

The



Halfway Line



# THE HISTORY OF PARMA

This month's issue includes

- ⚽ A Treatment room special
- ⚽ Crazy club owners
- ⚽ Club versus Country
- ⚽ Plus loads more



# Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

We're the hurricanes, a champion spirit is here to stay!!!

Can you recall the early 1990's football cartoon, the Hurricanes? A quick YouTube search and the title music takes me straight back to my bedroom as a kid, full Arsenal shell suit tracksuit on, LA Gear trainers, Ian Wright posters on the wall, the Argos book with gifts circled that I'd like for Christmas and Amanda Geary planning how to save her inherited 'soccer' team.

We are channelling a champion spirit here at The Halfway Line for our latest issue.

Bit of a stretch to this one but we're also claiming here at The Halfway Line to have a bit of a parallel with the global giant Amazon.

The company have all your needs covered from A-Z, and our football coverage at the magazine has you covered from Aberdeen to Zenit St. Petersburg.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos recently launched himself into space (no, Stefan Schwarz wasn't with him) and here at The Halfway Line we've had our own launch recently. Our website launched last month!!!! [www.thehalfwayline.org](http://www.thehalfwayline.org) is now the hub for all our issues and this issue 14 is available to download so please share it around to friends and family.

Unfortunately other than mine and Jeff's hairline I've sadly run out of parallels.

Tis' the season to be jolly and as we wish all our readers a fun filled festive season it was only right to have a fun filled issue and we've not let you down.

This month we've two club features detailing the histories of Parma and Fenerbahce. There is a special feature of our treatment room, with a twist as we bring you the most bizarre football injuries we have heard of and some you can't help but laugh.

There is also a piece on club versus country, again with a twist that we think you'll like.

The fact I've tried to compare our magazine with Amazon might make you think I'm a little crazy, but that's no coincidence as it's a lovely link to another feature this month, showcasing a number of crazy football club owners and chairman that have caused havoc in the boardroom and on the pitch.

Of course we've also crammed in all the usual favourites with classic kits, the boot room, country focus, forgotten men and so much more.

In the build up to Christmas this issue is your warm up, as the Makita tournament was the warm up for the new footy season starting, so grab a mince pie and a milk, put Slade on to remind you it's Chriiiiissssstmas and settle down and tuck into your Christmas present from us, The Halfway Line.....and of course, you know the main thing.....enjoy.



Gianluca Pagliuca - Formerly the most expensive goalkeeper in the world (Sampdoria to Inter £7m in 1994) and is the 5<sup>th</sup> all time appearance maker in Serie A



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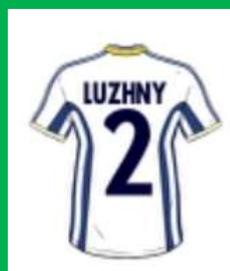
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Oleg Luzhny - Former Dynamo Kiev right back captained the side in the Shevchenko/Rebrov era. Played for Arsenal and Wolves in the Premier League



# Why do people buy football shirts (and what's in the collection)?

The great thing about this question is there is no wrong answer! Whatever your reason, it's your reason and no one can argue with you as to whether it is right or wrong.

Think of it this way, in a box of chocolate Celebrations, some individuals, believe it or not, actually pick out the miniature Bounty options. Shocking I know, but that's the reality; some of us out there have different tastes and isn't that brilliant! Now all of us buy boxes of chocolates, but in *football shirt land* we are no Forrest Gump's – we know exactly what we want and what we're gonna get! (Unless of course you head down the mystery box route!!)

We all love a shirt purchase, and what a buzz it's turned out to be.

It's the story behind the shirt, the linking to an era or a game or a certain player or perhaps another link to an occasion. Every shirt that is bought has a unique story and perhaps it is that uniqueness that is the driver. That is until you share your purchase with the community and discover a group of others just like you that share the exact same rhyme and reason for owning that shirt.



Deny it if you dare, but football shirts are a way of life. Growing up as a young teenager in the early 1990's, I knew Arsenal supporting families that would only own electronics that were made by JVC. The entire entertainment system in the lounge kitted out by the Japan Victor Company, purely down to the fact the company name was adorned across the front of the Arsenal shirts at the time. I am in no doubt this approach was replicated across Mancunian families in the same era only prepared to watch You Bet and Blind Date on a Saturday night on a Sharp Electronics TV.

I really hope that Arsenal family are more flexible nowadays in choosing what airline to fly to their holiday destinations, or it could be slightly costly!!



Christian Ziege - Can claim to have played in the Munich, Milan, Merseyside, North London and the Tyne-Tees derby games



Football shirts are a serious business and they can even help you make day to day decisions. Picture the scene; you've been sent out to go and buy some pasta for the dinner. It just so happens a new Italian deli has opened on your High Street. You head straight there and it turns out there is one hell of a selection of pasta options and you are by no means a connoisseur to know which is best. The first shelf you come to there are two brands, 'De Cecco' and 'Barilla'. The immediate association with the classic AS Roma shirts of the 1980's and early 1990's makes the decision a no brainer, and the Barilla is in the shopping bag, job done.



Associations with football shirts can even change your mood. Imagine you're being dragged around shopping in Germany in what was supposed to be a romantic trip away with your partner. You've been sold a dud; you're bored and see no end of the pain. All of a sudden you've a spring in your step as you've entered a S.Oliver store and you're now prancing around like Andreas Moller did in a golden Borussia Dortmund Nike home shirt from 1998, with the very same clothing line inscribed across the shirt. You are now keen to get a bag from the assistant with the store name on it to take back as a momentum from the trip. Weekend saved!



Radja Nainggolan - Belgium midfield enforcer who's career began in 2006 but this season is his first in the Belgium league having solely played in Italy beforehand



A shirt collection (be it 1, 2 or 100 shirts) is personal to you, and you should never be told different. It is no coincidence that in my eBay account, my last two watched items are a Portsmouth home shirt (2002) and a Walsall home shirt (2003), both with 'Merson 10' name sets on the back of them. Paul Merson scored the first ever goal I saw as a youngster at a live match on April 17th 1991. He struck the opener for the Gunners in a 2-2 draw on a dark Wednesday evening against Manchester City at Highbury. He became my favourite player and with it (now) comes the burning desire to own his club career played out in football shirts. The association of a player in a shirt is almost a magical connection. I dare you to look me in the eye and tell me you'd turn down a Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan and PSG offering all with Beckham (7, 23 and 32) on the back. No chance you would. Everyone has a favourite player and to express that with the collection of shirts is a cracking way of celebrating an idol of yours.



Then you have the club you follow. Come the late July release date (as it should be), but more likely the last home game of the season date, you are treated to next seasons offering. This is where you find yourself buying shirts that perhaps you don't necessarily love, but instead feel the need to help assist the growing club shirt collection. The astute collector may wait until the following August to pick it up in the sales at a reduced price. Whenever you purchase the shirt, I think a shirt collectors biggest single club haul will be the club they follow as a fan. I think the beauty of having a solid collection of shirts from the club you follow offers so much. Memories are priceless, and if you can cast your mind back to a happy memory, for example celebrating a Cup win family, or a European adventure with mates just by looking at a shirt on the rack, isn't that a special thing? You would do the exact same thing with a photo, no? People are known to keep particular dresses that were only worn once as it brings back happy memories. Wearing a football shirt 38 times for a season and then keeping it forever, surely that makes sense as well.....



Steve Bould - Original member of the famous Arsenal back four winning 9 major titles including 3 league titles



If an era has grabbed you, then it can dominate your collection. If you look back with fond memories of watching James Richardson plough through pink newspapers whilst sipping on an oversized cappuccino and snacking on an even more oversized pastry then a collection of mid-90's Serie A shirts might just be your personal choice. A Fiorentina Lotto shirt with a 7Up sponsor, or an ERG logo emblazoned across an Asics Sampdoria shirt, or even a Danone print over a yellow Kappa Juventus away shirt would not look out of place hung in a gallery, so there is no embarrassment if they are hung in your wardrobe. Personally, a look through my collection of Parma shirts from the nineties immediately brings thoughts of Faustino Asprilla scoring at the San Siro, Gianfranco Zola and Mario Stanic banging in spectacular goals, and the emergence of talents such as Hernan Crespo and Enrico Chiesa. One look at the shirts and it can transfer me straight back to the moments I lived and loved as a kid. Christ, every time I see the Umbro Lazio home shirt of 1993, with Banca Di Roma on, I say in my head, Golacciooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo! I am not on my own with that right?



Out of Europe and off to the East, if your era was early nineties but instead Japanese football club shirts, you are probably sitting there pretty darn smug right now. Some modern-day collectors would dream of having the shirts produced for the early J-League, and many will look to source these to relive the memories of old, aggrieved at not snapping them at the time and again why not if it floats their boat.

The 'accidental fluke' is quite often present in a collection. As a Brit-Pop fan in the mid 90's, myself and six mates, when entering into a 5 a-side football tournament decided to buy matching Manchester City Away Kappa shirts with the Brother sponsor from the 1997 season. The shirt remained in the cupboard and 24 years later it hangs proudly in the collection, in the classic section. I was Mad for It then, and for different reasons I am Mad for It now



Ricardo Carvalho - Effortless Portuguese centre back with success under Jose Mourinho at Porto, Chelsea and Real Madrid



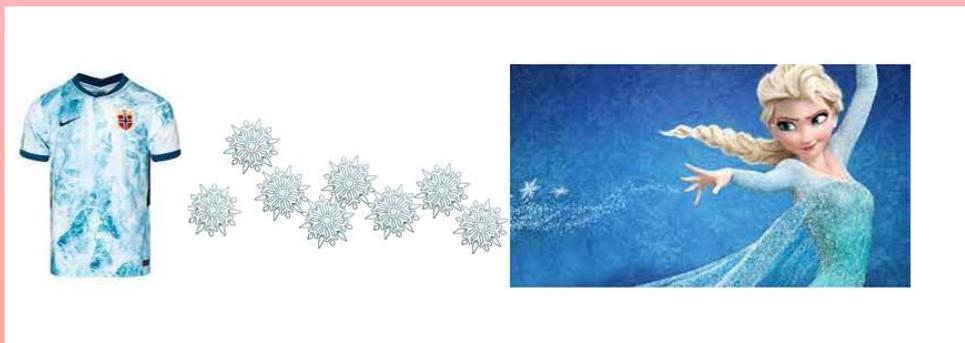
The Kappa brand, whilst we've mentioned it, carries a certain pull, and some collections will focus on just the brand offerings. I can't knock that one, as I love a Kappa shirt as much as I do a Hummel number. (I like the Kombat Kappa shirts slightly less, if you're a +40-year-old male like me, you'll know why). If it's a brand that you're particular fond of, it can make quite the exciting base for a collection.



Here is an odd one. I own shirts from Australia, Germany, Romania, Greece, Holland, Mexico and Italy. Why? Because companies that I have worked for in my life have sponsored those clubs. It's a different reason yes, but it's like I can play out my entire CV and working life through my football shirts. I think that's cool, and again the memories come flooding back, but not from football matches or players, but from different times of my life.

Dare I say, what about fashion? Remember fashion is not just catwalks and size 0's. Dog walks and size 44 chests also fit the bill. If you think a new release is cool, or a throwback shirt takes your fancy, buy it and wear. I am giving kudos to the man or woman walking their dog sporting the Euro 2021 Slovakian home shirt. I couldn't give a crap if they couldn't point to Slovakia on a map. Like it, Love it and Wear it. How's that for a mission statement!

The Halfway Line is not one to avoid the difficult conversations, so let us be honest and look at another factor behind why people collect shirts. I believe it is what the youth call FOMO. The Fear of Missing Out. It is no secret that in today's world there are a number of influencers utilising the platforms of social media, and if one of these 'cool' people has a particular football shirt, or tells you that you that you must have it, then you pounce. I am guilty of it myself. I own a Norwegian nation team away shirt because those that influence me told me it would be a future classic. I have no affiliation with Norway, I have never been to the country and I don't hold any Norwegian players of this era in high esteem, but luckily, I do now really like the shirt and yes, I tend to wear it when I watch Frozen with my kids! There is an occasion for every shirt you own.



Hidetoshi Nakata - Japanese global superstar found fame in Italy with Perugia, won a Serie A title with Roma and then became Parma's record transfer signing

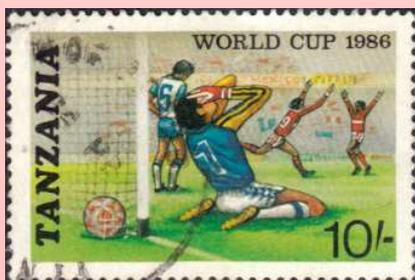


Don't like any of these reasonings? Then the suggestion would be to concentrate on your own collection. That is such an easy solution if you are frustrated with other people's collections and reasonings. Remember your collection is the one that matters, everyone else's (with tags on or without) is merely an example of an exhibition at a museum with an area/collection/era of an artist that you'd rather not walk through, and therefore you don't.

I want to close with trying to find a parallel with collecting football shirts, but it proved very difficult. For example, Stamp collecting. Stamp collecting is generally accepted as one of the areas that make up the wider subject of philately, which is the study of stamps. You're telling me that a collector has used every type of stamp in their collection and that's why they have one? I think not. Maybe it is because they are rare and worth something financially – that's more like it, or perhaps here is where the parallel is; the collector likes the look of the stamp and when it catches their eye it brings a smile to their face. Ultimately, isn't that what it is all about?

Oh, no, I have now googled Football stamps. Could that be next for the collection!!!!

(at least they are easier to store and hide from the wife!)



Gennaro Gattuso - Over 450 games battling for AC Milan and a World Cup winner in 2006, and a season stint with Glasgow Rangers in 1997/98



# Best goal scoring positions XI

The line up we have put together for you in this issue is all about prolific goal scoring seasons all across the pitch. We have tried to get together the most goals scored by a player in each position and its an absolute goal feast. No less than **437** goals in total. The team may not keep many clean sheets, but we've a feeling they'd out score any challengers!!!

