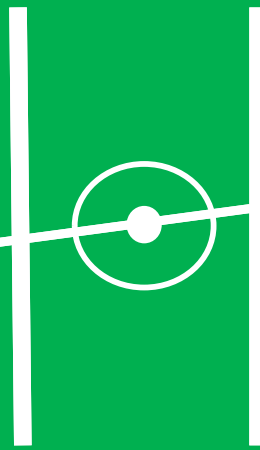


The



Halfway Line



# Football League Special



- Record holders & heroes
- Special Q&A with former Birmingham City, Cardiff City, and Sheffield Wednesday defender Darren Purse
- Plus all the usual favourite features

## Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

Welcome back and thank you for downloading issue number 16 of The Halfway Line. It's only our second issue of the year, a similar total appearance number to that of Andrew Cole's Arsenal career. Fair to say he did OK once he'd left. Fear not we at the HWL aren't going anywhere, we've just been super busy trying to put together another cracking issue for our readers.

So much has happened in the last 6 months but difficult to avoid what's going on right now. It's December and there is a World Cup going on! It's weird, right? A winter World Cup? Like having a roast dinner but not on a Sunday, or walking up an escalator that's not working. Just feels totally unnatural.

How's this for a World Cup stat? The top 5 Premier League clubs to provide players for this World Cup will come as no surprise. Man City (16), Man Utd (14), Chelsea (12), Tottenham Hotspur (11), and Arsenal (10). But which club is number 6?? Brighton & Hove Albion ladies and gentlemen!! That's modern football for you! The Seagulls showing off 8 players for 6 World Cup teams in 2022!!!

Who's going to be the Toto Schillaci or James Rodriguez of the tournament, who's getting the early Christmas present of being crowned champions of the world? What we do know however it should have never been hosted where it is or when it is.

Do you know what else is wrong? (Not anywhere even close to comparison) but the Player of the Year award is given before the end of the season! Winds us up! Why not wait till the end of the season ??

And having been wooed into buying the World Cup panini sticker album what also gets our goat is printing the album before the squads are announced!!! Attention to detail!! Not a big ask is it??

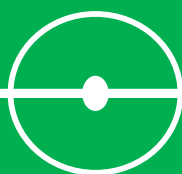
A quick nod to our issue 7, where we questioned the inability to replace the irreplaceable (available at our website if you need your memory refreshing at [www.thehalfwayline.org](http://www.thehalfwayline.org) )

We described Manchester United's problems in replacing Cristiano Ronaldo in the number 7 shirt. Well since our last issue it's even proven that Cristiano Ronaldo can't even replace himself having now left the Old Trafford side in acrimonious circumstances.

To this issue, our number 16. We take time in this issue to celebrate the English Football League, so often in the shadows of the Premier League but offers so much, including individual heroes that we profile, as well as an HWL first. We had the privilege of interviewing a former Football League (& Premier League) professional in a new feature 1-11. We're chuffed with the new feature and we hope you love it also.

Fear not, we've tried to fill the issue with all the usual features as well, looking at Serie A teams of one nationality, greatest kits, Best XIs, and much much more.

So grab your 'got, got, needs' for your World Cup sticker album, let us know what you need and we can swapsies, then put your vuvuzela down and settle down with our latest issue, and please, if you can, enjoy.



David James - With 572 Premier League appearances he sits 5<sup>th</sup> in the all-time list, and highest appearance maker in the competition by a goalkeeper

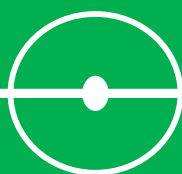


# The Halfway Line Up

- 3 – Hat-Trick heroes best ever XI
- 5 – Classic Kits
- 11 – Serie A Best Nations XI
- 20 – Country focus
- 22 – Boot room
- 24 – Treatment Room
- 26 – Historical Line-Ups
- 32 – Team Line-Ups 1 to 14...
- 48 – Who is playing against who?
- 53 – The HWL 1-11 questions to a professional footballer
- 59 – Football League heroes
- 75 – Team feature: Ajax Amsterdam
- 90 – Isle of Scilly derby
- 91 – Defunct trophies
- 93 – Forgot they played for them
- 97 – Quiz Time – World Cup Special
- 99 – Page number glossary
- 100 – What's coming up in the next HWL issue?



(Players in the World Cup panini album NOT at the World Cup!!)



Dan Petrescu - Romanian right-back who played for Foggia & Genoa in Serie A and for Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea, Bradford City & Southampton in the Premier League



# Hat-trick heroes best ever XI

Here's our best world XI in terms of scoring hat-tricks. We've searched the globe for the best and most bizarre hat-trick hero-scoring antics from players in their natural positions.

**Jose Luis Chilavert** - In 1999, he became the first goalkeeper known to score a hat-trick in the history of football, while playing for Vélez Sarsfield against Ferro Carril Oeste, scoring all three goals through penalties.

**Steve Watson** - Scored three goals against Leeds United on 28 September 2003 for Everton, making him the only defender to score a hat-trick in the Premier League.

**Naldo** – Scored a hat-trick against Eintracht Frankfurt, which ended as a 6–2 win for Werder Bremen on 9 December 2006, and became the only defender to score a hat-trick in the Bundesliga.

**Siniša Mihajlović** – Scored a hat-trick from free-kicks in Serie A, a feat which he accomplished during his time with Lazio, in a 5–2 win over Sampdoria, on 13 December 1998.

**Layvin Kurzawa** – On 31 October 2017, Kurzawa scored a hat-trick for PSG against Anderlecht in the Champions League group phase. Kurzawa became the first defender in modern Champions League history to achieve this feat in the competition.

**Giuseppe Giannini** – Scored a hat-trick of penalties for Roma in the 1993 Coppa Italia final, only to lose 5-5 on away goals to Torino

**Marcos Assuncao** – Free-kick specialist scored an away hat-trick of free-kicks for Santos against 2<sup>nd</sup> division Bahia on 1 March 1998 in the first leg of the second round of the 1998 Copa do Brasil.

**Sadio Mané** – On 16 May 2015, during Southampton's final home match of the season, Mané scored three times in 2 minutes 56 seconds in a 6–1 win over Aston Villa to set a new Premier League record for the fastest hat-trick, beating Robbie Fowler's previous record.

**Cristiano Ronaldo** – Holds the record for the most number of hat-tricks for a national team, having scored 10 for Portugal (also currently the active player with the most career hat-tricks at 60!)

**Pele** – Holds the record for the youngest player to strike three times in a FIFA World Cup match after achieving the feat in 1958 and also 92 career hat-tricks puts him in the Guinness book of records as the player with the most hat-tricks scored.

**Gabriel Batistuta** – Is the only player in football history to score two hat-tricks in different World Cups.



Taye Taiwo - Nigerian left-back played for Marseille over 250 times followed by less successful spells at AC Milan and Queens Park Rangers





# Hat-trick heroes best ever XI



Demetrio Albertini – Played over 400 games for AC Milan and won 79 caps for Italy but did you know he played for Atletico Madrid & Barcelona as well?



# Classic Kits

We've looked at a plethora of shirts in the past 15 issues, ones from the past and the present but as this issue is focusing somewhat on the Football League, we thought we would take a trip down memory lane and show off the home kits of the English clubs who competed in the last season in the top division before the Premier League came and took over in 1992. Leeds United were the English Champions, and West Ham United, Luton Town, and Notts County were relegated, and sadly for the former two clubs, have yet to reach the dizzy heights since.

The clubs, the shirt manufacturers, and the sponsors were;

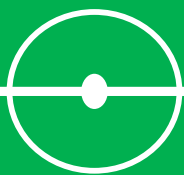
- Arsenal** – Adidas – JVC
- Aston Villa** – Umbro – Mita Copiers
- Chelsea** – Umbro – Commodore International
- Coventry City** – Asics – Peugeot
- Crystal Palace** – Bukta – Tulip Computers NV
- Everton** – Umbro – NEC
- Leeds United** – Umbro – Yorkshire Evening Post
- Liverpool** – Adidas – Candy
- Luton Town** – Umbro – Universal Salvage Auctions
- Manchester City** – Umbro – Brother Industries
- Manchester United** – Adidas – Sharp
- Norwich City** – Asics – Asics
- Nottingham Forest** – Umbro – Shipstones (home) Labatts (away)
- Notts County** – Matchwinner – Home Bitter (home) McEwan's Lager (away)
- Oldham Athletic** – Umbro – Bovis
- Queens Park Rangers** – Brooks – Brooks (Pet Hate!!)
- Sheffield United** – Umbro – Laver
- Sheffield Wednesday** – Umbro – Mr. Tom (from January)
- Southampton** – Admiral – Draper Tools
- Tottenham Hotspur** – Umbro – Holsten
- West Ham United** – Bukta – BAC Windows
- Wimbledon** – Admiral – no sponsor

Take a look at some of our favourites from above



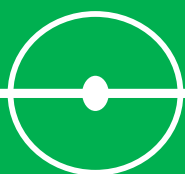
Lee Sharpe - 3 Premier League titles with Manchester United and PFA Young Player of Year in 1991 but surprisingly only 8 England caps won in his career





Ousmane Dabo - French defensive midfielder played for 5 Serie A clubs but perhaps better known for Joey Barton hitting him and suffering a suspected detached retina as a result whilst at Manchester City





Diego Fuser - Former AC Milan, Fiorentina, Lazio, Roma, and Parma right-sided midfielder with 25 Italian caps to his name







Freddy Rincon - Part of the golden generation of Colombian players, Rincon played on the biggest stage with Palmeiras, Real Madrid, and Napoli and played in 3 World Cups for his country





BACK ROW (left to right): Graham Stuart, Gareth Hall, Damien Matthew, Kevin Hitchcock, Steve Clarke, Graeme Le Saux, Keir McAllister.

MIDDLE ROW: Eddie Niedzwiecki (reserve team coach), Bob Ward (physio), David Lee, Kerry Dixon, Paul Elliott, Dave Beasant, Ken Monkou, Erland Johnsen, Alan Dickens, Gwyn Williams (asst. manager), David Collyer (youth team coach).

FRONT ROW: Jason Cundy, Dennis Wise, Gordon Durie, Ian Porterfield (manager), Andy Townsend, Tommy Boyd, Kevin Wilson.

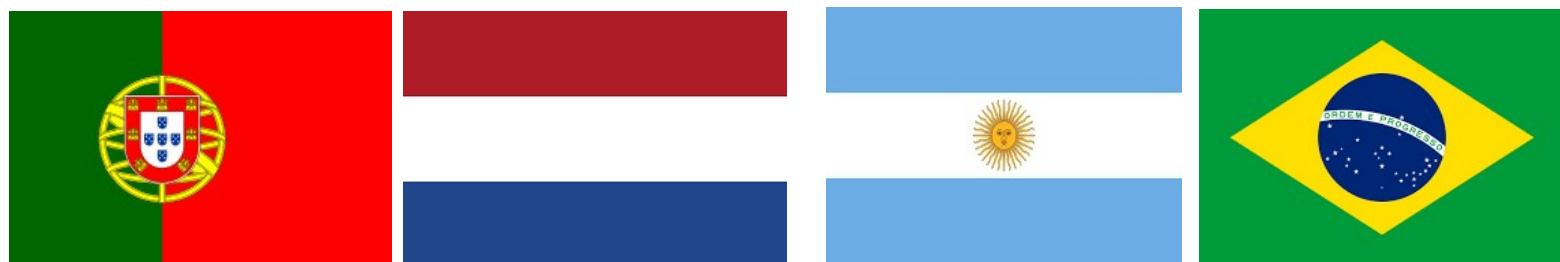
**Shoot!**



Tammy Abraham - The first English player in thirty years to score more than 10 goals in a Serie A season doing so for Roma in 2021/22



# The Serie A Greatest Nations XI

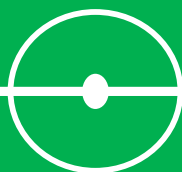


As confirmed in our 15<sup>th</sup> issue, we can no longer bring you a Premier League greatest XI from one nation. We have exhausted all countries. Fear not, however, we can simply mix up our leagues and bring in a new feature.

In this issue, we bring you the greatest Serie A line-ups that only includes players from one nation. In this issue, we are bringing you Serie A talents from **Portugal, Holland, Argentina, and Brazil!**

These are not based on statistics, appearances, goals, or 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 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, that the feature sticks to a rigid 4-4-2 formation and won't be changed to fit 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?



Andy King - Won the League One, Championship, and Premier League with Leicester City in 2009, 2014, & 2016 making him the first and only player to win the top three divisions with the same team in the Premier League era



# Best Portugal Serie A XI

There are only 3 real options for the number 1 jersey, and the fact that Luis Maximiano has played just once for Lazio and got sent off makes it easy to pick between Eduardo (Genoa) and Rui Patricio. We are picking the latter as he deserves his spot having fitted into Jose Mourinho's Roma side very smoothly.

At right-back, we have options based on names & reputations as opposed to impressive performances. Cedric (Inter) and Diogo Dalot (Milan) arrived on loan, and Abel Xavier spent time at Bari and Roma, albeit a decade apart. We pick however a player Juventus must regret letting go. A swap deal that meant Juventus got Danilo and cash saw Joao Cancelo move to Manchester City and become one of the world's best right-backs.

There is less competition at left-back, and we could have picked another Juventus full-back, this time Dimas, who in his 2 seasons at Juve, won 2 league titles, but we are going for the less fashionable Mario Rui, who for a decade has played in Italy, with Parma, Gubbio, Spezia, Empoli, Roma and where he is known for best, Napoli.

At centre-back, we looked at options such as Jorge Andrade (Juventus) and Rolando (Napoli & Inter) but we stick with 2 international stalwarts for Portugal. Fernando Couto marshalled the defence of both Parma and Lazio and plays alongside Bruno Alves, who also played for Parma as well as Cagliari.

In midfield, we are blessed with some serious talent. First, we list the unlucky ones. Costinha (Atalanta), Bruno Fernandes (Udinese & Sampdoria), Joao Mario, Ricardo Quaresma & Maniche (Inter), Nani (Lazio & Venezia), Tiago (Juventus) and Miguel Veloso (Genoa & Verona). None of them picked!

The 4 selected players somewhat pick themselves.

Luis Figo joined Inter Milan in 2005, played for 4 seasons, won 4 Serie A titles and then retired. Not bad. Rui Costa arrived in Florence in 1994, won the hearts of the Fiorentina fans, also won 2 Coppa Italia's, and then won a great deal more at AC Milan. His partner in the middle is the more defensive-minded Paulo Sousa. Although he played for Inter and Parma, his Serie A legacy is at Juventus. League and European success saw to that. On the left-hand side, perhaps the least fashionable of the 4 is Sergio Conceicao. He also played for Inter Milan and Parma but his first stint at Lazio was his best, enjoying League and Cup Winners Cup success.

