the winning goal for Ajax in the 1995 Champions League final at just 18 years, 10 months and 23 days old against AC Milan who he went on to join





Never missed a game
it seems Best XI



Ariel Ortega – Once suspended by FIFA for 4 months after refusing to return to play for Fenerbahce after an international break with Argentina



Classic Kits

Every issue The Halfway Line features some classic kits. It maybe purely kit based, it could be a classic kit being worn by a classic player, or a classic kit in a classic match. This issue it's time for the National shirt, and we are picking classics for a good reason.

Followers of the magazine will know we at The Halfway line have a soft spot for shirts that have minimal or no sponsors. Therefore a national jersey is a ready made classic for that reason - no sponsor emblazoned across the front!

To start with some old school pedigree, the Germany home kit of 1994. The Adidas tricolour of red, yellow and black as diamonds over the shoulder is class. The Dutch classic from 1988 has to feature as does the 1986 Denmark Hummel offering as previously shown in this feature.

We can't feature classic national kits without including Brazil. We've gone for the 1994 shirt from Umbro. The yellow shirt, blue shorts and white socks is an unrivalled combination and quite frankly worth sambaing to!!!

We love the 1996 Italian Nike home shirt. So confident with the design, the Nike tick wasn't even needed. The Dutch away with the sash is a beauty, and underrated. If we are talking a sash across the shirt, we can't not include Peru. Truly a classic. The uniqueness of the Croatia home kit, with the checker board effect is a real winner also.

Swedish home kits often deliver but their 1994 World Cup away kit, with the Adidas three stripes feature caught our attention so we've put that one in. Another away kit we love is the France white effort with horizontal dark blue lines. A really stylish effort.

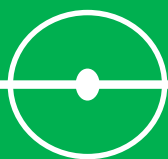
We mentioned the no sponsors element to this, but thought it was worth chucking in 2 international teams WITH sponsors!! Republic of Ireland feature twice, once with The Halfway Line favourite Opel and latterly the phone company 3. Brazil appear again but this time with Coca-Cola across their shirt. It was a one off and only used in a friendly against Chile in 1987 but it still counts and so it's in the collection.

In terms of cult offerings, the Mexican home jersey where the Aztec graphics appear in a darker green goes down in folk law and is definitely worth the admission to the classic kits gallery.

Also a big fan of the national team having their name discreetly (or not) covering the front of their shirt. The Nigerian Olympic team taking the opportunity to let everyone know who they were! They did alright to be fair, winning gold at Atlanta 1996!!!

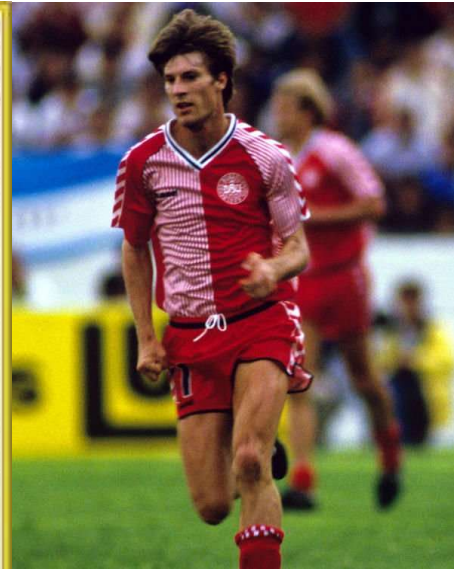
A kit collector's amber nectar, the USSR marble splash of 1988 also pays homage to the nation, with CCCP across the front. СССР (Союз Советских Социалистических Республик) is a Russian abbreviation for the Soviet Union or Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

We end with a point to our home nation, England, and a sparsely used away kit from 1992, in light blue with 3 large lions imprinted across the midriff. May not be everyone's cup of tea but we have it as a classic here at The Halfway Line.



Bojan Krkic – Was the first player born in the 1990's to score in the Champions League, doing so for Barcelona in 2008, aged 17 years and 217 days old





Julio Cesar – Brazilian goalkeeper who won 87 caps for his country and the Inter Milan shot stopper in their 2009/10 treble year





David De Gea – Signed by Manchester United in 2011 as a 21 year old for £18.9 million, a British record for a goalkeeper at the time from Atletico Madrid





Rodrigo Palacio – Played for the likes of Boca Juniors, Genoa, Inter Milan and Bologna, as well as the Argentinian national team, but perhaps best know for having an awful pony tail/rat tail





Angelos Charisteas – The goal scorer of the winning goal for Greece in the 2004 European Championship final against Portugal in their surprise triumph



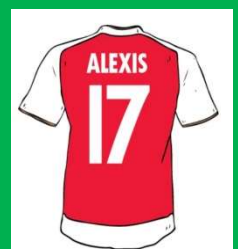


Rodrigo Casante – ‘Rodri’ signed for Manchester City from Atletico Madrid for a then club record £62.6 million in 2019 having only signed from Villarreal the season beforehand





Alexis Sanchez – He, alongside Cristiano Ronaldo can lay claim to have scored a hat trick in Serie A, La Liga and the Premier League





BRAZIL



Right, easy question. Who doesn't love the Brazilian nation football team? Surely the list is pretty slim. They will have a few rivals but when it comes to picking a nation to watch (other than your own) the Seleção must come out on top more times than not.

It's the kit colour combos, it's the flair players, the step overs, the flicks, the list of number 10's we could roll off, the fact that you can't really have a World Cup without Brazil. Literally you can't – they are the only nation to have qualified for each World Cup there has ever been, all 21 of them, and they have won it a record 5 times. In 1970, Brazil's third victory in the tournament entitled them to keep the trophy permanently, with a new trophy having to be made.

Even how they walk onto the pitch makes them unique and likeable.



For this feature we will walk you through their 5 World Cup wins and we have also picked 5 iconic individuals from the Brazilian national team and profiled the players to learn a bit more about them and their achievements for the Seleção and their club careers also.



Salomon Kalou – The Ivorian joined Feyenoord, as did his brother Bonaventure, before moving to Chelsea, Lille, Hertha Berlin and Botafogo



BRAZIL 1958

The 1958 World Cup was held in Sweden, and 16 teams competed for the title, one of which being Brazil.

They were put into Group 4 alongside the Soviet Union, England and Austria, They defeated Austria in their first fixture, 3-0, and then played out a goalless draw against England. In what was the fifth World Cup being held, this was the first ever goalless draw that had taken place.

In the final group game, a World Cup debut was made by a certain Pele (we'll get to him later). At 17 years old he was at the time the youngest player to participate in a World Cup.

Brazil beat the Soviet Union (2-0 both goals from Vava) and qualified to the next round where they faced Wales, who they defeated 1-0, with Pele scoring the only goal. He hadn't started the first two games as he was carrying an injury into the tournament.

Next up in the semi finals was big hitters France, who in their four games had struck 15 times, with Just Fontaine accountable for 8 of these.

Fontaine's solitary strike in the game was not enough, as Brazil overpowered France and qualified for the final with an impressive 5-2 victory. A goal apiece from Vava and Didi alongside a hat trick from Pele doing the damage. The French were somewhat disadvantaged as their defender Robert Jonquet broke his leg in the game, and at the time no substitutes were permitted!

The final was all set between Brazil and the host nation Sweden.

The Swedes went ahead after just 4 minutes, but Vava equalised soon after and later notched again with his 5th strike in the competition.

Then Pele once again took over, scoring twice in the second half after alongside a strike from Mario Zagallo. Sweden pulled a goal back, but Brazil were ultimately victorious, 5-2.

This final had the highest number of goals scored by a winning team (5), the highest number of total goals scored (7), and together with the 1970 and 1998 finals shares the highest goal margin of difference (3); Brazil played in all those three finals (not winning them all!).

Quick kudos to Just Fontaine who in the 3rd place play off match, struck a further 4 times, taking his tournament total to 13 goals, a record that still stands to this day.



Dennis Rommedahl – The former Charlton Athletic winger, perhaps best known for his pace is the second most capped player for Denmark, with 126 caps





29th June 1958 – Sweden World Cup Final

Brazil 5 – Sweden 2

Vava (9)	Liedholm (4)
Vava (32)	Simonsson (80)
Pele (55)	
Zagallo (68)	
Pele (90)	



Lasse Schone – Danish midfielder who shone as part of the 2019 Ajax team that reached the semi finals of the Champions league. Played 287 times for Ajax in total, the most by a non-Dutchman for the club



BRAZIL 1962

The format of the competition, held in Chile, was similar to that of the 1958 competition: 16 teams qualified, divided into four groups of four.

Brazil topped their group, consisting of themselves, Czechoslovakia, Mexico and Spain. Mexico were beaten 2-0 with goals from Pele and Zagallo, and in the next match they drew 0-0 with Czechoslovakia, where Pele was unfortunately injured and didn't play again in the tournament.

In the third game Amarildo stepped up to replace Pele and scored twice in a 2-1 win against Spain that secured qualification to the quarter finals.

In the quarter finals Brazil met England, and Garrincha took over to put his mark on the tournament. 2 goals from the right winger and dribbler extraordinaire alongside a strike from Vava, Brazil won 3-1 and into the semi finals.

The same pair put Chile in their place in the semi finals. This time 2 goals for Garrincha and 2 for Vava defeated their South American rivals 4-2 and off they headed into the final. Garrincha was also sent off in the game but somehow avoided suspension for the final.

In the final, they once again met Czechoslovakia but fared far better this time round. The reigning champions although going a goal behind, came back with goals from Amarildo, Zito and Vava.

Despite losing their star player so early in the tournament, Brazil were able to match the Italian's achievement (1934 & 1938) and retain the World Cup trophy. These two nations remain the only two to have achieved that accomplishment.

Garrincha became the first player to win Golden Ball (Player of the tournament), Golden Boot (Leading Goalscorer) and the World Cup in the same tournament.

This was also the second tournament in a row that Brazil had defeated the home nation on route to victory.

The tournament overall was marred by a toxic atmosphere and violence between players on the pitch; it included the first-round match between Chile and Italy (2-0), which became known as the Battle of Santiago, one of a number of violent matches played throughout the tournament.



Santiago Solari – The Argentinian midfielder made the unfamiliar move from Atletico Madrid to Real Madrid winning trophies there and at Inter Milan whom he moved to in 2005



BRAZIL 1970

Having unsuccessfully performed in the 1966 World Cup in England, Brazil were back in 1970, hosted by Mexico and held by many as the pre tournament favourites.

The brutal behaviour towards Pele in the 1966 World Cup saw him at the time threaten to never play in a World Cup again – luckily for him, and Brazil, he changed his mind.

In the group stages, Brazil qualified with a 100% record, defeating Czechoslovakia 4-1, England 1-0 and Romania 3-2.

They were to meet fellow South Americans Peru in the quarter finals, and defeated them 4-2. The goal scorers on the day were Rivelino, Tostao (2) and Jairzinho.

In the semi finals it was another South American opponent, this time Uruguay, but the result was still a Brazil win. Triumphant 3-1 this time around, with goals from Clodoaldo, Rivelino and another from Jairzinho.

Into the final they met Italy, also 2 time winners of the World Cup and the result would see which nation would achieve 3 World Cup titles first.

For the first time in their final appearances, Brazil actually scored first, through Pele, scoring his 4th goal of the tournament. The Italians equalised through Roberto Boninsegna, but in the second half Brazil's superiority took over and they displayed some incredible attacking football, and further goals from Gerson, Jairzinho and a beautifully worked team goal finished off by Carlos Alberto was enough to secure the victory.

This Brazil team 1970 have been heralded as one of the very finest to ever have won the World Cup. They won all of their six games on the way to the title, and had also won every one of their qualifying fixtures. Jairzinho managed to score in every game of the finals for Brazil. This feat of scoring in every finals match likewise has yet to be equalled.

As mentioned the win gave Brazil its third World Cup title, which allowed them to permanently keep the Jules Rimet Trophy, and a new trophy was introduced in 1974.



Martin Palermo – Forget missing 3 penalties in one match for Argentina, he once managed to break both his fibula and tibia whilst celebrating a goal for Villareal!





MEXICO 70

21st June 1970 – Mexico World Cup Final

Brazil 4 – Italy 1

Pele (18) Boninsegna (37)
Gerson (66)
Jairzinho (71)
Carlos Alberto (86)



Jamie O'Hara – Former Tottenham Hotspur youngster never truly making the grade there, moving on to Wolverhampton Wanderers after a number of loan moves whilst at the Lane



BRAZIL 1994

To start with, there was an element of good luck Brazil even qualified for their 15th consecutive World Cup Finals. In their qualifying group they lost their **first ever** World Cup qualifying game (against Bolivia) and it was down to the last game, at home against Uruguay where they had to win or draw to progress to the tournament to be held in the US.

Romario had been frozen out of the squad in the qualifying campaign but was recalled for the final game. He produced the goods, scoring twice, and the nation team were on their way.

Brazil had some false dawns in previous campaigns, namely 1982 and 1990, losing to arch rivals Argentina in the latter, so the pressure to perform was considerable.

In the group stages, and the summer heat of the US, Brazil took on first Russia, winning 2-0 with goals from Romario and Rai.

This was followed by a 3-0 win over Cameroon, with another strike from Romario in addition to goals from Marcio Santos and strike partner Bebeto.

The third group game was a 1-1 draw with surprise package Sweden, with Romario getting his 3rd goal in 3 games.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Brazil once again had to navigate the host nation in the competition, meeting USA in the Round of 16 fixture. It just so happened to be played on Independence Day in front of a reported 84,000 fans! A single goal from Bebeto was enough to see Brazil progress to the quarter finals and kill the hopes of the host nations fans. It was not without controversy however. Before halftime, attacking left back Leonardo, who had impressed in the group stages swung an elbow towards US midfielder Tab Ramos, leaving the American with a fractured skull, and Leonardo with a red card.

Onto the quarter finals, and one of the games of the tournament. Holland stood in the way of a semi final spot. Brazil went 2-0 ahead, courtesy of goals from, surprise, Romario & Bebeto. The Dutch pulled themselves back from the dead and equalised in the 76th minute. Brazil's left back, Leonardo's replacement, Branco, a veteran from the previous 2 World Cup campaigns was the unlikeliest of heroes, smashing in a long range free kick with 9 minutes to play and sending Brazil through.

In the semi finals Brazil faced up against group stage opponents Sweden, and in a somewhat flat performance, it was left again to Romario to drag the team through, and he did so with an 80th winning header, and set up a World Cup final against Italy. It was a repeat of the 1970 final and the winner of the game would become the first nation to win the World Cup on four occasions.

The final was set up with the 2 best teams and arguably the 2 best players of the tournament, Roberto Baggio and Romario (the FIFA World Players of the year for 1993 & 1994 respectively)

The final was a dire affair truth be told, and with no goals after 120 minutes it was down to a penalty shoot out that Brazil triumphed in, and history was made.



Gregory Van Der Wiel – Dutch Young Player of the Year in 2009/10
played and won league titles with both Ajax and Paris Saint-Germain



WorldCupUSA94



17th July 1994 – USA World Cup

Final

Brazil 0 – Italy 0

Brazil win 3-2 on penalties after extra time



Joe Cole – Ended his Chelsea career with 3 League titles, 2 FA Cups and a League Cup. Never managed to reach those heights with Liverpool



BRAZIL 2002

Redemption. Revenge. Rejuvenate.

After the 1998 World Cup Final defeat (3-0 to France) Brazil needed to achieve the above three R's.

Luckily they had another three R's to help them do it...

Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho. The attacking trio held the key to success in the jointly hosted tournament between South Korea and Japan.

