

August 2020 Issue 5

The



Halfway Line

In this month's issue: Managerial Madness



We crunch the stats on Premier League managers

Plus lots more including:

- Club Badges
- Local Derbies
- Yo-Yo Clubs.

And all the usual favourites inside!



Editors note: Pre-match pep talk

Wow, on to Issue #5 already! Like Andros Townsend and a loan move away from Tottenham Hotspur, we just can't help ourselves. Townsend actually had 9 loan moves whilst a Spurs player, and we if manage to get to 9 issues, we'll be well pleased. A lot will depend on finding the players to fit our page number feature but it won't be for the want of trying!!

A lot has changed since the first 4 issues. Naturally, Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have scored more goals, Alireza Jahanbakhsh finally scored for Brighton, and what a goal it was, and of course the COVID-19 pandemic has seen football around the globe change dramatically in terms of how football fans have been able to watch and support their teams. Rumours of the Arsenal having created a better atmosphere at the Emirates without their 60,000 supporters are as yet unfounded.

What has remained in place is our desire to bring you more football facts, stories, features and hopefully we can continue to do so. We trust you take all our efforts in good taste. Unlike a Christmas gift we heard Alessandro Pistone received whilst at Newcastle United in the 1990's. Seemingly targeted as fellow team mates thought his heart wasn't in it at the club, they gifted him a pig heart in a dig at him not having one himself. Scandalous really! Rest assured our heart is in it at The Halfway Line, and let's see what you can expect in this issue.

We look at the success and failures of managers in the Premier League and look to highlight the consistencies we see in the winners, the losers and the most popular. Christian Gross would fit in one of those categories and if you don't know which one it is, go get your underground ticket, and get the hell out of here!

Our passion for the magazine has not waived, but that passion is not perhaps at the level seen at some of the local derbies contested across the football globe and we've picked out some of those for you detailing the facts with each rivalry.

We've also selected a handful of club badges and walk you through the designs and reasons. We've gone a little further using our artistic license on this one, and we can't wait for you to see what we've been up to.

As well as all that we've of course the usual dose of Classic Kits, Historical Line Ups, Best XI of Nations in the Premier League, XI's never to have, the Treatment Room, our usual quizzes and Forgotten Men features, as well as a beauty of a Boot Room in this issue.

So hit stop on the 501 Great Goals VHS tape, get the vidi printer on in the background to check the results coming in, and serve up the Alan Shearer pre-match meal special, that consists of Chicken and Beans and tuck in to Issue #5

Enjoy!



Peter Schmeichel – Arguably the finest goalkeeper to have graced the Premier League



The Halfway Line Up

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Raphael Varane – At 24 years old he has won 3
Champions Leagues, the youngest to have ever done
so



THE MANAGERIAL MERRY GO ROUND



A fact that never fails to amaze us here at The Halfway Line is that in the 28 years of the Premier League's existence not one English manager has guided a team to a Championship league winning campaign. 0%.

Remarkable. Looking at our peers in that time period shows the following as a percentage of winning league managers from the home nation.

SPAIN - LA LIGA	ITALY - SERIE A	GERMANY - BUNDESLIGA	FRANCE - LIGUE 1	HOLLAND - EREDIVISIE
46.42%	88.88%	75%	75%	85.71%



Gerard Pique – One of only 4 players to have won the Champions League in consecutive seasons with different teams