Attacking and upfront options are odd. Rui Barrios in the 80s had the unenviable task of replacing Platini at Juventus. Paulo Futre joined Reggiana and AC Milan without a fully functioning knee, and the likes of Helder Postiga, Nuno Gomes, Hugo Almeida and Andre Silva never lived up to their promise.

No surprise then we select Cristiano Ronaldo for his 3-year spell at Juventus, scoring 101 goals in 134 games and partnering him up front is the new kid on the block at AC Milan, Rafael Leao, who in his 3.5 seasons at the club seems to be getting better and better and better each year.

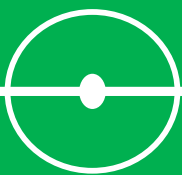


Giuseppe Signori - Won the Serie A top-scorer award three times, all with Lazio, and is 9th in the top ten scorers in Serie A history





MY GREATEST 11



Tyrell Malacia - Manchester United's Dutch left-back having signed from Feyenoord in 2022



# Best Dutch Serie A XI

This was always going to be a tough one, as in reality, only 8 spots are up for grabs in this XI, as 3 are auto-picks. We'll get to them.

In goal is a choice of 2 good goalkeepers who never really got the time to shine in Italy. Maarten Stekelenburg at Roma and Edwin van der Sar at Juventus and we'll stick with the latter due to van der Sar playing more games.

Right-back, there were some pretenders like Michael Reiziger (AC Milan) and Gregory van der Wiel (Cagliari) but instead, we go for Rick Karsdorp, rejuvenated at Roma and muscles out newcomer Denzel Dumfries at Inter.

Left-back there is less of a choice and really by default, we select Urby Emanuelson having represented AC Milan, Roma, Atalanta, and Verona.

At centre-back we have a few more options, and luckily none of them are Winston Bogarde. Matthijs De Ligt was not at Juventus long enough, and Wesley Hoedt also beaten to the starting XI. The 2 starters are the giant Jaap Stam, for stints at Lazio and AC Milan, and Stefan De Vrij, also at Lazio and now at Inter Milan.

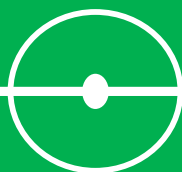
Midfield and we have our first default starter, and it's Frank Rijkaard. 2 League titles, and 2 European Cups tell just half the story. Alongside him, is a player he'd win a 3<sup>rd</sup> European Cup with, but at Ajax and that is Edgar Davids. The pit-bull midfielder struggled at AC Milan, but excelled at Juventus and even fitted in a short spell at Inter Milan.

Other central midfielders who were considered were Wim Jonk (Inter), Marten de Roon (Atalanta), Kevin Strootman (Roma, Genoa & Cagliari), Mark Van Bommel (AC Milan), and Aron Winter (Lazio & Inter)

Fitting in the other two players was a must, and they'll be given a free license in midfield. Firstly Clarence Seedorf. His spells at Sampdoria and Inter Milan were eclipsed by his spell at AC Milan. The complete modern midfielder plays alongside Wesley Sneijder, who is picked for his influential spell at the San Siro with Inter Milan, resulting in the 2010 triple under Jose Mourinho. Shout out to Bryan Roy, who misses out despite holding his own at Foggia in the early 90s, but no shout out to Andy van der Meyde who flopped at Inter Milan.

The front 2 need no introduction. Both former World Players' of the Year, Marco van Basten and Ruud Gullit. Unbelievable success at AC Milan (with Rijkaard) and they made it feel like they were the footballing Harlem Globetrotters. Gullit even enjoyed a successful stint at Sampdoria once his Milan love affair ended. Just a shame the footballing world was robbed of more of van Basten due to injuries.

Those who tried to emulate and failed were the Kluiverts (Patrick and Justin) at AC Milan and Roma respectively, Dennis Bergkamp at Inter Milan, and Klass-Jan Huntelaar at AC Milan.



Davide Astori - Former Fiorentina defender and captain tragically died at the just of just 31 from natural causes in 2018





MY GREATEST 11



Dries Mertens - Belgium striker moved from PSV to Napoli to become the clubs' all-time top goalscorer, before moving to Turkey with Galatasaray



# Best Argentinian Serie A XI

First up it's the battle between the sticks. Well, not so much of a battle! Sergio Romero (Sampdoria & Venezia) against Juan Pablo Carrizo of Lazio, Inter, and Catania fame. The former World Cup finalist gets the nod.

Competition increases for defensive positions but it is a no-brainer for right-back with Inter Milan legend with 858 appearances, Javier Zanetti instead of Nelson Vivas who mustered a mere 19 for *I Nerazzurri*

Neither Juan Pablo Sorin (Juventus) nor Gabriel Heinze (Roma) got too much time as the first-team left-backs and so we are going for Nicolas Burdisso who spent time with Inter (4 league titles), Genoa, Roma, and Torino.

Centre-backs who had a shout were Roberto Ayala, Federico Fazio, and Mateo Musacchio whom all had a go, but difficult to look beyond Walter Samuel who was colossal for Roma and Inter Milan and perhaps a surprise choice in Jose Chamot who performed admirably with Pisa, Foggia, Lazio, and AC Milan.

Into midfield and it's an abundance of talent. We'll list all the defensive midfielders in with a shout. Esteban Cambiasso (Inter), Mathias Almeyda (Lazio, Parma, Inter & Brescia), Lucas Biglia (Lazio & AC Milan), Diego Simeone (Inter Milan & Lazio) Rodrigo De Paul (Udinese) and Fernando Redondo (AC Milan). Unbelievably none get in the side!!

Instead, we go attack minded!! First up with success at Sampdoria, Parma, Lazio, and Inter Milan is Juan Sebastian Veron alongside the legend that is Diego Maradona. Domestic and European success with Napoli and now has their stadium named after him, he really is one of the all-time greats.

On the wings, we are going Joaquin Correa who has excelled at Lazio and Inter, and supported on the left we have Paulo Dybala who was ace at Palermo, Juventus, and now Roma. Those others unlucky not to play; we'll throw in Angel Di Maria (Juventus), Kily Gonzalez (Inter) and Javier Pastore (Palermo & Roma).

Upfront, it's such a shame we can only play 2!!! Look at some of the calibre of goal scorers here. Abel Balbo (Udinese, Roma, Parma & Fiorentina), Julio Cruz (Bologna, Inter Milan, Lazio), Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli), Gonzalo Higuain (Napoli, Juventus & AC Milan), Rodrigo Palacios (Genoa, Brescia, Inter Milan & Bologna), Mauro Icardi (Sampdoria & Inter Milan), Claudio Caniggia (Hellas Verona, Roma & Atalanta) Carlos Tevez (Juventus) and even Diego Milito (Genoa & Inter Milan), wow - that's some role call.

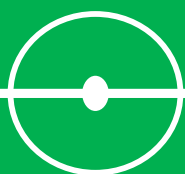
But the 2 starters have earned their strips. Gabriel Batistuta at Fiorentina and Roma (and lesser extent Inter Milan) was world-class and scored every type of goal, but mostly absolute bangers!!! Next to Batigol is Hernan Jorge Crespo. Goals, goals and goals!! And that was at every club, Parma, Lazio, Inter Milan, AC Milan, and Genoa. A master craftsman.



Harry Maguire - In 2019 moved to Manchester United from Leicester City for a fee believed to be £80 million, a world-record amount for a defender







Edouard Mendy - Equalled the record for the most clean sheets in a UEFA Champions League season with nine, ending with another clean sheet in the 2020/21 final



# Best Brazilian Serie A XI

The world's best and favourite footballing nation. Turns out their players travel pretty well to Italy as well!!

In goal, it was a tough call. The original was Claudio Taffarel at Parma and Reggiana up against the quality of Alisson and Doni (Roma) and Julio Cesar (Inter Milan) but instead we've plumped for Dida of AC Milan. +200 league appearances, a League title, and a double Champions League winner make him a solid pick.

Defence is a funny one, as Brazil aren't renowned for the skill, but we have a solid back 4. The stand-out player is Cafu. The train, I mean right-back was exceptional for both Roma and AC Milan. The likes of Dani Alves, Cicinho, and Maicon stood no chance. Left-back was tougher, with it easy to forget Roberto Carlos was an Inter Milan player for a season. He and Alex Sandro are worthy options as well as Branco at Genoa & Brescia but we go for the quiet but successful Maxwell at Inter Milan.

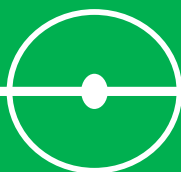
For centre-back, we looked at the early 90s Juventus defender Julio Cesar, Bremer (Torino & Juventus), Andre Cruz (Napoli & AC Milan), Marquinhos (Roma), Juan (Roma) Juan Jesus (Inter Milan & Roma), Lucio (Inter) and even Antonio Carlos Zago (Roma). The latter was close but we've gone for Roma colleague Aldair to pair up with AC Milan rock Roque Junior. Joke!!! We mean Thiago Silva who was terrific for *I Rossoneri*.

In midfield, we've tried to keep players in their positions to maintain some balance. Holding it together we had options of Dunga, Allan, Felipe Melo, and Mazinho but tough to look beyond Emerson who was top drawer at Roma, Juventus, and AC Milan. The free role, the desired number 10, had plenty of options. Rivaldo, Ronaldinho, Robinho, and Leonardo at AC Milan never perhaps got to levels produced at other clubs but the Milanese man who did produce top form was Kaka. Wide attacking midfielders like Felipe Anderson (Lazio), Douglas Costa (Juventus), and Hernanes (Lazio, Inter & Juventus) all performed well but the spots go to Serginho (great longevity at AC Milan) and Paulo Sergio at Roma - both super players with hard work, grace and of course Brazilian technical ability.

Don't judge me, the absence of 80 superstars like Falcao, Cerezo, Socrates, and Zico is down to me never seeing them play.

Up front, it's a bit of a surprise looking at what's on offer. Marcos Amoroso won a Serie A golden boot with Udinese and also played for Parma and AC Milan, and Alexander Pato 'burst' onto the scene at AC Milan but there isn't a massive choice outside of our chosen 2. Few shouts out for Careca at Napoli and Edmundo at Fiorentina (and Napoli) but the 2 starters are Ronaldo and Adriano.

Ronaldo never won the desired Serie A title win Inter Milan but his move for the club captured the imagination of football fans around the world. Goodness only knows what could have been if fitness had blessed him longer. An uninspiring follow-up stint at rivals AC Milan didn't put his position in doubt. Alongside the Phenomenon is Adriano. Time spent at Parma, Fiorentina, and Roma was all a support act for his main performance at Inter Milan, where he played the best football of his career.

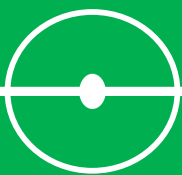


Cristian Romero - Argentine centre-back plying his trade with Tottenham Hotspur having moved from Atalanta. Was on the books of Juventus but never played a Serie A game for them





MY GREATEST 11



Giovanni Simeone - Diego's son making a name for himself in Serie A with Napoli having previously played and scored for Genoa, Fiorentina, Cagliari and Hellas Verona



# COUNTRY FOCUS

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



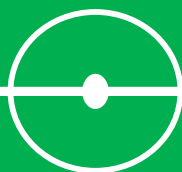
The Colombian Football Federation is the governing body of football in Colombia. It was founded in 1924 and has been affiliated with FIFA since 1936. It is a member of CONMEBOL and is in charge of the Colombia national football team.

The national team is nicknamed Los Cafeteros due to the coffee production in their country and they play their home fixtures at the El Metro in Barranquilla.

The Colombian team has participated in six World Cups (1962, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2014 and 2018). In the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, the team achieved its best World Cup performance, reaching the quarter-finals and coming fifth in the final standings. Its greatest international achievement is winning the Copa América in 2001 as hosts, also setting a new record with no goals conceded and every match won.

The Colombian team's most capped player is David Ospina, the current goalkeeper. He has amassed 127 caps since winning his first in 2007. The highest-capped outfield player is Juan Cuadrado, with 113 caps, overtaking perhaps the most famous of Colombian internationals, Carlos Valderrama (111). The midfield maestro, world-renowned for his style of haircut, as well as his footballing abilities.

The highest goal scorer for the Colombian nation team is Radamel Falcao. The former River Plate, Porto and Atletico Madrid marksman has scored 36 goals in 102 internationals since his debut in 2007.



Kennet Andersson - Towering centre forward who scored 5 goals for Sweden at the 1994 World Cup finals in USA. Played for Bari, Bologna and Lazio in Italy



The División Mayor del Fútbol Profesional Colombiano , also known by the truncation DIMAYOR, is the organisation responsible for operating professional football leagues and tournaments in Colombia. It administers the top two levels of professional football leagues in Colombia, the Primera A, and the Primera B, as well as the Colombian Superliga and Copa Colombia, Colombia's domestic football cups.



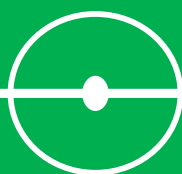
20 teams compete in the Categoría Primera A League, including the most successful domestic team, Atletico Nacional, who have 17 league titles on their honours list. The Medellin-based club are also the current champions. The closest teams in terms of league titles are Bogota club Millonarios (15 titles) and Cali-based rivals America de Cali (15) and Deportivo Cali (10).

The record appearance maker in the top Colombian league is Colombian midfielder Gabriel Berdugo, who played 773 times from 1973-1981, mostly for club side Junior FC. The league's greatest-ever goal scorer is actually an Argentine, **Sergio Galvan Rey**, who struck 224 times from 1996-2011. Most of his goals were for the unfashionable Once Caldas side, but he also scored goals for Atletico Nacional, America de Cali and Santa Fe.

In terms of Colombia's representation in England, there have been 22 Colombians to play in the Premier League, with varying success.

The stand-out name is Faustino Asprilla for his time at Newcastle United, albeit winning nothing. Hugo Rodallega and Hamilton Ricard scored plenty of goals for unfancied teams, and Luis Diaz looks like an extremely exciting talent on the flanks for Liverpool.

Juan Pablo Angel spent 7 seasons at Aston Villa, but sadly left with the worst scoring-penalty ratio in the league (ever) with 10 taken and 5 of those missed!!



Domenico Morfeo – Creative and diminutive midfielder played for Atalanta, Fiorentina, AC Milan, Cagliari, Verona, Inter Milan, Parma and Brescia yet never won an Italian cap



# THE BOOT ROOM

## ADIDAS PREDATOR TOUCH - 1996

The third Adidas Predator release, in 1996 was the 'Touch.' Compared to the first two efforts, this is head and shoulders above them. It strikes us as the first real commercial offering of the Predator.