Up first in the group stages where Turkey, China and Costa Rica. All three were dispatched, (2-1, 4-0, 5-2) and Brazil qualified with a 100% record. Ronaldo started the tournament on fire and notched 4 goals in those 3 matches. Rivaldo also notched a goal in each of the group games, but came under scrutiny for his feigning of a face injury when Turkish midfielder Hakan Unsal kicked a ball at this leg – Unsal received a red card for his troubles, whereas Rivaldo received a lot of grief for his outrageous reaction.

Brazil faced Belgium in the Round of 16, and as with the previous games it was a win (2-0) and Ronaldo and Rivaldo both scored, with Red Devils not causing many problems.

Then perhaps the first test, as Brazil faced England. The English side struck first, through Michael Owen but Brazil came back before on the stroke of half time, Rivaldo with his routine strike (5th in 5 games).

In the second half it was time for Ronaldinho to hit the headlines. First, a somewhat 'freak' freekick, that completely took David Seaman in the England goal by surprise and gave the Brazilians the lead and then some 7 minutes later, with raised studs, the referee took offence to a tackle and he was off, a straight red card.

Brazil held on, albeit with not too much of a struggle from England, and it was another semi final to contest. Brazil seem to like facing teams already played in the tournament, and this time it was Turkey to be the repeat opponent, in the semi final.

Another tight game and solitary goal beating the Turkish, with Ronaldo getting over his one game goal drought. Even a 16 minute cameo from Leicester City midfielder Muzzy Izzet was unable to save the Turkey World Cup dream, who had become the surprise package of the tournament along with co hosts South Korea, who they would meet in the 3rd /4th play off.

Brazil would meet Germany in the final, and it was down to Ronaldo to secure the game, and the trophy with 2 strikes, ably assisted by Rivaldo's build up play for both goals. Ronaldo finished the World Cup with 8 goals, the golden boot and this was the fifth time Brazil had won the World Cup, cementing their status as the most successful national team in the history of the competition. Brazil became the only team since Argentina in 1986 to win the trophy without needing to win a penalty shoot-out at some stage during the knockout phase.



Steven Bergwijn – Dutch winger signed by Tottenham Hotspur from PSV Eindhoven for a reported £27 million in 2020 scoring on his debut for the club





30st June 2002 – Korea/Japan World Cup Final

Brazil 2 – Germany 0

Ronaldo
Ronaldo



Trevor Sinclair – You will do well to see a better overhead kick than Sinclair's for Queens Park Rangers in 1997 against Barnsley in the FA Cup



MARIO ZAGALLO

The eagle eyed readers would have noticed on the left wing of the victorious Brazil World Cup teams of 1958 and 1962 was Mario Zagallo. The forward even managing to score a World Cup final goal in the 1958 final.

He also won the World Cup with Brazil in the 1970 tournament, but you will not have seen his name in the line up for the final, nor as a player in the squad. How and why I hear you asking?

He was of course the manager of the victorious Brazilian nation team for the 1970 World Cup. Some 8 years after lifting the trophy as a player for the second time, he won it for the 3rd team leading the team from the side line.

He was 38 years old!

Amazing this makes him only the second youngest coach to win the World Cup, after Alberto Suppici won it aged 31 year of age with Uruguay in 1930.

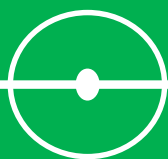


He is one of three men, along side Germany's Franz Beckenbauer and Didier Deschamps of France to have won the World Cup as a player and as a manager. He was of course the first to achieve this.

3 World Cup successes is not bad on the CV I am sure you would agree....but what about 4?

Technically, Zagallo can point to this achievement as well! In 1994, he was appointed assistant coach under Carlos Alberto Parreira and as we know Brazil were successful in the USA tournament.

Parreira no stranger to World Cup records himself, as he holds the record for attending the most World Cups as a manager, doing so on 6 different occasions for 5 different nations. Not bad for a manager who never played professional club football!!!



Marouane Chamakh – The first player to score in six consecutive matches in the Champions League, and scorer of Arsenal's quickest ever Premier League goal (37 seconds)



In a final attempt to re-write the history books again, some 28 years after winning the World Cup as a manager in 1970, Zagallo once again led the Brazilian nation team to the World Cup, this time in 1998, held in France.

He wasn't far off succeeding either!! The 1998 squad was full of talent, spearheaded by the phenomenon that was Ronaldo. He was ably backed up by the likes of Roberto Carlos, Rivaldo, Leonardo, Bebeto and Edmundo.

The final is of course known for the superb performance from the host nation, and in particular Zinedine Zidane, who ran out 3-0 winners.

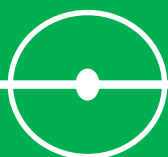
Ronaldo, who was an unused substitute for the entire 1994 World Cup was the world's best player at the time in 1998, and the holder of the Ballon D'or and FIFA World Player of the Year going into the finals.

He scored 4 goals going into the final, claiming 3 assists and ultimately won the Golden Ball as the tournament's best player, but that is just half of the story.

Hours before the final against France, Ronaldo suffered an alleged convulsive fit. At first, he was removed from the starting line-up 72 minutes before the match, and the team sheet (with Edmundo as his replacement) was submitted to the FIFA delegate. The starting line up without Ronaldo was released to a stunned world media. However, shortly before kick off, after pleading that he felt fine and requested to play, Ronaldo was reinstated by Brazil coach Zagallo

Ronaldo was the last Brazilian player out of the tunnel as the teams entered the field. During the playing of the Brazil national anthem the camera focused on him throughout, with Ronaldo showing little emotion. Zagallo admitted the fears over Ronaldo affected his team psychologically, and stated "for the whole of the first half I was wondering whether to take him off", but feared a public outcry in Brazil had he done so.

A no win situation for Zagallo, literally, but he can still look back at his 4 other triumphs.



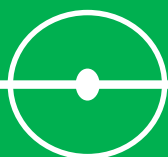
Nicolas Otamendi – Former Porto, Valencia and Manchester City centre back, now back in Portugal playing for Benfica having won 2 Premier Leagues



SOCRATES

We mentioned in the 1994 World Cup review of Brazil's success in the USA tournament a goal was banged in during the group stages by Rai, who was captaining the side at the beginning of the competition. He was later replaced in the first team during the competition by Mazinho and Dunga took the captaincy, and it was left to Dunga to lift the famous trophy after the final victory. Rai had a very distinguished career, not only with Brazil but with Sao Paulo in Brazil, and for Paris Saint-Germain in Europe. However even if he had won more domestically and abroad, he would still be remembered for being the younger brother of **Socrates**, quite simply one of the coolest of footballers of our generation.

Simply check out the beard and the headband. Cool dude. Not a bad footballer either..



Nicolas Tagliafico – Argentine left back now playing his fourth season with Dutch giants Ajax after signing from Independiente



In 1982, Brazil were 'supposed' to win the World Cup, as they quite simply had the best team in the world at the time. Socrates captained the side that included the likes of Zico, Falcao, Cerezo and Eder.

Sadly for the squad the task proved too much and despite 4 wins on the bounce, including a 3-1 defeat of Argentina, they came unstuck to the Italians in the second group stages and went home empty handed.

Scant consolation for Socrates, he was named as the 1983 South American Football of the Year. Not bad considering the quality of players around on that continent at the time.

(fair play for Rai trying to keep up with his older brother – he won this award in 1992)

Socrates won the award whilst playing for Corinthians, where he played for the majority of his career and he scored 172 goals in 297 goals from his attacking, central midfield role. He had begun his career at Botafogo, and later on in his career he had spells at Flamengo and Santos, before ending his career back at Botafogo.

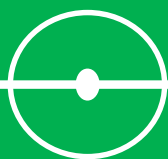
In between spells at these Brazilian clubs he spent a season at Fiorentina in Serie A, Italy.

It wasn't just his goal threat that made him a great player, it was his intelligence and grace on the pitch that made him stand out from the other perhaps more skilful players.

Socrates carried a nickname with him also, **Doctor Socrates**...

This was based on the fact he was a physician, and held a bachelor's degree in medicine, which he earned whilst playing football, and he continued in the medicine profession after he had retired from playing football.

Told you he was cool.



Jack Wilshere – Arsenal's youngest ever league debutant, aged 16 years and 256 days. Injuries meant he never truly reached his full potential



ZICO

Let me hit you with a comparison...

Who is England's greatest modern day attacking midfielder?

Wouldn't be unfair to say Frank Lampard? He is Chelsea's record ever goalscorer with 211 goals scored in all competitions, as well as playing for his country 106 times scoring 29 goals. He was also brave enough to have a spell abroad, doing himself no harm playing for New York City, scoring 15 goals in 2 seasons.

If you throw in his goals for West Ham United and Manchester City he bagged **302** goals in **1044** games as professional footballer.

I would say that is a pretty decent career return.

Let me introduce you to Zico.

The Brazilian attacking midfielder I think somewhat goes under the radar as one of the all time greats and I mean that in world football.



Lets do the statistics first.

Zico played for 3 clubs sides during his career. In Brazil he solely represented Flamengo, and then spent time abroad for Udinese in Italy and Kashima Antlers in Japan.

He is Flamengo's top scorer, ever, scoring a remarkable **508** goals! He played for the club on 731 occasions over 2 spells (1971 – 1983 & 1985 – 1989)

For Udinese he scored 30 goals in just 53 games and after coming out of retirement he scored 46 goals in 67 games for Kashima Antlers.

Throw in the fact he is Brazil's 5th highest ever goalscorer (48 goals in 71 games), it makes for some pretty impressive reading!

I make that **632** goals in **922** games..... wow.....!



Danilo D'Ambrosio – Inter Milan and Italian full back who has amassed over 200 games for the club since joining from Torino in 2013



Zico was best described, perhaps, as creative. Not only a clinical finisher (clearly) but also having the attribute as a great passer of the ball. He pretty much had it all.

Goodness, he could even head the ball.

One of his most famous anecdotes was actually from a header, in the 1978 World Cup. Tied 1-1 against Sweden, Brazil had a corner, that was floated in and bang, Zico headed in the winner in the 90th minute. Or that is what he thought!

Welsh referee Clive Thomas had blown the final whistle whilst the ball was in flight from the corner and the goal was not given.

Another claim to fame for Zico, is that it is recorded of the 632 goals he scored, 101 of these were free kicks, supposedly making him the player to have scored the most amount of direct free kicks in the game.

In Zico's first spell at Flamengo, this was his most successful and he was able to win 4 Brazilian national titles, a Copa Libertadores (1981) and the 1981 Intercontinental Cup.

Unsurprisingly his performances caught the attention of some of the leading European sides, and in particular Roma and AC Milan, who made offers to Flamengo for the player.

Then it was Udinese who offered a \$4million fee for Zico in 1983. As the fee was so large, the bigger, more decorated Italian clubs complained to the Italian FA, and sought to block the transfer. Mass protests ensued by the Udinese fans, forcing the hand of the Italian FA, who at the end of the process allowed the transfer to go through, and finally Zico was an Udinese player.

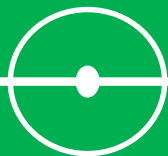
Zico hit the floor running and scored 19 league goals, one short of the league's top scorer that season, Michel Platini, but as a team Udinese under performed.



His second and last season at Udinese was interrupted a great deal by injury, as was his return to Flamengo in 1985, although he still managed another victorious campaign with Flamengo winning a Rio State Championship title, in 1986. He then retired in 1989 and ended up in politics, becoming Brazil's Minister of Sports, until this was put on hold as he returned to professional football and signed for Kashima Antlers in Japan.

The Antlers were a second division side at the time, but Zico took them from the second tier, as top goal scorer, to the newly formed J1 league in 1993 and assisted the club in becoming one of the league's elite teams. His part in the emergence of the club sees a statue in his honour outside the club's stadium.

I don't see a statue of Frank Lampard anywhere yet.....



Jason Crowe – Made his debut for Arsenal in October 1997 in a League Cup tie against Birmingham City and lasted just 33 seconds before being sent off!!



RIVALDO

Is it possible to win 9 separate league titles across the globe, a Champions League medal, win a FIFA World Cup and be named World Footballer of the Year, and yet still somehow be somewhat underrated? It seems odd to say, but I feel that Rivaldo is criminally underrated as a world class footballer.

To be this good you have to be made of stern stuff and Rivaldo as a youngster had to battle against poverty. So much so, the malnourishment he experienced as a child is said to have contributed to his bowlegged stance, that characterised his playing posture throughout his career.

Having won the league championship in Brazil in 1994, and the Sao Paulo state championship (Campeonato Paulista) in 1996 with Palmeiras, Rivaldo set off for what would a 20 year long world wide trip, covering 5 new countries as well as dipping in and out of Brazil.

Rivaldo started his venture at the somewhat unfashionable Deportivo La Coruna of La Liga and wasted no time in impressing. 21 La Liga strikes saw the team finish a high 3rd place and did enough to persuade Barcelona spend \$26 million on the forward.



Gerald Sibon – Former Ajax and PSV Eindhoven striker who signed for Heerenveen on 3 separate occasions as well as playing for Sheffield Wednesday for 4 seasons



It was at Barca he was at his most deadly. In his first season he won the La Liga and Copa Del Rey double, scoring 28 goals in all competitions (19 in La Liga as the second highest scorer)

The following year, partnering up front with Patrick Kluivert, Barcelona again won the league, and Rivaldo was again top scorer for the club with 29 goals (24 in La Liga and again second highest scorer in La Liga)

The third year, although Rivaldo was again the club's top scorer they missed out on the league title and coach Louis Van Gaal lost his job.

The following season saw perhaps Rivaldo's most iconic moment. In truth it was another poor season for the club and it came down to the last league game of the season to see whether or not the club would qualify for the Champions League the following season.

Valencia sat fourth in the league, with 63 points. Barca were 5th on 60 points, needing a win to overtake Los Che, having already beaten them away earlier in the season.

The teams were very evenly matched, and after 46 minutes the game was tied 2-2, with Rivaldo bagging the 2 Barcelona goals. One a terrific 20 yard free kick of the post, and the second a 25 yard pile driver hit so hard he fell over hitting it.

It got to the 88th minute and with the scores level, Valencia would finish fourth. Not on Rivaldo's watch they wouldn't. Frank de Boer (loves an assist for a great goal) chipped the ball to the edge of the Valencia box where back to goal, Rivaldo controlled the ball on his chest and produced the most outrageous overhead kick into the bottom corner of the goal, a full 18 yards out. 3-2, Barca finish 4th, Rivaldo bags his 23rd goal of the league season again finishing as the second highest goalscorer in La Liga!

One more season at Barcelona, and it was time to move on, and to Italy and Serie A giants AC Milan. Although Rivaldo claimed the Champions League in 2002/03, he was on the bench for the final, as he was for most of his time in Milan. His brief spell was followed by an even briefer spell back in Brazil with Cruzeiro, before heading back to Europe and to Greece with Olympiakos.

He defied his age and for 3 seasons he won 3 Super Leagues. Not one to shy away from controversy, when Olympiakos refused him a new contract he moved to rivals AEK Athens and he took them to the top of the league only to have their spot taken by, believe it or not Olympiakos as an opponent in one their games fielded an illegible player and they were rewarded 3 points after a court case, and took the league title.

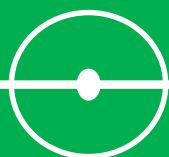
That was enough for Rivaldo to leave Greece and on to pastures new.

His next move was to Uzbekistan, to play for Bunyodkor. According to reports this was a financially beneficial move, but he still performed.

This is unofficial, but it is said during his time there he became the first player in the world to score one, then two, then three, then four goals in four consecutive matches!!

2 years in Uzbekistan, time back in Brazil and a spell in Angola, playing for Kabuscorp, he found his way back to the club he started at, Mogi Mirim. In July 2015 he scored a goal for Mogi Mirim and played alongside Rivaldinho, who also scored – Rivaldinho, of course being the great Rivaldo's son.