1992–93	Barcelona	Johan Cruyff	Holland	1992–93	AC Milan	Fabio Capello	Italy
1993–94	Barcelona	Johan Cruyff	Holland	1993–94	AC Milan	Fabio Capello	Italy
1994–95	Real Madrid	Jorge Valdano	Argentina	1994–95	Juventus	Marcello Lippi	Italy
1995–96	Atlético Madrid	Raddy Antic	Yugoslavia	1995–96	AC Milan	Fabio Capello	Italy
1996–97	Real Madrid	Fabio Capello	Italy	1996–97	Juventus	Marcello Lippi	Italy
1997–98	Barcelona	Louis van Gaal	Holland	1997–98	Juventus	Marcello Lippi	Italy
1998–99	Barcelona	Louis van Gaal	Holland	1998–99	AC Milan	Alberto Zcheroni	Italy
1999–2000	Deportivo La Coruña	Javier Irureta	Spain	1999–2000	Lazio	Sven Goran Eriksson	Sweden
2000–01	Real Madrid	Vincent Del Bosque	Spain	2000–01	Roma	Fabio Capello	Italy
2001–02	Valencia	Rafa Benitez	Spain	2001–02	Juventus	Marcello Lippi	Italy
2002–03	Real Madrid	Vincent Del Bosque	Spain	2002–03	Juventus	Marcello Lippi	Italy
2003–04	Valencia	Rafa Benitez	Spain	2003–04	AC Milan	Carlo Ancelotti	Italy
2004–05	Barcelona	Frank Rijkaard	Holland	2004–05	Not awarded	x	x
2005–06	Barcelona	Frank Rijkaard	Holland	2005–06	Inter Milan	Roberto Mancini	Italy
2006–07	Real Madrid	Fabio Capello	Italy	2006–07	Inter Milan	Roberto Mancini	Italy
2007–08	Real Madrid	Bernd Schuster	Germany	2007–08	Inter Milan	Roberto Mancini	Italy
2008–09	Barcelona	Pep Guardiola	Spain	2008–09	Inter Milan	Jose Mourinho	Portugal
2009–10	Barcelona	Pep Guardiola	Spain	2009–10	Inter Milan	Jose Mourinho	Portugal
2010–11	Barcelona	Pep Guardiola	Spain	2010–11	AC Milan	Massimiliano Allegri	Italy
2011–12	Real Madrid	Jose Mourinho	Portugal	2011–12	Juventus	Antonio Conte	Italy
2012–13	Barcelona	Tito Vilanova	Spain	2012–13	Juventus	Antonio Conte	Italy
2013–14	Atlético Madrid	Diego Simeone	Argentina	2013–14	Juventus	Antonio Conte	Italy
2014–15	Barcelona	Luis Enrique	Spain	2014–15	Juventus	Massimiliano Allegri	Italy
2015–16	Barcelona	Luis Enrique	Spain	2015–16	Juventus	Massimiliano Allegri	Italy
2016–17	Real Madrid	Zinedine Zidane	France	2016–17	Juventus	Massimiliano Allegri	Italy
2017–18	Barcelona	Ernesto Valverde	Spain	2017–18	Juventus	Massimiliano Allegri	Italy
2018–19	Barcelona	Ernesto Valverde	Spain	2018–19	Juventus	Massimiliano Allegri	Italy
2019–20	Real Madrid	Zinedine Zidane	France	2019–20	Juventus	Maurizo Sarri	Italy
1992–93	Marseille	Raymond Goethals	Belgium	1992–93	Werder Bremen	Otto Rehhagel	Germany
1993–94	Paris Saint-Germain	Artur Jorge	Portugal	1993–94	Bayern Munich	Franz Beckenbauer	Germany
1994–95	Nantes	Jean-Claude Suaudeau	France	1994–95	Borussia Dortmund	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
1995–96	Auxerre	Guy Roux	France	1995–96	Borussia Dortmund	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
1996–97	Monaco	Jean Tigana	France	1996–97	Bayern Munich	Giovanni Trapattoni	Italy
1997–98	Lens	Daniel Leclercq	France	1997–98	1. FC Kaiserslautern	Otto Rehhagel	Germany
1998–99	Bordeaux	Élie Baup	France	1998–99	Bayern Munich	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
1999–2000	Monaco	Claude Puel	France	1999–2000	Bayern Munich	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
2000–01	Nantes	Raynald Denoueix	France	2000–01	Bayern Munich	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
2001–02	Lyon	Jacques Santini	France	2001–02	Borussia Dortmund	Matthias Sammer	Germany
2002–03	Lyon	Paul Le Guen	France	2002–03	Bayern Munich	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
2003–04	Lyon	Paul Le Guen	France	2003–04	Werder Bremen	Thomas Schaaf	Germany
2004–05	Lyon	Paul Le Guen	France	2004–05	Bayern Munich	Felix Magath	Germany
2005–06	Lyon	Gerard Houliier	France	2005–06	Bayern Munich	Felix Magath	Germany
2006–07	Lyon	Gerard Houliier	France	2006–07	VfB Stuttgart	Armin Veh	Germany
2007–08	Lyon	Alain Perrin	France	2007–08	Bayern Munich	Ottmar Hitzfeld	Germany
2008–09	Bordeaux	Laurent Blanc	France	2008–09	VfL Wolfsburg	Felix Magath	Germany
2009–10	Marseille	Didier Deschamps	France	2009–10	Bayern Munich	Louis van Gaal	Holland
2010–11	Lille	Rudi Garcia	France	2010–11	Borussia Dortmund	Jurgen Klopp	Germany
2011–12	Montpellier	René Girard	France	2011–12	Borussia Dortmund	Jurgen Klopp	Germany
2012–13	Paris Saint-Germain	Carlo Ancelotti	Italy	2012–13	Bayern Munich	Jupp Heynckes	Germany
2013–14	Paris Saint-Germain	Laurent Blanc	France	2013–14	Bayern Munich	Pep Guardiola	Spain
2014–15	Paris Saint-Germain	Laurent Blanc	France	2014–15	Bayern Munich	Pep Guardiola	Spain
2015–16	Paris Saint-Germain	Laurent Blanc	France	2015–16	Bayern Munich	Pep Guardiola	Spain
2016–17	Monaco	Leonardo Jardim	Portugal	2016–17	Bayern Munich	Carlo Ancelotti	Italy
2017–18	Paris Saint-Germain	Unai Emery	Spain	2017–18	Bayern Munich	Jupp Heynckes	Germany
2018–19	Paris Saint-Germain	Thomas Tuchel	Germany	2018–19	Bayern Munich	Niko Kovac	Croatia
2019–20	Paris Saint-Germain	Thomas Tuchel	Germany	2019–20	Bayern Munich	Hans-Dieter Flick	Germany