Firstly the size of the tongue! It is of Anteater proportions and we are not complaining. We absolutely love the contrasting red against the largely black boot. Secondly the oversized lettering of Adidas on the tongue, and the brand logo on the heel of the boot. Thirdly, and perhaps why the commercial aspect springs to mind, it's really the first Predator boot that got exposure to a major international tournament.

The sight of Gazza chipping the ball over Colin Hendry's head, and volleying past Andy Goram in a pair of Adidas Predator Touch boots at Euro '96 is really a sight to be seen.

N.B David Beckham scoring from 'The Halfway Line' against Wimbledon in a pair of Touch did their popularity no harm either in August of the same year.



Sergej Milinkovic-Savic - Serbian midfielder won Serie A midfielder of the year in 2018/19 season whilst playing for Lazio, who he has played for over 300 times since 2015





Antonio Rudiger - Pacey German centre-back played for Roma and Chelsea before the 2022 summer move to Real Madrid



# TREATMENT ROOM

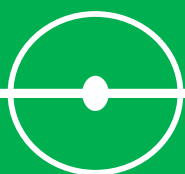
## Calf Strain

A pulled calf muscle, or a calf muscle strain, occurs when the muscles in your calf — the soleus and gastrocnemius — get overstretched.

The calf muscles are in your lower leg behind your shin bone and extend from the base of your thigh down to your heel. They help you flex and bend your foot, ankle, and knee. A calf strain can cause pain and prevent you from running, jumping, and doing other activities.

Anyone can get a pulled calf muscle. But these strains are more common in athletes who perform lots of stop-and-go movements with quick bursts of speed. Sprinters, football players, soccer players, and tennis players are prone to pull calf muscles. Sometimes the injury is called “tennis leg.”

One study estimated that calf strains make up about 1.3% of all lower limb injuries in runners. Another study of football players identified gastrocnemius strains as making up 12% of all muscle injuries. Gastrocnemius strains (near the middle of the calf) are more common than soleus strains (the lower calf, closer to the heel).



Jamie Carragher - One club man who played 737 times for Liverpool winning 12 major trophies from 1996 to 2013





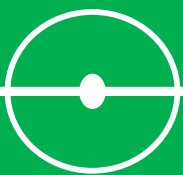
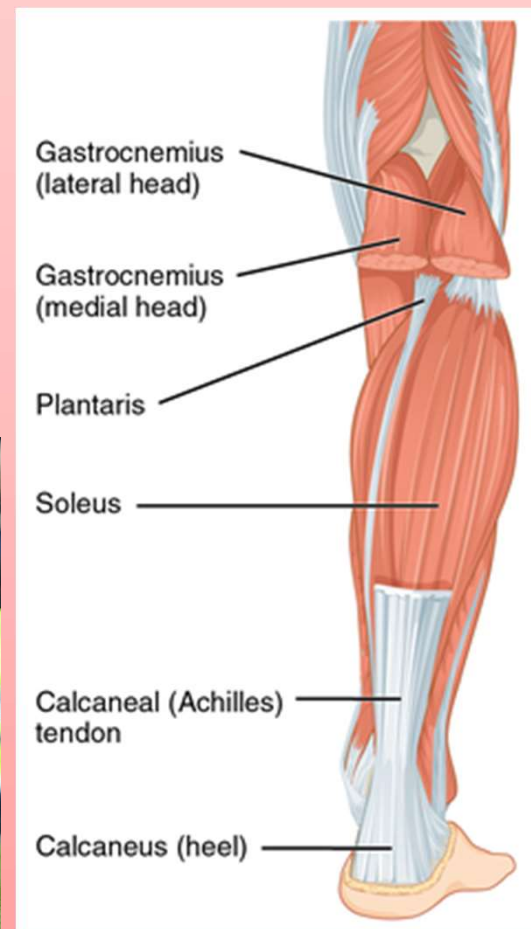
## How are pulled calf muscles treated?

Immediate treatment for pulled calf muscles usually includes RICE, which stands for:

- Rest:** Stop running or physical activity to avoid further damaging the calf.
- Ice:** Apply an ice pack or cold compress for 20 minutes every two hours. Don't apply ice directly to your skin.
- Compression:** Reduce swelling and fluid build-up by applying a compression bandage or wrap to the injured area.
- Elevation:** Lift your leg into an elevated position, preferably above the level of your heart. Support the entire length of your leg with pillows, blankets or cushions.

## Will I need surgery for a pulled calf muscle?

Complete calf muscle tears usually require surgery. A surgeon makes an incision in your calf and reattaches the two ends of your muscle with stitches.



Reece James - Chelsea attacking right-back came through the ranks at Stamford Bridge and is arguably one of the world's best in his position



# Historical Line Ups

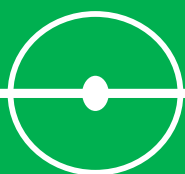
In this issue of Historical Line-ups, we are looking back at the EFL trophy finals, and selecting 5 winners.

The English Football League Trophy, currently known for sponsorship purposes as the Papa Johns Trophy, is an annual English association football knockout competition open to all clubs in EFL League One and EFL League Two, with the addition of 16 under-21 teams from Premier League and EFL Championship clubs since the 2016-17 season. It is the 3rd most prestigious knockout competition in English football after the FA Cup and the EFL Cup.

The 5 finals and winners we are showing here are;

- 1) 1994/95 – Birmingham City 1 – 0 Carlisle United. 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1995
- 2) 1998/99 – Wigan Athletic 1 – 0 Millwall. 18<sup>th</sup> April 1999
- 3) 2004/05 – Wrexham 2 – 0 Southend United. 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005
- 4) 2005/06 – Swansea City 2 – 1 Carlisle United. 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006
- 5) 2009/10 – Southampton 4 – 1 Carlisle United. 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Check out the line-ups, and see if you recognise any players who went on to perform in the Premier League, or alternatively, used their Premier League experience to help their new Football League team to EFL success.



Moussa Dembele - French forward impressed at Celtic after leaving Fulham but never convinced at Lyon and Atletico Madrid





Francis  
Tait

Claridge

Otto

Shearer  
Donowa

Hunt

Ward

Cooper

Daish

Barnett

Poole

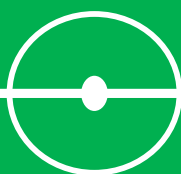
Bennett

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1995

Birmingham 1-0 Carlisle United

Paul Tait (103)

Manager: Barry Fry



Kaliou Koulibaly - Senegalese centre-back was outstanding for Napoli over 8 seasons before making a move to the Premier League signing for Chelsea for £33m in 2022





18<sup>th</sup> April 1999

Wigan Athletic 1-0 Millwall

Paul Rogers (90)

Manager: Ray Mathias



Mikael Silvestre - French left-sided centre-back impressed at Manchester United but less so at Inter Milan and Arsenal



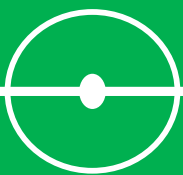


10<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Wrexham 1-0 Southend United

Juan Ugarte (99) Darren Ferguson (118)

Manager: Denis Smith



Mathieu Valbuena - Former French and Marseille attacker was linked to the Karim Benzema blackmail case as the accused. Won over 50 caps for France





2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006

Swansea City 2-1 Carlisle United Murray (40)

Lee Trundle (3) Ade Akinfenwa (81)

Manager: Kenny Jackett



Krisztian Nemeth - Slovakian youth player at Liverpool, never making the grade before moves across Europe including Olympiakos in Greece





28<sup>th</sup> March 2010

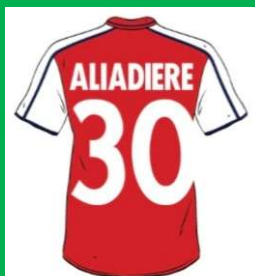
Southampton 4-1 Carlisle United Madine (84)

Lambert (15) Lallana (44) Waigo (50) Antonio (60)

Manager: Alan Pardew



Jeremie Aliadere - Part of the Arsenal invincible team, the French forward spent time on loan at Celtic, Wolves, and West Ham United



# TEAM LINE-UPS 1-11

Do you remember, back in 'the good old days' when your team would line up on a Saturday at 3 pm, with the players wearing the shirts numbered 1 to 11? Then you'd have 2 subs on the bench, 12 & 13. Sometimes, for superstitious reasons, there would be a 14 instead of 13.

This spurred us on to see if we could mess around with a few line-ups and see if we could actually field a team of 11, but all wearing the same shirt numbers in the new squad number world, and thought we'd do it for shirt numbers 1 through to 14. Why not hey?

The amazing discovery is we could! The only exception is that of team number 4, where we couldn't discover a keeper wearing that number, so we had to improvise. Take a look and see how bizarre some of these are. Granted, some numbers fit nicely to a position, but we've tried to place the most bizarre number choices in the formations, sticking to the player's position.

All these players have worn the numbers in a match, so yes there are strikers in a number 2 shirt, and a goalkeeper wearing the 10 shirt, which is wrong on so many levels!

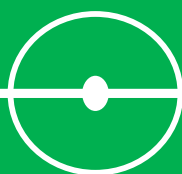


Ademola Lookman – English turned Nigerian winger looked primed for big things moving to Everton from Charlton at 19 years old but spent large periods out on loan. Now impressing at Atalanta in Serie A





# No.1s



Wesley Fofana - Chelsea's latest centre-back purchase started his career at St. Etienne before moving to Leicester City. £70 million for a player yet to win an international cap is a big investment



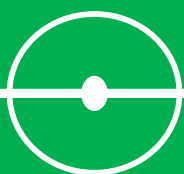
# No.2s



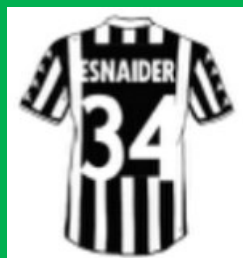
Michael Gray - 3 England caps for the former Sunderland, Celtic, Leeds United, Blackburn Rovers, Wolves, and Sheffield Wednesday left-back but is best know for his playoff final penalty miss in 1998



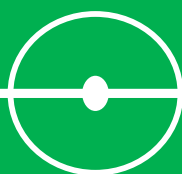
# No.3s



Juan Esnaider - Argentine forward whose goal in the 1995 Cup Winners' Cup final against Arsenal is often forgotten due to Real Zaragoza's winner from Nayim



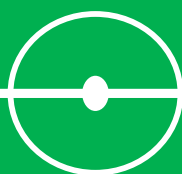
# No.4s



Connor Coady - Wolverhampton Wanderers record Premier League appearance maker and has played for both Liverpool and Everton



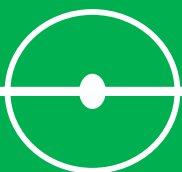
# No.5s



Nigel Quashie - Unfortunate achievement of having been relegated 4 times from the Premier League, just below the record owned Nathan Blake (5)



# No.6s



James Garner - Never made the grade at Manchester United, with only 2 league appearances and so after 3 separate loans made a permanent move to Everton in 2022



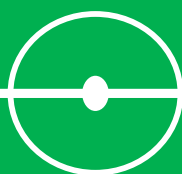
# No.7s



Daizen Maeda - Japanese Celtic forward was the J League top scorer in the 2021 playing for Yokohama F. Marinos, and scored against Croatia in the 2022 World Cup for Japan



# No.8s



Davide Santon - Italian capped left-back made his name at Inter Milan and then perhaps a surprise move to Newcastle United followed before moving back to Inter and then Roma





# No.9s



Ciro Immobile - Started his career at Juventus but it is at Lazio where he has shone, winning the Capocannoniere 3 times with the Rome-based club (and once with Torino) and is their leading goalscorer of all time



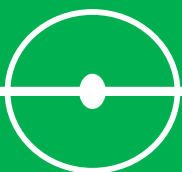
# No.10s



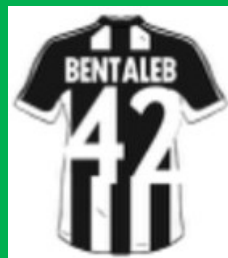
Chris Richards - Young USA defender was on the books of Bayern Munich, playing 5 Bundesliga games before a move to England with Crystal Palace



# No.11s



Nabil Bentaleb - Algerian midfielder was held in high regard at Tottenham Hotspur before a move to Germany with Schalke and then spent time on loan at Newcastle United back in England



# No.12s



Steven Sessegnon - The twin of Ryan, who still plays for Fulham as an attacking full-back, as his brother does at Spurs. Are cousins of Beninese international footballer Stéphane Sessegnon



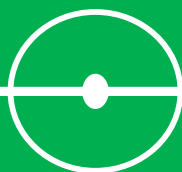
# No.13s



James Tavernier - Glasgow Rangers right-back and captain, has an impressive 96 career goals though never hit the net for his first club, Newcastle United



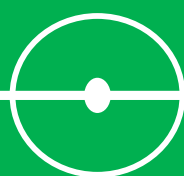
# No.14s



Stephen Elliott - Manchester City youth product made his name at Sunderland and gained international caps for the Republic of Ireland