He carries on the baton for his father as at the age of 25 he has so far played in 5 different countries including Poland, Bulgaria and Romania!



Ruben Neves – In October 2015, aged 18 years and 221 days, Neves became the youngest player to start as captain in the Champions League, helping Porto to a 2–0 win against Maccabi Tel Aviv



PELE

Thomas Edison – lit up the world, literally, inventing the electric light bulb.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, aka Pele, named after the great inventor, lit up the world of football.

Pele carries the reputation as the greatest footballer that ever lived, therefore it would be hard to do him justice in just the 3 pages of this feature! Lets look at what he achieved throughout this career.

For Brazil, he scored his first international goal at 16 years and nine months, and makes him still today the youngest goalscorer for his country.



He announced himself to the world as 17 year old when he won the 1958 World Cup with Brazil, he scored in the 1962 World Cup tournament although he missed a large chunk, including the final, of the 1962 World Cup, and the goal he scored in the 1966 World Cup in England saw him become the first player to score in three successive World Cups.

As TV audiences and indeed the quality of television increased, perhaps the 1970 World Cup is best known for Pele's World Cup successes, and bizarrely his failures.

- He is acclaimed for a shot from The Halfway Line, against Czechoslovakia, that didn't go in – great effort though.
- In the game against England, a header from Pele resulted in what is called the greatest ever save, from Gordon Banks. Again it didn't go in!
- Third up is in the semi final of the 1970 World Cup against Uruguay. Running on to a through ball and heading down on the keeper, Pele allowed the ball to simply run past him, bamboozling the goalkeeper, ran around the keeper to get the ball back and ideally slip the ball into an empty net, but again it missed.

Even when Pele missed it seems it was world class!!!!



Jose Baxter – Once the youngest ever player to play in the Premier League, appearing for Everton at 16 years and 191 days. Is now 5th on the all time list

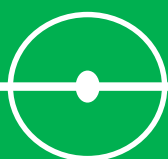


Of course aside from those three failures (that we list in jest) he achieved in 1970 what no other player has ever done. He won the World Cup as a player for a third time.

The goal he scored in the 1970 final fittingly was the 100th goal Brazil had scored in the World Cup, and after debuting in 1957 he retired from the Seleção in 1971 having won 92 caps and scoring a national record of 77 goals. (Neymar has him in his sights, scoring 64 times at the time of print (28/04/2021).

Fair to say at the international level he was pretty good. What about on the domestic front? He debuted for Santos at an even younger age, just 15 years of age, and started how he meant to go on, scoring on his debut in 1956.

At 16 years old, in his first full season with Santos he was the league's top goal scorer! Post the 1958 & 1962 World Cups, European giants, like Real Madrid, Juventus and Inter Milan were desperate to sign him.



Stephen Ireland – Former Manchester City youth midfielder, perhaps best known for his false statements regarding his Grandmothers' passing away so he could leave a Ireland international call up



It is reported that Inter Milan actually signed Pele in 1958, but because of a protest from the Santos fans the Italian club were forced to rip up the contract! To stop this ever happening again, in 1961 the government of Brazil declared Pele a 'National Treasure' and therefore he was essentially banned from ever being transferred out of the country!!!

From a Santos point of view, thank God they did.

His goal scoring rate and ability was the 1950/1960 version of what we know as the Messi & Ronaldo phenomenon.

In 1958, he scored 58 goals as Santos won the Campeonato Paulista. 66 goals overall.

In 1959, he scored a total of 53 goals in the season

In 1960 he scored 33 goals as Santos recaptured the title.

In 1961 he scored 47 goals as again the title was captured. 62 goals overall.

In 1962, the title again retained the title with Pele's 37 goals, and 48 goals overall and took Santos to the Copa Libertadores final, which they won.

In 1963, they won the Copa Libertadores again and further domestic titles and Pele contributing 51 goals in all competitions.

More titles, more successes and goals followed and it was reported, in November 1969, Pele scored his 1000th goal, that has to be caveated this was across all competitions, that includes friendlies and exhibition games he took part in.

Pele's *official 643 goals for Santos was the most goals scored for a single club until taken over by Leo Messi in 2020.

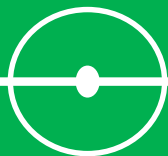
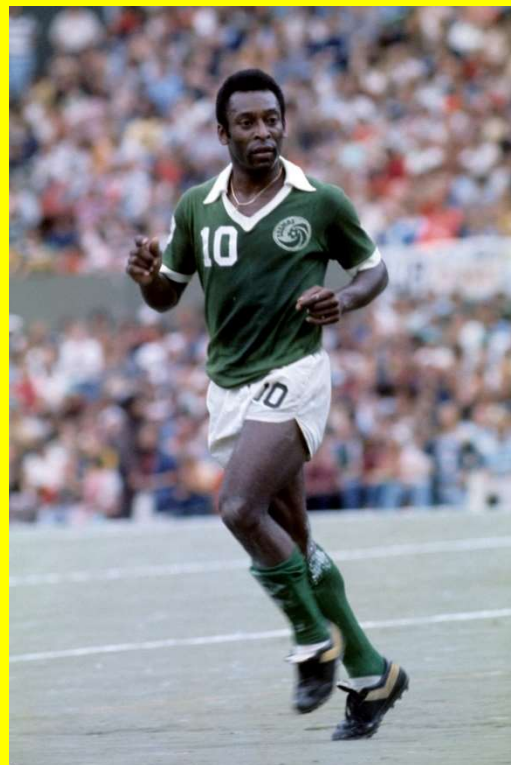
The total by the end of his career was a suggested 1279 goals in 1363 games, with the same caveat as included above.

In terms of official records it is claimed Pele scored 757 goals in his career, that was a record until recently taken over by guess who, Cristiano Ronaldo who bagged his 758th and is still going.....



Pele retired from Brazilian football in 1974 and went on to represent the New York Cosmos on the NASL in America, hoping to raise the awareness of 'soccer' in the country.

He finished his career in 1977 with an exhibition match in New York, the Cosmos against Santos....and yes, he scored. He always scored.....



Eric Lamela – Argentina attacking midfielder who when signing for Tottenham Hotspur from Roma was the clubs most expensive ever signing



The Premier League Greatest Nations XI



When Arsenal signed the Icelandic goalkeeper Runar Alex Runarsson this was significant transfer business. It was obviously great for the individual I am sure, but more importantly it gave The Halfway Line a goalkeeper to slot into the Icelandic Best XI in the Premier League.

Huge news as we can cling on to this feature for one more issue at least!

So this issue we bring you the very best Icelandic XI to represent their great national in the Premier League, and with Runarsson joining the

Gunners, it also takes some reliance off Bolton Wanderers who seemed to have been some kind of a feeder club set up with Icelandic footballers in the 1990's and 2000's.

To ensure the Icelanders are not lonely we have also put together a Greatest Premier League XI of sole representatives of a nation, i.e.,

the country has only ever had one player represent them in the League. Makes for quite an interesting XI, I am sure you will agree.



Steven Pienaar – Including loans, Pienaar signed for Everton on 4 separate occasions. Once sued by a ex-girlfriend for not marrying her!!



Iceland XI

As previously mentioned, the goalkeeper selection is somewhat decided based on there has only been one! Quite how many games the young shot stopper will actually play for Arsenal remains unknown, but he's on their books, so it counts and Runarsson takes the number one jersey.

Into defence and fighting out for the right back berth is Larus Sigurdsson and Gretar Steinsson. Sigurdsson played a significant number of games for Stoke City in the Championship but only a handful of games for West Bromwich Albion in the top flight and so we are giving the right back spot to Steinsson, who performed solidly for Bolton Wanderers over the course of 5 seasons.

Centre back options are somewhat limited but take nothing away from Gudni Bergsson. An original in terms of being at Tottenham Hotspur at the start of the Premier League in 1992, but more important than that was his contribution as player and captain at Bolton Wanderers. An 8-year spell and over 250 league games, Bergsson firmly made his mark at the Reebok stadium. Alongside Bergsson it's a place for Ivar Ingimarsson. Had short spells at a few English clubs but after impressing at Brentford, Reading picked him up and he formed a superb partnership with Ibrahima Sonko, taking the club to the Premier League and surprising many in their first season.

At left back it is the relegation jinxed Hermann Hreidarsson. He unfortunately holds the record of being relegated from the English top division 5 (FIVE) times! This is a joint record with Nathan Blake. The relegations came with Wimbledon, Crystal Palace, Ipswich Town, Charlton Athletic and Portsmouth. Despite this record, Hreidarsson wasn't a bad player, often carrying a goal threat and for the never say die attitude, he makes our XI.

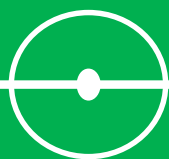
Into midfield, and we start with Arnar Gunnlaugsson. The attacking midfielder, predominantly left footed liked cutting in from the right. He played for (unsurprisingly) Bolton Wanderers and Leicester City in the topflight, and then Stoke City in the Championship (as did a large number of Icelandic players, as the coach at the time was an former Icelandic international)

On the left we go with the Burnley left winger Johann Gudmundsson. He earned his Premier League move with solid performances and great goals for Charlton Athletic and does a sturdy job when called upon for Sean Dyche's team. In the centre of the park a few have performed well but don't quite make the team. Namely Joey Gudjonsson at Aston Villa, Wolves and Burnley and Brynjar Gunnarsson at Reading. Others have come and gone relatively unnoticed like Gudmundsson (Watford) Gudjonsson (Derby County), Jonsson (Wolves) and Orlygsson (Forest).

It leaves national team captain, and instigator of the Team Clap! Aron Gunnarsson who played for Cardiff City in the Premier League was not one to be messed with in the midfield battle, and next to him is one of the stand out players to have come from Iceland to grace the Premier League. Gylfi Sigurdsson put in the graft with Reading, Shrewsbury and Crewe and got his just rewards with time at Swansea City, Tottenham Hotspur and now Everton. A fantastic dead ball specialist who convinced Everton to spend a reported £40 million on him!

Up front, we've only the 2 options, but they warrant their selection. Tipping Sigurdsson as the best Icelandic import is Eidur Gudjohnsen. Chelsea signed him from, you'd never guess.....Bolton, and he thoroughly impressed during his time at Stamford Bridge. Not blessed with pace, his intelligence on the pitch often outwitted opponents and despite a number of high profile and expensive signings that arrived at the club during his tenure, he held his own, and can look at his 2 league winners medals with some pride!

Partnering Gudjohnsen up front is Helder Helguson. Slightly less successful as his strike partner but spells at Watford, Fulham, Bolton (of course) and Queens Park Rangers, he carried a goal threat, but not consistent enough to get the move to a more successful Premier league club.



Zavon Hines – Former West Ham United youth winger who spent the majority of his career in the lower leagues with the likes of Bradford City, Dagenham & Redbridge and Chesterfield





Marco Van Ginkel – Dutch midfielder signed for Chelsea in 2013 from Vitesse for £8million and is still on their books some 8 years later. His 5 loans spells are more than his 4 appearances for the London club



One Off Nations XI

This XI slightly goes against the grain, as we like to pick the best performers for our line ups, but in this instance, the player selected is not only the best from their nation, but also the worst!

In goal we have options! Gunnar Nielsen from the Faroe Islands made a solitary appearance for Manchester City and a clean sheet to boot! Neil Etheridge kept goal for Cardiff City in the relegation campaign of 2018/19 but our goalkeeper selection is given to Ali Al-Habsi from Oman, who represented both Bolton Wanderers and Wigan Athletic over the course of 5 seasons.

At right back its an attacking move, with former Fulham youngster Kevin Betsy filling in and representing the Seychelles and on the left-hand side we've Malta born Dylan Kerr, who played for Leeds United, albeit briefly at this level before moving on to have a very decent spell at Reading.

Centre back we have another Fulham youngest in Zesh Rehman who not only played in the Premier League but also won 25 international caps for Pakistan. He plays alongside former Manchester United, Derby County, Southampton, Sunderland and Stoke City defender Danny Higginbotham, who represented Gibraltar on 3 occasions.

Into the midfield and on the right, we are playing Cuban attacking midfielder Onel Hernandez, who played for Norwich City in 2019/20. They almost escaped relegation that season, you could say it was close but no cigar....

On the left hand side we have the Gambian international Modou Barrow, who played for Swansea City in the Premier League, before moving to Reading where arguably he performed far better.

In the centre, keeping things tight is Victor Wanyama. The Kenyan played for both Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur, and alongside him adding the attacking flair is Henrik Mkhitaryan of Armenia. He played for both Manchester United and Arsenal, although he never reached the heights he achieved at Shakhtar Donetsk and Borussia Dortmund.

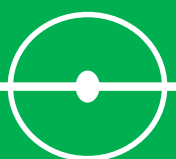
Two players that had a shout in the midfield but miss out are Frederic Nimani (Burnley) of The Central African Republic and Mesca (Fulham) of The Guinea-Bissau.

Up front we have a dynamic pairing of Aston Villa forwards. First up, who also played for Chelsea is Burkina Faso forward Bertrand Traore and he is partnered up top with the Tanzania striker Mbwana Samatta. Samatta has the same number of league goals as the Premier League have had Tanzania players, and Traore has yet to win the argument of being the best Burkina Faso forward over the worst....



Leo Duarte – Brazilian centre back who signed for AC Milan in 2019, signing from Flamengo and is now on loan at Istanbul Basaksehir





Kevin Kampl – German born, ex Slovenian international spent time with Red Bull Salzburg, Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Leverkusen and now with RB Leipzig



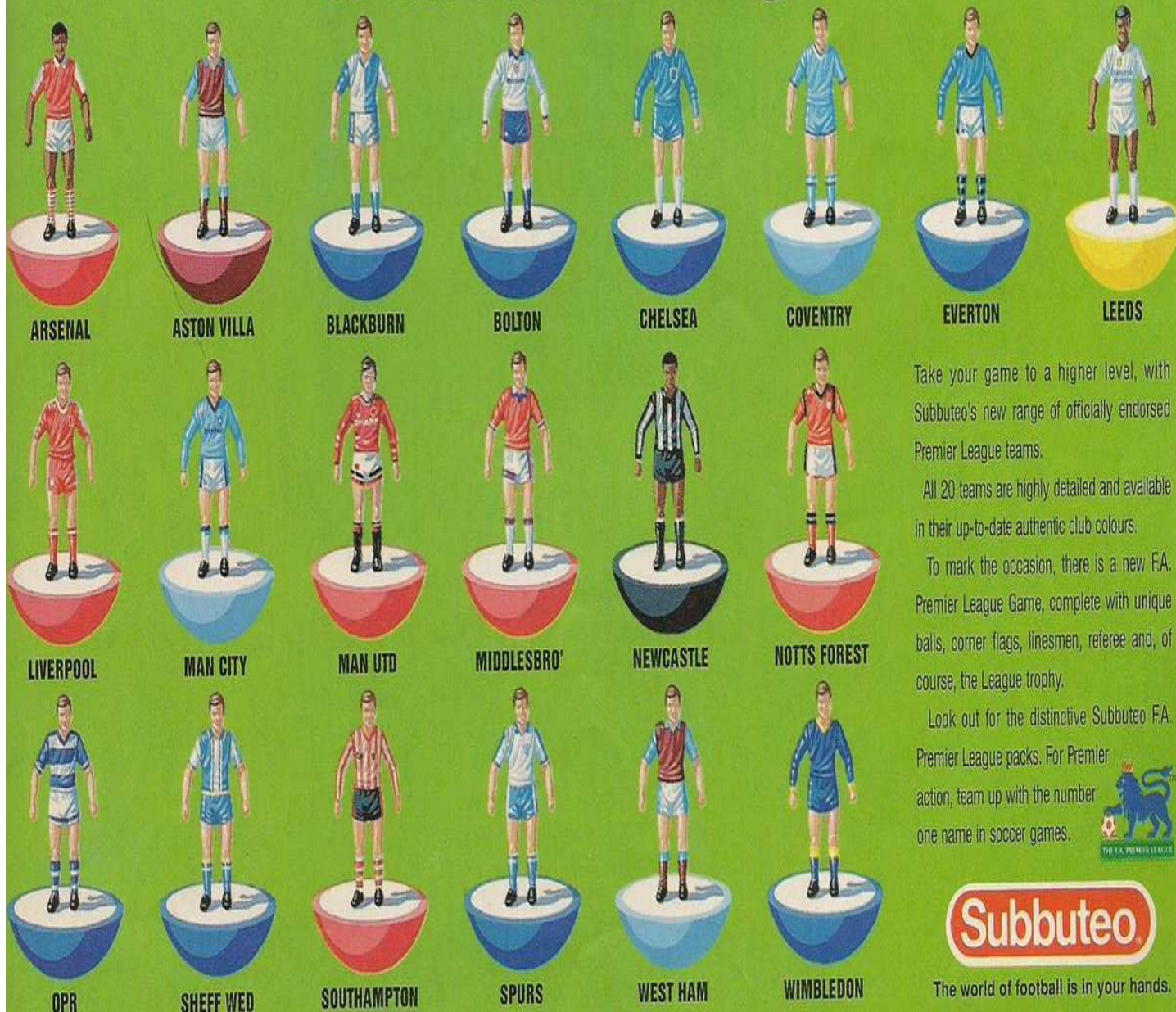
Do you disagree? Why not have a go yourself and fill in your best ever Nation XI to play in the Premier League



Isaac Hayden – 2 senior team appearances for Arsenal before moving to Newcastle United whom he won the Championship with in the 2016/17 season



This season, 20 teams have been promoted to the Premier League.