**Rogério Ceni** – In 2005 the goalkeeper, and dead ball specialist scored an incredible **21** goals for Sao Paulo in all competitions.

**James Tavernier** – In the 2020-21 season, the English right back scored an impressive **19** goals in all competitions

**Ronald Koeman** – In the 1987-88 season the Dutchman scored an unbelievable **26** goals for PSV Eindhoven in all competitions

**Steve Bruce** – The uncapped Englishman in the 1990-91 season scored a career high **19** goals for Manchester United in all competitions

**Daniel Passarella** – The Argentinian defensive hard man scored **24** goals for River Plate in the 1976 season in all competitions

**Cristiano Ronaldo** – The Portuguese talisman had his best ever season in 2014-15 for Real Madrid, scoring **61** goals in all competitions

**John Wark** – The Scotsman scored a quite ridiculous **36** goals in the 1980-81 season for Ipswich in all competitions, and we are checking this with the stats team to ensure its accuracy!!

**Bruno Fernandes** – Another Portuguese representative, who when playing for Sporting Lisbon in 2018-19 scored **33** times in all competitions

**Luis Suarez** – The Uruguayan enjoyed many a prolific season with Barcelona, but his best was in 2015-16 when he scored **59** goals in all competitions

**Gerd Muller** – the original goal machine hit the back of the net for Bayern Munich **66** times in the 1972-73 season in all competitions

**Lionel Messi** – Of course we save the best till last. The GOAT scored a record high **73** goals in all competitions in the 2011-12. Will that record ever be broken?

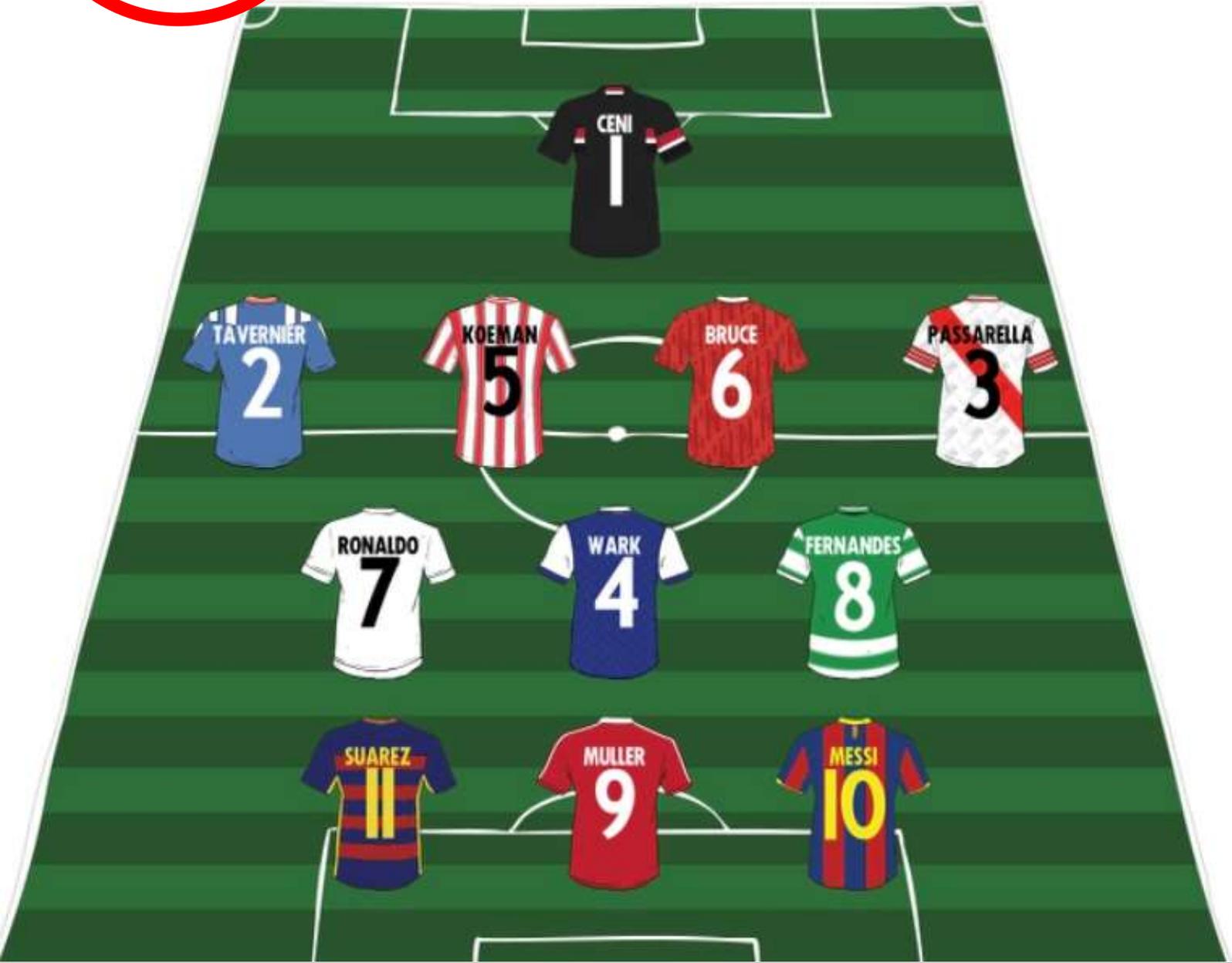


Vincenzo Montella - Prolific goal scorer with Empoli, Genoa, Sampdoria and Roma, winning the title with the latter. Had a 10 game loan spell at Fulham





# Best goal scoring positions XI



Rai - Started the 1994 World Cup as Brazil's captain and had a hugely successful career at São Paulo and Paris Saint-Germain. No pressure being Socrates' brother



# Classic Kits

In 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.

In issue number 8 of The Halfway Line, in the Boot Room we made the claim that you have to be quite a special player to don golden football boots, and we stand by that. But do you have to be a world beating team to pull off a gold football kit?

That is the classic kit feature this issue, a Gold kit, but the comments remains, it takes some ego to rock it.

First up we have perennial Serie A champions Juventus. As with the kits we feature here, the Turin based Serie A side had a gold away kit, with their traditional black shorts.

Featuring twice are the Catalan giants Barcelona. Who can forgot golden man Ronaldinho's 20 yard toe poke against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. A player worthy of a golden kit and golden boots for that matter.

Arsenal have also ventured down the golden kit avenue, twice. Magical moments by Robert Pires, namely the lob against Peter Schmeichel when Arsenal defeated Aston Villa, amongst others have the SEGA sponsored golden kit held in high regard with the now Emirates faithful.

Former Arsenal favourite Paul Merson took Portsmouth to the dizzy heights of promotion to the Premier League and their away kit that season was a gold shirt and short combo. A bold choice, but backing it up with success certainly helps.

Manchester United, no strangers to first place finishes went down the gold route, although this was a reversable kit with white and back the other side. A 2 for 1 for the fans. We also see Kaka style the golden kit with AC Milan which, with the black shorts hits the right note.

Perhaps with somewhat different success levels Portuguese giants Benfica and Turkish club side Galatasaray both attempted to pull off a full golden kit. Its bold and brave and we'll leave it to you if you think it works.

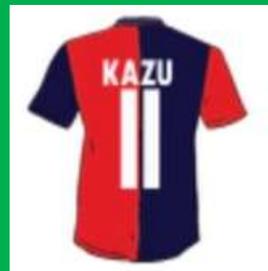
Bayern Munich and Zenit St. Petersburg also have had their fair share of titles, and both teams styled the golden jersey. Nice to see Michael Ballack with gold, as opposed to the silver that used to follow him around during his career (bar successes at Bayern).

The Halfway Line have a soft spot for UNAM Pumas of Mexico. Their kits traditionally carry an oversized Puma's face on the front and one of their nicknames is 'Aurriazules', meaning Gold and Blues. Gold will often be the colour of the Pumas face, but we've featured an all gold kit of theirs, which is somewhat delightful.

Lastly, if you are going to win the World Cup and the coveted golden trophy, if your goalkeeper is decked out in all gold it could well be a sign – Gianluigi Buffon in 2006 was the golden man and the nation didn't disappoint.



Kazuyoshi Miura - 'Kazu' was the first Japanese player to feature in Serie A and is the oldest goalscorer in the J-League, the footballer with the world's longest professional career, and, as of 2021, is the oldest professional footballer in the world at 54





Ricardo Oliveira - Success in Spain with Valencia, Real Betis and Real Zaragoza, the Brazilian striker was unenviably signed by AC Milan to replace Andrei Shevchenko





Enner Valencia - Former West Ham United and Everton forward was once chased by police on the pitch as there was a warrant for his arrest for unpaid child support!





Diego Simeone - Argentine midfield hard man played with success at Atletico Madrid, Lazio and Inter Milan and manages Atletico with even greater success





Ned Zelic - Australian international defender played at Borussia Dortmund before an unsuccessful stint in the Premier League with Queens Park Rangers





Michael Carrick - The only English player alongside former teammate Wayne Rooney to win the Premier League title, FA Cup, Champions League, League Cup, FA Community Shield, Europa League and FIFA Club World Cup.





Dominik Szoboszlai - The move from Red Bull Salzburg to RB Leipzig in January 2021 for a reported of €20 million making him the most expensive Hungarian footballer of all time



# 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.

In this issue we've put together 2 fixtures, one featuring Spanish giants and the other and 3 team round robin type tournament.

First up we have perhaps the most famous and most watched fixture of modern times. El Clasico is the battle between the two most successful Spanish teams, and quite often the fixture where the best players in the world at the time come face to face.

Real Madrid take on the might of Barcelona, with both showing off an all star XI, but can you link the two line ups, what is the common theme?

Then on to the 3 team conundrum. Firstly, the Battle of Britain as we line up Manchester United against Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers. Complimenting the competition we are borrowing one of the Spanish teams and showing off another Catalan XI with Barcelona. Once again we are bringing the 3 teams together with a theme that links them all.

Can you work out what it is? Of course you can.

The El Clasico fixture is made up of 22 players that are all French, and we could have included a decent subs bench as well if called upon.

As for the Battle of Britain (+Barca) I am sure you have spotted all the players (33 of them) come from The Netherlands and taken their footballing talents across Europe, namely England, Scotland and Spain in this case.



Leonardo – The Brazilian came to prominence playing left back for Brazil at USA '94 but excelled as an attacking midfielder for PSG and AC Milan as well as a spell in Japan





Anelka

Benzema

Zidane

Camavinga

Makélélé

Diarra

Mendy

Karembeu

Hernandez

Varane

Zidane



Dwight Yorke - Won the Premier League in his first 3 seasons with Manchester United and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest non European goal scorer in the League with 123 goals





Hakan Calhanoglu - Turkish playmaker joins the growing list of players to play for both Milan clubs





Dominic Matteo - Made his Premier League debut for Liverpool going on to represent Leeds United, Blackburn Rovers and Stoke City





Okan Buruk - Part of the Turkey World Cup squad that finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2002. Played for Galatasaray and Besiktas as well as a short stint at Inter Milan





John Carew - Giant Norwegian striker who's career took him to Spain, England, French, Turkey and Italy. Won 91 international caps for the Norwegian national team





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Simon Kjaer - Current Danish captain plays for AC Milan and has also played in the French, Germany and Turkey leagues whilst amassing 119 caps for his country



# PARMA



If asked to list the most successful Italian club sides, you'd not get much variation from Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan. Rightly so, as the 3 clubs top the list of domestic and European successes by Serie A clubs.

Bearing in mind the other clubs to have won Serie A titles are Genoa, Torino, Lazio, Roma, Napoli amongst others, who do you think are the 4<sup>th</sup> most successful Italian club based on European trophy wins is? With 4 victories in Europe, Parma sit below only Juventus, AC Milan and Inter.

Not bad for a club that have come from nowhere, gone back to nowhere and come back to life more than once. Parma are in fact a Phoenix from the flames story and we wanted to take a closer look.

Juventus, the most successful Italian team, won their first Serie A title in 1905. Parma didn't even exist then. By the time Juventus had won their 22<sup>nd</sup> Parma had yet to even play in the top flight.

Parma, based in Northern Italy were formed in 1913 and spent their early years floating between Serie B, C and D. In 1968 the club went into liquidation. This wouldn't be the first time the club faced this type of situation,. A change of name and licenses, the club were reborn and continued their tour of Serie B,C and D.

It was not until the 1980's when Parma began a consistent period of success, notably through the guidance of two future Italian national team managers.



Eduardo Camavinga - French prodigal talent who before moving to Real Madrid became the youngest player to ever play for the Rennes' first team, at 16 years and six months old



First at the helm was Cesare Maldini, ex-AC Milan legend and of course father to Paolo, who took the club back to Serie B. Then by Arrigo Sacchi, who also took the club back to Serie B, following further yoyo seasons. In the 1986 season the club were just 3 points off promotion to Serie A. They did however manage to defeat the mighty AC Milan in the Coppa Italia that seemingly convinced AC Milan to hire Sacchi to take over the reigns at the San Siro club. Unless you were hiding under a rock between 1987 and 1991, you'll be aware he and the club did pretty well.

Back to Parma, and the hiring of Nevio Scala as manager in 1989 changed the fortunes of the club forever. Scala took Parma to an historic promotion in 1990 to the dizzy heights of Serie A to finally join the big boys of Italian football.



Nevio Scala here, second from the right.

Scala and Parma quickly made up for lost time! Aided by financial investment from Italian food and dairy giants Parmalat, Parma won their first ever major honour, winning the Coppa Italia beating Juventus in the two legged final in 1992. Not a bad accomplishment bearing in mind the mis-balance between the two teams. For example the strike force for Juve was Roberto Baggio & Toto Schillaci, whereas Parma started with the relatively unknown Tomas Brolin and Alessandro Melli.