1	David Seaman	Arsenal	2 Emiliano Viviano	Sampdoria	3 Gilmar	Brazil	44 Fraser Forster	Southampton
1	David Carabkott	Sliema Wanderers	2 Victor Lindelof	Manchester United	3 Bacary Sagna	Arsenal	4 Javier Zanetti	Inter Milan
1	Stuart Balmer	Charlton Athletic	2 Stephane Henchoz	Liverpool	3 Gerard Pique	Barcelona	4 Steve Bruce	Manchester United
1	Edgar Davids	Barnet	2 Thiago Silva	PSG	3 Eric Bailly	Manchester United	4 Ruud Gullit	Chelsea
1	Simon Vukcevic	Partizan	2 Gaizka Toquero	Athletic Bilbao	3 Steve Finnan	Liverpool	4 Kakhaber Kaladze	AC Milan
1	Oswaldo Ardiles	Argentina	2 Abou Diaby	Arsenal	3 Fabinho	Liverpool	4 Nolberto Solano	Newcastle United
1	Pantelis Kafes	Olympiakos	2 Client Dempsey	Tottenham Hotspur	3 Xabi Alonso	Bayern Munich	4 Hal Robson-Kanu	WBA
1	Adolfo Bautista	Guadalajara	2 Hillal Soudani	Nottingham Forest	3 Edgar Davids	Barceloan	4 Kevin Nolan	Bolton
1	Daniel Panca	Besiktas	2 Arouna Kone	Wigan Athletic	3 Jordan Ayew	Swansea	4 Keisuke Honda	Japan
1	Diego Souza	Atletico Mineiro	2 Wilfried Bony	Swansea	3 Asamoah Gyan	Sunderland	4 Nwankwo Kanu	Nigeria
1	Derek Riordan	Hibernian	2 Sandro Wagner	Bayern Munich	3 Nicklas Bendtner	Wolfsburg	4 Emmanuel Adebayor	Togo
5	Luca Bucci	Parma	6 Guillermo Ochea	Club America	7 Luca Bucci	Parma	8 Guillermo Ochea	Standard Liege
5	Pablo Zabaleta	Manchester City	6 Dani Alves	Barcelona	7 Paul Stalteri	Tottenham Hotspur	8 Glen Johnson	Stoke City
5	Rio Ferdinand	Manchester United	6 Tony Adams	Arsenal	7 Spencer Prior	Manchester City	8 Jonathan Woodgate	Middlesbrough
5	Lucas Rabede	Leeds United	6 Franco Baresi	AC Milan	7 Winston Bogarde	Chelsea	8 Marcel Desailly	France
5	Vladimir Labant	West Ham United	6 John Arne Riise	Liverpool	7 Herman Hriedarsson	Portsmouth	8 Bryan Oviedo	Everton
5	Dejan Stankovic	Inter Milan	6 Xavi	Barcelona	7 Cristiano Ronaldo	Manchester United	8 Freddie Ljungberg	Arsenal
5	Gigi Wijnaldum	Liverpool	6 Thiago	Liverpool	7 David Platt	Arsenal	8 Steven Gerrard	Liverpool
5	Zinedine Zidane	Real Madrid	6 Luis Alberto	Liverpool	7 James Milner	Liverpool	8 Frank Lampard	Chelsea
5	Lee Sharpe	Manchester United	6 Youri Djorkaeff	Inter Milan	7 Franck Ribery	Bayern Munich	8 Wayne Rooney	Manchester United
5	Milan Baros	Liverpool	6 Darren Huckerby	Norwich City	7 Eidur Gudjohnsen	Barcelona	8 Ian Wright	Arsenal
5	Diego Forlan	Villarreal	6 Thierry Henry	Juventus	7 Raul	Real Madrid	8 Rod Wallace	Leeds United
9	Jorge Campos	Mexico	10 Cristiano Lupatelli	Chievo Verona	11 Rui Patricio	Wolverhampton Wanderers	12 Julio Cesar	Inter Milan
9	Mauro Tassotti	Italy	10 Lauren	Portsmouth	11 Gianluca Zambrotta	Barcelona	12 Emerson Royal	Tottenham Hotspur
9	Khalid Boulahrouz	Chelsea	10 Lothar Matthaus	Bayern Munich	11 Markus Babbel	Blackburn Rovers	12 Joe Gomez	Liverpool
9	Jorge Rodriguez	Mexico	10 William Gallas	Arsenal	11 Sinisa Mihajlovic	Lazio	12 Sami Hyypia	Liverpool
9	Stuart McKimmie	Scotland	10 Aitor Larrazabal	Athletic Bilbao	11 Aleksander Kolarov	Manchester City	12 Fabio Aurelio	Liverpool
9	Paul Merson	Arsenal	10 David Beckham	Manchester United	11 Dennis Wise	Chelsea	12 Joe Cole	Aston Villa
9	Paul Ince	Middlesbrough	10 Lassana Diarra	Real Madrid	11 Lucas Torreira	Arsenal	12 Victor Wanyama	Tottenham Hotspur
9	Steve Sidwell	Chelsea	10 Felipe Melo	Galatasaray	11 Mesut Ozil	Arsenal	12 Nick Barmby	Liverpool
9	Gareth Bale	Tottenham Hotspur	10 Michael Owen	Liverpool	11 Didier Drogba	Chelsea	12 Julian Joachim	Aston Villa
9	Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid	10 Mark Hughes	Manchester United	11 Karim Benzema	Real Madrid	12 Darius Vassell	Manchester City
9	El Hadji Diouf	Liverpool	10 Les Ferdinand	Newcastle United	11 Ronaldo	Real Madrid	12 Olivier Giroud	Arsenal
			13 Thibault Courtois	Real Madrid	14 Andy Goram	Manchester United		
			13 Jerry Mina	Everton	14 Vegard Heggem	Liverpool		
			13 William Gallas	Chelsea	14 Martin Keown	Arsenal		
			13 Aleksander Kolarov	Manchester City	14 Aymeric Laporte	Manchester City		
			13 Ji Sung Park	Manchester United	14 Alan Wright	Aston Villa		
			13 Michael Bradley	Aston Villa	14 Andrei Kanchelskis	Manchester United		
			13 Michael Ballack	Chelsea	14 Johan Cruyff	Holland		
			13 Aleksander Hleb	Arsenal	14 Xabi Alonso	Liverpool		
			13 Danny Murphy	Fulham	14 David Ginola	Newcastle United		
			13 Karl Heinz Riedle	Liverpool	14 Dion Dublin	Aston Villa		
			13 Brian McClair	Manchester United	14 Thierry Henry	Arsenal		



Bruno Aguiar - Former Benfica midfielder whose most successful club form came at Hearts in Scotland from 2006 to 2009



En football, il faut aller le chercher.



En football, il faut aller le chercher. Nike Air. Choisir de votre performance.



Nathaniel Phillips - English centre-back on Liverpool's books, but at 25 may need a permanent move away in order for development and first-team football





# Who is playing against who?

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

In this issue, we've put together 2 line-ups, and for each team, there is a common theme. You know the deal with this now.

First up, a fixture we have bought up in the past, and it's the El Clasico – rumoured to be the most-watched fixture in the world.

It also features 22 players for the Spanish giants that have played for another club as well, which is the same as all the other players!

All the Real Madrid players in the line-up and all the Barcelona players included have all played for the French giants Paris Saint-Germain.

\*\*\*\*

Next up, we have more rivalry – It's the Nottingham Forest versus Derby County grudge match. The Brian Clough derby, the Steve McClaren derby, the Billy Davies derby!

A strong 11 versus 11, somewhat attacking-minded line-ups, but both teams share a common theme.

Yes, you know it, despite the rivalry between the two sides all 22 players in the teams have represented both clubs in some capacity. Some have featured on loan for one of the two clubs but that is still a valid appearance.



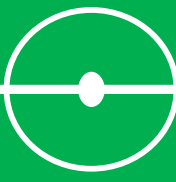
Fabio Carvalho - The Portuguese-born winger signed for Liverpool from Fulham in 2022 for a reported £5 million and suggestions he may switch his international allegiances to England





Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall - Leicester City's midfielder spent time on loan at Blackpool & Luton Town before cementing a place in the Foxes first team squad





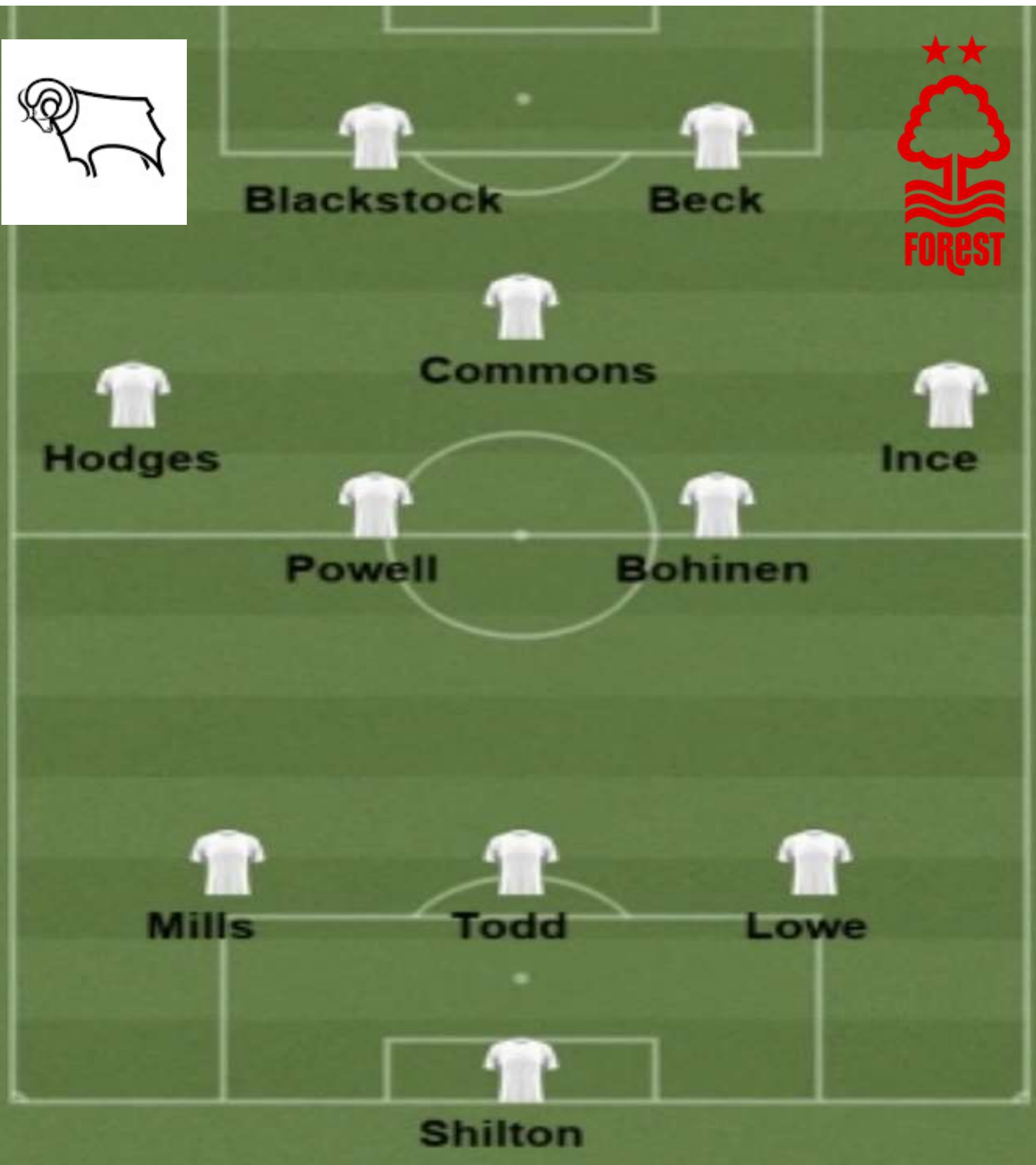
Trevoh Chalobah - Chelsea's English centre-back has now played more games for the Blues than his brother Nathaniel did





Ki-Jana Hoever - Youngest ever Liverpool player in the FA Cup and their third youngest in any competition and 4th youngest goal scorer





Fernando Fonseca - Portuguese right-back who started at Porto and is now at F.C. Paços de Ferreira. Also featured for Portugal at the 2016 Olympics



1

# The Halfway Line

## Professional Footballer

### Questions 1-11!!

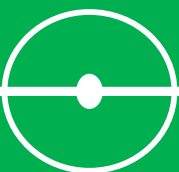
11

In the first of what we hope are many, we've lined up a former Football League & Premier League player to answer a quick-fire round of 11 questions.

Giving an insight into his career in this issue is defender **Darren Purse**.



Purse's career started at Leyton Orient, before a move to Oxford United. Success then followed at Birmingham City before moves to West Bromwich Albion, Cardiff City, Sheffield Wednesday, Millwall, and Plymouth Argyle before calling time on his professional career at Port Vale, having played over 500 first-team appearances.



Marc Guehi - Played and scored for England in the 2017 under-17 World Cup final for England and now has 3 full caps



## Questions 1-11

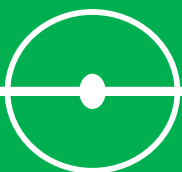
### 1. Beat Ground played at?

Would have to go for the Millennium Stadium. To play in a cup final (2001 for Birmingham City), and score was pretty special, and to win promotion a year later with the club at the same stadium was special. Add the fact its in Cardiff, and I have an affiliation with the area, it has to be the Millennium Stadium.



### 2. Best Manager?

Would have to be Denis Smith when I was at Oxford United. He and his assistant Malcolm Crosby were just really decent human beings, and great at man management and recruitment. Had a real ability to make a group of OK players really perform. Best coach would have to be Jon Sitton at Orient. He took a lot of grief in his career because of the television program, but one of the finest coaches I ever worked under.



Serdar Dursun – German-born Turkish international striker with 7 goals in 10 caps now playing for Fenerbahce, after spells in Germany



### 3. Best player you played with?

The best young player was Aaron Ramsey when I was at Cardiff City, unbelievable player. The best ever player would have to be Christoph Dugarry. Has to be considered one of the best signings ever made in a January window. Was world-class and inspired other players to play better.



### 4. Toughest opponent faced?

In terms of best ever, would have to be Gianfranco Zola or Thierry Henry, both on another planet. Toughest opponent would probably be John Hartson. Lovely person off the pitch but an extremely tough one on the pitch. I can vouch for his elbow being pretty tough as well!



Leo Östigard - Norwegian centre-back plays for Napoli in Serie A but when playing for Brighton he had loan spells at Stoke City and Coventry City





## 5. Pre-Match meal?

Nothing stands out as varied over time, but would often be Chicken & Beans, Beans on toast or Breakfast cereal.

## 6. Superstitions?

Not many. More as a youngest, when I used to like being the last on the pitch, but that had to change when I became captain. I am a tad OCD so I would always do my warm ups in even numbers, but nothing majorly superstitious.



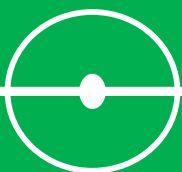
## 7. Favourite boots?

Old school for me, always black and white. Would have to be traditional and say either Adidas Copa Mundials or World Cups. Once had a deal with Valspor, an Italian brand that were nice. In my last game as a professional in England, playing for Port Vale we had won promotion (2013) already and were away to Wycombe Wanderers. Lee Hughes bought me a pair of bright pink boots that I wore, and I made him wear a pair of shiny bright yellows ones! That was the only time I ventured away from black and white.



## 8. Favourite Kit?

Not had one that was favourite, but when at Birmingham we had a white and blue striped one, and the fans christened it the Tesco's bag kit, so that was one of the worst. Would say blue kits hold the best memories for me, what with the success at Birmingham and Cardiff.



Luke Thomas - Leicester City left-back scored his Premier League goal in a 2–1 away victory over Manchester United, to be their first win at Old Trafford since 1998



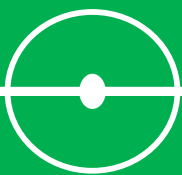
## 9. Career Highlight?