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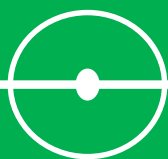
All 20 teams are highly detailed and available in their up-to-date authentic club colours.

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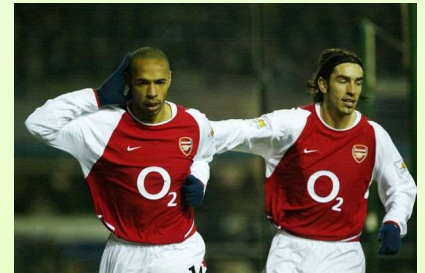
The world of football is in your hands.



Junior Stanislas – Bournemouth's attacking right winger started his career at West Ham United then moving on to Burnley before heading to the south coast



Did not know they were teammates



There are some teammates that simply go hand in hand
You name one, the other rolls of the tongue
immediately. They are like 2 peas in a pod.

The likes of Xavi and Iniesta,
Bonucci and Chiellini,
Henry and Pires.

There are some teammates however that may come as
a bit of a surprise and we thought we'd bring a few of
these to your attention.



Jack Clarke – Talented former Leeds United youth player who
Tottenham Hotspur spent £10 million on in 2019, but has yet to play a
Premier League game for the club



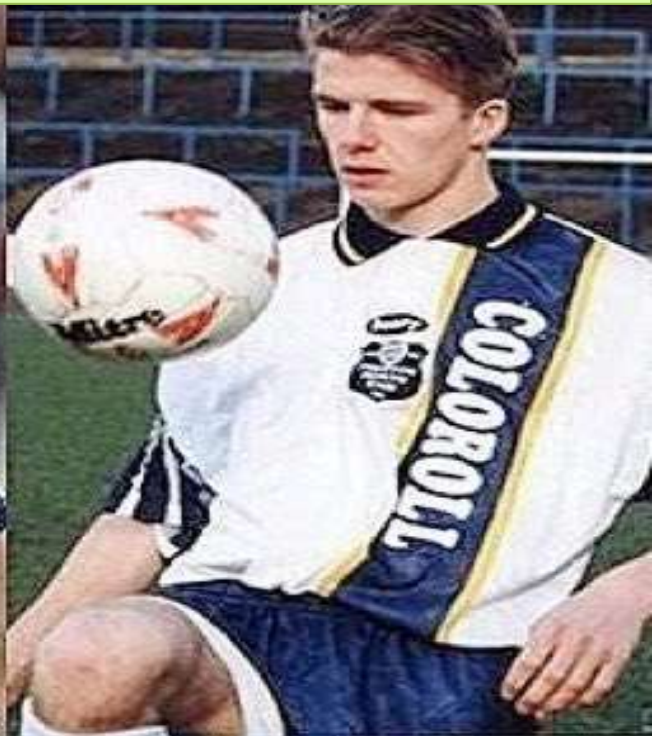


2 players that could be used to show the opposite spectrum of Alex Ferguson's management career at Manchester United.

David Beckham, part of the Class of '92, 'you'll never win anything with kids', that ultimately won everything, and then **David Moyes**, tasked with the unenviable job of replacing the great manager.

Did you know that in the early stage of Beckham's career he was sent on loan to Preston North End. In the 1994/95 season, he played 5 league games, teaming up with Scottish centre back Moyes.

'Becks' managed to score 2 goals, and on the left we can see Moyes congratulating the future England captain on one of his strikes.



Curtis Jones – Liverpool's youngest ever captain at 19 years and 5 days when he captained Liverpool versus Shrewsbury in an FA Cup tie in 2020





Arsenal managers and Tottenham Hotspur managers, old and new tend to carry some rivalry based on the North London clubs general dislike for each other.

Hopefully relationships on the pitch were somewhat better between **Mikel Arteta** and **Mauricio Pochettino** at Paris Saint-Germain during the 2001/02 season as Arteta headed to the French capital on loan.

To help matters on the pitch, they could also rely on the match winning skills of future World Player of the Year, the Brazilian **Ronaldinho**.



Scott Sinclair – Quiz question classic as during his career he has played for a Rovers, an Argyle, a Rangers, an Athletic, a Palace, a City, an Albion, a Villa and a North End!





We know from a previous 'The Halfway Line' issue **Eidur Gudjohnsen** was once very close to having his father as a teammate. Gudjohnsen replaced his father in an international match for Iceland, so in theory they were teammates, but just never shared the same pitch on match day. Got us to thinking of who else Gudjohnsen could claim to have had as a teammate and its fair to say he was somewhat spoilt with those he played up front with!!

Here is a flavour of his strike partners over the years;

Luc Nilis and Ronaldo at **PSV Eindhoven**

Gianfranco Zola, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Hernan Crespo, Didier Drogba and Arjen Robben at **Chelsea**

Ronaldinho, Lionel Messi, Samuel Eto'o and Thierry Henry at **Barcelona**

Jermain Defoe and Gareth Bale at **Tottenham**

Clint Dempsey and Mousa Dembele at **Fulham**

Carlos Becca at **Club Brugge**

(we'll even throw in Dean Holdsworth and Emile Heskey during separate spells at Bolton Wanderers)

He was also one season away from partnering Erling Haaland at **Molde!**



Jay Simpson – The first player to score a hat trick at the Emirates Stadium, doing so for Arsenal U18's in a Youth Cup match against Cardiff City in 2007



Much was made when Kevin Keegan sold **Andy Cole** from Newcastle United to Manchester United, with the claim he would only do it if he got **Keith Gillespie** as part of the deal. The 2 players actually became teammates years later when lining up for Blackburn Rovers between 2001 & 2003.

Another somewhat odd coming together was when Premier League stalwarts **Phil Babb** and **Peter Schmeichel** swapped Lancashire for the Iberia, and moved to Sporting Lisbon, lining up with the likes of **Ricardo Quaresma** in the Portuguese capital. These three crossed paths in 2001.



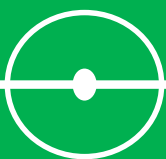
Kieran Dowell – Former Everton youth player made 2 Premier League appearances for the Toffees and now plying his trade at Norwich City as an attacking midfielder





Other than being Old Trafford flops, **Alexis Sanchez** and **Radamel Falcao** also share another thing in common. Playing for River Plate in Argentina together back in 2007/08.

What a centre back set up at Lyon in 1989-1990! Premier League legends (all for different reasons) **Mick McCarthy**, **Remi Garde** and **Bruno N'Gotty** keeping things tight at the Stade de Gerland.



Paul Caddis – One capped Scotland international started his career at Celtic and had promising spells at Swindon Town and Birmingham City with short spells also at Bury, Blackburn Rovers and Bradford City





Roberto Mancini can of course lay claim to a) being a legendary footballer, as well as b) playing with a huge number of legendary footballers, for example; Gianluca Vialli, Juan Sebastian Veron, Clarence Seedorf, Enrico Chiesa, Ruud Gullit, Alen Boksic, Alessandro Nesta, Marcelo Salas, Christian Vieri, Pavel Nedved, Christian Karembeu, Sinisa Mihajlovic to name but a few...

But do any of those top the likes of **Simon Royce, Matt Elliott, Andy Impey, Muzzy Izzet, Robbie Savage, Dean Sturridge or Ade Akinbiyi** during his brief spell at Leicester City in January 2001?



Joao Teixeira – A Portuguese attacking midfielder signed for Liverpool with great potential, but the ‘new Deco’ didn’t make the grade and since moved on to Porto and now Feyenoord

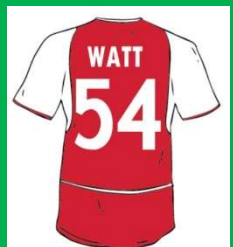




Ariel Ortega seemed like the type of player who struggled to settle out of his homeland of Argentina, specifically at River Plate. Somewhat uninspiring spells at Parma, Valencia and Fenerbahçe come to mind, and although a season at Sampdoria in 1998/99 followed the same theme at least he can look back on his career and enjoy the time spent on the pitch with Sampdoria loanee, reality TV star and serial corner flag dancer, **Lee Sharpe**



Sanchez Watt – Ex Arsenal youth player was once booked a second time in a match when a ref asked for his name, he repeatedly answered 'Watt' and the referee took offence to his alleged sarcasm. The second yellow was rescinded





Sampdoria are hosting Athletic Bilbao in the first round of the UEFA Cup in September 1997.

World Cup winner **Jurgen Klinsmann** upfront with **Vincenzo Montella** is struggling.

Future World Cup winner **Alain Boghossian** is in the midfield playing alongside **Juan Sebastian Veron** but something isn't clicking.

The manager, Cesar Luis Menotti looks to the bench for inspiration. It can only mean one thing.

Time to unleash **Danny Dichio**.



Borja Baston – Once time Swansea City record transfer signing and Aston Villa flop was the top goalscorer at the 2009 U17 World Cup representing Spain





A couple of other random ones to finish on.

Did you know **Yaya Toure** played with **Rivaldo** during their time with Greek giants **Olympiakos**?

Euro 2000 star, **Nuno Gomes**, clearly learned every he knew about deadly finishing from the first ever goalscorer in Premier League history, **Brian Deane**, during their team together at **Benfica**!



George Saville – Ex Chelsea youth player, never made an appearance for the club, moving on to Wolverhampton Wanderers, but now plays for Championship side Middlesbrough



Historical Line Ups

In this issue of Historical Line ups, we are celebrating the 5 Champions League winner medals collected by the sensation that is Cristiano Ronaldo.

5 wins in the modern era sees him as the most successful in this competition, and although there is a defeat in there as well (Manchester United versus Barcelona) we wanted to focus on the success. 6 final appearances in itself is a record (held with Paolo Maldini)

Out of the 5 winning finals, we can point to the Portuguese superstar scoring in 3 of these, with a total of 4 goals, which puts him on his own as the record holder (in this, the modern era)



The line ups are as follows.

- 1) Manchester United versus Chelsea 2007/08 Moscow, Russia
- 2) Real Madrid versus Atletico Madrid 2013/14 Lisbon, Portugal
- 3) Real Madrid versus Atletico Madrid 2015/16 Milan, Italy
- 4) Real Madrid versus Juventus 2016/17 Cardiff, Wales
- 5) Real Madrid versus Liverpool 2017/18 Kiev, Ukraine



Achraf Lazaar – Moroccan left back signed a 5 year deal at Newcastle United in 2016 but only played 10 times before moving on to Watford in 2021



21ST MAY 2008

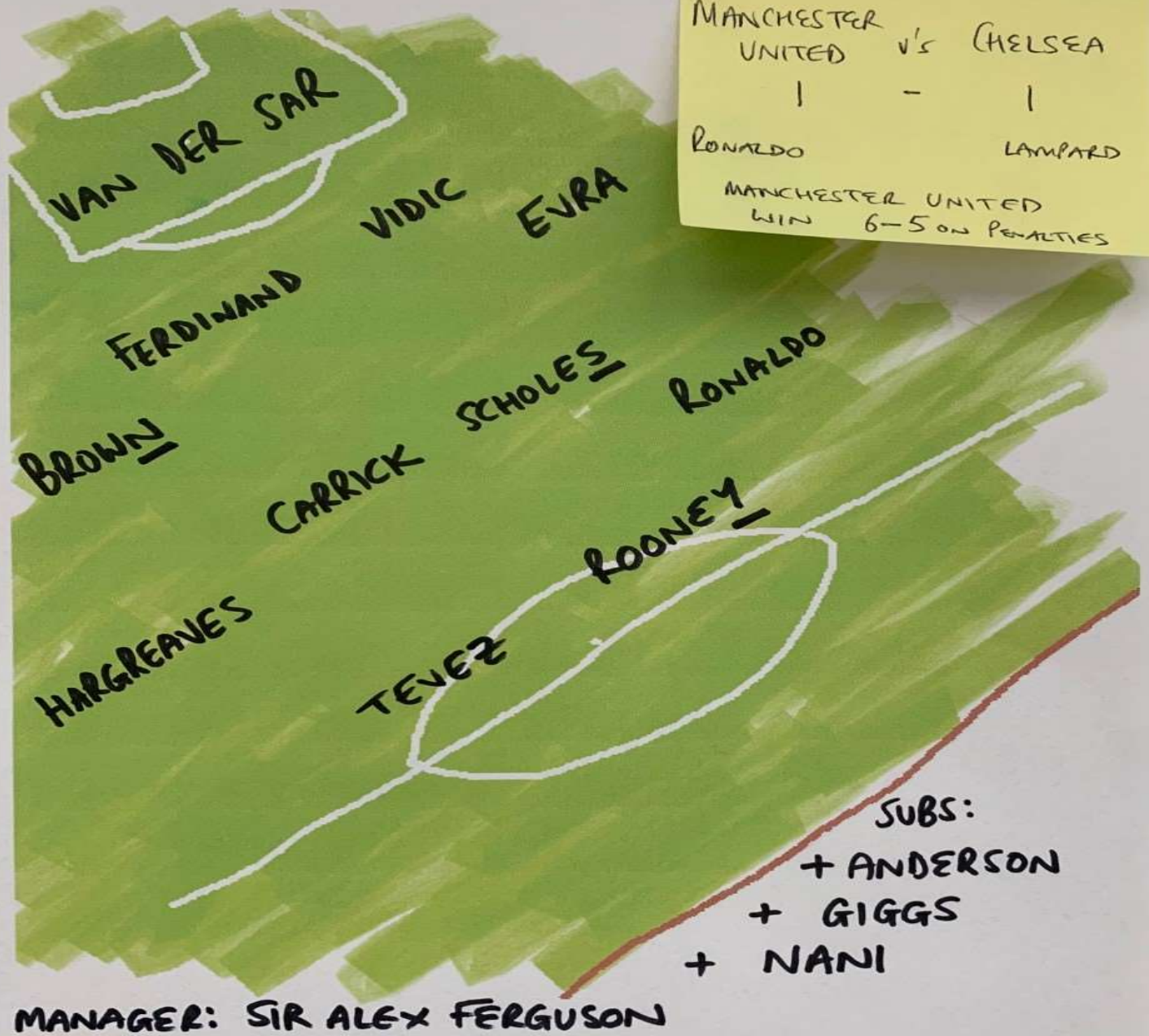
MANCHESTER UNITED v/s CHELSEA

1 - 1

RONALDO

LAMPARD

MANCHESTER UNITED
WIN 6-5 on PENALTIES



Steven Taylor – Former Newcastle United player was once their youngest debutant in European competition when he came on in a UEFA game in March 2004 against Real Mallorca