Aliou Cisse - Former Senegalese captain played for PSG before heading to England to play for Birmingham City and Portsmouth. Now manages the Senegal nation team



Back in the 90's, a domestic cup win took you into Europe via the Cup Winners' Cup competition. Parma took this route and with a largely unchanged squad were victorious by defeating Royal Antwerp in the final held at Wembley in 1993. This was followed up quickly with a European Super Cup victory against AC Milan. The team then appeared in their second consecutive Cup Winner's Cup final, losing to an Alan Smith strike for Arsenal. Notable additions to the starting line were a certain Gianfranco Zola and Faustino Asprilla. The latter had been on the bench a year earlier in London.



Scala and Parma achieved one final success together, remarkably winning the UEFA Cup in 1995, defeating Juventus again in a final. The 2 teams were becoming quite the rivals.

This rivalry is reported to be behind a kit colour change from Parma. The club's original home colours were a white shirt, but in order to differentiate from Juventus, their home shirt colours where changed to yellow and blue between the seasons 1998 and 2004.



Goran Pandev – Macedonia's most capped (122) and decorated footballer of all time. Treble winner with Inter in 2010, still playing in Serie A but with Genoa



Scala's time at the club as manager came to an end in 1996, and he was replaced by Carlo Ancelotti, who took the club to their highest ever finish, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Serie A, missing out on the title by just 2 points. Ancelotti departed to rivals Juventus, replaced by Alberto Malesani, who immediately won the Coppa Italia and another UEFA Cup, beating Marseille in the 1999 final.

The 1999 team was full of superstars including home grown youth keeper Gianluigi Buffon, defenders Lilian Thuram and Fabio Cannavaro, midfielders Dino Baggio and Juan Sebastian Veron and attackers Hernan Crespo and Enrico Chiesa, both of whom scored in the UEFA Cup final win. On the bench, ensuring the 'class of 93' wasn't forgotten was none other than Faustino Asprilla.



Sergi Roberto – Scored the final goal for Barcelona against PSG in 2017 to turn around a four goal deficit – the first team to do so in the Champions League competition



The superstars in the team began to be plucked by sides with bigger budgets, with Crespo leaving for a world record transfer fee in 2000, joining Lazio, and Buffon moving to Juventus for a world record fee for a goalkeeper in 2001.

By the time Parma won the 2001/02 Coppa Italia (beating Juventus again in a final) the line up was ever so different. This was to be their last major honour.

There was one consistency however. **Antonio Benarrivo**. Parma's full back had played in the Coppa Italia final against Juventus in 1992, and played in the Coppa Italia final victory ten years later. Parma have won eight major trophies, and Benarrivo has won every single one of them with the club. He sits second on the all time appearance list, and you could argue he was the club's good luck charm. So much so, when he retired in 2004, Parma suffered significantly. The financial collapse of Parmalat put Parma in dire straits.

The club had to reform and ended up in administration for 3 years! Unsurprisingly the Hollywood story came to an end, and within four years the club were relegated back to Serie B, having spent 18 years in the top league. Fast forward to 2015, and although back in Serie A, the club were again facing financial ruin, resulting in bankruptcy and ultimately relegation again. Administration beckoned once more, as well as another reforming of the club.

In July 2015, S.S.D. Parma Calcio 1913 was formed and was placed in Serie D. However 3 successive promotions saw the club return to Serie A. They became the first Italian club to achieve this feat.



Jean-Kevin Augustin – Former youth PSG player, who made the step up to the first team before moving to RB Leipzig and now at Nantes back in France



The club suffered relegation in the 2020/21 season and currently play in Serie B, but without the fear of financial meltdown, they continue to function as Parma Calcio 1913.

Below we list some of the Parma records, and on the next 2 pages we've put together 2 teams made up of past Parma legends. It features an insane amount of quality footballers who have graced the turf at the Ennio Tardini stadium. We also have to mention the players that didn't make the teams! Claudio Taffarel, Hidetoshi Nakata, Hristo Stoichkov, Amoroso, Mario Stanic, Abel Balbo, Alberto Gilardino, Adriano, Adrian Mutu, Sergio Conceicao, Georges Grun, Sebastian Frey to list a few!!

Most appearances – **Luigi Apolloni** (1987-2000) 384 games (**Benarrivo** has 362)

Most league appearances – **Alessandro Lucarelli** (2008-2018) 333 games

Most European games – **Antonio Benarrivo** (1991-2004) 58 games

Top Goalscorer – **William Bronzoni** (1945-1953) 78 goals (**Crepso** is 2<sup>nd</sup> with 72)

Youngest player – **Alessandro Melli** aged 16 years and 130 days

Oldest player – **Alessandro Lucarelli** aged 40 years and 300 days

Record transfer fee paid – **Hidetoshi Nataka** from Roma (2001) €32 million

Record transfer fee received – **Hernan Crespo** to Lazio (2000) €55 million



Alessandro Lucarelli, a former Parma captain was the only player to remain at Parma following the club's demotion to Serie D. He earned the three successive promotions in the rebirth of the club from Serie D in 2015–16, Serie C to Serie B in 2016–17 and to Serie A in 2017–18.



Steve Mandanda – French goalkeeper is closing in on 600 appearances for Marseille, with a brief spell at Crystal Palace sandwiched in between





Carles Perez – Former Barcelona youth player, who is an attacking winger is now playing his trade in Serie A with Roma





Bruno Martins Indi – Dutch international defender started his career at Feyenoord, before moving on to Porto, Stoke City and now back in Holland with AZ Alkmaar



# CLUB VERSUS COUNTRY

Many a time we've seen the debate on club versus country. Alex Ferguson would demand at times Ryan Giggs be unfit for a Wales mid-week friendly only to make a miraculous recovery in time for the midday kick off at Old Trafford the following Saturday.

We've also seen premature international retirement from players to help them further their club careers.

But what about actually Club versus Country in its literal sense.....? A club side playing an actual national side. Yep, it's happened and we are showing when, where and what happened.

We'll start with our favourite one, and it actually features Ryan Giggs and his Welsh team mates.



## WALES VERSUS LEYTON ORIENT



In preparation for a World Cup qualifier against San Marino, the then Wales manager Bobby Gould wanted to test his Welsh squad against a similar level of opposition. Sounds sensible.

Two fixtures were set up, one against local Welsh team Cwmbran Town and the other against League 2 side Leyton Orient.

The game against Cwmbran Town went to plan, Wales recording a 6-1 win. Remarkably one of the goal scorers that day was.....Bobby Gould. Yes, that is correct. Gould bought himself on with the team 3-0 up!

Onto Brisbane Road, and Gould picked a full strength team featuring Mark Hughes, Neville Southall, Ryan Giggs, Dean Saunders, Barry Horne and even a young Robbie Savage to take on Leyton Orient in front of a packed stadium, with over 5,000 local fans coming to watch the Premier League players represent their country.

Lets make it clear, at this stage Leyton Orient were not very good.



Emre Belozoglu – Turkish midfielder with 101 caps to his name signed for Fenerbahce on 3 separate occasions. Was once sentenced to 2 and a half months in prison for a racist comment said on the pitch



The East London side in the previous season had only just avoided relegation to the fourth tier of English football, finishing fourth from bottom in the then Division Three, and not having won any of their last 10 league games.

As this was an unofficial game, the Leyton Orient manager, Pat Holland was able to play trialists and he had to be based on player available. He also gave full debuts to younger players, so it was fair to say Wales had done a good job in finding an equivalent to San Marino.

One debutant, Lee Shearer remarkably gave the underdogs the lead, only for John Robinson to equalise for the Welsh.

Enter trialist Peter Garland.

He promptly stepped up with the winner in the dying minutes to earn a huge win for Orient, and not only that he also earned a contract for himself at the club as well!

What happened next? Well Garland never scored another goal for Orient, and Wales went on to beat San Marino, as was the plan, by six goals to nil.



Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg – Before the Danish midfielder moved to the Premier League, he was Bayern Munich's youngest ever player to appear in the Bundesliga





# INDIA versus BAYERN MUNICH



It was a fixture put in place as a grand farewell for India's most iconic footballer, Bhaichung Bhutia. Although it was Bhutia's big day, it was Bayern Munich who stole the show making it look too easy by pumping four goals at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium on a Tuesday night in January 2012 in Chennai, India.

The 30,000 local fans didn't bother too much about the number of goals scored, as they enjoyed the occasion to recognise Bhutia's achievements and also revel at the high standard the German giants were able to show off. A goal each from Mario Gomez and Bastian Schweinsteiger sandwiched a double from Thomas Muller.

Bhaichung Bhutia, was capped 80 times by the India national team, was the first Indian to sign a contract with a European club (Bury F.C) and the three time Indian player of the year was once described as God's gift to Indian football.



No strangers to playing nation teams, the previous summer, in July 2011, Bayern Munich faced, and defeated the Qatar National team. The Bavarians triumphing 4-2 in a pre-season friendly whilst in the UAE.



Tom Cleverley – Former Manchester United and England international moved from Old Trafford to Everton before a move to current side Watford



# NEW ZEALAND versus WERDER BREMEN

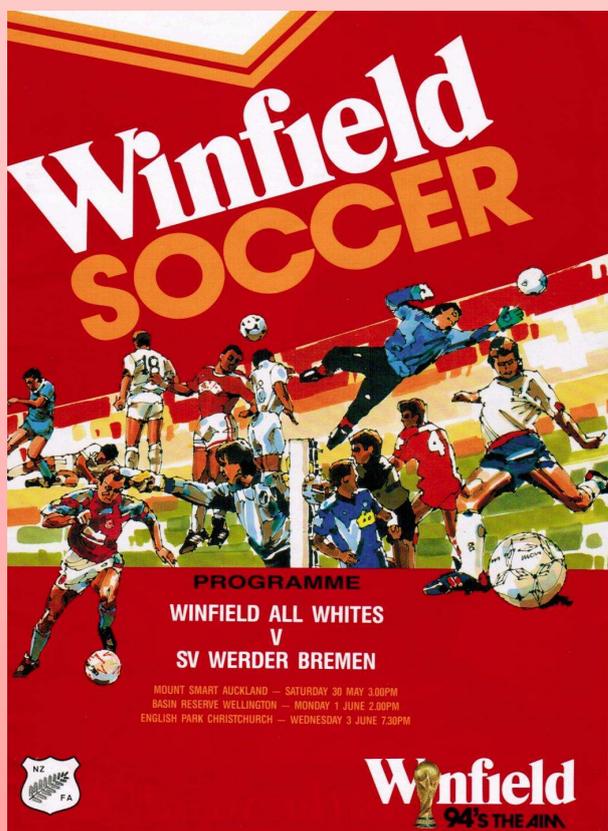


NEW ZEALAND  
FOOTBALL



As part of New Zealand's preparation for the 1994 FIFA World Cup qualifiers, the All Whites hosted a three-match tour for German club Werder Bremen. The games took place in the summer of 1992.

New Zealand forward Wynton Rufer played for Werder Bremen at club level and was the star player for the national team. He also wasn't bad for Werder Bremen either. In the 1993/94 season he was joint top goalscorer in the Champions League, surprisingly sharing the award with Ronald Koeman!



Rufer was selected to play for the All Whites in the series, in which honours were shared.

Werder Bremen won the opener in Auckland 2-0 (May 30), lost 2-1 to New Zealand in Wellington (June 1) and the final game in Christchurch was drawn 1-1 (June 3).

Sadly it didn't help the All Whites qualify for the World Cup 1994, and it wasn't until 2010 they reached their second ever finals.



Matteo Darmain – Another to play for both Milan clubs as well as Manchester United and Parma, but his most successful time was spent at Torino



# LIVERPOOL versus DENMARK



In April 1987, perhaps down to Jan Molby having connections at the club, saw the Danish nation team rock up to Anfield for a friendly with English giants Liverpool.

Due to European football being banned for English clubs at the time, this was the first visit of a continental team to Anfield for two years.

The reason for the game was again a national team wanting to prepare for an upcoming fixture. This one being a European Championship qualifier against Finland.

A somewhat uncompetitive or interesting game fizzled out with a 0-0 draw. Perhaps the highlight of the game being Denmark's shirt!



Xavi Simons – Recently made his PSG debut aged 18, the Dutch midfielder carries a reputation having spent his youth career with Barcelona





# BARCELONA versus BRAZIL



To mark Barça's centenary in 1999, the Brazilian national team travelled to the Nou Camp to play in a match. If I were a betting man I would assume Nike had something to do with the fixture as they sponsored both sides.

There was no shortage of quality in the line ups for this club versus country set up. There was even a stand out player who could have played for either team on the day.

Barcelona were managed by Louis van Gaal and the Dutchman deployed a strong starting line-up featuring Luis Figo, Luis Enrique, Pep Guardiola and Patrick Kluivert.

The Brazil team's front three was made up of what could have been an all star attacking line up for the Catalan giants.

Romario, Ronaldo and at the time, Barca's best player, Rivaldo!!



The game finished in a 2-2 draw, with goals for the Spanish side coming from Luis Enrique and Phillip Cocu, and for the Brazilians it was Ronaldo and inevitably Rivaldo with the strikes.



Ryan Gravenberch – Young Dutch holding midfielder became the youngest ever Ajax player to play in the Eredivisie at 16 years old and 130 days





# MEXICO versus AC MILAN



In another example of a nation looking to prepare for an upcoming fixture, Mexico took on the Milan giants in advance of facing the Italian nation team in the Japan/South Korea World Cup of 2002.

A great number of AC Milan's first team squad had already left to join up with their own national teams, so it was left largely to reserves to face the Mexicans.

The term 'friendly' was not really adhered to and the game saw 2 red cards and a penalty before Mexico took the victory with a 2-1 score line.