Josep Guardiola – Highly successful at Barcelona but did you know he served a 4 month suspension whilst playing for Roma (2002/03) after testing positive for Nandrolone



1992–93	Feyenoord	Willem van Hanegem	Holland	2006–07	PSV	Ronald Koeman	Holland
1993–94	Ajax	Louis Van Gaal	Holland	2007–08	PSV	Sef Vergoosen	Holland
1994–95	Ajax	Louis Van Gaal	Holland	2008–09	AZ	Louis Van Gaal	Holland
1995–96	Ajax	Louis Van Gaal	Holland	2009–10	Twente	Steve McClaren	England
1996–97	PSV	Dick Advocaat	Holland	2010–11	Ajax	Frank de Boer	Holland
1997–98	Ajax	Morten Olsen	Denmark	2011–12	Ajax	Frank de Boer	Holland
1998–99	Feyenoord	Leo Beenhakker	Holland	2012–13	Ajax	Frank de Boer	Holland
1999–2000	PSV	Eric Gerets	Belgium	2013–14	Ajax	Frank de Boer	Holland
2000–01	PSV	Eric Gerets	Belgium	2014–15	PSV	Phillip Cocu	Holland
2001–02	Ajax	Ronald Koeman	Holland	2015–16	PSV	Phillip Cocu	Holland
2002–03	PSV	Guus Hiddink	Holland	2016–17	Feyenoord	Gio van Bronckhorst	Holland
2003–04	Ajax	Ronald Koeman	Holland	2017–18	PSV	Phillip Cocu	Holland
2004–05	PSV	Guus Hiddink	Holland	2018–19	Ajax	Erik ten Hag	Holland
2005–06	PSV	Guus Hiddink	Holland	2019–20	Ajax	Erik ten Hag	Holland

So the number English managers of English Premier League Champions since the 1992-93 season stands at **zero**, but that doesn't put off the hiring of them.

When it comes to appointing Premier League managers there is an uncanny desire to keep it British, and more often than not, English!

Since the inception of the Premier League, there have been 407 appointments of which 210 have been English. A whopping 51%.

Country	Total appointments	Total individuals	Country	Total appointments	Total individuals
England	210	119	Norway	3	2
Scotland	57	36	Israel	3	1
Wales	19	9	Croatia	2	2
Italy	16	12	United States	2	2
Spain	14	10	Chile	2	1
Northern Ireland	14	7	Austria	1	1
Ireland	14	6	Brazil	1	1
Netherlands	12	8	Denmark	1	1
Portugal	11	5	Jamaica	1	1
France	10	7	Serbia	1	1
Germany	4	4	Switzerland	1	1
Argentina	4	3	Uruguay	1	1
Sweden	3	3			



Fabio Cannavaro – World Cup winning captain in 2006 and the winner of the Ballon O'dr the same year



Along with the 51% English you have the remaining British and Irish countries making up the following:

Scottish = 14% Irish = 2% Welsh = 4% Northern Irish = 3%

So that totals 75%.