24th MAY 2014

REAL MADRID v's ATLETICO MADRID

4 - 1

RAMOS
BALE
MARCELO
RONALDO

GODIN

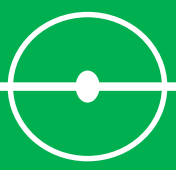


SUBS:

+ MARCELO

+ ISCO

+ MORATA



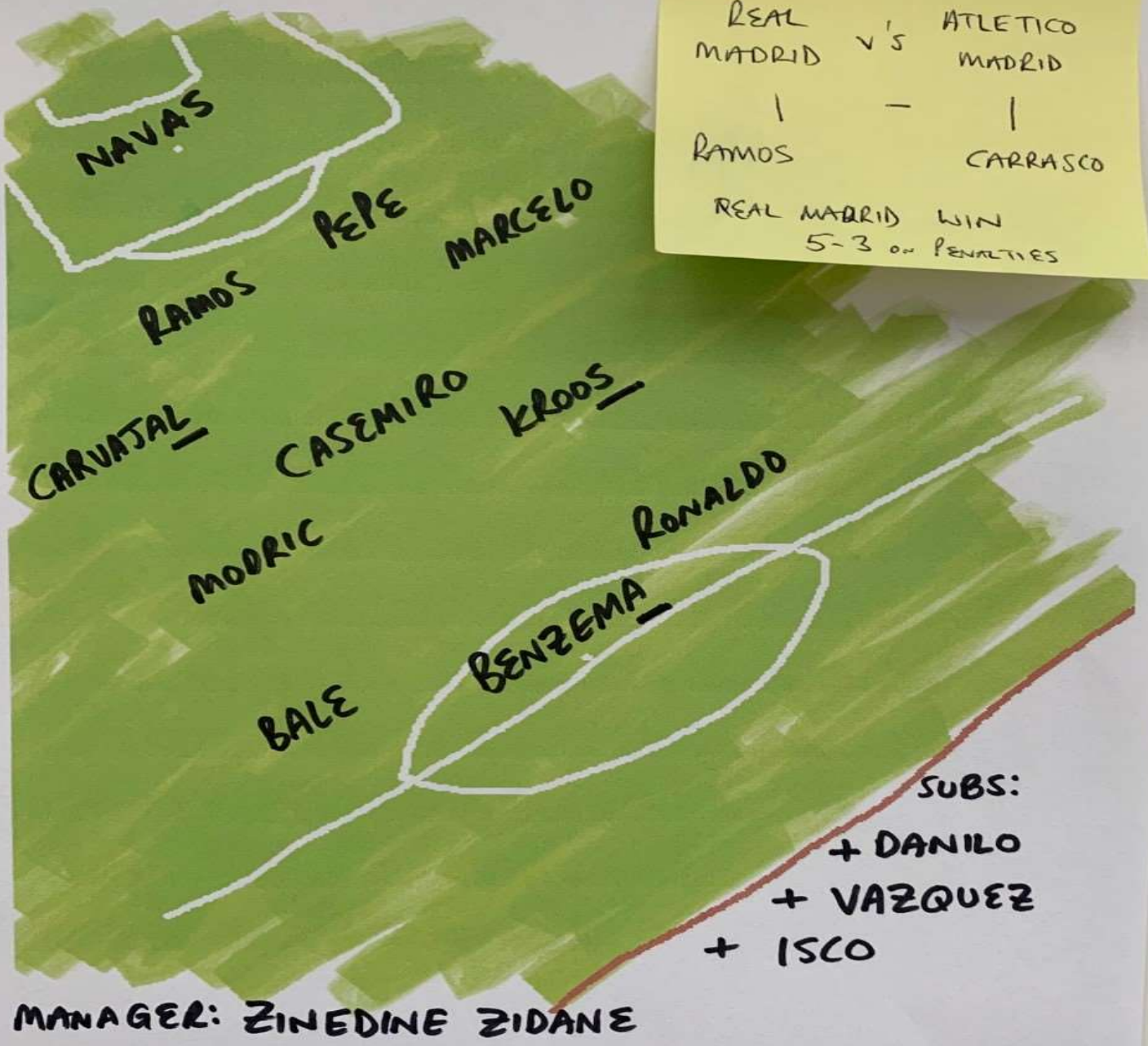
Felipe Aguilar – Colombian centre back plays in Brazil for Athletico Paranaense after a season with Santos having moved from Atletico Nacional



28th MAY 2016

REAL MADRID	v/s	ATLETICO MADRID
1	-	1
RAMOS		CARRASCO

REAL MADRID WIN
5-3 ON PENALTIES



Zan Celar – A solitary Serie A appearance for Roma and the U21 Slovenian international is now out on loan to Cremonese



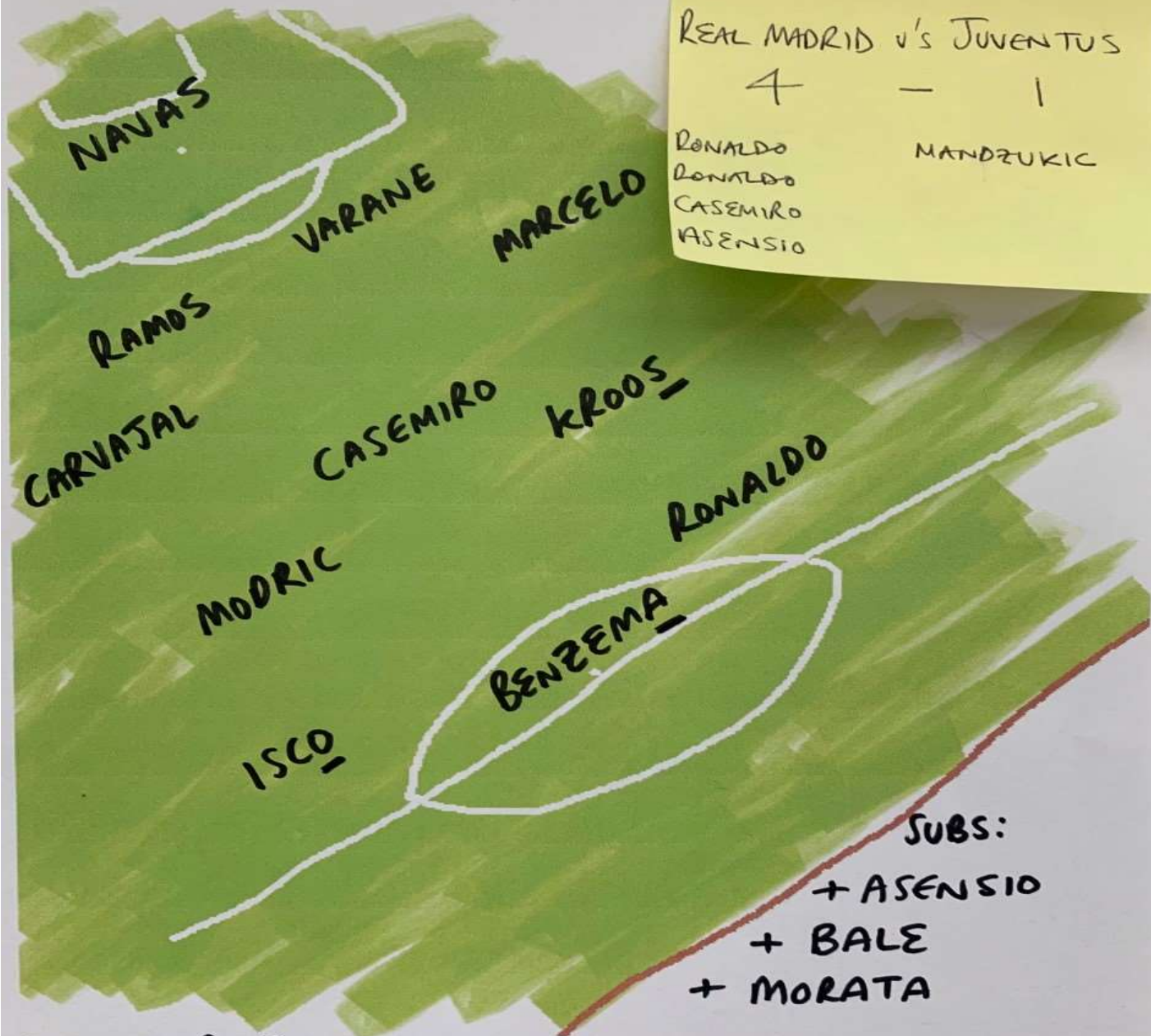
3rd JUNE 2017

REAL MADRID v's JUVENTUS

4 - 1

RONALDO
RONALDO
CASEMIRO
ASENSIO

MANDZUKIC



Serkan Calik – Retired right sided midfielder chose number 61 at Galatasaray as this was the car number plate location code for where his parents were from



26th MAY 2018

REAL MADRID vs LIVERPOOL

3 - 1

BENZEMA

MANE

BALE

BALE



Sekou Oliseh – Liberian international winger has played league football in Denmark, Russia, Greece, Qatar, Romania and China but now plays in his country of birth with club side LISCR



The transfer fee record evolution

We all can claim to have a piece of transfer fee wisdom in the locker, be it Trevor Francis was the first British £1,000,000 signing, or that Mark Hughes was the British player to be signed for over £2,000,000. It could be listing the most expensive player in their position, for example, currently the most expensive of these positions are:



Goalkeeper – Kepa Arrizabalaga
Defender – Harry Maguire
Midfielder – Philippe Coutinho
Attacker – Neymar



What we've done here for this issue is two graphics to add to your knowledge.

First, the progress of the British Transfer fee record. We list in order the evolution and inflation of transfers that involve a British club, either buying, selling or a British side on both sides of the transaction.

Then we have put together a chart showing the progress of the world transfer fee record. We may have excluded a few of the transactions from the early days, but still have enough to show that from 1905, the record fee was 0.0005% of what it is today!

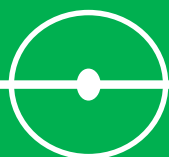


Denis Terentyev – Russian right back's career has been from Zenit St. Petersburg to Rostov, back to Zenit and once again back to Rostov



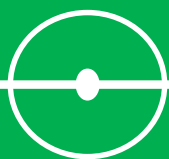
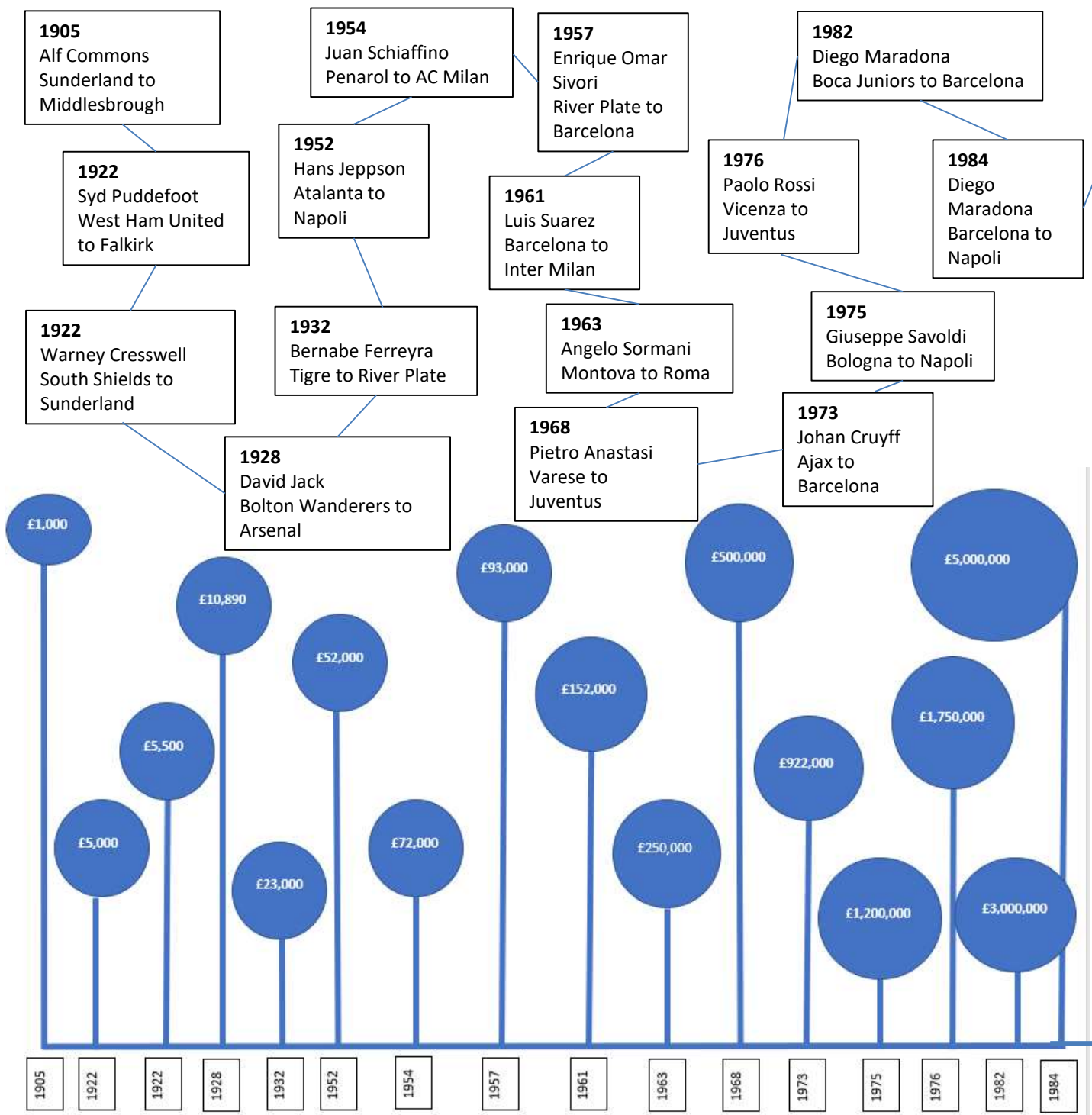
Transfer record fees involving a British Club