Of course, the Millennium Stadium games and occasions stand out as highlights, but I would also say the promotion-winning season at Port Vale as it was my last professional game. I would also say in 2011-12, helping Plymouth Argyle stay up in League 2 having looked favourites for relegation at Christmas time.



## 10. Biggest Joker?

Probably have to go with Ian Bennett, the keeper at Birmingham City. It's said to be a keeper you have to be a bit mad, and Ian was no different.



Armando Broja - Albanian striker actually came through the youth setup at Tottenham Hotspur before moving to Chelsea



## 11. Worst Ground?

Playing at Molineux against Wolves. Not just because I played for Birmingham and West Brom, although that usually meant an early kick-off because it would be on the TV, but just something about the ground I wasn't a big fan of.



A huge thank you goes out to Darren Purse, for taking the time to speak to The Halfway Line. Purse currently works for the Cardiff U23 and Academy and asked for no fee for this interview, only for a donation to be made to charity.



Thibaut Vion - Former French U20 right-back plays his club football in Bulgaria with CSKA Sofia



# The Football League – history and



## heroes

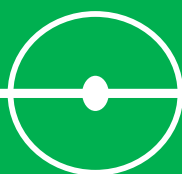


The English Football League (EFL) is a league of professional football clubs from England and Wales. Founded in 1888 as the Football League, the league is the oldest such competition in the world. It was the top-level football league in England from its foundation until 1992 when the top 22 clubs split from it to form the Premier League.

The EFL is divided into the Championship, League One, and League Two, with 24 clubs in each division, 72 in total, with promotion and relegation between them; the top Championship clubs change places with the lowest-placed clubs in the Premier League, and the bottom clubs of League Two with the top clubs of the National League. Although primarily an English competition, several clubs from Wales – currently Cardiff City, Swansea City, and Newport County – also take part.

We know the Championship has proved to be one of the most competitive and one of the hardest leagues to get out of once you're in it. It also provides the playoff final which is titled the richest prize in world football, by gaining access to the Premier League.

What we wanted to highlight in this article is some of the known and unknown heroes of the English Football league. Just because their successes haven't been in the top flight, doesn't mean they don't warrant recognition. Take a look at some of the achievements in longevity, goals, and winning habits.



Nathan Buayi-Kiala - French U19 international on the books of Parma in Italy



# The Football League – history and heroes

## Records

Here are a few Football League records to wet your appetite..

**Youngest player** – Reuben Nobler=Lazarus at 15 years old and 45 days, for Barnsley in 2008

**Oldest player** – Neil McBain at 51 years old and 20 days, for New Brighton in 1947

**Most Consecutive Titles** (3 – Huddersfield Town (1923-1926), Arsenal (1932-1935), Liverpool (1981-1984)

**Most League Appearances** - (Peter Shilton – 1005)

**Most goals in a single season** - (Dixie Dean - 60 - 1927/28)

**Most goals in a single game** - (Joe Payne - 10 - Luton Town v Bristol Rovers, April 1936)

**Most Points in a Season** - (Reading – 106 – 2005/06)

**The fastest goal on a League debut** - 7 seconds, Freddy Eastwood (for Southend United v. Swansea City, 16 October 2004)

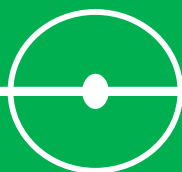
**Fastest hat-trick** - 2 minutes 21 seconds, James Hayter (for Bournemouth v. Wrexham, 23 February 2004)

**Most consecutive league games without a win** - 36, Macclesfield Town (League Two; 2 January to 5 May 2012 and 4 August to 12 October 2018).

**Youngest top-flight goalscorer** - Jason Dozzell\*\*, 16 years and 57 days (for Ipswich Town v. Coventry City, February 1984) (\*\*Before Premier League)

**Highest British Transfer fee paid outside of the Premier League**

- 1) Ruben Neves – Porto to Wolves £15.8m
- 2) Britt Assombalonga – Nottingham Forest to Middlesbrough £15m
- 3) Helder Costa – Wolves to Leeds United – £15m
- 4) Joao Carvalho – Benfica to Nottingham Forest - £13.2m
- 4) Helder Costa (again) Benfica to Wolves - £13m
- 5) Ross McCormack – Fulham to Aston Villa £12m



Jack Young - On Newcastle United's books as a youngster but never made an appearance before a loan and then a permanent move to Wycombe Wanderers



# Football League – history and heroes

## Billy Sharp

Billy Sharp is in pretty good company. He sits on top of a list that includes Wayne Rooney, Jermain Defoe, Sergio Aguero, Frank Lampard, and Harry Kane. The list is the top goal scorers in English football this century! Born in Sheffield, Sharp has signed for Sheffield United on 3 occasions in his career, with the Blades being his first club, and also his current club. Goals there as well as at Rushden & Diamonds, Scunthorpe United, Doncaster Rovers, Southampton, Nottingham Forest, and Leeds United have seen a total of **247** league strikes.



Henry Lawrence - English right-back out on loan to MK Dons from parent club Chelsea



Billy Sharp also sits at the top of another list.  
The **all-time top scorer of the Championship.**

Again, he finds himself in pretty good  
company

- 1) Billy Sharp\* – 128 goals
- 2) Jordan Rhodes\* – 121 goals
- 3) David Nugent – 121 goals
- 4) Ross McCormack – 120
- 5) Lewis Grabban - 112
- 6) Chris Martin\* – 110
- 7) Daryl Murphy – 93
- 8) Troy Deeney\* – 91
- 9) Lukas Jutkiewicz\* – 91
- 10) Nahki Wells\* - 90

\* Indicates they are still playing in the  
Championship



What is great about the top 10 list here, is the number of players that haven't actually scored in the Premier League. They are simply built for the Championship! Only Nugent (14), Grabban (1), Murphy (4), and Deeney (47) scored in the top flight, and Ross McCormack never even got to feature in a game in the Premier League.

When Billy Sharp spent time at Southampton, his strike partner at St. Marys was a certain Rickie Lambert. The very Rickie Lambert that Sharp over took as the highest scorer in English football this century, to top the list.



Regan Hendry - Scottish midfielder played for Raith Rovers on loan from Celtic and then joined permanently before moving south to Forest Green



# Football League – history and heroes

## Rickie Lambert

A lovely segue from the Billy Sharp article to the very striker he knocked off the top spot!

**Rickie Lambert** was born in Merseyside and was on the books of Liverpool from 10 years old before being released at 15.

His journey back there is quite astonishing.

Having failed to shine at Blackpool he joined Macclesfield, as well as working part-time in a beetroot bottling plant. Luckily his goalscoring run in the Football League started.

8 goals for the Silkmen saw a move to Stockport County, which was the club's record signing at the time. Despite promotion to League One, Lambert then made the move to Rochdale. One full season, and 28 goals later, another move, this time to Bristol Rovers

More goals followed at Bristol Rovers, as well as another promotion to League One. His 3<sup>rd</sup> and final full season at Rovers yielded the striker 29 league goals in 45 games. Then came the call from Southampton.



Oguzhan Akgün - Turkish winger who plays for Besiktas and a former Turkish youth international



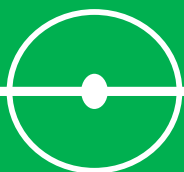


The move certainly raised eyebrows. Southampton paid a £1 million transfer fee whilst a League One club. Turns out it was a great investment. In his first season he was the clubs' top scorer with 36 goals and the top scorer in English football's top four divisions for the second season in succession. The following season was promotion to the Championship and 21 goals, followed by 31 strikes in the 2011/12 season, which saw Southampton return to the Premier League. He scored on his very first Premier League appearance, meaning that Lambert joined a select group of players who have scored in all four league divisions.

More goals followed culminating in 2 outstanding achievements for Lambert. Firstly in 2013, he won a call-up to the England team, and proceeded to score within 2 minutes of coming on as a sub, scoring with his first touch at Wembley!



His form with Southampton saw Lambert then called up to the 2014 World Cup squad, and he played in the group stages for England in the Brazil-hosted tournament. To think it couldn't get any better, Lambert then re-signed for boyhood club Liverpool in 2014, playing, and scoring for them in the Premier League, some 17 years after being released! A shout-out to Lamberts' penalty ability as well. During his time at Southampton, the took, and scored all 36 attempts. Not bad for a beetroot bottler.



Juan Mata - When Chelsea won the UEFA Europa League in 2013, Mata and teammate Fernando Torres were the first players to hold the Champions League, Europa League, World Cup, and European Championships simultaneously



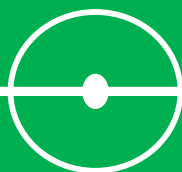
# Football League – history and heroes

## Neil Warnock

If you are looking for promotion, let's say to the Premier League, you may, and many have tried calling Steve Bruce. He has managed on 4 occasions to get clubs promoted to the promised land. What about looking further afield, and promotions in general? Hard to look further than the Marmite of football management, **Neil Warnock**.

Back in 1987, he guided **Scarborough** to the Football Conference title. The first one in the bank. Then to **Notts County**, and not one, but **two** (and successive) promotions, via the play-offs leading the club to the then First Division. Sadly they were relegated in 1992, meaning they missed out on the first-ever Premier League season.

On to **Huddersfield Town**, and victory at Wembley in 1995 taking the club up to the First division, again via the play-offs. Back down two divisions to **Plymouth Argyle** but with the same result, Warnock, via the playoffs guided the team back to Division 2. Then the dream job came. The Sheffield-born manager took on the **Sheffield United** job in 1999, with the mission to get them to the Premier League.



Fernando Alexandre - Portuguese midfielder never making a first-team appearance for Benfica and a somewhat nomadic career through the Portuguese leagues



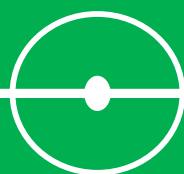
Having led the Blades to the playoff final in 2003, the odds were in favour of Warnock, having never lost a playoff contest, but sadly they were beaten this time, by Watford. Fear not, in 2005/06, Warnock took the direct route of promotion for the first time in his managerial career. The Blades finished as runners-up in the Championship and would play Premier League football the next season.

At **Queens Park Rangers** (in 2011) he went one better. Warnock guided the club to the Premier League by winning the Championship, his first title since the Scarborough success. As with the Sheffield United story, maintaining the top league status proved too hard and Warnock parted ways with QPR, only to return to the club after stints at Crystal Palace and Leeds United, before being charged with keeping Rotherham United in the Championship in the 2015/16 season – which he did successfully.

Then to **Cardiff City** in the 2016/17 season, with the same remit required – promotion, and of course, it was achieved the following year, taking the Welsh club to the Premier League as runners-up in the Championship.

With this promotion, Warnock became the first manager to win **eight promotions** in the professional leagues.

Warnock had one last attempt to do the same at Middlesbrough, but it was one job too many and he retired after 42 years in football management.



Antonio Silva - The youngest player ever to represent Portugal at the World Cup at 19 years, one month and three days old (in Qatar against South Korea)



# Football League – history and heroes

## Jamie Cureton

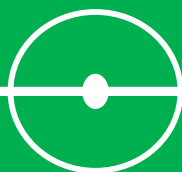


Jamie Cureton has had more clubs than a golf bag. But if you are basing a player's success on longevity and consistency, then Cureton has won the grand slam.

Cureton actually started his career with Norwich City in the Premier League. His 17 appearances in the league in 1994/95 were to be his only time spent in the English top division before the lower league adventure begun.

The Bristol-born striker then returned to his routes, to Rovers. What is it about Bristol Rovers and strikers? Cureton, Lambert as well as Bobby Zamora, Nathan Ellington, Barry Hayles & Jason Roberts all banging them in for the Pirates. It was no different for Cureton at his next club Reading, where he and Martin Butler fired the Royals to promotion to the First Division. Then a surprise move to the Korean side Busan I'Cons but it was short-lived, and Cureton returned to England, this time at Queens Park Rangers. Time at Loftus Road, and then at Swindon Town wasn't Cureton's most prolific, but spells at Colchester United, a return to Norwich City and Exeter City were.

His second spell at Exeter City, in League Two was followed by representing Cheltenham Town and Dagenham & Redbridge in the same division, and in 2014 Cureton was now the oldest outfield player registered in the top 4 English divisions, at 39 years of age.



Muhammed Durmus - Turkish midfielder transferred to Göztepe in July 2017 from the Beşiktaş academy

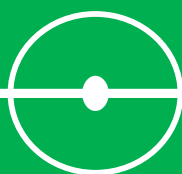


Into the 2016/17 season, and it was to the National Leagues. First with Farnborough, then Eastleigh before returning to Farnborough (twice) with a stint playing, and scoring for St. Albans sandwiched in between.

It was upon joining Bishop's Stortford in 2017 in the Southern Football League, and then later the Isthmian League that Cureton made his 1000<sup>th</sup> professional appearance. Note the shirt pictured below, that The Halfway Line could use if we ever release a 1000-page bumper issue!!!

Cureton racked up the goals at pace for Bishop's Stortford, and at the end of that relationship, he moved to Enfield, in the Essex Senior League. After scoring in his second appearance on 24 October, he became the first player to score in the top nine levels of English football.

As of today, at the ripe old age of 47, Cureton still plays for and manages Enfield.



Rafael Brito - Benfica B player currently out on loan with Maritimo to gain first-team experience



# Football League – history and heroes

## Dean Lewington



Here is a trivia question for you – How can you be a one-man team, but have played for two teams? Impossible right? It kinda is, but Dean Lewington has somehow (almost) pulled it off.

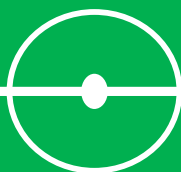
Dean Lewington is the son of former Fulham midfielder, and more recently assistant to Roy Hodgson in the England (and Crystal Palace) set up, Ray Lewington.

Dean, a left full-back made his Football League debut in the

2002/03 season with **Wimbledon**, before going on to play a further 28 league games the following season. Then Wimbledon ceased to be, and **MK Dons** were formed, and Lewington made the move. Since then, Lewington has cemented his place in the clubs, and Football League history.

To date, Lewington has played 870 games for MK Dons in the 19 seasons he has been at the club. The 753 league games he has played mean he joins an exclusive club of players as the only players in football league history to have achieved 700 league appearances for a single club.

He is also currently the player with the most league appearances, who is still active. His career total stands at 902 (as of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022) – can he reach 1000?



Luis Ndreu - Young Albanian attacking midfielder was on the books of Udinese but never made the breakthrough



# Football League – history and heroes

## Sproson, Dickinson and Trollope

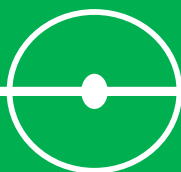
The exclusive list of players that Lewington is a member of bizarrely is made up of another 3 left-sided defenders.