You can't argue the Scottish logic as 14 of the 28 winning managers of the Premier League (50%) were managed by Scots (adding a massive Ferguson disclaimer!).

Winners of Premier League (28)	
SCO	14
FRA	3
POR	3
ITA	4
CHI	1
GER	1
ESP	2

The Italians are dominating of late with all other managers coming from different nations (Wenger, Mourinho & Guardiola the only other multiple winners).

When it comes to the hiring of British managers it seems some habits are hard to break and the same names are appointed time and time again.

Take these 9 names as way of an example;

Bruce, Allardyce, Hughes, Pardew, Pulis, Moyes, Hodgson, Souness and Redknapp.

44 Premier League jobs between them! Allardyce is 7 of them (a record).

In terms of Premier League games where these 9 have been in charge is at an astonishing 3877 games. That's ~35% of all Premier League games ever!!!

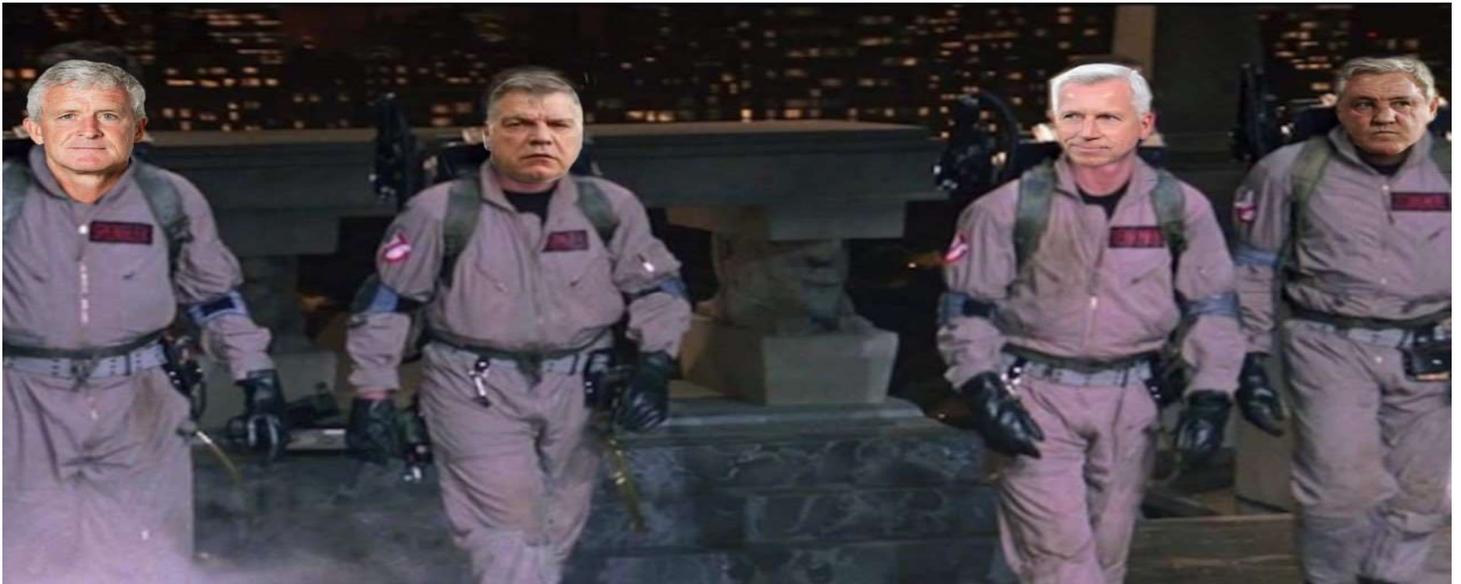
For perspective, adding Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger to the calculation that number goes above 50%! Over half of all Premier League games between 11 managers!

What do the clubs see in them, or perhaps what do they not see in other candidates? Lets take a closer look.....



Clarence Seedorf – Still to date the only player to win the Champions League with 3 different teams





So who you gonna call? The Coach-Busters!!

Here's our theory..