Year	Player	Selling Club	Buying Club	Transfer fee
1968	Allan Clarke	Fulham	Leicester City	£150,000
1969	Allan Clarke	Leicester City	Leeds United	£165,000
1970	Martin Peters	West Ham United	Tottenham Hotspur	£200,000
1971	Alan Ball	Everton	Arsenal	£220,000
1972	David Nish	Leicester City	Derby County	£225,000
1974	Bob Latchford	Birmingham City	Everton	£350,000
1977	Kevin Keegan	Liverpool	Hamburg	£500,000
1979	David Mills	Middlesbrough	West Bromwich Albion	£516,000
1979	Trevor Francis	Birmingham City	Nottingham Forest	£1,180,000
1979	Steve Daley	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Manchester City	£1,450,000
1979	Andy Gray	Aston Villa	Wolverhampton Wanderers	£1,469,000
1981	Bryan Robson	West Bromwich Albion	Manchester United	£1,500,000
1984	Ray Wilkins	Manchester United	AC Milan	£1,500,000
1986	Mark Hughes	Manchester United	Barcelona	£2,300,000
1987	Ian Rush	Liverpool	Juventus	£3,200,000
1989	Chris Waddle	Tottenham Hotspur	Marseille	£4,250,000
1991	David Platt	Aston Villa	Bari	£5,500,000
1991	Trevor Steven	Rangers	Marseille	£5,500,000
1992	Paul Gascoigne	Tottenham Hotspur	Lazio	£5,500,000
1995	Andy Cole	Newcastle United	Manchester United	£7,000,000
1995	Dennis Bergkamp	Inter Milan	Arsenal	£7,500,000
1995	Stan Collymore	Nottingham Forest	Liverpool	£8,500,000
1996	Alan Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	Newcastle United	£15,000,000
1999	Nicolas Anelka	Arsenal	Paris Saint-Germain	£22,500,000
2001	Juan Sebastian Veron	Lazio	Manchester United	£28,100,000
2002	Rio Ferdinand	Leeds United	Manchester United	£29,100,000
2006	Andriy Shevchenko	AC Milan	Chelsea	£30,800,000
2008	Robinho	Real Madrid	Manchester City	£32,500,000
2009	Cristiano Ronaldo	Manchester United	Real Madrid	£80,000,000
2013	Gareth Bale	Tottenham Hotspur	Real Madrid	£86,000,000
2016	Paul Pogba	Juventus	Manchester United	£89,000,000
2018	Philippe Coutinho	Liverpool	Barcelona	£105,000,000



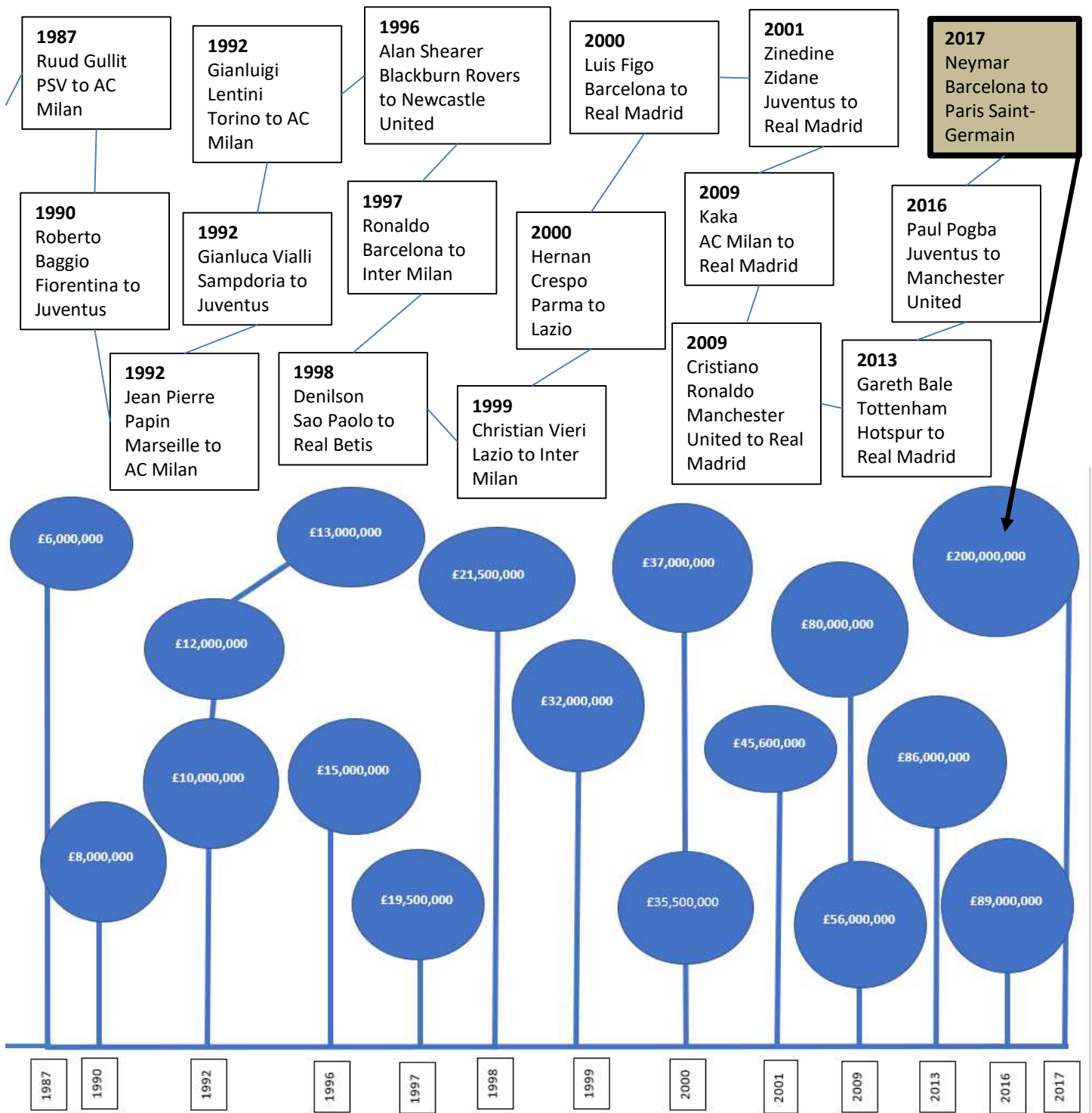
Dragan Lausberg – Young Belgium left back currently on the books of Royal Antwerp looking to make the breakthrough in to the first team





Mohamadou Sissoko – French central defender who whilst on the books of Udinese spent time on loan to Kilmarnock, winning the Scottish League Cup





Bruno Jordao – Big things were expected of Jordao after being the youngest player and scorer for Uniao Leiria. Moves to Braga, Lazio and Wolverhampton Wanderers haven't worked out for him yet



SHIRT SPONSOR



RIVALS

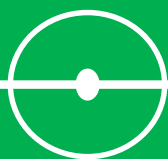


We have player rivalry, team rivals and nation rivalries but what doesn't get spoken about much is shirt brand sponsor rivalry, and of course rightly so, as it carries no real passion or reason whatsoever....

but when you let The Halfway Line graphics department loose again, this is what happens!

They have put together a mash up of classic shirts, with classic brands up against not classic opposition, but simply other classic shirts with a classic brand of which they are in direct competition.

Take a look.....



Oleksander Pikhalyonok – Ukrainian U21 midfielder on the books of Shakhtar Donetsk though out on loan to Dnipro for experience





Big *game* this one,
but who has the
Mega Drive to win,
and do whatever is
Snecessary?



Christos Tzolis – Greek forward who has 7 international caps to his name plays for Greek club side PAOK





Hope this game is not a dead *rubber* or the players 'tyre' too quickly



Cumhur Yilmazturk – Turkish defensive midfielder made just one league appearance for Galatasaray before finding his level at lower league Turkish clubs



You'll need to
console the
losers of this
game



Chris Olkonomidis – The Australian winger can lay claim to have won an international cap before having ever played a senior game at club level! Having left Lazio now plays for Perth Glory





VS



Players should
get a good
reception from
the fans at this
game



Panagiotis Vlachodimos – Greek winger has played for both Olympiakos and Panathinaikos and whose brother, Odysseas keeps goal for Benfica and the Greek national team





A *crisp* finish
might win this
game



Ivan Zlobin – Russian goalkeeper was on the books of Benfica but has since moved on to keep goal for Famalicao





Who can *pop up* with the winner in this clash?



Matheus Nunes – The Brazilian central midfielder plays for Sporting Lisbon and took the number 8 shirt after Bruno Fernandes departed for Manchester United



Who is playing against who?

Back again for a Magic Eye XI versus XI this issue, so lets see if you can spot the theme amongst these line ups.

First up we have a classic Premier League fixture. Ever present in all Premier League seasons, and now one of the 7 seven teams to have won it, Liverpool take on the East London Irons, that are West Ham United, who themselves have been at the Premier League party 25 of the 29 seasons.

Can you spot the theme amongst the 22 players selected for our match up?

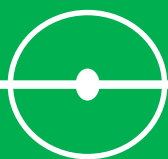
Perhaps we could have swapped Paul Ince in for Allou Diarra in the centre of the park for a easier clue?

You got it, of course you have – all 22 players have played for both West Ham United and Liverpool, some with equal success and of course some with equal failure!!

Next up its fellow Merseysiders, Everton (also having been in the Premier League each of the 29 seasons) up against now Premier League giants, Manchester City. It wasn't always glory days at Maine Road and the Etihad.

To make it reflective of the harder times faced by the Citizens, we've thrown in a few of the more old school players but what we can tell you is that all 22 of the players in the line ups have played for both Everton and Manchester City, so we have 22 man line up double!

Look out for the upcoming issues, as we've still a few more team mash ups in to come with difference elements of quirkiness.



Rodrigo Aguirre – Uruguayan striker was on the books of Udinese but played the majority of his career there away on loan and now having left to join LDU Quito, he is out on loan to Necaxa



LIVERPOOL versus WEST HAM UNITED



Nikolaos Papadopoulos – Greek goalkeeper who actually scored for Asteras Tripolis in 2021, the first goal by a goalkeeper in the Greek top flight since 2001





WEST HAM UNITED versus LIVERPOOL



Timothy Derijck – Belgium centre half who was a youngster at Anderlecht but made his league debut for Feyenoord, before moving onto PSV Eindhoven, ADO Den Haag and Gent, amongst others





MANCHESTER CITY versus EVERTON



Olivier Kapo – Former French international played for Auxerre, Juventus, Birmingham City, Wigan Athletic and Celtic during a somewhat nomadic career





EVERTON versus MANCHESTER CITY



Erick Pulgar – The Chilean international moved from his homeland to Italy playing for Bologna before moving to Fiorentina



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UNIQUE

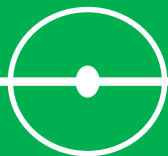
Sportswear of the stars.

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August 14, 1971

GOAL

5



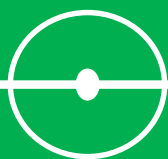
Fabian Carini – Despite a failed move to Arsenal, 4 appearances combined from his time at Juventus and Inter Milan, he still managed to win 74 caps playing in goal for Uruguay



Premier League winners by nationality

Unsurprisingly the nationality with the greatest number of Premier League wins is England, somewhat ahead of the closest challenger. You can see the figures on the table below. In a previous The Halfway Line quiz, we asked you to name the other British Isle players to have a winners medal as that did take us by surprise. These players are shown in this feature, and whilst you digest that, can you name the 13 players to be the only players from a nation to win the Premier League, and to have won it only once? Answers at the end of the article....

Nationality	Players	Wins	Nationality	Players	Wins
England	92	187	Australia	2	2
France	27	55	Austria	2	2
Brazil	19	32	Montenegro	2	2
Spain	15	21	Switzerland	2	2
Netherlands	14	23	South Korea	1	4
Argentina	9	16	Poland	1	3
Portugal	8	18	Trinidad and Tobago	1	3
Belgium	7	13	Algeria	1	2
Serbia	6	14	Bulgaria	1	2
Germany	6	10	Ecuador	1	2
Ireland	5	22	Iceland	1	2
Wales	5	18	Mexico	1	2
Scotland	5	12	Chile	1	1
Ivory Coast	4	10	Croatia	1	1
Norway	3	12	Colombia	1	1
Denmark	3	7	Egypt	1	1
Czech Republic	3	6	Guinea	1	1
Cameroon	3	5	Italy	1	1
Nigeria	3	5	Jamaica	1	1
Ghana	3	4	Latvia	1	1
Russia	3	4	Liberia	1	1
Sweden	3	4	Romania	1	1
Japan	3	3	Senegal	1	1
Northern Ireland	2	4	South Africa	1	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	3	Uruguay	1	1
Ukraine	2	3			



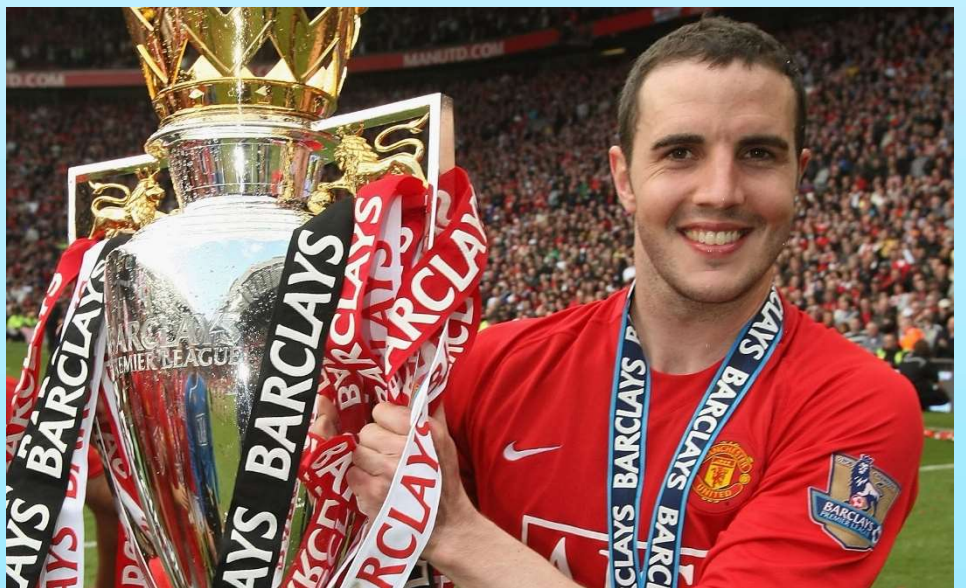
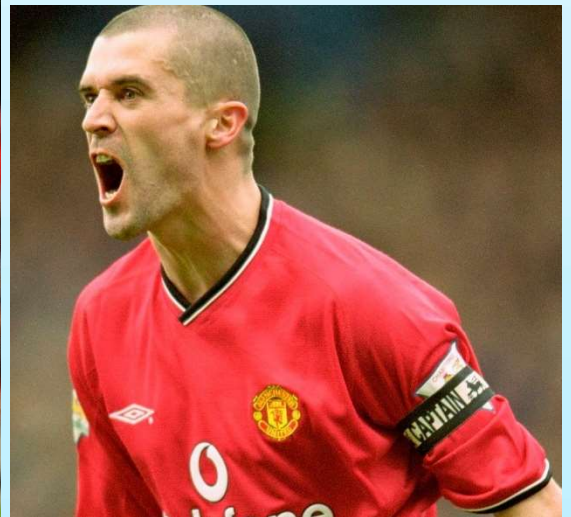
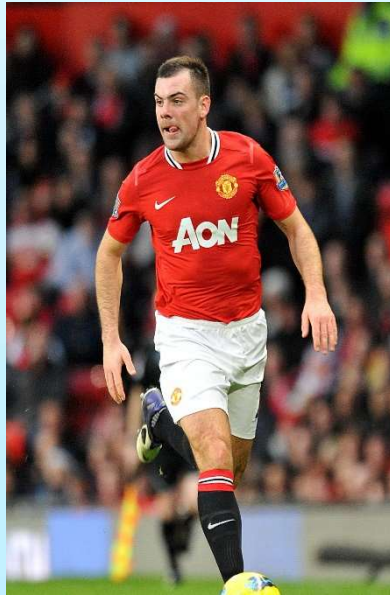
Antonio Bocchetti – A retired Italian defender who played for Napoli and Parma during his career, as well as winning 2 U21 Italian caps





Ireland

- Denis Irwin (7)
- Roy Keane (7)
- John O'Shea (5)
- Damien Duff (2)
- Darron Gibson (1)