The idea seemed to work. In Japan, Mexico drew 1-1 with Italy and along with their Italian counterparts progressed out of the group stages to the next round.



Antony Matheus dos Santos – Brazilian right winger snapped up by Ajax from Sao Paulo who has already been capped by Brazil – One to watch in 2022



# AUSTRALIA versus MANCHESTER UNITED



Manchester United won the Champions League with 2 last minute goals against Bayern Munich at the Nou Camp in 1999. It was the end to an historic season for the English champions. Prizes for guessing who they played next after that memorable night in Barcelona?

Yes, that's right, the Australian national team!

The Red Devils headed down under for a 4 game pre season, covering Australia, China and Hong Kong in July of 1999.

First up was a double header against the Socceroos, after the fixtures were heavily financed by a local Australian businessman.

In the first game in Melbourne, Manchester United won 2-0, with goals from Jesper Blomqvist and Nicky Butt, and the second fixture taking place in Sydney, was again a victory for United, with Dwight Yorke getting the solitary goal.



Francisco Román Alarcón Suárez – 'Isco' as he is more commonly known has excelled at Malaga and Real Madrid, but actually made his debut with Valencia, playing 4 times in La Liga before moving on



# ENGLAND (Arsenal) versus ITALY



Into the archives for this one, and it's a bit of a stretch!

In 1934, England hosted Italy which was the first game Italy played since being crowned World Champions in the 1934 World Cup.

The game was being played at Highbury, the home of English side Arsenal.

As well as the game being remembered for violent tackles and becoming more of a battle than a football match is it was a match that set a record for the English national team.

It was the first time, and remains the only time that seven players from the same club side started for England.

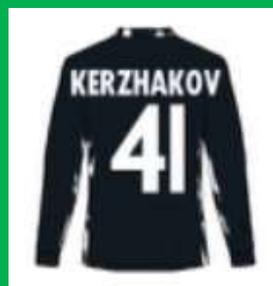
Seven of the starting eleven played for Arsenal and the fact it was played at Highbury, we thought we'd include it in this feature.

For the record the players were Frank Moss, George Male, Eddie Hapgood, Wilf Copping, Ray Bowden, Ted Drake and Cliff Bastin.

One of the remaining players was a certain Stanley Matthews, winning his second cap. Much to the dismay of the Italians, Arsenal (England) won 3-2.



Mikhail Kerzhakov – Zenit St. Petersburg reserve goalkeeper is the younger brother of Aleksandr Kerzhakov who is some what of a legend at Zenit and with the nation team although now retired





Johnny Haynes



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**THE NAME TO PLAY WITH**



Jamal Musiala – Have a feeling England will regret the former U21 capped international changing allegiances to now play for Germany. Already a first teamer at Bayern Munich and another one to watch



# The Premier League Nations Greatest XI



Featured here are the greatest Premier League line ups that only include players from one nation. In the this issue we are heading all over the globe once again! We have representation from Japan, there is African flavour with both the Ivory Coast and Cameroon featuring and we end with a Caribbean flavour showing off the best Premier League XI from Jamaica.

These are not based on statistics, appearances, goals, records, these are merely the view of the author. That said some are self-explanatory and imagine would not ignite too much debate, but others, perhaps less fashionable positions could irk the reader and encourage a discussion as to why the their favourite right back is not in the starting XI. I have intentionally not included a subs bench, as I fear I'd not have much space left. It should be noted, the feature sticks to a rigid 4-4-2 formation and won't be changed to fit in players of the same position.

At the end of the feature, why not play out your favourite XI from one nation and share it around for a conversation starter.



Jetro Willems - Played in the Netherlands' opening match of Euro 2012 at the age of 18 years and 71 days, making him the youngest player ever to play in the European Championship at the time. The record has since been broken by Jude Bellingham



# JAPANESE GREATEST XI

Ok, we have to push the boundaries once more for this issue. The goalkeeper situation causing us some serious selection problems.

Between the sticks is a keeper that failed unfortunately to make it to the Premier League, but in a small way helped Portsmouth get there. Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi played in Portsmouth's last game of their promotion campaign in 2003, but sadly for the 2 previous seasons had failed to live up to his £1.8m move from Japan.

But there is no one else, so he is picked!

The rest of the eleven sort of picks itself as there are only 10 players from Japan to play in the Premier League!

It's an Arsenal takeover at fullback, but two differing tales. Junichi Inamoto was signed by Arsene Wenger but never played league football for Arsenal, but did so for Fulham and West Bromwich Albion. More of a midfielder but versatile enough to fill in at right back. At left back, another versatile player. Takehiro Tomiyasu came to Arsenal relatively unknown but his performance so far in the 2021/22 season have quietened a few so called expert pundits.

Centre back partnership again is a tale of two sides. Kazuyuki Toda was a failed move for Tottenham Hotspur, but Maya Yoshida at Southampton excelled and made close to 200 appearances for the club. At this time, Yoshida can be classed as the best Japanese import to the league.

More mis comings in the midfield. Another *find* by Wenger, Ryo Miyaichi only played once for Arsenal in the Premier League and faired no better at Wigan and Bolton. On the left we select Takumi Minamino, bought from the Red Bull Salzburg factory, but yet to hit the hoped heights at Liverpool. Time is still on his side. Perhaps the most high profile Japanese Premier League presence is in the centre of midfield. Shinji Kagawa signed for Manchester United, and scored the first Premier League hat trick by a Japanese player but that was really as good as it got. Alongside him the most famous of Japanese players, Hidetoshi Nakata. When his Italian adventure ended he found his way to Bolton Wanderers, but soon after called time on his career.

Up front we have title winning Shinji Okazaki, whose grit and determination up front helped Leicester City to the title in 2015-16 season. He with Kagawa remain the only 2 Japanese players with Premier League winners medals.

Supporting Okazaki up top is Yoshinori Muto. He like Okazaki was bought from Mainz in Gemmary, but failed to shine at Newcastle United and was promptly moved on.



Josip Stanisic – Young Croatian international defender on the books at Bayern Munich hoping for a break through season having already appeared in the first team





Marvin Egho – Austrian forward with caps at U21 level is now playing for Randers in the Danish Superliga



# CAMEROON GREATEST XI

This goalkeeper inclusion could be our worst yet. But he has a fantastic name, so we're going to roll with it. Blondy Rudolph Nna Noukeu is a young goalkeeper on the books of Stoke City. He hasn't played in the Premier League but Stoke have, so he is in!!

In defence, it gets a lot better. Starting at right back is Lauren. Originally bought by Arsenal as a holding midfielder, he took to his defensive position tremendously, so much so he won a Premier League medal with the Invincibles. A firm favourite with the Arsenal crown with his never say die attitude. Across North London and Tottenham Hotspur provide our left back. Benoit Assou-Ekotto did a good enough for Spurs to fend off competition from the likes of Pierre Wome, George Elokobi, Gaeten Bong and Timothee Atouba.

In the centre of defence, Joel Matip perhaps goes somewhat under the radar, but the free signing from Schalke by Klopp has been nothing short of sensational and has a Premier League winners medal to show for it, not to mention a Champions League as well.

Partners were harder to come by and we've selected Rigobert Song over Sebastien Bassong and Andrew Biekey, with the latter two suffering multiple relegations.

Into midfielder and double title winner Geremi starts on the right. Although he won the titles with Chelsea he is probably more fondly remembered for his time in the North East with Middlesbrough and less so, Newcastle United.

On the left we have Somen Tchoyi, whose hat trick for West Bromwich Albion was the first by a Cameroonian in the Premier League.

In the middle of the part we are slightly more defensive. Alex Song's performances for Arsenal after a slow start were good enough to convince Barcelona to snap him up. 2 assists for sublime Robin Van Persie volleys live long in the memory.

Next to Song is Marc-Vivien Foe. Fondly remembered at both West Ham United and Manchester City but sadly passed away at the age of 28 when playing for Cameroon in 2003.

Other midfield options are slightly limited, with likes of Eric Djemba-Djemba, Stephane M'bia, Jean Makoun and Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa promising lots and delivering nothing.

Up front we looked at Patrick M'Boma at Sunderland and debated Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting. With the latter we would have liked to include his agent if we could having somehow manufactured moves to Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain for his client!

Instead we default to Samuel Eto'o as he really should be in any Cameroon team and did OK at Chelsea and OK-ish at Everton. He partners the underrated Joseph Desire Job, who is the highest scoring Cameroonian in Premier League history having done so 19 times for Middlesbrough and scoring in the League Cup final, where Middlesbrough won their first ever trophy.



Carlos Soler – Central midfielder now charged with the number 10 shirt has played his entire career at Valencia with over 150 league appearances to his name. Has 4 international caps for Spain





Milan Badelj – Croatian midfielder has won 55 caps for his country and has played in Italy for Fiorentina, Lazio and now Genoa



# IVORY COAST GREATEST XI

OK, last one. No more 'fake' keeper entries after this one. Ivorian Nicolas Tie, who was in the Ivory Coast Olympic squad for 2020 was a Chelsea goalkeeper. That is what the facts say. They also say he was in their academy and never played. Hard lines. He is in!!

More interesting is the defensive line up. Sharing the full back positions are again North London based. Emmanuel Eboué divided opinions at Arsenal but by rising above the doubters he managed over 200 games for the club. No mean feat. Serge Aurier also spilt opinions, and his ability for a last ditch mis-timed tackle in the box wasn't his finest attribute! Guy Demel really the only other full back to be considered. At centre back, on paper it's a solid unit. Kolo Toure, perhaps unlucky not to win 3 Premier League medals with 3 different clubs (part of the Liverpool squad to miss out to Manchester City in 2014) partners Eric Bailly, who just squeezes out the likes of Willy Boly, Lamine Kone, Abdoulaye Meite and Oliver Tebily.

Wide right, utilising his versatility is Salomon Kalou. Won the Premier League, 4 FA Cups and a Champions League with Chelsea and a bit of an unsung hero. If selections were based on receding hairlines, Gervinho would have been a shoe in, but alas no.

On the left, the Ivorian adopted Wilfried Zaha. Talisman for Crystal Palace and although a move to Manchester United didn't work out, perhaps a step up is now the right time. Not to Arsenal though. They bought Nicolas Pepe for a huge amount of money instead but his inconsistencies mean he doesn't make this XI. New comers Maxwell Cornet and Amad Diallo are ones to watch for the future.

In central midfield there can be no argument for the inclusion of Yaya Toure. Simply unplayable when at his best. His statistics for the 2013/14 are outrageous. So good.

Tough call for who to partner him but we've chosen Cheick Tiote over Didier Zokora with the heart ruling the head somewhat. Tiote's volley against Arsenal in the 4-4 draw lives long in the memory as does Tiote, who sadly passed away at the age of just 30.

Up front, as avid Championship Manager fans we only could wish Ibrahima Bakayoko excelled at Everton, but sadly he didn't, in fact he was useless.

The question remains really who is picked to play alongside Didier Drogba. In his prime at Chelsea, he defined what a Premier League striker should be. He had it all, in abundance. Again, like Yaya Toure, unplayable when at his best.

It could have been Aruna Dindane, Arouna Kone, Sebastien Haller, Seydou Doumbia or Jonathan Kodjia, but in truth none of these lived up to promise or reputation, so we are picking Wilfried Bony. He gets selected for his fantastic 18 months at Swansea City, not his shocking 18 months at Manchester City.



Alexander Lungwitz – German left back was on the books of giants Bayern Munich but now finds himself playing for Würzburger Kickers further down the leagues





Valentine Ozornwafor – Once capped Nigerian international is a Galatasaray player but is out on loan in Belgium with Sporting Charleroi



# JAMAICAN GREATEST XI

Two important factors here. 1, our goalkeeper of choice was actually contracted to a Premier League club and 2, we have been massively sentimental on this particular line up.

Seven of the eleven players selected were part of Jamaica's greatest ever achievement, that being qualifying for the 1998 France World Cup and doing their country proud. We've bolded those involved.

In goal is **Donovan Ricketts**. The 100 capped keeper signed for Bolton Wanderers in 2004, but only made an impression out on loan to Bradford City, to whom he moved to permanently.

At right back we've **Frank Sinclair**, who when he wasn't scoring own goals was a rigid and tough defender, making his name at Chelsea and spending time at Leicester City also. Left back is **Ricardo Gardner**. He seemed to be at Bolton Wanderers forever and never aged! He was at the club for 14 years, 11 of which in the Premier League. An outstanding servant.

There are plenty of centre backs to call upon, like Danny Maddix, Adrian Mariappa, Darren Moore and Nyron Nosworthy but we've gone for Premier League winning captain Wes Morgan and former Derby County and Sheffield United centre half Claude Davis.

On the right of midfield we've a new joiner that might seem harsh on the old brigade. Leon Bailey's big money move to Aston Villa means the expectations are high, but his self confidence should ensure he doesn't shy away from that. On the left we've **Marcus Gayle**, who has a double digit scoring season under his belt for Wimbledon in the Premier League that is no mean feat. Tricking wingers Jobi McAnuff, Garath McCleary and Jamie Lawrence were in with a shout but bench warming as of now.

In the centre we have the scorer of Jamaica's first ever World Cup finals goal. **Robbie Earle**. That was in fact his only international goal, but he scored plenty for Wimbledon as well as captaining the side. He finished with 350 appearances for the crazy gang, of which 244 were in the Premier League.

Alongside Earle was a tough selection. It was between **Fitzroy Simpson** or Darryl Powell, and based on Simpson being a Premier League original, and playing in all 3 World Cup games, he starts. Damien Francis and Jason Euell two very strong contenders also.

Up front a huge number of options. Most recently Michail Antonio won caps for the Reggae Boyz, Barry Hayles, Marlon King and Kevin Lisbie (a hat trick against Liverpool not bad on the CV) all in with a shout but we are going for **Deon Burton** up front after spells with Derby County and Portsmouth partnering Ricardo Fuller. The Kingston born talented and skilful attacker played for Portsmouth in the Premier League, but shone most during his 4 year spell at Stoke City in the top flight.