Roy Sproson played 760 league games for Port Vale (1949 – 1972), Jimmy Dickinson played 764 league games for Portsmouth (1946 – 1965) and John Trollope played 770 league games for Swindon Town (1960 – 1980).

Unsurprisingly, as club legends, the three players mentioned above went on to manage the club's sides they spent their entire playing careers with. Lewington can also lay claim to that, having managed MK Dons in a caretaker capacity in August 2021, drawing the only game he was in charge for. 750+ appearances, and an unbeaten record as manager – not bad going!!

Readers may recognise the name Trollope. John's son, Paul, was a Premier League midfielder for Derby County and briefly for Fulham. He also represented Wales, and then moved into management.

Jimmy Dickinson's face can be seen as an image on the seats in the Fratton End of Portsmouth's stadium, Fratton Park.



Stelios Kitsiou - Debuted for the Greek nation team at 21 years old whilst at PAOK and the right-back now plays for Gaziantep in Turkey



# Football League – history and heroes

## Graham Alexander



Graham Alexander made his league debut for Scunthorpe United in the 1990/91 season. He played one game and didn't score.

When he stopped playing at the end of the 2011/12 season, some 21 years later, he hadn't gone a single season without scoring at least one goal.

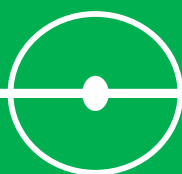
Reminder – Graham Alexander was a right-back!! Alexander continued to play for Scunthorpe until 1995, moving to Luton Town after completing his **200<sup>th</sup>** game.

Four seasons at Luton saw him total up another **183** games before a move to Preston North End. 10 seasons at Deepdale saw exactly **400** games played and a respectable 64 goals. It was then a surprise move to rivals Burnley.

The move to Burnley saw Alexander realise his dream. In the 2008/09 season, the club won promotion to the Premier League. When he debuted in the Premier League he became the oldest player in history to do so at 37. Once he scored in the league, he became the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest to do so, and managed 7 goals by the seasons end. One more year in the Championship saw his total Burnley appearances at **177**. He added a further **21** in a return spell at PNE and then if you add the **40** international caps he won for Scotland the equation reads

$$200+183+400+177+21+40 = \underline{\underline{1021}}.$$

Alexander became only the second outfield player in English football history to have made 1,000 professional appearances, after Tony Ford. He is fourth on the list of footballers in England by number of league appearances.



Francisco Meixedo - Porto youth product and the goalkeeper has already featured for the first team





# Football League – history and heroes

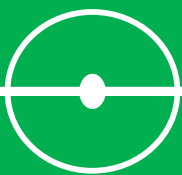
## Tony Ford, John McDermott & Alan Knight

A few more heroes to mention. **John McDermott** sits behind Roy Sproson, Jimmy Dickinson, and John Trollope as the next outfield player to have the most league appearances for just one club. The Grimsby right-back played 647 times in the league for the Mariners between 1987 – 2007.

The goalkeeper to feature in the most league games, for just one club is Portsmouth legend, **Alan Knight**. He put on the gloves 683 times for Pompey in the league in a career covering from 1977 to 2000. He was even named as a sub in 2004 as injury cover!



The final mention is to **Tony Ford**. Not only did Scunthorpe United make him wear the kit on the right but having played **931** league matches, he is the all-time record holder for an outfield player, for games played in the English league. His total career appearances racked up was an impressive **1,080** with 8 clubs.



Slobodan Urošević - Serbian left-back has international caps to his name and currently plays for Partizan Belgrade



# Football League heroes best ever XI

Here's our best Football League All-Stars' best-ever XI for a bit of fun.

**Peter Shilton** – Just the **1005** league games (the record) and in total 1249 club appearances, and throw in 125 international caps meaning he played **1374** games of football!

**Graham Alexander** - **1021** appearances and offered a goal threat as well, with 131 career goals

**Colin Calderwood** – The Scotsman gets the nod for winning Division 4 with Swindon Town and then getting promoted with the club via the playoffs from Division 3, Division 2, and Division 1 into the Premier League

**Peter Clarke** – The centre-back is still active, and played **778** league games (so far) for 11 separate clubs, including Blackpool, Southend United, Huddersfield Town and Oldman Athletic

**Dean Lewington**– Closing in on the 1000 league game target, can the MK Dons legend do it

**George Boyd** – An abundance of midfielders to pick from but if an English League legend is nicknamed the White Pele he is probably worth an inclusion.

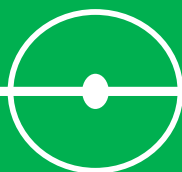
**Tony Ford** –The record holder for appearances from an outfield player. **931** in the league alone!

**Graham Kavanagh** – Any player picked in the PFA team of the year 5 times whilst playing in the English lower leagues must be doing something right

**Billy Sharp** – The all-time record goal scorer in the Championship, and the highest goal scorer in the English Leagues this century

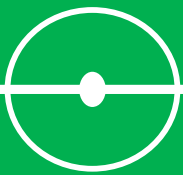
**Steve Bull** – Was still technically a Third Division player when he won his first cap for England, at the end of the 1988–89 season, as Wolves had not yet played in Division Two after their promotion that season. He remains the last player to be capped by England from outside the top two tiers.

**Rickie Lambert** – The second highest goal scorer in the English Leagues this century



Nemanja Miletic - Serbian defender for Omonia in Cyprus and for the Serbia national team. He operates equally as a centre-back and right-back





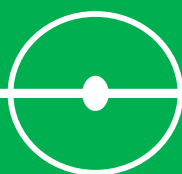
Volkan Yaman - Retired left-sided Turkish defender spent time with Antalyaspor, Galatasaray and Eskişehirspor in his homeland



# The great Ajax team of 1995



## The who, where, and what after....



Alejandro Garnacho - Joined Atlético Madrid's youth system in 2015 from Getafe. In October 2020, he joined the Manchester United Academy with United paying Atlético a £420,000 fee



A lot is made of Arsenal's Invincible Premier League season, and 49-match unbeaten run, or AC Milan's run in 1993 without a league defeat in 58 games with a Serie A title to show for it. Of course rightly so as both were phenomenal achievements. What isn't talked about enough is the 1994/95 season that **Ajax Amsterdam** pulled off.

We'll profile some of the players and the manager that helped achieve this. The facts make for pretty good reading as well.

Ajax began 1994/95 as reigning champions of the Eredivisie and was under the managerial guidance of Louis Van Gaal.

The season ended with another league title, going through the entire league campaign undefeated, a Champions League success, going through the entire competition undefeated, and followed it up with a European Super Cup and an Intercontinental Cup!! The following season they completed a hat-trick of league titles, losing only 3 times. In their first 9 league games, they didn't concede a goal. The side then got to a second successive Champions League final, losing only once on the way and narrowly missing out on back-to-back winning campaigns because of a penalty shoot-out defeat to Juventus.

The full undefeated league season (94/95) was done so by scoring 106 goals and destroying teams. There were 8-0's, 7-0's, 5-0's, and plenty more goal fests along the way. It wasn't until the January of the following season that they suffered their next league defeat. That's August 1994 to January 1996 without losing a league game.

The 1994/95 Champions League final was against the highly fancied AC Milan, but the Dutch side had already defeated the Italians twice in the group stage! The feat of winning simultaneously both the Champions League and domestic league without a single defeat is a historical achievement unmatched by any other team.

What adds to the remarkable success of the 52-match unbeaten run (league) and the 19-match unbeaten run (Champions League) and the 3-year dominance was they didn't even need to buy any new players. We take a look now at the core of that squad and what they did when they inevitably had to seek pastures new.



Oleksandr Pikhalyonok - 5 times capped Ukrainian international, has played for both Shakhtar and Dnipro



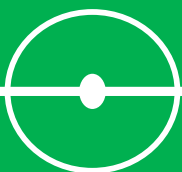
# Clarence Seedorf

Of the 16-man squad for the 1995 final in Vienna against AC Milan, 12 of the players ended up on British soil at some stage of their careers. Seedorf however, was not one of them. Seedorf was the youngest starter on the pitch in the 1995 Champions League final at 19 years old. He had already played 89 games for Ajax. He had made his first appearance for the club at the age of 16 years and 242 days, making him the youngest-ever debutant for Ajax, at the time. The final, however, would be his penultimate one.

Seedorf was subbed off in the game against Milan and then featured in the last Eredivisie game of the season. Then, taking advantage of the newly passed 'Bosman ruling' allowing out-of-contract players to leave their clubs without the club demanding a transfer fee, he moved on, to the in-vogue Serie A, signing for Sampdoria. Due to his young age, I believe a small fee was agreed between the 2 clubs.

His (first) stint in Italy was a short one. He lasted just one season at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris before moving, again for a nominal fee, to Spanish giants Real Madrid. At just 20 years old Seedorf was charged with taking the number 10 shirt from the recently departed Michael Laudrup. Seedorf was never one to doubt his self-confidence and ability.

Seedorf hit the floor running. A La Liga title was won in his first season, and then in the second, he won the Champions League, then followed by an Intercontinental Cup. Another year and a half was spent in Madrid with no more trophies to show but there was an outrageous long-range strike against Atletico that is well worth a watch on YouTube.



Jose Callejon - Having left Spain to move to play in Italy, he mustered up 349 appearances for Napoli over 7 seasons



Seedorf's next move was back to Italy to Inter Milan, and similar to his time at Sampdoria, he personally played very well, but there was no team success, despite the investment in the squad. His teammates included Ronaldo and Christian Vieri at the time.

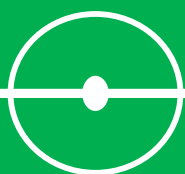
Then Seedorf made the move to Inter's city rivals, AC Milan, with whom he would spend the next 10 years. His first season saw victory in the Coppa Italia, but perhaps what he is most famous for took place the following season.

In 2003/04 Seedorf lifted the Champions League with AC Milan making him the first player, and currently still the only player to win the competition with three separate clubs.

Seedorf added 2 Serie A titles, another Champions League medal and a FIFA Club World Cup win to his collection in the remaining time at the club, totaling 432 appearances for the club, easily making him the foreigner with the most appearances for the Rossoneri.

Not shy of a challenge, when he left AC Milan, Seedorf embarked on a new adventure, playing for Botafogo in Brazil for two years until his retirement in 2014. He managed in Brazil something that had escaped him in his 20-year career in Europe; He helped himself to a hat-trick.

Will we witness another player win the Champions League with 3 different teams? Many have tried but no one quite like Seedorf..



Gabriele Angella - Italian centre-back currently captains Perugia but had spells at Watford and Queens Park Rangers in England



# Finidi George & Nwankwo Kanu

The attacking Nigerians arrived at Ajax together in 1993 from their homeland as relatively unknown quantities. They left in 1996 having firmly established themselves as superstars.

Finidi was an attacking right winger with great speed and an eye for goal, whereas Kanu was a striker, but not an ordinary out-and-out target man. Kanu possessed incredible ball skills and balance that defied his build.

Finidi started both Champions League finals in the 90s for Ajax, and Kanu having come on as a substitute in the 1995 final, started against Juventus in 1996.

By the time both players left Ajax, they had not only left their mark in Holland and Europe, they had also done so in America, but on different occasions.

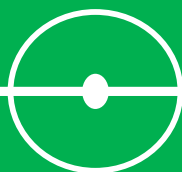


Finidi was part of the Nigeria squad for the USA 1994 World Cup, the first time the Super Eagles had qualified for the tournament.

Nigeria won their group and went out to Italy in the round of the last 16. Finidi scored in the group stages, against Greece and promptly celebrated like a dog cocking his leg – weird.

Kanu was then part of the 1996 Nigerian Olympic football squad, which somehow defied the odds and won the gold medal, beating Mexico, Brazil and Argentina on the way.

For his efforts, Kanu was named African football of the year in 1996.



Amad Diallo - Young Ivorian pacey winger highly thought of at Manchester United having signed from Atalanta. On loan to Sunderland for the 2022/23 season





Back to club football, and both attackers left Ajax in the summer of 1996. Finidi headed to Spain, to sign for Real Betis. He stayed a total of 4 years, the latter 2 seasons his wing partner being that of the Brazilian Denilson. The attacking combo was unsuccessful as the



club was relegated (alongside Atletico Madrid & Sevilla – how times change). Finidi moved to Real Mallorca, but then in 2001, it was to the Premier League and Ipswich Town was his next move. Unfortunately, it was not a success, and Finidi experienced another relegation and headed back to Mallorca.

Kanu, with the world at his feet in 1996, came back down to earth with a bang. Italian giants Inter Milan swooped for Kanu, but it was discovered he had a heart defect, and heart surgery was required. It was presumed his career was over. Kanu bounced back and the following season managed 11 appearances for Inter and claimed a UEFA Cup medal in 1998 in the process.

Arsene Wenger then bought Kanu for Arsenal in 1998.

Kanu is held in high regard at Arsenal and won 2 league titles at the club, not to mention 'that' Chelsea hat-trick. He moved on to West Bromwich Albion but unfortunately experienced relegation with the club, before moving to Portsmouth in 2006 until retiring 2012.



He wrote his name in Pompey folk law in 2008, when he scored the winner in the FA Cup final.



Tyler Fredricson - Manchester United youth player hoping to make a breakthrough to the first time. Only 17 years old so time on his side



# The de Boer Brothers



Frank and Ronald de Boer are of course twin brothers, and as traditions go, they pretty much did everything (playing career-wise) together.

Frank, a left-sided defender, and Ronald an attacking midfielder, aside from genetics, had something else in common. They were bloody good at football.

Both joined Ajax's first team in 1988 and played there up until January 1999. Ronald had a brief spell away at Twente in the early 1990s but re-joined his brother in time for the hat-trick of league wins, and the Champions League success.

Controversy followed and the brothers' departure meant they left the Ajax club in bad taste.

Having both signed long-term contracts with the club in 1998, the twins look legal against the club to void this, as it was very clear the pair were interested in a move, to Barcelona. As it often does, player power won, and the de Boers were off to Barcelona in January 1999.



Claudio Gomes - Played twice for Manchester City but the Frenchman now playing for Palermo in Italy



Frank's time in Spain was far more successful than his brothers. Ronald's attacking prowess deserted him, and in one and half seasons at the Catalan club, he mustered a solitary league strike, and he left for Glasgow Rangers in 2000.

Frank stuck with Barca, and they returned the favour after the player failed a drugs test in 2000, although a ban was revoked after an appeal. Although Frank stayed until 2003, it was the 1998/99 La Liga title the brothers shared that was his only silverware at the Nou Camp.