- Bottom of the League in January - call Tony Pulis
- Bottom of the League in March - call Sam Allardyce
- In the bottom 6 in November, but think you should be top 6 - call David Moyes
- 3 games to go, need 2 wins - call Neil Warnock
- Fans hate the board, at a loss who to call - call Steve Bruce
- New investment from new owners who fancy themselves – call Mark Hughes
- It's July, all the above have jobs - call Roy Hodgson
- Called everyone else, none of them are answering – call Alan Pardew
- Need someone to plug the gap for 2 games before new man comes in - call Iain Dowie or Nigel Pearson - unless it's Blackburn Rovers as of course you'd default to Tony Parks (6 occasions!)



Ousmane Dembele – Currently sits on the list as the 6th most expensive player of all time after his transfer from Borussia Dortmund to Barcelona



Look at the graphic - we've selected 12 teams and 12 managers regularly called upon.

	EVERTON	SUNDERLAND	PALACE	NEWCASTLE UTD	QPR	STOKE CITY	SOUTHAMPTON	WBA	HULL CITY	FULHAM	WEST HAM UTD	BLACKBURN
David Moyes	Blue	Red									Purple	
Alan Pardew			Red	Black			Red	Blue			Purple	
Sam Allardyce	Blue	Red	Red	Black							Purple	Blue
Iain Dowie			Red		Blue				Yellow			
Neil Warnock			Red		Blue							
Mark Hughes					Blue	Red	Red			Black		Blue
Harry Redknapp					Blue	Red	Red				Purple	
Tony Pulis			Red			Red		Blue				
Graeme Souness				Black			Red					Blue
Steve Bruce		Red	Red	Black					Yellow			
Nigel Pearson				Black			Red	Blue	Yellow			
Roy Hodgson			Red					Blue		Black		Blue

Southampton, Newcastle United and Crystal Palace seem to like this selection of managers the most. It is border line incestuous and does not always come with Premier League success. The frequency of same club and same managers is so one dimensional and strikes to us at The Halfway Line, club owners have their blinkers on.

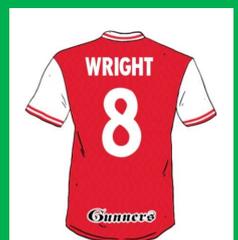
Of course the bar set for success is different for all clubs, and for the clubs here surely the ultimate goal is to avoid relegation, something not always achieved by all the 12 managers.

If we analyse the clubs that have been managed by more than one of these managers and expand it to wider than the Premier League, who (win wise) is the most successful? Rather surprisingly it's spits out Alan Pardew, coming in at 40.38% over the course of 520 games. You'll see later though, he has also overseen relegations.

The other 11 managers here all fall between a 35% and 40% win rate. As a comparison, for what it's worth Alex Ferguson had a win rate of 59% at Manchester United, and Pep Guardiola has records of above 70% at all 3 of his club sides!



Ian Wright – Scored the last ever goal in the old Division one before it's reformation to the Premier League, for Arsenal against Southampton.



English relegation survival specialists?

So no English manager has won the League, but are they specialists in avoiding relegation? We crunched some more numbers.

85 relegated teams since 1993. If we select the manager who was in charge on the last day of the season, the total English managers relegated from the Premier League stands at 56. That's 65%.

Double blow for the English, no League winner and most relegated nation when in charge. Of course it's all relative remembering the most appointed nationality of manager is English, and significantly.

If we stand by that analysis and the manager of a relegated team is the one in charge on the final day of the season it throws out an incredible statistic.

The first 'foreign' manager (and by that we mean non British or Irish) would be Avram Grant for Portsmouth in 2010!! 18 years after the Premier League commenced and 52 relegated teams beforehand!!

Go further and ask whose is the first foreign manager to take charge of a full 38 games and be relegated and it's 2013 and Roberto Martinez at Wigan Athletic, some 21 years on from the start of the Premier League!

Reality can look different to the history book. What about who was in charge of the team at the time the relegation was confirmed?

The Attilio Lombardo/Tomas Brodin combo failed at Palace in 1998 and the Eagles went down, with Ray Lewington and the owner Ron Noades taking over once relegation was confirmed.

However the foreign duo weren't in charge from the outset of the 1997/98 season, as Steve Coppell was at the helm to start with.