Gennaro Acampora – Italian central midfielder moved to Inter Milan as a youngster but never made the grade and now playing in Serie B with Benevento





Dmitri Kayumov – Russian midfielder started his career at Spartak Moscow and moved around Russian clubs but unable to add full caps to his 10 U21 caps



# CRAZY OWNERS

Everyone has a or has had a crazy boss right? Think they're a bit cool, or straight up are a little bat shit crazy. Chances are you probably remember them the most, even over the good ones.

Football chairman and owners are the same. The quiet ones go about their business under the radar, no need for the spotlight and remembering the main priority is the football club and achieving the success defined by those the chairman puts their faith in.

Then there is the other type. We don't mean the frivolous type that spend £100's a month on gold fish. Sadly in this era, over spending chairman have become a typical occurrence and we aren't celebrating financial meltdowns here.

We instead are celebrating over sized egos, madness, and down right craziness. Here are your crazy club chairmen, who should go down in history but perhaps for all the wrong reasons!!



Celil Yuksel – Started his career at Galatasaray before making a loan move to Adanaspor permanent in 2020



# RON NOADES

Ron Noades was a very successful club chairman of both Wimbledon and Crystal Palace in the 1970's up to the late 1990's. During tenures at both clubs he witnessed success in the way of promotion up the Football League ladder. He was able to lean on the managerial skill sets of the likes of Dave Bassett and Steve Coppell.

When he left Crystal Palace, he took on a new role, this time as chairman of Brentford, who at the end of the 1997/98 season had just been relegated to the Third Division. I often wonder when chairmen fire managers, do the managers ever respond back and say, "well I would like to see you do better." Such a comment may well have hit a cord with Noades, as instead of hiring a new manager at Brentford he instead installed himself as the manager, with an experienced 3 man coaching team.

Recipe for disaster? Er, no not quite. Brentford under the management of the chairman won promotion as the **Third Division champions!!**

Not bad going for a chairman! He kept himself in that position for the following 2 seasons with far less success however.



Artyom Samsonov – Russian midfielder played twice for Spartak Moscow before moving on, now playing for FC Shinnik Yaroslavl



# VINCENT TAN

When a new chairman comes on board, it is probably suggested to make a good impression on the fans. Tell them you love the club, you aren't going to sell your star striker and you want the club to reach the very top.

Vincent Tan was a very wealthy Malaysian business man and took over the control of Cardiff City (known as the Blue Birds) in 2010.

2 years later, the Cardiff owner along with his consortium proposed to the fans a significant investment was to be made, providing permission was given to change the colour brand of the club from Blue to Red.



The Cardiff fans naturally resisted and the plans were scrapped. Or so the fans thought! Just a month later the club pressed on with the rebranding plans, as they thought red was a better colour to market the club. Even the club badge was changed.

Maybe the prominent red dragon was lucky? Cardiff won promotion to the Premier League the following season. Tan soon reverted the club's colours back to their original blue before the end of the next season.



Gauthier Libbrecht – Belgium left back never quite made it at Club Brugge and now playing in the third tier of Belgium football



# SAM HAMMAM



Before Vincent Tan turned up to Cardiff City, the club chairman was Lebanese businessman Sam Hammam. Before his time at Cardiff City, he was the chairman of Wimbledon.

Hammam took control of Wimbledon in 1977 until selling the last of his stake in the club in 2000.

First and foremost, we have to praise Hammam as under his ownership the club won 4 promotions, all the way to the top division and a victory in an FA Cup final.

Some of the more whacky crazy antics however include parading a Elephant around the ground prior to kick off, locking players in changing rooms and not letting them leave until they sign contracts, and even inserting bizarre clauses in contracts, one rumoured to be a player had to eat sheep's testicles before a match!

Lets not even mention trying to relocate Wimbledon to Dublin and making them the sole Irish representatives in the Premier League.

Honestly, relocating Wimbledon FC, like that would ever work....



Keaton Parks – American born midfielder tried his luck abroad, with Benfica, making 4 league appearances before heading back home and now plays for New York City FC



# MAURIZIO ZAMPARINI



The former owner of Italian club Venezia, saved the club in 1987 from financial ruin, and propelled the club up to the top division in Italy, Serie A during his time there. He also caused a few commotions with the hiring and firing of 15 managers in the 15 years he was at the club. That's a pretty decent ratio.

To put that slightly into context, Glasgow Rangers recently hired Giovanni Van Bronckhurst as their manager, and he is only the club's 19<sup>th</sup> manager in their 150 year history.

Zamparini wasn't finished. He then took over Italian club side Palermo, again with success coming as he took the side to the top flight. The 1 coach 1 season approach wasn't going to be enough for Zamparini. In the 15 years he ran the club it is reported he made over **40** managerial changes! That averages over 2 a season! In some cases he has hired and fired the same manager twice in the same season!! It makes Watford's managerial situation look relatively stable!



Anthony Ralston – Bided his time with loan moves away from Celtic, but now firmly established as the club's right back, adding a goal threat to and making his debut for the Scottish national team in 2021



# LUCIANO GAUCCI



Another Italian businessman turned football club owner. This time former owner of Perugia, Luciano Gaucci.

It strikes me as crazy if the main part of this article isn't about him signing Colonel Gaddafi's son to play up front with Jay Bothroyd, or that he once stated his intention to mix genders at his club and purchase a female Italian centre forward. We aren't even going to go down the story of him heading to the Dominican Republic to avoid arrest for financial irregularities at the club, meaning instead his sons were jailed.

Instead we think he qualifies for crazy based on the reaction to Italy losing to



South Korea in the 2002 World Cup. Gaucci took offence to the scorer of the winning goal for South Korea, Ahn Jung hwan. That's not surprising as a passionate Italian supporter, but the trouble being, Ahn was a Perugia player at the time, and Gaucci made the claim he were to stop paying Ahn's wages, stating, "I have no intention of paying a salary to someone who has ruined Italian football" and that the play would never return to his team.



Stephen Welsh – Scottish centre back who at 21 has come through the Celtic youth system and is now firmly part of the first team squad



# JOHN RYAN

There is something heart warming about a local boy turned good. John Ryan was born and bred in Doncaster, and created a very successful cosmetic surgery business in the UK. If you see his smile, you'll assume he got some work done himself and I hope he got a good staff discount.

Now, Ryan isn't necessarily crazy, but this is definitely worth bringing to your attention. He did something I think all of our readers have dreamt of doing at some stage in their lives.

He bought a club and he registered himself to play, and did!!

Ryan became the oldest player to appear for a professional British club when he made a substitute appearance for Doncaster Rovers in 2003. At the age of 52 years and 11 months Ryan made a brief cameo at Edgar Street as Rovers came from behind to beat Hereford 4-2. "I came on when the ref put his board up for an extra three minutes of injury time," Ryan said. "I didn't actually get a kick of the ball but I had a good run around."

The game was actually critical, and not a dead rubber by any stretch of the

imagination. Rovers had to win to cement 3rd place in the Conference table in what was the last game of the season. They did win, and actually achieved promotion to the football league via the play offs. Ryan resisted the urge to be on the bench as a player for the final at the Britannia Stadium.

Just look at his Wikipedia page screen shot. That's what dreams are made of!!!!

## John Ryan

### Personal information

Date of birth 1 May 1950 (age 71)

Place of birth Doncaster, England

Position(s) Striker

### Senior career\*

Years	Team	Apps	(Gls)
2003	Doncaster Rovers	1	(0)

\* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only



Dylan Vente – Dutch forward who played for Feyenoord over 3 seasons, but has since moved on to Roda JC Kerkrade in the second tier of Dutch football



# MICHAEL KNIGHTON



Two special mentions to Michael Knighton. Firstly the lengths he went to in order to convince the Old Trafford faithful he was the right man to takeover the club. Donning the full kit, training top, and boots for a show of skills before a game at Old Trafford. This was all an attempt to prove to the fans he was a genuine football man. Reports differ, but it is said Knighton pulled out of a £10m deal for 50% ownership of Manchester United. This was in 1989. Poor decision, as the club are now worth approximately £3.15 billion....Ouch.

If a bid for Manchester United fails, where do you head? Carlisle of course. Knighton snapped up Carlisle United instead. In 1993 when he took over they were bottom of the football league. 2 years later they achieved promotion with a records points total. In 1997 when things got tough, Knighton employed the Ron Noades tactic and took the manager reigns himself but with zero success as the club were relegated back to Division Three.

The following year, it took a last minute Jimmy Glass (the keeper) goal to keep Carlisle in the football league, and in comparison Manchester United won the treble.



Alessandro Quaini – Young Italian midfielder was on the books of Genoa, but now plays for Pisa, albeit out on loan to AlbinoLeffe



# JESUS GIL



We've read about financial regularities and sack happy chairmen, and Jesus Gil is no different. The former Atletico Madrid owner was a controversial figure and found himself on the wrong side of the law many a time.

As Mayor of Marbella he was accused of falsifying documents in order to have the town sponsor Atletico Madrid's shirts, he allegedly moved money from accounts to out right buy the club, only to then move the money out again, essentially buying the club for free and even purchasing fake players in order to gain from image and economic rights.

His pièce de resistance however was the fall out of closing down Atletico's youth system in order to save some pesetas. It meant all the Atletico academy players had to leave, and within that group of players was Raul Gonzalez. Yes, that Raul Gonzalez that went to neighbours Real Madrid, played 741 games, scored 323 goals, won 6 L Liga's and 3 Champions League titles. Oops.



Jerzy Dudek – Liverpool hero based on the penalty saves in the 2005 Champions League final, also won 60 caps for Poland before retiring



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### EXTRA-TIME



Ben Lhassine Kone – Ivorian striker is on the books of Torino, featuring just once so far, but at 21, time is on his side



# CLUB FOCUS - FENERBAHÇE



If you, like us at The Halfway Line grew up watching football in the 1990's, you'd be forgiven for thinking that perhaps Galatasaray were the most successful Turkish football team. Exposure to Champions League football on ITV, and 'welcoming' teams to Hell was all part of that growing reputation, that ended in the year 2000 with a UEFA Cup final victory against Arsenal.

Fenerbahçe, their trophy cabinet and their fans may have something to say about that.

Fenerbahçe are in fact the most successful in terms of league titles in Turkey. Fenerbahçe has won 28 Turkish Super League titles, 6 Turkish Cups and 9 Turkish Super Cups, among others. With 28 Turkish championships in total (19 Super League, 6 National Division, and 3 former Turkish Football Championship titles) hence the record for most national championship titles won. The club also leads the all-time table of the Turkish Super League in terms of points won overall.



Dapo Mebude – Scottish U21 striker appeared for Rangers once before moving to Watford. Yet to play for the Hornets and is out on loan to AFC Wimbledon

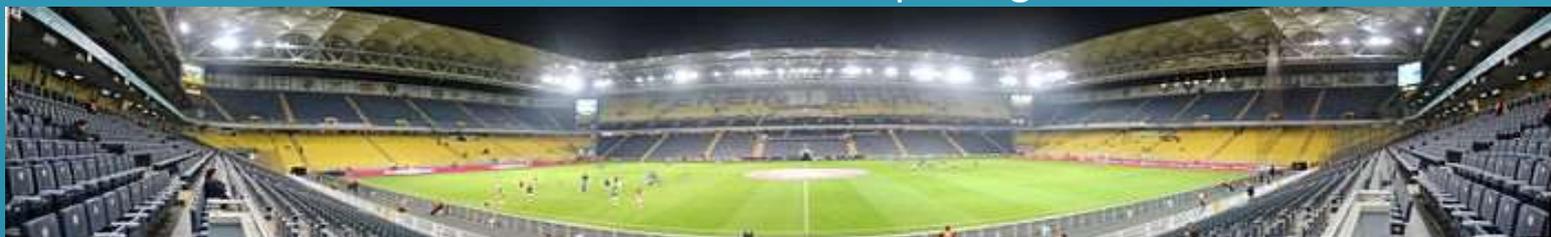


Based in Istanbul, the Fenerbahçe football team are part of a wider sports club, that include Basketball teams, Volleyball teams, Table Tennis teams, Athletics teams, Rowing teams, Swimming and Sailing teams.

They are of course one of the highest profile and most popular clubs in Turkey. The clubs nickname is the Sari Kanaryalar, that translates to the Yellow Canaries, and also Sari Lacivertliler, which is the Yellow-Navy Blues, which is a pointer to their club kit colours.



The team play at the Sukru Saracoglu Stadium, a 50,530 all seater stadium, that can also claim to have hosted the last ever UEFA Cup final, in 2009 before it was rebranded to the Europa league.



Our favourite fact on Fenerbahçe could well be that in the 1922-23 season they won the title without losing, and somehow without conceding a goal in the entire season (It was only 12 games, but still unreal)



Dylan Levitt – The Welsh midfielder actually has more appearances for Wales than he does for parent club Manchester United. Currently out on loan to Dundee United

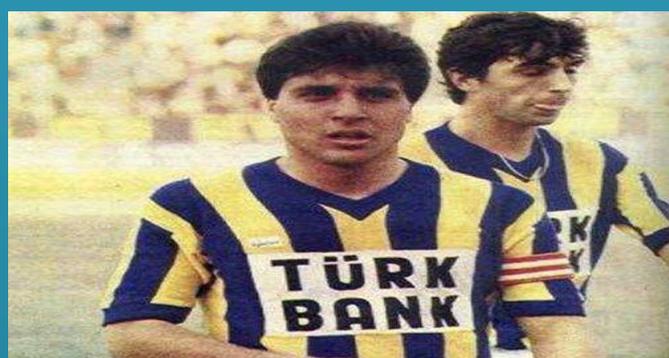


"The big three" clubs of Istanbul, Beşiktaş, Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe, have a century-long history of rivalry. The Fenerbahçe–Galatasaray rivalry is the primary Istanbul derby and the most important rivalry in Turkish football; matches between the two teams are known as The Intercontinental Derby (Turkish translation - Kıtalararası Derbi). The rivalry started on 23 February 1934, when a friendly game between both clubs turned into a riot, forcing the match to be abandoned. The rivalry has led to violence among supporters on numerous occasions.