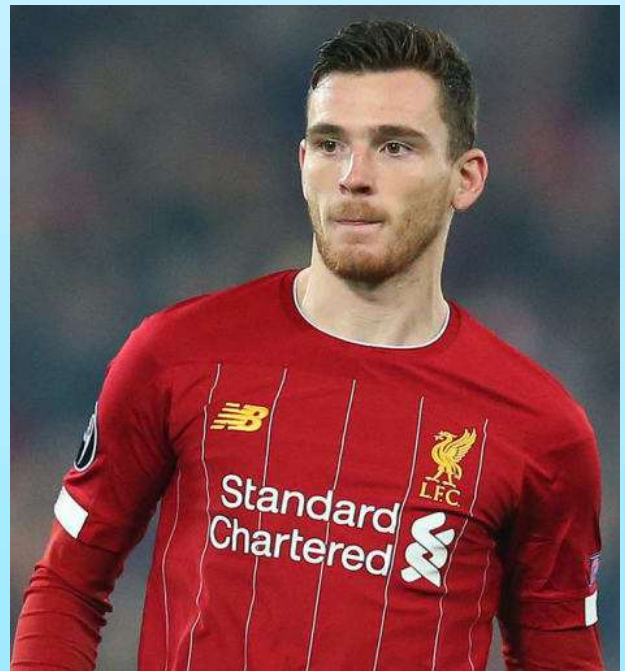
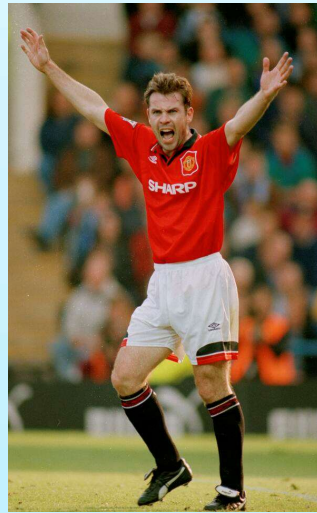
Marjan Markovic – Former Serbia international had a successful career playing for Red Star Belgrade, and then won the League and Cup double with Dynamo Kiev in 2006/07





Scotland

- Darren Fletcher (5)
- Brian McClair (4)
- Colin Hendry (1)
- Darren Ferguson (1)
- Andy Robertson (1)



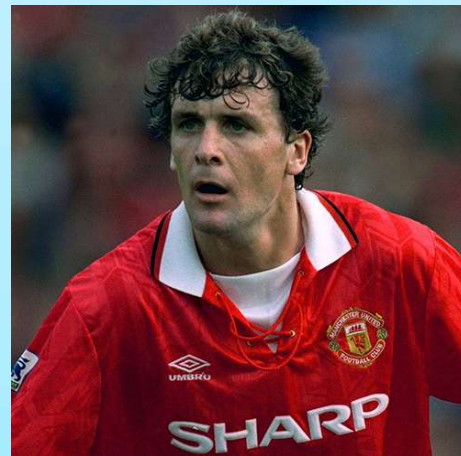
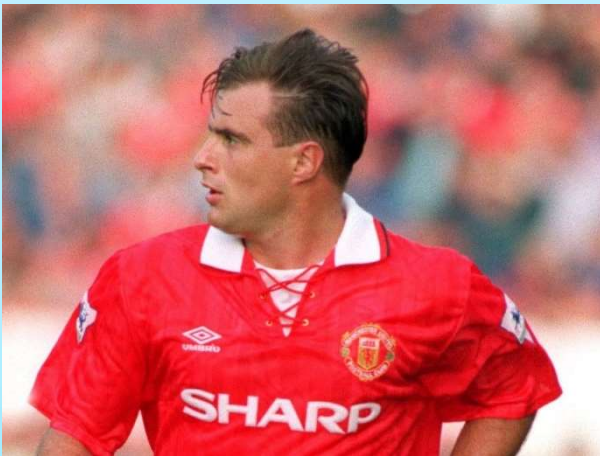
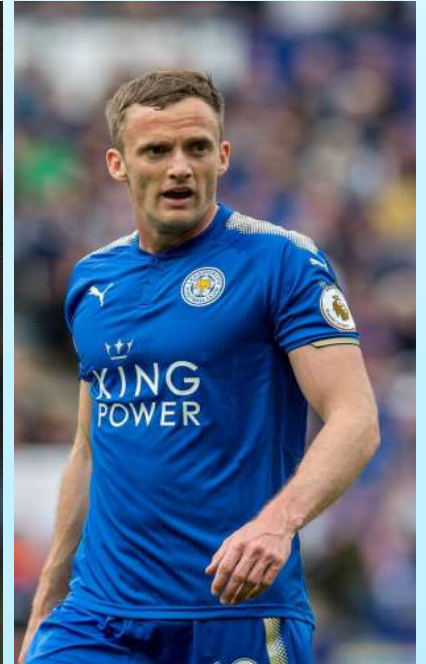
Pavlos Mitropoulos – Experienced a relegation with the first three clubs he played for in his career Olympiakos Volou, Panetolikos and AEK Athens





Wales

Ryan Giggs (13)
Mark Hughes (2)
Clayton Blackmore (1)
Andy King (1)
Neco Williams (1)



Vladislav Panteleyev – Russian U21 international started his career with Spartak Moscow, then moving on to Rubin Kazan but now playing his football at Arsenal Tula





Northern Ireland

Jonny Evans (3) Roy Carroll (1)



What about those players to have once it once for one nation?

Nation	Player	Club
Chile	Claudio Bravo	Manchester City
Croatia	Dejan Lovren	Liverpool
Colombia	Juan Cuadrado	Chelsea
Egypt	Mohamed Salah	Liverpool
Guinea	Naby Keita	Liverpool
Italy	Mario Balotelli	Manchester City
Jamaica	Wes Morgan	Leicester City
Latvia	Igors Stepanovs	Arsenal
Liberia	Christopher Wreh	Arsenal
Romania	Costel Pantilimon	Manchester City
Senegal	Sadio Mane	Liverpool
South Africa	Quinton Fortune	Manchester United
Uruguay	Diego Forlan	Manchester United



Mikhail Lysov – Young Russia left back who plays for Lokomotiv Moscow but having been diagnosed with blood vessel issues, his future career lays somewhat in doubt



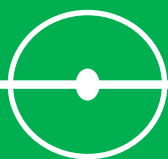
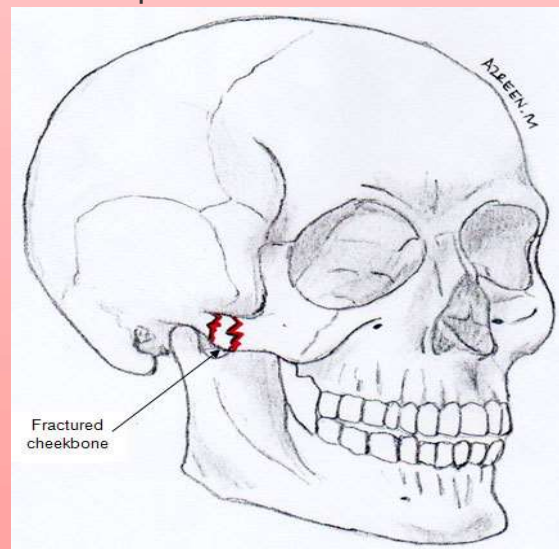
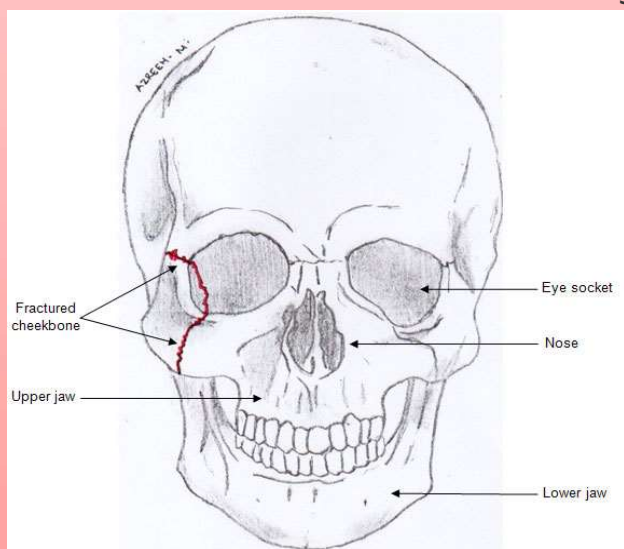
TREATMENT ROOM

Fractured Cheekbone



No – this article is not Footballers pretending to be Batman!

The cheekbone (zygoma) is an important component of the face because it determines the facial outline and contour. It forms part of the eye socket and it protects and supports the eyeball. The zygoma is also connected to the upper jaw and sides of the nose. A zygoma fracture is usually caused by blunt trauma to the cheek that occurred during a contact sport aka football.



Gael Ondoua – Cameroon midfielder started his career at CSKA Moscow making his debut in 2014 but now plays in the Swiss league with Servette



A broken cheekbone usually appears with the following signs and symptoms:

1. Pain in the affected area
2. Bleeding in the eye (bloodshot eye)
3. Bruising and swelling around the cheek and eye
4. Numbness and tingling sensation on the cheek, nose and upper teeth
5. Limitation of mouth opening
6. Blurred and double vision
7. Flattened cheek
8. Eye appears 'sunken'
9. Restriction of eye movement

Treatment

No operation is recommended when the cheekbone fracture is stable, not displaced and without other complications to neighbouring structures. However, surgery is advised if there is a cosmetic defect or if it affects your daily function.

The operation on the cheekbone is to:

1. Ease the pain
2. Reposition the flattened cheek thus restoring facial appearance
3. Reduce the chance of permanent cheek numbness
4. Increase the mouth opening
5. Correct double vision (if present)
6. Improve eye movement and appearance of the eye.

If the fracture requires an operation, what is the recovery?

The usual stay in hospital is for one night following the surgery. If there is uncertainty about the position of the bone the following day it may be checked with X-rays before you are allowed home. If the bone is not in a satisfactory position it may be necessary to re-operate.

Even if the position of the fractured bone has been held with plates and screws it still takes about six weeks for your cheekbone to heal completely. During this time you need to be careful to avoid an injury to this side of your face, since it may well push the cheekbone back out of position again. You should also avoid blowing your nose for two weeks following surgery because otherwise this can produce swelling in and around the eye!!!



Jonathan Alvez – Uruguayan centre forward who has performed at a high level in the Ecuador league with LDU Quito and Barcelona and a short spell in Brazil with Internacional





THE BOOT ROOM

If I gave you the list of players; Ryan Giggs, Andy Cole, Peter Schmeichel, Dennis Bergkamp, Andriy Shevchenko, Iker Casillas and Thierry Henry, you could be forgiven I was giving you a short list of some kind of Player of the year award. But no, surprisingly these are players formerly with a boot sponsor deal with Reebok.

In our opinion Reebok are not a classic brand for football boots, often being the pretender to the crown, struggling to break the market dominance of Adidas and Nike.

But in the early years of the Premier league there are a certain pair of Reebok boots that stick in our minds, and it is these beauties.

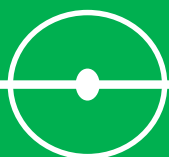


The Reebok Sidewinders!! Fresh from 1996. Black leather foundation, with almost colourful go faster strips on the sides – maybe that's where Giggs got his speed from. The 3 colour variations are solid, but the favourite for us is the bright Yellow overleaf.



Modibo Diakite – Played 65 times for Lazio in Serie A but the Frenchman failed to impress at spells with Sunderland, Fiorentina, Deportivo La Coruna and Sampdoria later on in his career





Tomas Rincon – The Venezuelan national team captain has won 104 caps for his country and played for Genoa, Juventus and Torino in Serie A, still playing for the Turin side now



I was about 15. I think my mum gave me the money to buy some new Reebok football boots. But on the way to the sports shop I decided to get a cheaper pair so I could take a girl to the pictures.

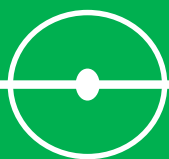
Open Book. Flower seller. Great video

THERE ARE OTHER SOUTHS
BUT THEN THERE ARE OTHER CARS



Guido Marilungo – Considered a bright prospect as a teenager with Sampdoria, but never made the desired impression in Serie A and spent most of his career in the lower Italian divisions





Elio Capradossi – Ugandan born centre back has nationalised to Italian and won 4 U21 caps. Moved from Roma to Spezia and helped them to promotion to Serie A in 2020 for the first time in their history



Forgot they played for them?

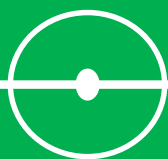
They'll always be a healthy chat when it comes to naming your favourite player to represent your club. For some club's obvious candidates will dominate (top goalscorer or club captain) and perhaps some fans will have a random favourite who is their choice for special reasons (Scored in the first game you went to).

But for a selection some teams it is also possible to name a starting line up of players that it is very easy to forget they actually played for the club, let alone become a fan favourite.

In this issue we look at clubs who have featured prominently in the Premier League since 1992, sharing around promotions and relegations between them.

Birmingham City, Sheffield United and Burnley are the 3 teams in this issue.

Have a look at the line ups and see if you remember the players pulling on the shirt in and when you can't, try to rack that memory bank and work out when and perhaps more relevant, why???



Riccardo Saponara – Italian attacking midfielder currently on loan to Spezia from Fiorentina, spent time at AC Milan but performed at his best during 2 spells at Empoli



BIRMINGHAM CITY



1 game
0 goals



72 games
2 goals

89 games!
1 goal



10 games
0 goals

4 games
0 goals

20 games
3 goals



2 games
0 goals



Joel Campbell – Costa Rican forward who during his time at Arsenal was loaned out 7 times but still managed 40 appearances for the Gunners over three seasons



SHEFFIELD UNITED



10 games
0 goals

56 games!
2 goals

26 games
1 goal

8 games
0 goals



0 games
0 goals

23 games
4 goals

4 games
0 goals



Axel Bakayoko – French born winger who mustered one appearance for Inter Milan before a permanent move to Red Star Belgrade in Serbia



BURNLEY



27 games
1 goal



27 games
1 goal



29 games
1 goal



36 games
5 goals



15 games
0 goals



6 games
0 goals



32 games
1 goal



13 games
6 goals



15 games
4 goals



Eric Bailly - Ivorian centre back was Jose Mourinho's first signing as Manchester United manager spending £30 million on the then Villarreal defender



COUNTRY FOCUS

For this issue of The Halfway Line we are focusing on **Honduras**.

The National Autonomous Federation of Football of Honduras, known as FENAFUTH, is the official football governing body in Honduras and is in charge of the Honduras national team.

FENAFUTH was founded in 1935 and joined FIFA in 1946. It joined CONCACAF in 1961.

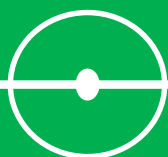


The Honduras national team are nicknamed Los Catrachos, La Bicolor or La H. Honduras has qualified for the World Cup three times, in 1982, 2010 and 2014, but never advanced beyond the group stage. Outside of the FIFA World Cup tournament, Honduras has competed in several other international competitions, like the CONCACAF Championship which they won in 1981, and the Copa América which their best result was third place in 2001. Apart from that Honduras has also won the Central American Cup championship four times, having won the final edition in 2017.

Their highest FIFA ranking was a remarkable 20th back in September 2001. Their top scorer with 57 goals is **Carlos Pavon**, and the player with the most caps is **Maynor Figueroa** with 163 caps.



Liga Salva Vida (Honduran National Professional Football League) is the highest division of football in Honduras. The league season is divided into Opening (autumn) and Closing (spring). One team is relegated to the Liga de Ascenso and one team is promoted from Liga de Ascenso. The top four clubs participate in play-offs to decide the champion. The winners of the Opening and Closing competitions participate in the CONCACAF Champions League.



Thomas Strakosha – Albanian international goalkeeper who keeps sticks for Lazio and has done so since 2014, and won best young goalkeeper in Serie A in the 2017/18 season



There are currently 10 teams in the **Liga Salva Vida**.