Zlatan Ibrahimović – The only player to have scored 50 goals for both AC Milan and Inter Milan



Avram Grant himself had successive relegations (first Portsmouth) and then West Ham United in 2011 but the owners left Kevin Keen to pick the team once the relegation was confirmed having removed Grant from his duties. Peter Reid seemingly the first to have successive relegation seasons (2002/03-2003/04).

The trend is certainly on the rise however and in recent seasons the number of relegated foreign managers is on the way up. At least one foreign manager has been relegated in the previous 5 Premier League seasons.

In charge when relegated		In charge when relegated	
ENG	56	ISR	1
SCO	15	WAL	1
GER	3	NIR	1
IRE	2	JAM	1
POR	2	NOR	1
ESP	2		

Our selected 12 managers themselves have overseen a number of relegations. 19 of the 85 in fact if you include any involvement during the season of relegation.

Front of the pack in terms of Premier League clubs, Sam Allardyce prides himself in the 7 appointments to never have seen a relegation under his regime. Maybe that's why he keeps getting the calls.

Look at Mark Hughes, he can say the same. Yet he has contributed to 2 relegations if you widen the criteria of having managed a club during a relegation season (QPR & Stoke City).

Consistent front runner for the English national team job in the past, Harry Redknapp features 3 times on the list of relegations. Peter Reid & Steve Coppell also have 3 involvements but the leaders of relegation involvement goes to Dave Bassett and Steve Bruce with 4 a piece.

It never happened for Redknapp and the England job but for those who were luckily enough to manage the Three Lions and the U21s are listed in the table on the right.

We bolded the managers that have been involved in relegation seasons in the Premier League. Pretty decent contribution..

We've compared the other 'top' European nations. You won't be surprised there isn't a similar trend.

<u>England Managers</u>	<u>England U21 Managers</u>
Bobby Robson	Laurie McMenemy
Graham Taylor	Dave Sexton
Terry Venables	Peter Taylor
Glenn Hoddle	Peter Reid
Kevin Keegan	Howard Wilkinson
Sven Goran-Eriksson	David Platt
Steve McClaren	Peter Taylor
Fabio Capello	Stuart Pearce
Roy Hodgson	Gareth Southgate
Sam Allardyce	Aidy Boothroyd
Gareth Southgate	



Rui Costa – Part of the Portuguese golden generation, who excelled at Fiorentina and AC Milan in Italy



Credit where credit is due, there are occasional league successes for British managers post 1992, but they have to go further afield. The Northern Irish trio of Lennon, O'Neill and Rodgers won the 2 horse race in Scotland with Celtic although you could argue 4 years of those were one horse races.

Sir Bobby Robson guided FC Porto to double league success in Portugal and perhaps even more remarkable, Steve McClaren triumphed with FC Twente in the Eredivisie in Holland before returning via Germany to continue with domestic struggles.

Don't let European football success deceive you. In the same timeframe as the Premier League (1992 to date) not one English manager has won the European Champions League or the UEFA Cup/Europa League. You have to go back to 1984 for an English manager to have won either of these competitions.

The last English manager to succeed in a major European Trophy was Sir Bobby Robson, who won the now defunct European Cup Winners Cup trophy with Barcelona in 1997.

If you seek to find the highest Premier League finish by an English manager you have two. Both Ron Atkinson and Kevin Keegan led teams to 2nd place finishes. In 1992/93 Atkinson steered Aston Villa to second, as did Keegan with Newcastle United in 1996/97.

Unsurprisingly we see in our analysis both managers have also been involved in relegation campaigns.

So what does it all mean? The facts tell us there have been 407 appointments in the Premier League, including caretakers (Newcastle United the most with 23) and of the 407, 210 have been English. We know of the 11 league winning managers none have been English.

Englishmen lead the way with relegations and there are (what is the collective term for managers?) a 'merry-go-round' that tend to feature the same managers when certain clubs are looking for a new hire.

The approach coincidentally isn't so 'foreign' as the rotation of coaches in Serie A tends to follow that pattern. However, as seen in the country winners, the Italians tend to add an extra element to their story....success!