Fenerbahçe's record ever goalscorer was from way back when. Zeki Rıza Sporel scored 470 goals for the club in just 352 appearances from 1915 to 1934. His other claim to fame is that he was the first ever goalscorer for the Turkish national team.

The team's record appearance maker is Mujdat Yetkiner, who played for the club from 1979 through to 1996, amassing 570 appearances.



Francisco Vera – Paraguayan striker tried his luck in Europe with Benfica, without much luck and now playing in Bolivia



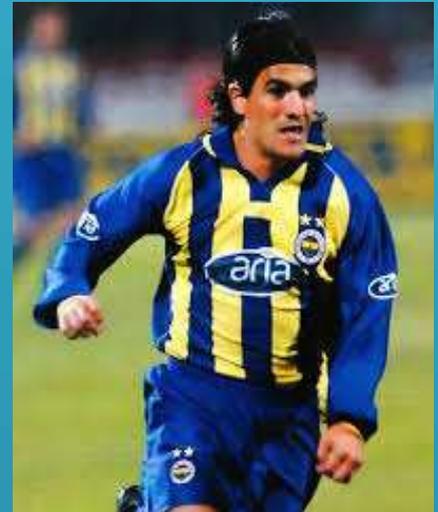
Now other than looking to enhance our readers football knowledge of different clubs around the globe, we also wanted to feature Fenerbahçe as they have had some absolute ballers turn out for them in the past and we wanted to show them off in their Yellow and Navy.



Jay-Jay  
Okocha  
1996-  
1998



Ariel  
Ortega  
2002-  
2003



Nicolas Anelka  
2005-2006



Raul Moro – Young Spanish winger, with U21 caps is in the first team squad for Lazio in Italy after a move from the Barcelona youth team





Dirk  
Kuyt  
2012-  
2015



Robin  
Van  
Persie  
2015-  
2018



Pierre Van  
Hooijdonk  
2001-2003



Mateja  
Kezman  
2006-  
2009



Laurens Serpe – The 20 year old Italian defender has one appearance for Genoa in Serie A, after a loan move to Inter Milan



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Vasco Sousa – Youth midfielder at Porto, but at 18 is learning his trade in the B team, but could follow a well trodden path to success



# FOOTBALL DARTBOARDS



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Do you agree with the twenty players picked for each team? Granted a double Solskjaer to win the game seems a tad better than a double Djourou!



Daniel Braganca – 22 year-old Portuguese midfielder starring for Sporting Lisbon having earned his chance after successful loan spells away



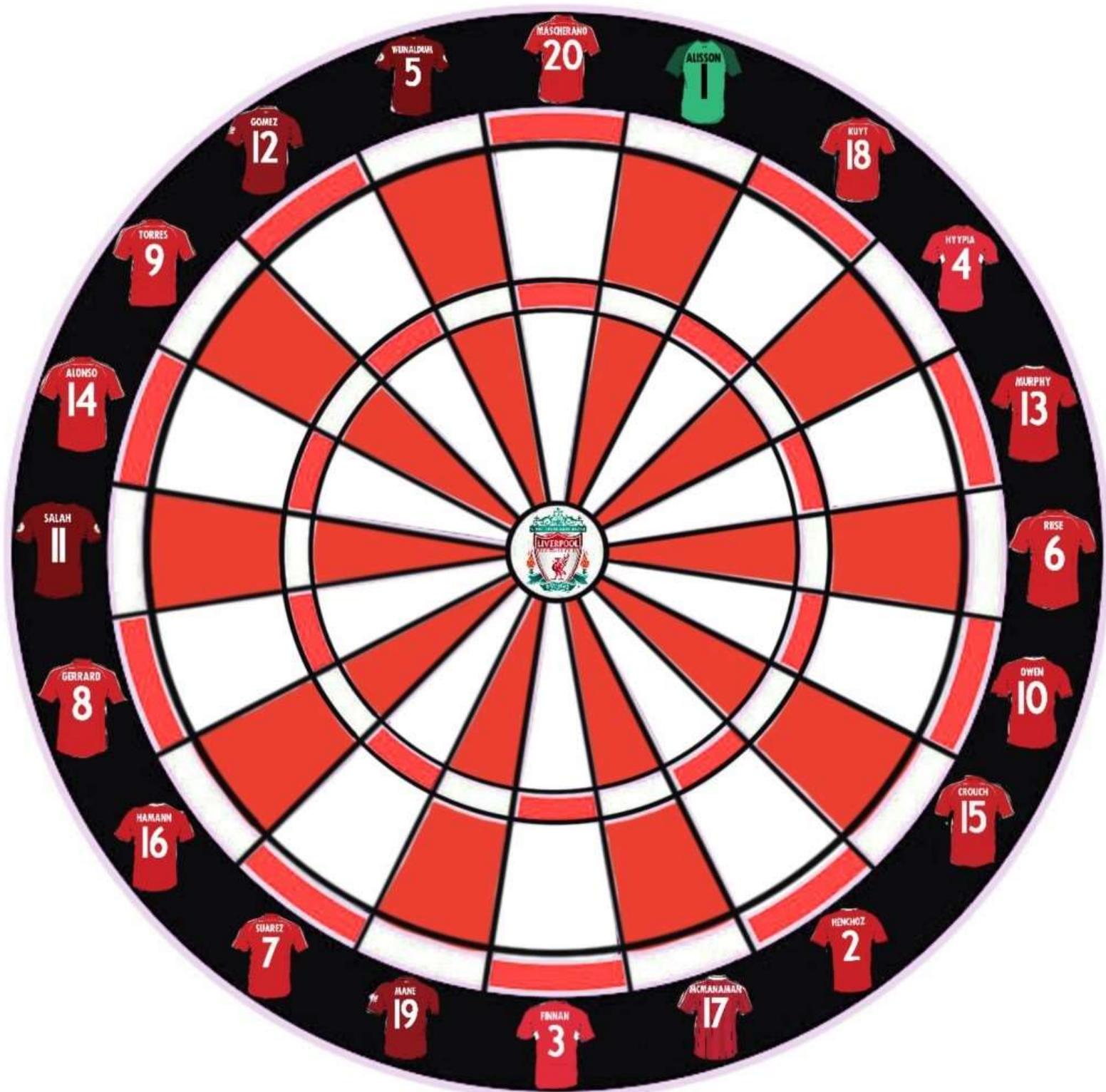
# ARSENAL



Mattia Cozzari – A young Italian defensive midfielder started his career at Bologna but now with lower tier side Gozzano



# LIVERPOOL



António José Pinheiro de Carvalho – Known as Toze, the Portuguese midfielder started his career at Porto and now finds himself playing in the UAE with Al-Nasr



# CHELSEA



Gergely Rudolf – Hungarian international striker, with 28 caps and 10 goals, floated around Europe including France, Belgium, Italy and Greece before finishing his career in his homeland



# MANCHESTER UNITED



Marco Malago – Italian defender who performed admirably for the likes of Cosenza, Genoa and Chievo during his career





# Historical Line Ups

In this issue of Historical Line ups, we are rolling out the team line ups of the 5 games in Premier League history in which a individual player has scored 5 goals. Many a time a Premier League hat trick has been scored, in fact over 200 occasions, but only 5 times has a marksman hit the back of the net 5 times.

The players, team and fixtures are:

- 1) Andy Cole – Manchester United vs Ipswich Town – 4<sup>th</sup> March 1995
- 2) Alan Shearer – Newcastle United vs Sheffield Wednesday – 19<sup>th</sup> September 1999
- 3) Jermain Defoe – Tottenham Hotspur vs Wigan Athletic – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2009
- 4) Dimitar Berbatov – Manchester United vs Blackburn Rovers – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010
- 5) Sergio Aguero – Manchester City vs Newcastle United – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

Will there ever be a Premier League player to strike more than 5 times in a game? Ted Drake of Arsenal once scored 7 goals against Aston Villa in a 7-1 victory, but this was some time ago in 1935!

We can match this in the modern era with a top flight 7 goal haul in Holland, when former Middlesbrough striker Afonso Alves struck 7 times for Heerenveen in 2007, in a 9-0 victory against Heracles.

Going one better was Michael Olunga, who scored 8 in 2019 for Japanese club side Kashiwa Reysol, but this was the J2 league, but still not bad going!



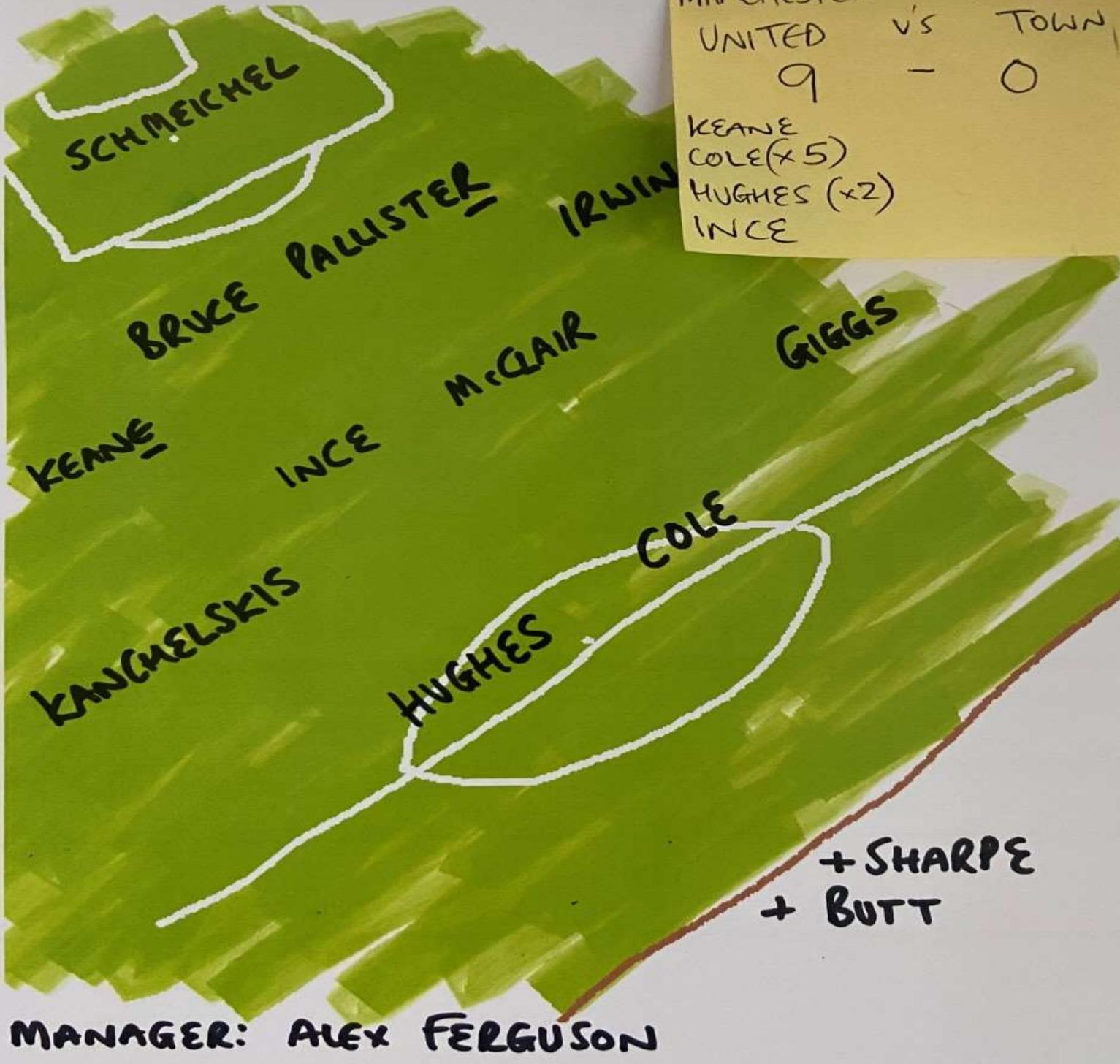
Luigi Lavecchia – Former Juventus youth defender played for a number of Italian sides, mostly for Messina and Bologna before moving to Romania to play briefly



SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1995

MANCHESTER UNITED v's IPSWICH TOWN  
9 - 0

KEANE  
COLE (x5)  
HUGHES (x2)  
INCE



Jose Carlos Ramirez – Spanish central defender came up through the ranks at Real Betis, and played for the first team before moving on and now plays for Spanish club side AS Alcorcon



SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 1999

NEWCASTLE  
UNITED

SHEFFIELD  
WEDNESDAY

8

-

0

HUGHES  
SHEARER (x5)  
DYER  
SPEED



Carlos Paredes - Started his career in Club Olimpia of Paraguay in 1995, winning five national championships and becoming the youngest captain in the club's history at the age of 20, before moving to Portugal



SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2009

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v WIGAN ATHLETIC  
9 - 1

CROUCH  
DEFOE (x5)  
LENNON  
KIRKLAND (O.G.)  
KRANJCAR

SCHARNER



Ilinho - Began his career at Palmeiras in 2006 before signing for São Paulo later that year. He joined Shakhtar Donetsk in 2007, where he would notably win the UEFA Cup. He returned to São Paulo in 2010 before going back to Donetsk



SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

MANCHESTER UNITED V'S BLACKBURN ROVERS  
7 - 1

BERBATOV (x5) SAMBA  
PARK  
NANI



Gaetano Grieco – Italian forward who played for Serie A club sides Genoa, Napoli and Parma but never recognised as good enough for the top flight and spent time on loan in the lower divisions



SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2015

MANCHESTER CITY V'S NEWCASTLE UNITED

6 - 1

AGÜERO (x5)  
DE BRUYNE

MITROVIC



Tomislav Butina – A former Croatian international goalkeeper spent the majority of his career at Dinamo Zagreb, was part of both 2002 and 2006 Croatia World Cup squads



# TREATMENT ROOM SPECIAL

Injuries are part and parcel of the beautiful game, and can be a cruel blow to any footballer. Short or long term injuries are a nightmare for players, teams and fans.