When Frank did leave, he continued to brave it alone, signing for Galatasaray, but it did not last long, and it was time to reunite with his brother in Scotland.

Ronald's Rangers career was actually very solid. In the 2002/03 season Rangers won the domestic treble, and Ronald de Boer was the club's leading goal scorer.

At the end of the 2003/04 season, it was time to move on again and the brothers transferred to Al-Rayyan in the Qatar Stars League, playing for one season before moving to Al-Shamal. Ronald outlasted his brother by another 2 seasons at the club before joining his sibling in retirement in 2008.



Rico Lewis - Scored his first Champions League goal for Manchester City in a 3–1 win against Sevilla. He became the all-time youngest scorer on a first start in a Champions League match and City's youngest ever Champions League scorer, aged 17 years and 346 days



# Kluivert, Davids, Bogarde and Reiziger

Imagine the transfer fee for this quarter, in their prime, in 1996 and 1997.

European giants AC Milan had a watchful eye on the 4 Ajax players and got them in the space of 2 consecutive summers. And how much did they pay for the superstars? **Absolutely nothing**, bar a nominal fee for Kluivert due to his age. Outrageous, but that was the Bosman ruling for you, and Ajax could do nothing about it.

Michael Reiziger, Edgar Davids, and Patrick Kluivert were homegrown talents, whereas Winston Bogarde had been bought in from Sparta Rotterdam. It was the former two that made the move first, in 1996 to the reigning Italian champions. The latter two followed a season later but should have seen the warning signs.

Davids played only 15 games in his debut season, and Reiziger 5 fewer. Within 12 months, Reiziger, a right-back, was gone and 6 months behind him so was Davids. Reiziger headed to Barcelona whilst Davids, the tenacious midfielder chanced his luck again in Italy, with Juventus.



Ethan Nwaneri - Made his Premier League debut against Brentford in September 2022, becoming the youngest ever Arsenal player, and the youngest player to appear in the top flight of English football, aged 15 years and 181 days old



Then in the summer of 1997, Kluivert and Bogarde moved to the San Siro. Whilst Bogarde was a decent enough left-sided central defender, it was Kluivert who was catching everyone's attention, for good and bad reasons.

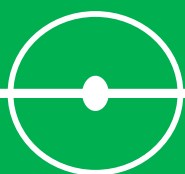
He had of course scored the winning goal in the 1995 Champions League final, against Milan, at just 18 years old (the youngest to do so). For the 3 seasons he was at Ajax, he was the clubs leading goal scorer in the league. In the last season, it was only 6 goals (joint with Jari Litmanen) and was interrupted by injury. The previous year, Kluivert had caused death by dangerous driving, in a borrowed car. His punishment was community service.

The pair's success in Milan was the same as their previous Dutch colleague's attempts.

Woeful. Kluivert managed 27 games in the league at least but only returned 6 goals. Bogarde never even started a league game for the club, just 3 substitute appearances. Both were shipped off to join Reiziger at Barcelona, where Kluivert fared the best of them.

Dauids found his form again at Juventus, winning league titles, as did the trio in Barcelona. Davids eventually played at Barcelona, in 2004, alongside Reiziger and Kluivert during a loan spell.

As well as all playing at Ajax, Milan, and Barcelona, the four players also had spells in the Premier League, albeit hardly going down in history. Reiziger at Middlesbrough, Davids at Tottenham Hotspur, Kluivert at Newcastle United, and of course Bogarde at Chelsea where he stayed for four seasons, managing a total of 11 appearances whilst on a reported £70,000 per week.



Ben Doak - Scottish U21 winger moved from Celtic to Liverpool in March 2022 with a compensation fee of around £600,000 due to the Glasgow club



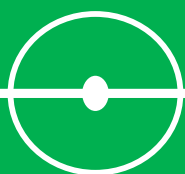
# Jari Litmanen

Dennis Bergkamp left Ajax Amsterdam after scoring 26 league goals in 28 league games in the 1992/93 season, having hit 25 and 24 the previous two seasons. He was then sold to Inter Milan, and a giant hole needed to be filled.

Jari Litmanen had joined Ajax in Bergkamp's last season and managed 1 goal in 12 games, post a move from his native Finland. He didn't strike as the obvious replacement.

How very wrong the doubters were. I am not sure how well it is understood outside of those close to Ajax, just how good Litmanen was for the club. In his first full season in the first team, the Finn scored 26 league goals and 36 overall in just 39 appearances.

In Ajax's first 19 league games, Litmanen scored 21 goals. The then 22-year-old had become the club's talisman. He won the League title with Ajax that season was the League's top scorer and was voted Footballer of the Year Holland.



Raffael - The Brazilian winger spent his career in Switzerland, Germany, Ukraine and Slovakia, never playing in his homeland



In the 1994/95 unbeaten season, Litmanen was again instrumental. 17 league goals and 26 overall meant he was again the club's leading marksman.

The following year, although another league title was in the bag, the attempt to retain the Champions League trophy failed, but it wasn't for lack of effort from Litmanen. Ajax reached the final, in which Litmanen scored in. That was his 9<sup>th</sup> of the European campaign making him that season's top scorer in the competition.

Litmanen stayed at Ajax until the end of the 1999 season. It was he, Edwin Van Der Sar and Danny Blind who were part of the unbeatables that stayed the longest. All three departed in the summer of 1999, Litmanen to Barcelona, Van Der Sar to Juventus, and Blind retired from playing.

In that final season, Litmanen played 23 league games. At the age of 28, he would fail to top that number again before retiring in 2011. Litmanen had become injury prone.

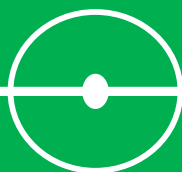


The move to Barcelona was a massive failure, though he couldn't blame being homesick, He joined a Barca squad with 8 Dutch nationals, of which 5 played with him at Ajax. What didn't help was the injuries and then the sacking of manager Louis Van Gaal. He was frozen out of the team, and when he left in January 2001, he had won nothing at the club.

Liverpool came in for the Finn, and although a bit part player (because of injuries) he 'won' 3 cups in the time at the club, despite not being fit enough for any of the finals.

The final phase of his career was slightly nomadic. A return to Ajax was followed by spells in Finland, Germany, and Sweden back to Finland and England (Fulham with zero appearances), and finally back to Finland.

His achievements for the Finnish national team should also be recognised. Unfortunately, the nation was unable to qualify for any major tournaments whilst he played but he can lay claim to representing Finland over the span of four separate decades. He won 137 caps between 1989 and 2010. Remarkable.



Valter Birsa - Former Slovakian midfielder who spent time in France (Auxerre) and Italian (Torino, AC Milan) leagues and has won 90 caps for his country



# Louis Van Gaal

What a story this is. Louis Van Gaal guided the great Ajax team to an unbeaten season, and an unbeaten Champions League campaign in 1994/95. The captain of his side was Danny Blind.

In 2022, Louis Van Gaal is the manager of the Dutch national team, leading his team at the Qatar World Cup. In the first round of the knockout stages, Holland defeating the United States 3-1 to progress to the quarter-finals. Who was the scorer of the team's 2<sup>nd</sup> goal?

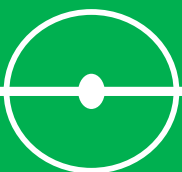
Daley Blind!

The son of Van Gaal captain. Daley Blind was 5 years old at the time of the European Cup victory when his Dad (aged 33) lifted the cup. Louis Van Gaal was 43 years old then, and now still, at 71 he is managing at the top level. Amazing stuff.

In his playing days, Van Gaal was a midfielder and was on the books at Ajax, but never made it to the first team. His professional debut was in Belgium with Royal Antwerp, before returning to Holland, spending the majority of his career at Sparta Rotterdam.

His managerial career started at Ajax, where previously he worked as Leo Beenhakker's assistant.

His third season in charge Ajax won the Eredivisie title, and the second followed soon after, alongside the Champions League in 1995.



Tosaint Ricketts - Canadian forward who played for the Vancouver Whitecaps in the MLS and won 61 caps for the national side





Post the 1995/96 final defeat to Juventus, the core playing squad began to be picked off from higher-paying European vultures and it was Van Gaal's turn to be wooed in 1997, by Catalan giants, Barcelona.

With the Johan Cruyff history, and style associated at the club, it should have been a match made in heaven, and to start with was. With an already talented squad, Van Gaal was able to add Sonny Anderson and Rivaldo, as well as Reiziger & Bogarde to the team and was rewarded with League and Cup domestic double in his first season.

Then came Kluivert, the de Boers, + Phillip Cocu & Boudewijn Zenden and another La Liga title was won. Things were rosy in the league, but no European success that club demanded.

The following year it was only a second-place finish and a semi-final defeat in the Champions League and the ruthless Barcelona board sacked Van Gaal.

Short spells followed as national manager of the Netherlands and back to Barcelona, but it was manager of AZ Alkmaar from 2005 to 2009 when the reputation was mended. The club had only ever won one league title, but in 2009 Van Gaal guided the unfancied and unfashionable team to a second Eredivisie in their history.

The success opened the way to a move to Bayern, winning the League & Cup domestic double in his first season, narrowly missing out on the treble, losing to Inter in the 2010 Champions League final.

Then a move back to manage the Netherlands, taking the nation to the semi-finals of the 2014 World Cup.

A two-year stint followed at Manchester United, but although an FA Cup was won, it was the first club he managed where no league title was won. After a 5 year break, Van Gaal took, what is assumably his last, the Netherlands post for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 2021.



Corentin Tolisso - Joined Bayern Munich for €41.5 million in the summer of 2017, a then record for a transfer to a German club, before returning to Lyon in 2022. The midfielder also a 2018 World Cup winner



# Isle of Scilly derby



Once the football season is over, and the dreaded realisation that the summer's international tournament and football entertainment is over, the focus returns to domestic football and the excitement of a new season begins to build.

Excitement is usually stoked at the announcement of the new seasons' fixtures.

A more considered look is given to spot when your team is playing the reigning champions, when is the game against your fiercest rivals, or when is the local derby, or who are you facing on Boxing day.

It's not like that for everyone. Spare a thought for the fans that follow the Isle of Scilly league, and the lack of excitement in the build up to a new season.

The Isles of Scilly is a group of islands off the southwestern tip of Cornwall. One of the islands, St Agnes, is the most southerly point in Britain.

The Isle of Scilly Football League is the smallest in the world. There are only **two** teams that make up the league.

**Woolpack Wanderers and Garrison Gunners.**

They play each other **18** times a season!! There are also two Cup competitions: The Wholesalers Cup and the Foredeck Cup, which is played over two legs.

Recently a junior league was formed. Guess how many teams? Yep, you guessed, 2.



Goran Slavkovski - Made debut with Inter Milan at the age of 17 years and 1 month on 7 May 2006 in a Serie A game against Siena, thus becoming the youngest footballer ever to play for Inter at the time. Went on to play one game for Barnet would you believe!



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Charles De Ketelaere - Belgian who plays as an attacking midfielder for Serie A club AC Milan and the Belgium national team. One to watch



# Defunct trophies

Those old enough will remember the UEFA Europa League used to be called the UEFA Cup until a rebranding in 2009. Those even older will know that the UEFA Cup used to be the (Inter-Cities) Fairs Cup, until a change of name and format in 1971. But despite the name and format changes, it still exists today.

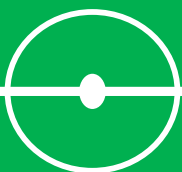
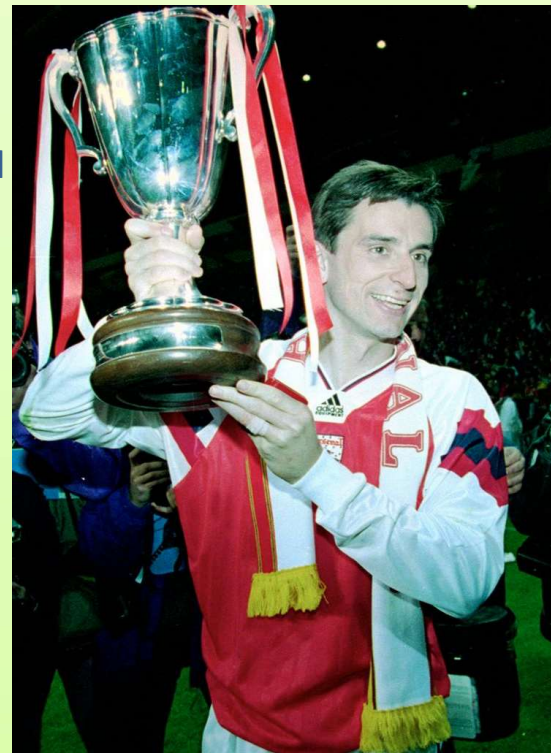
There are however plenty of tournaments and trophies that simply no longer exist and are in fact defunct, and we are not talking about the Umbro Cup or Le Tournoi!

**The European Cup Winners' Cup** – The European cup competition that was contested by the winners of domestic cup competitions, like the F.A Cup, or Coppa Italia or the Copa Del Rey. Two-legged ties were played up until the final and then that was played at a neutral ground. Barcelona won this trophy the most (4) and Lazio won it the last year it was active (**1999**). Winners of domestic cup competitions as you know, now qualify for the Europa League.

**The Intertoto Cup** – Officially only a UEFA recognised competition from 1995 to **2008**, the Intertoto Cup was essentially a European summer tournament, that seemed to kick off the weekend after a season ended. Players would be playing games in July before the pre-season had started!

The winners of the Intertoto Cup would then qualify for the then UEFA Cup that commenced that season.

I think my favourite fact about the Intertoto Cup was that Alan Pardew once played 4 times (on loan) for Tottenham Hotspur in the competition. That is really all it ever offered.



Tanguy Ndombele - On 2 July 2019, Ndombele signed for Tottenham Hotspur in a club-record deal but he seriously flopped and has had loans back at Lyon and now Napoli



**The Anglo-Italian Cup** - The competition was played intermittently between 1970 and 1996 between clubs from England and Italy. It was founded following the two-team Anglo-Italian League Cup in 1969. The initial Anglo-Italian Cup was played as an annual tournament from 1970 to 1973. The first final was abandoned early due to violence, with Swindon Town declared the winner. During its time the tournament had a reputation for violence between fans, and also between players on the pitch but it returned as a semi-professional tournament in 1976 before it was abolished again in 1986.

In 1992, the Anglo-Italian Cup was re-established as a professional cup for second-tier clubs (Division 1, aka the now Championship and Serie B) This version of the Anglo-Italian Cup ran for four seasons, until **1996**, before being discontinued due to fixture congestion.