Frank Lampard – The highest scoring midfielder in Premier League history and 5th on the overall list



Here is our year by year breakdown of relegated managers (& winners)
(underlined are caretakers, and italics those put in place after relegation)

1992-93	Ferguson	SCO	2002-03	Ferguson	SCO
Crystal Palace	Steve Coppell	ENG	West Ham United	Glenn Roeder/ <u>Trevor Brooking</u>	ENG/ENG
Middlesbrough	Lennie Lawrence	ENG	WBA	Gary Megson	ENG/ENG
Nottingham Forest	Brian Clough	ENG	Sunderland	P Reid/H Wilkinson/M McCarthy	ENG/ENG/IRE
1993-94	Ferguson	SCO	2003-04	Wenger	FRA
Sheffield Utd	Dave Bassett	ENG	Leicester City	Micky Adams	ENG
Oldham Athletic	Joe Royle	ENG	Leeds United	Peter Reid/ <u>Eddie Gray</u>	ENG/SCO
Swindon Town	John Gorman	SCO	Wolves	David Jones	ENG
1994-95	Dalglish	SCO	2004-05	Mourinho	POR
Crystal Palace	Alan Smith	ENG	Crystal Palace	Iain Dowie	ENG
Norwich City	John Deehan/Gary Megson	ENG/ENG	Norwich City	Nigel Worthington	NIR
Leicester City	Brian Little/Mark McGee	ENG/SCO	Southampton	P Sturrock/S Wigley/H Redknapp	SCO/ENG/ENG
Ipswich Town	John Lyall/George Burley	ENG/SCO			
1995-96	Ferguson	SCO	2005-06	Mourinho	POR
Manchester City	Alan Ball	ENG	Birmingham City	Steve Bruce	ENG
QPR	Ray Wilkins	ENG	WBA	Bryan Robson	ENG
Bolton Wanderers	Roy McFarland/Colin Todd	ENG/ENG	Sunderland	Mick McCarthy/Kevin Ball	IRE/ENG
1996-97	Ferguson	SCO	2006-07	Ferguson	SCO
Sunderland	Peter Reid	ENG	Sheffield United	Neil Warnock	ENG
Middlesbrough	Bryan Robson	ENG	Charlton Athletic	Iain Dowie/Les Reed/Alan Pardew	ENG/ENG/ENG
Nottingham Forest	Frank Clark/ <u>Stuart Pearce</u> /Dave Bassett	ENG/ENG	Watford	Aidy Boothroyd	ENG
1997-98	Wenger	FRA	2007-08	Ferguson	SCO
Bolton Wanderers	Colin Todd	ENG	Reading	Steve Coppell	ENG
Barnsley	Danny Wilson	ENG	Birmingham City	Steve Bruce/Alex McLeish	ENG/SCO
Crystal Palace	S Coppell/ <u>Lombardo</u> / <u>Meades & Lewington</u>	ENG/ITA/ENG	Derby County	Billy Davies/Paul Jewell	SCO/ENG/ENG
1998-99	Ferguson	SCO	2008-09	Ferguson	SCO
Charlton Athletic	Alan Curbishley	ENG	Newcastle United	Kevin Keegan/Joe Kinnear/A Shearer	ENG/ENG/ENG
Blackburn Rovers	Roy Hodgson/Brian Kidd	ENG/ENG	Middlesbrough	Gareth Southgate	ENG
Nottingham Forest	Dave Bassett/Ron Atkinson	ENG/ENG	WBA	Tony Mowbray	ENG
1999-00	Ferguson	SCO	2009-10	Ancelotti	ITA
Wimbledon	Egil Olsen/Terry Burton	NOR/ENG	Burnley	Owen Coyle/Brian Laws	IRE/ENG
Sheffield Wed	Danny Wilson/ <u>Peter Shreeves</u>	ENG/WAL	Hull City	Phil Brown/Iain Dowie	ENG/ENG
Watford	Graham Taylor	ENG	Portsmouth	Paul Hart/Avram Grant	ENG/ISR
2000-01	Ferguson	SCO	2010-11	Ferguson	SCO
Manchester City	Joe Royle	ENG	Birmingham City	Alex McLeish	SCO
Coventry City	Gordon Strachan	SCO	Blackpool	Ian Holloway	ENG
Bradford City	Chris Hutchings/Jim Jefferies	ENG/SCO	West Ham United	Avram Grant/ <u>Kewin Keen</u>	ISR/ENG
2001-02	Wenger	FRA	2011-12	Mancini	ITA
Ipswich Town	George Burley	SCO	Bolton Wanderers	Owen Coyle	IRE
Derby County	Jim Smith/Colin Todd/John Gregory	ENG/ENG/ENG	Blackburn Rovers	Steve Kean	SCO
Leicester City	Peter Taylor/ Dave Bassett/Micky Adams	ENG/ENG/ENG	Wolves	Mick McCarthy/Terry Connor	IRE/ENG