Some injuries can be put down to heroics. Take Manchester City's German goalkeeper Bert Trautmann. In the 1956 FA Cup final Trautmann, unbeknown to him at the time, played the final 17 minutes of the game with a broken neck! He sustained the injury making a save, but despite the injury he carried on making crucial saves and helping City to win the cup.



Other injuries can be sheer bad luck, but considerably worse. And career ending. Take the examples of David Busst, Djibril Cisse, Luc Nilis and Eduardo Da Silva. Their leg breaks have seen bones pop out of skin and in some cases the players have never fully recovered.

We've even seen cup final winning goal scorers getting dropped by their captain in the celebrations. Steve Morrow broke his arm after Tony Adams seemingly DDT'd him celebrating the 1993 Coca-Cola cup final win.

Luckily our featured injuries in the Treatment room special didn't result in any players careers being ended, but it might well have ended with them being the butt of all the jokes in the changing rooms.

The injuries that we feature are somewhat comical, and we laugh about them as no one got seriously hurt, other than perhaps the players ego's as they had to confess to the teams physio the completely bizarre nature of their injuries. Some you will not believe!!



Michael – Brazilian left side midfielder who spent time Dynamo Kiev before heading back to Brazil with Flamengo



# DARIUS VASSELL

Remember Darius Vassell?

The former Aston Villa youth product, who had a steady Premier League career with the Villains and Manchester City, 'burst' onto the international scene in 2002, debuting for England, away to Holland and scoring an incredibly good acrobatic volley. It secured him a place in the 2002 World Cup squad, and further appearances followed for England in a major tournament, this time the 2004 European Championships.

In that latter tournament, Vassell missed a crucial penalty against Portugal, that England lost to, and he never played for his country again.



His freak injury story is almost unbelievable. Having discovered a blister beneath his big toe nail, he wanted it gone. So he did what any respectable adult would do.

He took a DIY power drill to his nail in order to release the pain.

Yes you read that right.

Somewhat unsurprisingly, this didn't work, it got infected and the whole nail had to be removed that resulted in Vassell missing further games for the Villa!



Ilija Vukotic – A Montenegrin midfielder became the youngest goalscorer in the history of the Montenegrin First League at the age of 16 for Grbalj before heading to Benfica



# SANTIAGO CANIZARES

Iker Casillas was one hell of a goalkeeper, and loved by many. I am not 100% sure that love was shared by Santiago Canizares. The former Real Madrid goalkeeper probably had an inkling that Casillas was going to be world class, and therefore upped sticks from the Bernabéu in 1998 to join Valencia. He stayed at the club for 10 years, raking up over 300 La Liga appearances.

Casillas however remained his biggest competition for the number one jersey for the Spanish nation side. Prior to Casilla's emergence, Canziars had also been an understudy to others at this level.

But in 2002, it was Canizares' chance. Excellent domestic form meant he would go into the World Cup tournament as the number one choice. What could possibly go wrong?

Looking at Canizares, he strikes me as a guy that smells nice, and takes care with his appearance. Always packs an aftershave for an trip away kinda guy..

Prior to the 2002 tournament, in a hotel bathroom, Canizares unwittingly dropped a bottle of aftershave that smashed against the bathroom sink. The shattered glass went everywhere, including a shard of glass into his foot, going straight into the skin and severing a tendon!!

It required surgery and required Casillas starting the 2002 World Cup as Spain's number one!!!!



Ilya Levchenkov – 19 year-old Russian midfielder on the books of Spartak Moscow hoping to make the break through with the Russian giants



# KIRK BROADFOOT

Kirk Broadfoot I am sure would agree, knew his limitations as a footballer, but what he could do was do the things he was good at consistently. This meant a dream move for the defender to Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers, winning the Scottish Premiership on three occasions along with four international caps for Scotland.

Broadfoot had limitations elsewhere, namely his ability to cook. Specifically poached eggs.

In 2009, Broadfoot fancied a couple of poached eggs for a snack, and why not, who can blame him.

Having put the eggs in the microwave, upon inspecting them, one blew up and exploded, unfortunately heading in the direction of Broadfoot's face!

The defender had boiling hot water on this face and had to be treated in hospital for scalding to his cheek!! As a result he missed games for Rangers, as well as his snack.



Pasquale Foggia – Retired Italian winger played for Empoli, AC Milan, Lazio, Sampdoria with 3 international caps to his name and one goal for the Azzuri



# ALAN WRIGHT

We've all dreamed of being a professional footballer. We've all dreamed of owning a Ferrari, and we've all dreamed of being 6'4" tall.

Alan Wright was able to achieve the first 2 on the list, but the failure to be a man of height also saw the second item on the list soon fall away not long after it was achieved.

Due to his 5'4" frame, it was reported that every time he stretched to put his foot on the Ferrari's accelerator he would do damage to his right knee!!

Not long before he got it, the Ferrari was gone!



Martin Remacle – A Belgium midfielder who's career has seen him play for club sides in Belgium, Italy, Cyprus and now in Romania



# KEVIN KYLE

Being a proactive Dad is such a positive part of fatherhood. It helps you bond with your child and also takes the pressure off others, and you may even get some brownie points off your partner.

Kevin Kyle, a doting father who was at Sunderland at the time of this injury, was looking after his 8 month old son when it was time for a feed.

Multi tasking is not for everyone, and balancing a child whilst making up a warm bottle of milk is no easy task.

Kyle's son took a leaf out of his Dad's striking boots, and managed to kick a jug of boiling water straight onto his Dad's lap. This resulted in a burnt inner thigh and also burnt testicles. Straight to hospital for Kyle and an overnight stay for observation.



Axel Kei – in 2021, at 13 years, nine months and 9 days, the Real Salt Lake academy player became the youngest ever athlete to appear for a professional American sports team



# DAVID BATTY

A key to recovering from an injury is rest and recuperation. Don't rush a comeback as it'll no doubt catch up with you and you'll be out even longer.

No such problem for David Batty during his Leeds United playing days. Being well behaved and following instructions, Batty was at home recovering from an ankle injury.

However, as with Kevin Kyle's incident, being at home with children can bring hazards you wouldn't encounter elsewhere.

Batty's young daughter, no doubt joyed her Dad was at home, showed a bit too much excitement and inadvertently rolled over her Dad's foot whilst on her toy tri-cycle!! This set back her Dad's recovery and no doubt damaged his pride as well!



Reto Ziegler - left-back for Swiss Super League club FC Lugano, he has played top-flight football in seven different countries. He earned 35 international caps for Switzerland and played at both the 2010 and 2014 FIFA World Cups



# DARREN BARNARD

Former Chelsea, Bristol City left sided defender Darren Barnard was always a favourite of mine growing up as on Championship manager he was listed a Defender/Attacking midfielder (left) which worked wonders for my wing back system I employed in order to dominate world football.

Barnard's career claim to fame is most likely be his collection of Wales international caps and the +200 league games he played for Barnsley, including during their sole season in the Premier League in 1997/98.

The league appearance total could well have been greater, but for a 5 month spell on the side-lines in 1999 due to a knee ligament injury.

The cause for the injury? Colossus last ditch tackle to save a game for the mighty Tykes?

No sadly not.

Barnard had recently purchased a cute puppy for the household.

Cute until they wee on the floor and you slip on it, doing your knee ligaments at the same time!!



Charlie Patino – The latest off the production line at Arsenal's Hale End. Patino scored on this first team debut in 2021 against Sunderland in the EFL Cup





# THE BOOT ROOM

Multiple million pound contracts help but sometimes it is hard to picture a player in a different make or brand of football boot. Either of the Ronaldo's in Predators for example, just doesn't work. Or Martin Keown rocking a pair of Nike mercurials – too weird. One particular player, a certain Wayne Rooney, I really struggle to see in anything other a pair of boots from the Nike Total 90's range. His hat trick debut for Manchester United, or his thumping volley against Newcastle United, both done in the comfort of Nike Total 90's.

Our pick for this Boot Room is the **Nike Air Zoom Total 90 III 2004**.

The design of the laces on the right side of the boot originated from the Classic Total 90 boots from 2002, but whereas that design was a singular line of colour, the Zoom Total 90 III bought together two different colours of leather that allowed for a massive sweet spot to appear on what appeared to be a huge instep.

There were White & Gold versions, an all black and an all Silver version, but the one to catch our eye was the **Red and White boot**. A perfect colour combo, especially for a Rooney who was styling the Red and White of Manchester United, that showed off the circled 90 on the boot and was primed for full volleys going in off the bar, ala, Rooney and Scholes.



Tomas Rincon – A Venezuelan professional footballer who plays as a defensive midfielder or full-back for Serie A club Torino and the Venezuela national team, which he captains





Lynnt Audoor – Belgium midfielder who plays for Belgian First Division B side Club NXT and the Belgium U17 side having begun his career at Club Brugge





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Jamie Baez – Uruguayan winger who plays as a winger for Italian Serie B club Cremonese, previously on the books of Fiorentina



# Quiz time

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

1. Can you name 5 clubs since 1970 to have won a European trophy despite having never won their domestic league?
2. Which continent has won the most World Cups?
3. Can you list Dani Alves' squad numbers for Barcelona?
4. Salomon Rondon and Duncan Ferguson share what unique goal scoring record in the Premier League?
5. 32 players have 100+ goals in the Premier League but who reached that total fastest of all? And who was the youngest to reach 100 first?
6. Carlos Valderrama played for 2 European sides. Can you name them?

## Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Gary Speed, Andy Cole, Chris Waddle, Laurent Blanc and Clive Allen – Who am I?
2. I have played with Steve McManaman, Gareth Bale, Thierry Henry, Carlos Vela and Yannick Bolasie - Who am I?
3. I have played with Peter Crouch, Ronaldo (Brazilian), Jari Litmanen, Milan Baros, Kevin Campbell and Davor Suker – Who am I?
4. I have played with Robert Huth, Mark Schwarzer, Michael Duberry, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Asmir Begovic, Danny Granville and Carlo Cudicini, but I have never played for Chelsea – Who am I?
5. I have played been signed by Steve Bruce, Rafa Benitez, Arsene Wenger, held a transfer fee record, started a Champions League and an FA Cup final, played in 4 different countries and played over 230 Premier League games but never received an international cap – Who am I?

## What club links the following players?

1. Abele Pele, Trevor Steven, Chris Makin and Steven Fletcher?
2. Johan Elmander, David Bentley Harry Kane and Thomas Helveg?
3. Jimmy Bullard, Finidi George, Martin Reuser and Maricco Taricco?
4. Tammy Abraham, Ashley Cole, Christian Panucci and Robert Di Matteo?
5. Rod Wallace, Brett Ormerod, Ray Wallace and Rob Hulse?
6. Darren Ferguson, Ben Foster, Terry Cooke and Mathias Pogba?
7. Neville Southall, Gareth Farrelly, Michael Branch and Robbie Blake?
8. Phil Babb, Yakubu, Roy Wegerle and George Boateng?



Yayah Kallon - Sierra Leonean 20 year old striker who plays as a forward for Serie A club Genoa but yet to break his duck



# Quiz Answers from Issue #13

1. With player assisted both Eric Cantona's chip against Sunderland and David Beckham's halfway line strike against Wimbledon? **Brian McClair**
2. Name 2 Germans to reach World Cup finals as players and managers? **Franz Beckenbauer & Rudi Voller**
3. Name 5 British sides Phillip Senderos player for? **Arsenal, Everton, Fulham, Aston Villa & Glasgow Rangers**
4. Can you name the 7 players to wear the number 9 shirt for Newcastle since Alan Shearer left? **Obafemi Martins, Andy Carroll, Calum Wilson, Joelinton, Papiss Cisse, Dwight Gayle and Salomon Rondon**
5. Can you name the 9 teams to have won the European Cup/Champions League only once? **Celtic, Aston Villa, Feyenoord, Red Star Belgrade, Steaua Bucharest, Marseille, Borussia Dortmund, PSV Eindhoven, Hamburg**
6. Who was the first manager to be sacked by a Premier League club? **Ian Porterfield (Chelsea)**

## Teammates (all club level)

1. I have played with Claude Makelele, Juan Sebastian Veron, Davor Suker, Alen Boksic and Giovanni – Who am I? **Christian Karembeu**
2. I have played with Roy Keane, Darko Kovacevic, Roberto Mancini, Michael Dawson and Paolo Di Canio – Who am I? **Des Walker**
3. I have played with Freddie Ljungberg, Dean Ashton, Gareth Bale, Robbie Savage, Alex Hleb and Kevin Nolan – Who am I? **David Bentley**
4. I have played with John Barnes, Michael Laudrup, Tony Yeboah, Stuart Pearce and Dean Saunders – Who am I? **Ian Rush**
5. I have played with Romario, Ronaldo, Teddy Sheringham, Gheorghe Hagi, Freddie Bobic and Valeri Bojinov – Who am I? **Gheorghe Popescu**

## What club links the following players?

1. Dean Windass, Owen Morrison, Alan Quinn & Rob Kozluk? **Sheffield United**
2. Marcus Bent, Darren Beckford, Robbie Earle & Steve Guppy? **Port Vale**
3. Bradley Wright-Phillips, Taribo West, Emile Mpenza & Vincent Pericard? **Plymouth Argyle**
4. Christian Vieri, Vladimir Jugovic, Demetrio Albertini & Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink? **Atletico Madrid**
5. Marcel Desailly, Didier Deschamp, Mo Johnston & Dmitri Payet? **Nantes**
6. Hidetoshi Nakata, Vincent Candela, Marcos Alonso & Christian Wilhelmsson? **Bolton Wanderers**
7. Maurizo Ganz, Alvaro Recoba, Massimo Taibi & Joachim Bjorklund? **Venezia**
8. Adrien Rabiot, Florian Lejeune, David Brooks & Loris Karius? (this is one slightly off piste) **Manchester City Youth**



Leo Baptistao – A Brazilian centre forward is back in his homeland with Santos having spent the majority of his career in Spain with the likes of Atletico Madrid, Real Betis and Villarreal



# COUNTRY FOCUS

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



The governing body of Singapore football is the Football Association of Singapore (FAS). The FAS oversees the organisation and development of football and advancing the game at all levels in Singapore, and is responsible for all aspects of the amateur and professional game in its territory. This includes its flagship domestic league, the Singapore Premier League (SPL), as well as the men's, women's and youth national football teams. The FAS is headquartered at the Jalan Besar Stadium, located at Kallang.