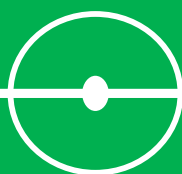
The main competition consisted of two groups, each with four English, and four Italian teams. Each team would play four group games. Then, the top team in each group from each nation competed in semi-finals: an all-English semi-final and an all-Italian semi-final. The final was a single match played at Wembley.

There is something hugely awesome, even romantic about Vincenzo Montella scoring for Genoa at Wembley against Port Vale in 1996 whilst Steve Guppy was the main threat for Vale, or Gheorghe Hagi lifting the Cup in 1994 for Brescia having beaten Notts County just 3 months before shining at the World Cup in the USA for Romania!

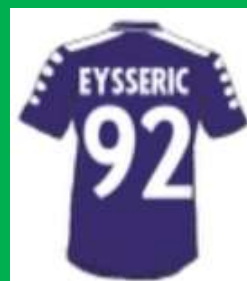
**The Full Members' Cup** was an English cup competition held from 1985 to **1992**. It was also known under its sponsored names of the Simod Cup and the Zenith Data Systems Cup.

The competition was created after the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster, when English clubs were banned from European competition, as an additional competition for clubs in the top two English League divisions.

Chelsea and Nottingham Forest were the most successful teams in the competition, with both of them winning it twice before it was ironically replaced by the Anglo-Italian cup once European competition was opened up to English clubs once again in 1992.



Valentin Eysseric - French midfielder spent time in French, Italy and Turkey and gained French U21 caps



# 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 clubs, 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 lineup 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 teams from the past from Wales! Cardiff City, Swansea City and Wrexham are the 3 teams in this issue, though not all the players played for them in the Premier League, what with Wrexham not having got there (yet)

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



Denis Vavro - Slovak centre-back plays for Copenhagen of the Danish Superliga and the Slovakia national team and previously of Lazio



# CARDIFF CITY



Cedric Bakambu - The DR Congo striker played Sochaux, Bursaspor, Villarreal, Marseille, and Olympiakos as well as a stint in China



# SWANSEA CITY

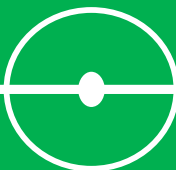


Vedat Muriqi - Kosovo international striker has 23 goals in 44 international games. Currently plays for Real Mallorca after spells with Lazio and Fenerbahce





# WREXHAM



Mohamed Fares - Algerian international wing-back played for Lazio but has spent time out on loan to Genoa and Torino





# Quiz time

## World Cup Special



Try your luck with the following World Cup-themed questions and find out the answers next month

- 1) How many World Cup games did Roger Milla start in his career?
- 2) How many players who started the 1994 World Cup final also played in the Premier League at some stage of their careers?
- 3) Who are the top 5 English goal scorers in World Cup finals history, in order?
- 4) What did 1990 newcomers, Paul Gascoigne and Toto Schillaci have in common at the Italia'90 finals?
- 5) Since squad numbers were used at World Cups, England has had (inc. 2022) 4 players wear the number 10 shirt. 3 players twice, and one player once. Who are they?
- 6) Top (joint) goal scorer in 1994 Oleg Salenko played for which British team during his career?
- 7) Geoff Hurst famously scored a hat-trick in the 1966 World Cup final for England, in a 4-2 victory. Who scored England's other goal?
- 8) Since 1994, 5 players to have played in the Premier League have scored a goal in the World Cup final. Can you name the 5 players?
- 9) 2 former Premier League defenders have been sent off in a World Cup final. Can you name them?
- 10) How many World Cup finals goals does Miroslav Klose have as the record holder?
- 11) Rigobert Song and Zinedine Zidane share what achievement/record in World Cup history?
- 12) Who is the oldest outfield player in World Cup history?
- 13) When England failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, which nation topped its qualifying group?
- 14) Giuseppe Bergomi of Italy featured in 4 World Cup tournaments, but what is unique about his appearances in the qualifying group stages?
- 15) To finish, a favourite from the HWL offices, which two clubs have been represented in every World Cup final since 1982 (up to 2018), and can you also name the players in question?



Giuseppe Pezzella - Former Italian U21 left-back was on Udinese's books but now with Parma although out on loan to Lecce



# Quiz Answers from Issue #15

1. Can you name 9 former Chelsea players to have scored in a Champions League final from 1990 to date, but not for Chelsea? **Marcel Desailly, Deco, Hernan Crespo, Samuel Eto'o, Juliano Belletti, Pedro, Arjen Robben, Alvaro Morata, Mo Salah**
2. Can you name 12 players to have won the England Premier League and the Scottish Premiership? **Roy Keane, Chris Sutton, Henrik Larsson, Kolo Toure, Virgil Van Dijk, Colin Hendry, Andy Goram, Andrei Kanchelskis, Giovanni Van Bronckhurst, Brian McClair, Jiri Jarosik, Dion Dublin**
3. Can you name 11 players to have won the Champions League and the Copa Libertadores? (**NOW IT'S 14**) **Juan Pablo Sorin, Cafu, Danilo, Dida, Neymar, Rafinha, Ronaldinho, Roque Junior, David Luiz, Ramires, Carlos Tevez, Walter Samuel, Julian Alvarez, Marcelo**
4. What do Graeme Le Saux, Romelu Lukaku, David Luiz, Nemanja Matic and Didier Drogba have in common? **They all signed for Chelsea twice in their careers**
5. What links Romario, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo (Brazilian), and Fabio Cannavaro's FIFA World Player of the Year awards? **They won the award the same year they lifted the World Cup**
6. Which players have the most Premier League appearances for the following clubs? Arsenal, Manchester City, and Tottenham Hotspur? **Ray Parlour, David Silva, and Hugo Lloris.**

## Teammates (all club level)

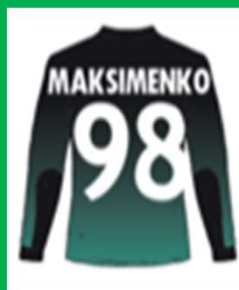
1. I have played with Ji-Sung Park, Ruud Van Nistelrooy, Gabriel Heinze, Bastian Schweinsteiger, and also been managed by Jose Mourinho and Louis Van Gaal, yet never played for Manchester United. Who am I? **Arjen Robben**
2. I have played with Thibault Courtois, Christian Benteke, Fernando Torres, Marko Arnautovic, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, Nicklas Bendtner, and Samir Nasri. Who am I? **Kevin De Bruyne**
3. I have played with Kurt Zouma, Gervinho, Djimi Traore, Eden Hazard, Ilkay Gundogan, Sokratis Papastathopoulos, and Luuk De Jong. Who am I? **Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang**
4. I have played with Sergio Ramos, Javier Saviola, Gonzalo Higuain, Angel Di Maria, Lassana Diarra, Alphonse Areola, and Juanfran but I have never played for Real Madrid. Who am I? **Dani Alves**
5. I played with Stephane Henchoz, Glen Johnson, Jason McAteer, Michael Owen, Joe Cole, Danny Murphy, Stig Inge Bjornebye, James Milner, and John Arne Riise, and been managed by Roy Hodgson and Graeme Souness but I have never played for Liverpool. Who am I? **Damien Duff**

## What club links the following players?

1. John Hartson, Aaron Ramsey, Giovanni Van Bronckhurst, and Francis Jeffers? **Arsenal**
2. Mathieu Flamini, Philippe Senderos, Patrick Vieira and Asmir Begovic? **AC Milan**
3. Dan Petrescu, Mark Hughes, Ken Monkou, and Luis Boa Morte? **Southampton**
4. Thiago Alcantara, Xabi Alonso, James Rodriguez and Philippe Coutinho? **Bayern Munich**
5. Youri Djorkaeff, Michael Ballack, Mario Basler and Carsten Jancker? **Kaiserslautern**
6. Djimi Traore, Vladimir Smicer, Antonie Siberski, and Pegguy Arphexad? **Lens**
7. Benito Carbone, Alessandro Del Piero, Juninho Paulista and Adam Le Fondre? **Sydney FC**
8. Flavio Conceicao, Rivaldo, Djalminha and Mauro Silva? **Deportivo La Coruna**



Aleksandr Maksimenko - Over 100 games in goal for Spartak Moscow but yet to gain full international recognition with Russia



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

1	David James	Liverpool	1994-1999	51	Ki-Jana Hoever	Wolves	2018-2020
2	Dan Petrescu	Genoa	1993-1994	52	Fernando Fonseca	Porto	2016-2017
3	Taye Taiwo	Marseille	2004-2011	53	Marc Guehi	Chelsea	2018-2019
4	Demetrio Albertini	AC Milan	1995-2022	54	Serdur Dursun	Eskisehirspor	2011-2012
5	Lee Sharpe	Manchester United	1994-1996	55	Leo Ostigard	Lazio	2022-2023
6	Ousmane Dabo	Atalanta	2001-2003	56	Luke Thomas	Leicester City	2019-2020
7	Diego Fuser	Parma	1998-2001	57	Armando Broja	Chelsea	2019-2020
8	Freddy Rincon	Napoli	1994-1995	58	Thibaut Vion	Porto	2011-2012
9	Tammy Abraham	Roma	2021-2022	59	Nathan Buayi-Kiala	Parma	2022-2023
10	Andy King	Leicester City	2009-2018	60	Jack Young	Newcastle United	2019-2020
11	Giuseppe Signori	Lazio	1992-1998	61	Henry Lawrence	Chelsea	2019-2020
12	Tyler Malacia	Manchester United	2021-2022	62	Regan Hendry	Celtic	2016-2019
13	Davide Astori	Fiorentina	2015-2018	63	Oguzhan Akgun	Besiktas	2018-2019
14	Dries Mertens	Napoli	2013-2022	64	Juan Mata	Galatasaray	2022-2023
15	Harry Maguire	Leicester City	2017-2019	65	Fernando Alexandre	Benfica	2004-2005
16	Edouard Mendy	Chelsea	2020-2022	66	Antonio Silva	Benfica	2022-2023
17	Cristian Romero	Atalanta	2020-2021	67	Enes Durmus	Besiktas	2015-2017
18	Giovanni Simeone	Napoli	2022-2023	68	Rafael Brito	Benfica	2021-2022
19	Kennet Andersson	Lazio	1999-2000	69	Luis Ndreu	Udinese	2017-2018
20	Domenico Morfeo	Fiorentina	1997-1999	70	Stelios Kitsiou	Gaziantep	2021-2023
21	Sergej Milinković-Savić	Lazio	2015-2023	71	Francisco Meixedo (GK)	Porto	2019-2022
22	Antonio Rudiger	Real Madrid	2022-2023	72	Slobodan Urosevic	Partizan Belgrade	2017-2023
23	Jamie Carragher	Liverpool	1995-2013	73	Nemanja Miletic	Partizan Belgrade	2017-2022
24	Reece James	Chelsea	2019-2023	74	Volkan Yaman	Galatasaray	2007-2010
25	Moussa Dembele	Fulham	2014-2016	75	Alejandro Garnacho	Manchester United	2021-2022
26	Kalidou Koulibaly	Napoli	2014-2022	76	Oleksandr Pikhalyonok	Shakhtar Donetsk	2018-2020
27	Mikael Silvestre	Manchester United	1999-2008	77	Jose Callejon	Fiorentina	2020-2021
28	Mathieu Valbuena	Marseille	2006-2014	78	Gabriele Angella	Udinese	2018-2019
29	Krisztian Nemeth	Olympiakos	2010-2011	79	Amad Diallo	Atalanta	2020-2021
30	Jeremie Aliadiere	Arsenal	2001-2005	80	Tyler Fredricson	Manchester United	2022-2023
31	Ademola Lookman	Everton	2017-2019	81	Claudio Gomes	Manchester City	2018-2019
32	Wesley Fofana	St. Etienne	2018-2020	82	Rico Lewis	Manchester City	2022-2023
33	Michael Gray	Wolves	2007-2008	83	Ethan Nwaneri	Arsenal	2022-2023
34	Juan Esnaider	Juventus	1998-1999	84	Ben Doak	Celtic	2021-2022
35	Connor Coady	Liverpool	2010-2013	85	Raffael	Dynamo Kiev	2012-2013
36	Nigel Quashie	Wolves	2008-2009	86	Valter Birsa	Torino	2012-2013
37	James Garner	Manchester United	2018-2022	87	Tosaint Ricketts	Vancouver Whitecaps	2018-2022
38	Daizen Maeda	Celtic	2021-2023	88	Corentin Tolisso	Lyon	2022-2023
39	Davide Santon	Inter Milan	2008-2011	89	Goran Slavkovski	Inter Milan	2005-2007
40	Ciro Immobile	Juventus	2009-2010	90	Charles De Ketelaere	AC Milan	2022-2023
41	Chris Richards	Bayern Munich	2019-2021	91	Tanguy Ndombele	Napoli	2022-2023
42	Nabil Bentelab	Newcastle United	2019-2020	92	Valentin Eysseric	Fiorentina	2020-2021
43	Steven Sessegnon	Fulham	2017-2023	93	Denis Vavro	Lazio	2019-2021
44	James Tavernier	Newcastle United	2009-2011	94	Cedric Bakambu	Olympiakos	2022-2023
45	Stephen Elliott	Manchester City	2003-2004	95	Vedat Muriqi	Lazio	2021-2022
46	Bruno Aguiar	Benfica	2000-2001	96	Mohamed Fares	Lazio	2022-2023
47	Nathaniel Philips	Liverpool	2018-2023	97	Giuseppe Pezzella	Udinese	2019-2020
48	Fabio Carvalho	Fulham	2020-2021	98	Aleksandr Maksimenko (GK)	Spartak Moscow	2015-2023
49	Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall	Leicester City	2019-2020	99	Brown Ideye	Olympiakos	2015-2017
50	Trevoh Chalobah	Chelsea	2017-2018	100	Walter Ayovi	Ecuador	2015



Brown Ideye - In July 2014, Ideye signed for Premier League club West Bromwich Albion, becoming the club's record signing at a fee reported as £10 million, but was sold to Olympiakos as a flop



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

- The World Cup 1994 revisited
- The perfect hat-trick
- The 'naughty boys' of the game



And the usual:

- The Boot Room
- Classical Kits
- Historical Line Ups
- The Treatment Room
- Forgotten Men
- Best XI to have.....
- And much much more



Walter Ayovi - On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, Ayoví was capped for the 100th time by Ecuador in a 2–1 friendly loss to Argentina in New Jersey





# RETRO



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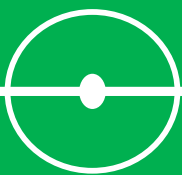
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