Honduras Progreso, Juticalpa, Marathon, Motagua, Olimpia, Platense, Real Espana, Real de Minas, UPNFM and Vida.

The most successful of the clubs is **Olimpia** having won the title on 32 occasions, with Motagua the closest rival with 17 titles.

The player with the most goals in the competition with 196 goals is **Wilmer Velasquez**, who scored all these goals for club side Olimpia between 1991 & 2009. The player in second place for most goals is **Denilson Costa** (155 goals) who also holds the record for games played in Honduran professional football (481 games).

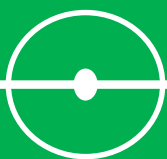
In terms of player exports to the Premier League, Honduras has provided 6 players to date, and there is a common theme with 4 of them.

Roger Espinoza, Maynor Figueroa, Wilson Palacios and Hendry Thomas all signed for **Wigan Athletic**. **Milton Nunez** and **Ivan Guerrero** also played in the Premier League, for Sunderland and Coventry City respectively. Coventry also signed Jairo Martinez, but he never featured in the Premier League. Figueroa and Palacios arguably the most successful of the exports, with the latter also playing for Birmingham City, Tottenham Hotspur and Stoke City. The moves to Spurs and Stoke were for reported transfer fees of £12 million and £6 million.



There are great and grim stories for Palacios and his family. The positive was for the 2010 World Cup where Honduras achieved a historical distinction by including Jerry, Johnny and Wilson Palacios in their squad. They became the first trio of brothers to represent a single nation in the World Cup.

Another of his brothers, Milton was also a professional footballer. The sad side to this sibling story was the death of his other brother, Edwin. He was kidnapped in 2007, aged only 14 and despite a ransom payment of £125,000 being paid, Edwin was never released and in 2009 a body was found that proved to be his remains.



Joelson Fernandes – A U21 Portuguese international forward who has just made his first team breakthrough in the Sporting Lisbon line up at the age of 18



Quiz time

Try your luck with the following questions and find out the answers next month

1. Name all Mark Hughes' club sides he played for?
2. What links Zinedine Zidane, Jurgen Kohler, Edgar Davids and Mark Van Bommel?
3. Steven Gerrard, Hernan Crespo and Dmitri Alenichev, Diego Godin and Pedro have what in common?
4. What 3 clubs link John O'Shea and Phil Bardsley?
5. 16 out of the 22 man 1998 French World Cup squad have played in the Premier League – can you name them all?

Premier League hat tricks

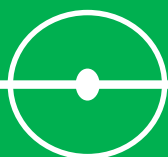
6. Who was the first Englishman to score a Premier League hat trick?
7. Who was the first player to score 4 goals in the Premier League fixture?
8. Matthew Le Tissier (*2), Roque Santa Cruz, Dwight Yorke and Dion Dublin have what in common in regards to Premier League hat tricks?

Teammates and managers (all club level)

1. I have been club teammates with Gianluca Festa, Marcel Desailly, Diego Maradona, Tomas Brodin and Laurent Blanc – Who am I?
2. I have played with the following....Heurelho Gomes, Ronaldinho, Alex, Julian Belletti, Thiago Silva, Lucio, Ze Roberto, Pato, Robinho but I am not Brazilian – Who am I?
3. My strike partners have been Alan Shearer, Robin Van Persie, Pierre Van Hoojdonk, Andriy Shevchenko, Mario Gomez, Diego Forlan and Roy Makaay – Who am I?
4. I have had the club teammates Alen Boksic, Hernan Crespo, Juan Sebastian Veron, Emre, Roberto Carlos, Luis Figo and Obefami Martins, but I have never played for Lazio or Inter Milan – Who am I?
5. My former club teammates include Colin Hendry, Kevin Horlock, Terry Cooke, Fabian Delph, Dietmar Hamann, Steve Howey, Sylvain Distin, Richard Dunne, Wilfried Bony, Stuart Pearce and Scott Sinclair. All of these are former Manchester City players, as am I, but I never played at City with any of them. Who am I?

What club links the following players?

1. Mauricio Pochettino, Philippe Coutinho, Albert Riera and Pablo Zabaleta?
2. Rafael Van Der Vaart, Denilson, Nabil Fekir and Roque Santa Cruz?
3. Joe Hart, Rolando Bianchi, Denis Law and Alex Manninger?
4. Glyfi Sigurdsson, Roberto Firmino, Reiss Nelson and David Alaba?
5. George Weah, John Collins, Mark Hateley and Florin Raducioiu?
6. Bryan Ruiz, Cheick Tiote, Marko Arnautovic and Dusan Tadic?
7. Danielle Di Rossi, Nicolas Burdisso, Gabriel Batistuta and Juan Sebastian Veron?
8. Jay-Jay Okocha, Bernard Mendy, Hendrik Pedersen and Robert Koren?



Guilherme Arana – Former Corinthians left back moved to Europe to play for Sevilla but has had limited opportunities and so is currently out on loan, back in Brazil with Atletico Mineiro



Quiz Answers from Issue #11

Try your luck with the following questions and find out the answers next month

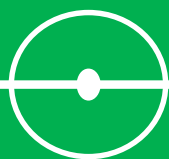
1. What odd occurrence/fact links Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Wilfried Zaha? **Arsene Wenger's and Alex Ferguson's last Premier League signings at their clubs.**
2. I made my career debut at 18 for a club in my native country in 1989, by a manager from a different country. I went on to win Champions League medals for 2 different clubs, and then managed 3 club sides in England. My last job in England, in 2010, I was fired and replaced by the manager who gave me my debut 21 years previously – who am I, and who is the other manager? **Paulo Sousa and Sven Goran Eriksson**
3. Can you list 5 sponsors that have been on the front of more than one Premier League team since 1992? **Sanderson, NTL, McEwans Lager, Emirates, LG, 32 Red, 188 Bet, Dafabet, Mansion Group, Cazoo, 12 BET, SportPesa, W88, ManBetX, Fun88, FXPro (non exhaustive list)**
4. What 2 clubs link Carlton Cole, Ian Wright and Freddie Ljungberg? **West Ham United & Celtic**
5. Which non-British/Irish player holds the record for most goals in a Premier League debut season? (Kevin Phillips holds the overall record with 30) **Fernando Torres (24 – for Liverpool)**
6. After the 1996 FA Cup final, a player each on the team's substitute bench left their clubs that following summer and joined the same Premier League team together – who are the players and the team? **Ian Rush and Lee Sharpe @ Leeds United**

Teammates and managers (all club level)

1. I have been club teammates with Les Ferdinand, Warren Barton, John Barnes, Michael Owen, David Ginola and Stephen Carr but never played for Newcastle United – Who am I? **John Scales**
2. I have been club teammates with Frank De Boer, Phillip Cocu, Boudewijn Zenden, Marc Overmars, Ed De Goey, Dennis Bergkamp, Mario Melchiot but I have never played in Holland, nor am I Dutch – Who am I? **Emmanuel Petit**
3. I have been team club teammates with Nicolas Anelka, Jon Harley, Ian Pearce, Wayne Bridge, Scott Parker, Carlton Cole and Dave Beasant but I have never played for Chelsea – Who am I? **Luis Boa Morte**
4. I have played under the management of Terry Venables, Kevin Keegan, Gareth Southgate, Sam Allardyce, Steve McClaren but never played for England – Who am I? **Mark Viduka**
5. Between 1993 and 1997, 2 of the FIFA World Players of the Year have in their club career been managed by the same 2 former England managers? Names the 2 players and the 2 managers? **Roberto Baggio and Ronaldo & Roy Hodgson and Fabio Capello**

What club links the following players?

1. Nathan Ake, Andros Townsend, Hector Bellerin and Tom Cleverley? **Watford**
2. Teemu Tainio, Fabrice Muamba, Anders Limpar and David Seaman? **Birmingham City**
3. Emmanuel Adebayor, Marouane Chamakh, Edgar Davids and Pablo Counago? **Crystal Palace**
4. Johan Elmander, Thomas Helveg, Ade Akinbiyi and John Fashanu? **Norwich City**
5. Robert Earnshaw, Kris Commons, Gary Charles and Wes Morgan? **Nottingham Forest**
6. Denis Irwin, Paul Ince, Darren Ferguson and Joleon Lescott? **Wolverhampton Wanderers**
7. Geoff Thomas, David Platt, Danny Murphy and Seth Johnson? **Crewe Alexandra**
8. Jimmy Bullard, Hugo Rodallega, Geoff Horsfield and Olivier Kapo? **Wigan Athletic**

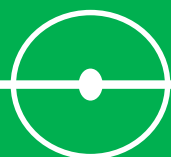


Raul Asencio – Young Spanish forward yet to feature in his home country or for his parent club Genoa as he finds himself out on loan to Italian club side SPAL



Page number glossary: Shows player and seasons they wore the associated number

1	Edwin Van Der Sar	Ajax	1990-1999	51	Kieran Dowell	Everton	2014-2016
2	Guiseppe Bergomi	Inter Milan	1981-1999	52	Paul Caddis	Celtic	2007-2010
3	Bacary Sagna	Arsenal	2007-2014	53	Joao Teixeira	Liverpool	2013-2016
4	Ivan Rakitic	Barcelona	2014-2020	54	Sanchez Watt	Arsenal	2009-2010
5	Dejan Stankovic	Inter Milan	2005-2013	55	Borja Baston	Atlético Madrid	2009-2010
6	Jose Mari Bakero	Barcelona	1989-1997	56	George Saville	Chelsea	2012-2013
7	Henrik Larsson	Celtic	1997-2004	57	Achraf Lazaar	Newcastle United	2018-2019
8	Saul Niguez	Atlético Madrid	2016-2021	58	Steven Taylor	Newcastle United	2003-2004
9	Patrick Kluivert	AC Milan	1997-1998	59	Felipe Aguilar	Santos	2018-2019
10	Ariel Ortega	River Plate	1996-2011	60	Zan Celar	Roma	2018-2019
11	Bojan Krkic	Ajax Amsterdam	2013-2014	61	Serkan Calik	Galatarasary	2007-2010
12	Julio Cesar	Inter Milan	2005-2010	62	Sekou Oliseh	PAOK	2012-2013
13	David De Gea	Atlético Madrid	2009-2011	63	Denis Terentyev	Zenit St Petersburg	2010-2013
14	Rogerio Palacios	Boca Juniors	2004-2009	64	Dragan Lausberg	Royal Antwerp	2020-2021
15	Angelo Charisteas	Feyenoord	2006-2007	65	Mohamadou Sissoko	Udinese	2008-2009
16	Rodri	Manchester City	2019-2021	66	Bruno Jordao	Lazio	2017-2019
17	Alexis Sanchez	Arsenal	2014-2016	67	Oleksander Pikhalyonok	Shakhtar Donestk	2017-2020
18	Salomon Kalou	Feyenoord	2003-2004	68	Christos Tzolis	PAOK	2019-2020
19	Dennis Rommedahl	PSV Eindhoven	1999-2004	69	Cumhur Yilmazturk	Galatarasary	2009-2010
20	Lasse Schone	Ajax Amsterdam	2012-2020	70	Christopher Oikonomidis	Lazio	2014-2018
21	Santiago Solari	Real Madrid	2000-2005	71	Panagiotis Vlachodimos	Panathiniakos	2015-2017
22	Les Ferdinand	West Ham United	2002-2003	72	Ivan Zlobin (GK)	Benfica	2018-2020
23	Martin Palermo	Villarreal	2000-2001	73	Matheus Nunes	Sporting Lisbon	2019-2020
24	Jamie O'Hara	Tottenham Hotspur	2006-2010	74	Rodrigo Aguirre	Udinese	2015-2016
25	Gregory Van Der Wiel	Ajax Amsterdam	2006-2008	75	Nikolaos Papadopoulos (GK)	Olympiakos	2011-2012
26	Joe Cole	West Ham United	1998-2014	76	Timothy Derijck	Gent	2018-2020
27	Stephen Bergwijn	PSV Eindhoven	2015-2017	77	Oliver Kapo	Celtic	2010-2011
28	Trevor Sinclair	Manchester City	2003-2007	78	Erick Pulgar	Fiorentina	2019-2020
29	Maroune Chamakh	Arsenal	2010-2013	79	Fabian Carini	Inter Milan	2005-2007
30	Nicolas Otamendi	Manchester City	2015-2021	80	Antonio Boccaetti	Parma	2006-2008
31	Nicolas Tagliafico	Ajax Amsterdam	2017-2021	81	Marjan Markovic	Dynamo Kiev	2006-2008
32	Jack Wilshere	Bournemouth	2016-2017	82	Pavlos Mitropoulos	AEK Athens	2012-2013
33	Danilo D'Ambrosio	Inter Milan	2013-2021	83	Vladislav Panteleyev	Spartak Moscow	2017-2019
34	Jason Crowe	Arsenal	1997-1999	84	Mikael Lysov	Lokomotiv Moscow	2016-2017
35	Gerard Sibon	PSV Eindhoven	2004-2006	85	Gael Ondoua	CSKA Moscow	2014-2015
36	Ruben Neves	Porto	2014-2015	86	Jonathan Alvez	Internacional	2017-2019
37	Jose Baxter	Everton	2008-2012	87	Modibo Diakite	Lazio	2008-2010
38	Stephen Ireland	Manchester City	2004-2006	88	Tomas Rincon	Genoa	2014-2017
39	Eric Lamela	River Plate	2009-2010	89	Guido Marilungo	Sampdoria	2007-2011
40	Steven Pienaar	Tottenham Hotspur	2010-2012	90	Elio Capradossi	Roma	2014-2015
41	Zavon Hines	West Ham United	2008-2010	91	Riccardo Saponara	Genoa	2019-2020
42	Marco Van Ginkel	Chelsea	2018-2020	92	Joel Campbell	Villarreal	2014-2015
43	Leo Duarte	AC Milan	2019-2021	93	Alex Bakayako	Inter Milan	2016-2017
44	Kevin Kampl	Bayer Leverkusen	2015-2018	94	Eric Bailly	Villarreal	2014-2015
45	Isaac Hayden	Arsenal	2013-2014	95	Thomas Strakosha (GK)	Lazio	2012-2014
46	Junior Stanislas	West Ham United	2008-2010	96	Joelson Fernandes	Sporting Lisbon	2019-2021
47	Jack Clarke	Tottenham Hotspur	2020-2021	97	Guilherme Arana	Sevilla	2017-2018
48	Curtis Jones	Liverpool	2017-2020	98	Raul Asencio	Genoa	2015-2017
49	Scott Sinclair	Chelsea	2006-2007	99	Sandro Ramierz	Sevilla	2017-2018
50	Jay Simpson	Arsenal	2008-2009	100	Christian Agosto	UNAM Pumas	2014-2015



Sandro Ramirez – Spanish former U21 striker began his career at Barcelona before a successful season at Malaga won him a move to Everton but ultimately flopped and is now at Huesca

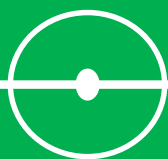


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- The world's most successful managers
- Football suspensions special
- Capital City Characters
- The Red Bull story: where it started and where is it going?

And the usual:

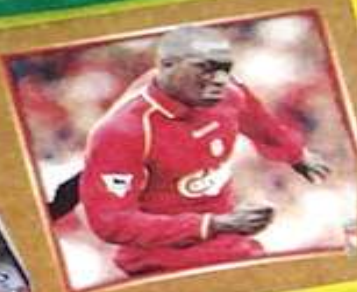
- The Boot Room
- Classical Kits
- Historical Line Ups
- The Treatment Room
- Forgotten Men
- Team XI never to have...
- And much much more



Christian Agosto – Mexican defender started out his career with UNAM Pumas before moves to Tigres and Necaxa but finds himself without a club



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