The national team, nicknamed 'The Lions' play their home internationals at the Jalan Besar stadium. The team have never qualified for a World Cup and their greatest achievements in terms of honours are four AFF Championships, the last being in 2012.

The record appearance maker for the Singapore nation team is one for the trivia lovers. Who is the highest capped English born male footballer, ever? You thinking Shilton, Beckham? NO! **Daniel Bennett**, born in Great Yarmouth, amassed 145 caps after gaining Singapore citizenship in 2002.

Having spent the majority of his senior career in the Singapore league, with a 18 league game cameo with Wrexham, Bennett also holds the record for Singapore Premier League appearances, with 518 games.

The record goalscorer for the Singapore nation side is Fandi bin Ahmed. The Singapore striker struck 55 times whilst winning his 101 caps.



**SINGAPORE  
PREMIER  
LEAGUE**



Sacha Boey – A right-back for Süper Lig club Galatasaray and the Cameroon national football team, previously played for Rennes and Dijon in France



The record goalscorer in the Singapore Premier League is Aleksander Duric, banging in 321 goals. Duric played for multiple teams in the league and also changed nationality to appear for the Singapore national team having been born in Yugoslavia.

The domestic league (S League) was established in 1996, before recently changing it's brand to the Singapore Premier League. Currently there are 8 teams in the league with Warriors FC being the most successful with 9 titles, followed by Tampines Rovers (5), Albirex Niigata Singapore FC (4)

Since 2003, in a quirky attempt to boost interest in the league, the FAS have invited foreign clubs to take part in the league!! There has been representation from Japan via a satellite club, China, South Korea, Brunei and somehow a team made up from players only from African descent, and even France! The French representation was from side Etoile FC, who actually won the competition in 2010. The staff rota was made up solely of players of French origin. Their home ground was in Singapore as opposed to travelling to and from France each week in case you were wondering!!



High profile British representation in the Singapore Premier League is hard to come by. We have Jermaine Pennant who signed for Tampines Rovers in 2016 and former Hull City winger Craig Fagan who signed, albeit briefly for the Brunei representatives, DPMM FC.

There has been no representation yet from a Singapore nation in the English Premier League, but perhaps it will not be long. The Wolverhampton Wanderers U23 development squad includes 17 year old defender Harry Birtwistle, who is a Singapore citizen. We would have liked to include Ben Davis, who signed for Fulham in 2017 as the first Singaporean to sign for a Premier League club, but having since moved to Oxford United, he also changed allegiances to Thailand, at the U23 level.



Finley Burns – At 18 years old he made his debut for Manchester City against Wycombe Wanderers in the EFL Cup in 2021 having signed from Southend United



# 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 (perhaps scored in the first game you went to).

But for a selection of 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 Premier League teams from the past. Hull City, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest are the 3 teams in this issue, though not all the players played for them in the Premier League.

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???



Maxim De Cuyper - A Belgian midfielder who plays for Belgian First Division B side Westerlo on loan from Club Brugge



# HULL CITY



Ben Knight – Made his Manchester City debut replacing Ferran Torres in the 2021 FA Community Shield game at Wembley against Leicester City



# SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY



Games - 6  
Goals - 0



Games - 65  
Goals - 4



Games - 30  
Goal - 1



Games - 9  
Goals - 0



Games - 70  
Goals - 3



Games - 1  
Goals - 0



Games - 78  
Goals - 17

Games - 42  
Goals - 3

Games - 34  
Goals - 8



Games - 16  
Goals - 4



Francisco Reis Ferreira – Known as Ferro, the Portuguese centre back plays for Benfica in his home country and had a loan spell in Spain with Valencia



# NOTTINGHAM FOREST



Games – 10  
Goals - 0



Games – 6  
Goals - 0



Games – 1  
Goals - 0



Games – 15  
Goals - 0



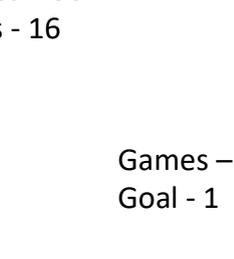
Games – 3  
Goals - 0



Games – 16  
Goal - 1



Games – 50  
Goals - 16



Games – 5  
Goal - 1



Games – 12  
Goal - 0

Games – 6  
Goal - 1



Igor – Moved from Red Bull Brazil to FC Liefering and then to Red Bull Salzburg, and now the Brazilian centre back plays for Serie A side Fiorentina



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

1	Gianluca Pagliuca	Sampdoria	1988-94	51	Dmitri Kayumov	Spartak Moscow	2012-13
2	Oleg Luzhny	Dynamo Kiev	1988-99	52	Celil Yüksel	Galatasaray	2017-19
3	Christian Ziege	Bayern Munich	1992-96	53	Artem Samsonov	Spartak Moscow	2014-15
4	Radja Nainggolan	Roma	2014-18	54	Gauthier Libbrecht	Club Brugge	2014-15
5	Steve Bould	Arsenal	1988-99	55	Keaton Parks	Benfica	2017-18
6	Ricardo Carvalho	Chelsea	2004-10	56	Anthony Ralston	Celtic	2016-22
7	Hidetoshi Nakata	Japan	2000-06	57	Stephen Welsh	Celtic	2018-22
8	Gennaro Gattuso	AC Milan	1999-12	58	Dylan Vente	Feyenoord	2020-21
9	Vincenzo Montella	Roma	1999-07	59	Alessandro Quaini	Genoa	2016-17
10	Rai	Paris Saint-Germain	1994-98	60	Jerzy Dudek	Poland	2013
11	Kazu Miura	Genoa	1994-95	61	Ben Lhassine Kone	Torino	2017-18
12	Ricardo Oliveira	Real Betis	2004-06	62	Dapo Mebude	Glasgow Rangers	2018-19
13	Enner Valencia	Fenerbahce	2020-22	63	Dylan Levitt	Manchester United	2019-20
14	Diego Simeone	Atletico Madrid	1995-97	64	Francisco Vera	Benfica	2015-16
15	Ned Zelic	Borussia Dortmund	1992-95	65	Raúl Moro	Lazio	2019-21
16	Michael Carrick	Manchester United	2006-18	66	Laurens Serpe	Genoa	2021-22
17	Dominik Szoboszlai	RB Leipzig	2020-22	67	Vasco Sousa	Porto	2021-22
18	Leonardo	AC Milan	1998-01	68	Daniel Bragança	Sporting Lisbon	2020-22
19	Dwight Yorke	Manchester United	1998-02	69	Mattia Cozzari	Bologna	2015-17
20	Hakan Calhanoglu	Inter Milan	2021-22	70	Tozé	Porto	2012-14
21	Dominic Matteo	Liverpool	1993-00	71	Gergely Rudolf	Panathinaikos	2011-12
22	Okan Buruk	Inter Milan	2002-04	72	Marco Malagò	Genoa	2002-03
23	John Carew	Roma	2003-04	73	Zidane Iqbal	Manchester United	2011-22
24	Simon Kjaer	AC Milan	2019-22	74	Luigi Lavecchia	Bologna	2007-10
25	Eduardo Camavinga	Real Madrid	2021-22	75	José Carlos Ramírez	Real Betis	2013-14
26	Aliou Cissé	Paris Saint-Germain	1998-02	76	Carlos Paredes	Sporting Lisbon	2006-07
27	Goran Pandev	Inter Milan	2009-12	77	Ilsinho	Sao Paulo	2010-11
28	Sergi Roberto	Barcelona	2010-13	78	Gaetano Grieco	Genoa	2003-04
29	Jean-Kévin Augustin	Paris Saint-Germain	2015-17	79	Tomislav Butina (GK)	Olympiakos	2006-08
30	Steve Mandanda	Marseille	2007-22	80	Michael	Flamengo	2009-10
31	Carles Pérez	Roma	2019-22	81	Ilija Vukotic	Benfica	2020-21
32	Bruno Martins Indi	Feyenoord	2010-11	82	Ilya Levchenkov	Spartak Moscow	2021-22
33	Emre Belözoğlu	Inter Milan	2001-02	83	Pasquale Foggia	Lazio	2006-07
34	Pierre-Emile Højbjerg	Bayern Munich	2012-16	84	Martin Remacle	Torino	2016-17
35	Thomas Cleverley	Manchester United	2010-11	85	Axel Kai	Real Salt Lake	2021-22
36	Matteo Darmian	Torino	2012-15	86	Reto Ziegler	Sassuolo	2013-14
37	Xavi Simons	Paris Saint-Germain	2020-21	87	Charlie Patino	Arsenal	2021-22
38	Ryan Gravenberch	Ajax	2018-19	88	Tomás Rincon	Torino	2017-22
39	Antony	Ajax	2020-21	89	Lynnt Audoor	Club Brugge	2021-22
40	Isco	Valencia	2009-10	90	Jamie Baez	Fiorentina	2015-16
41	Mikhail Kerzhakov (GK)	Zenit St. Petersburg	2015-22	91	Yayah Kallon	Genoa	2020-21
42	Jamal Musiala	Bayern Munich	2019-22	92	Leo Baptistão	Real Betis	2013-14
43	Jetro Willems	PSV Eindhoven	2011-12	93	Sacha Boey	Galatasaray	2021-22
44	Josip Stanisci	Bayern Munich	2020-22	94	Finley Burns	Manchester City	2021-22
45	Marvin Egho	Rapid Wien	2013-14	95	Maxim De Cuyper	Club Brugge	2019-20
46	Carlos Soler	Valencia	2015-16	96	Ben Knight	Manchester City	2021-22
47	Milan Badelj	Genoa	2020-22	97	Ferro	Benfica	2018-22
48	Alexander Lungwitz	Bayern Munich	2020-21	98	Igor	Fiorentina	2020-21
49	Valentine Ozornwafor	Galatasaray	2020-22	99	Miroslav Stoch	Fenerbahce	2015-18
50	Gennaro Acampora	Inter Milan	2012-14	100	Claudio	Red Bull Bragantino	2021



Miroslav Stoch – Slovakian former Chelsea youngster won the FIFA Puskas award for the years best goal in 2012 scoring a worldie for Fenerbahce



# What's coming up in the next issue of The Halfway Line?

- League wins in a row
- Our best ever 100 players
- Brazil's league explained
- More Club side features



## 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

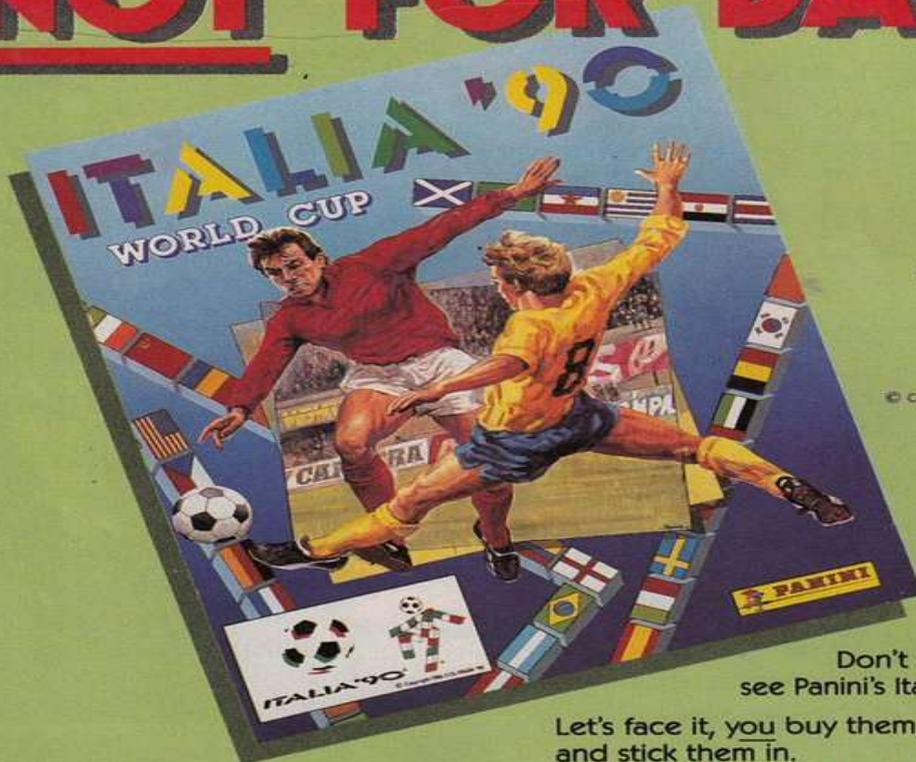


Claudio Pizarro – Wore the 100 shirt to commemorate his appearances for Red Bull Bragantino and recently made a big money move to Russia with Zenit St.Petersburg



# PANINI'S ITALIA '90 STICKERS

# NOT FOR DADS



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