Sergi Barjuan – Spanish full back who won 3 La Liga titles with Barcelona in the 1990's



2012-13	Ferguson	SCO
Wigan Athletic	Roberto Martinez	ESP
Reading	Brian McDermott/Nigel Adkins	ENG/ENG
QPR	Mark Hughes/Harry Redknapp	WAL/ENG
2013-14	Pellegrini	CHI
Norwich City	Chris Hughton/Neil Adams	IRE/SCO
Fulham	Martin Jol/Meulensteen/Felix Magath	HOL/HOL/GER
Cardiff City	Malky Mackay/Ole Gunnar Solskjaer	SCO/NOR
2014-15	Mourinho	POR
Hull City	Steve Bruce	ENG
Burnley	Sean Dyche	ENG
QPR	Harry Redknapp/Chris Ramsey	ENG/ENG
2015-16	Ranieri	ITA
Newcastle United	Steve McClaren/Rafa Benitez	ENG/ESP
Norwich City	Alex Neil	SCO
Aston Villa	Tim Sherwood/Remi Garde/Eric Black	ENG/FRA/SCO
2016-17	Conte	ITA
Hull City	Steve Bruce/Mike Phelan/Marco Silva	ENG/ENG/POR
Middlesbrough	Aitor Karanka/Steve Agnew	ESP/ENG
Sunderland	David Moyes	SCO
2017-18	Guardiola	ESP
Swansea City	Paul Clement/Carlos Carvalhal	ENG/POR
Stoke City	Mark Hughes/Paul Lambert	WAL/SCO
WBA	Tony Pulis/Alan Pardew/Darren Moore	WAL/ENG/JAM
2018-19	Guardiola	ESP
Cardiff City	Neil Warnock	ENG
Fulham	Slavisa Jokanovic/Claudio Ranieri/Scott Parker	SER/ITA/ENG
Huddersfield Town	David Wagner/Jan Siewert	USA/GER
2019-20	Klopp	GER
Watford	J Gracia/Q Flores/N Pearson/H Mullins	SPA/SPA/ENG/ENG
Bournemouth	Eddie Howe	ENG
Norwich City	Daniel Farke	GER

Looking at the data, although we mentioned the Italian's are showing a sign of domination with their league wins, they remain the only nation to have the same manager win the Premier League and contribute to a relegation campaign, with Claudio Ranieri.



William Gallas – The first and only player to play for Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League



Who is playing against who?

We've put together 2 line ups in this feature showing the traditional 11 v 11, with each team being represented by players who have played for a certain club.

The first is Tottenham Hotspur versus Portsmouth. Or wait is it Portsmouth versus Tottenham Hotspur? Can you figure it out?

The second line up is Manchester United versus Sunderland. Nope, that's wrong, it's Sunderland versus Manchester United.....

You get it? 22 players on the pitch who have each played for both clubs.

We had a long hard think and not sure we could do this with any other teams that have played Premier League football.

For each line up, our pernickety readers may have issues with our choice of goalkeepers. Our defence is as follows...

Asmir Begovic, signed and played for Portsmouth. Regarding Spurs, Begović had held talks with Tottenham Hotspur prior to joining Stoke, but opted for the "Potters" due to "sporting reasons". Portsmouth ended up owing Tottenham money for Begović, despite him turning them down, as Tottenham had already paid Portsmouth an instalment on the transfer. Portsmouth were ordered to pay Tottenham £1 million by the Premier League over the aborted transfer as Spurs had already made an initial payment for both Begović and Younès Kaboul.

Luke McGee played for Portsmouth and was on the books for Spurs for 3 years as a professional.

Tony Coton signed for both clubs, making the bench for Manchester United but not getting on the pitch, but still counts as he was officially in a match day squad.

Chris Turner, player for both clubs but we are stretching out the era here (as with a couple of the Portsmouth/Spurs defenders!)

Can you match another 22 players from 2 teams?



Paul Lambert – The first British player to win the Champions League for a non British club



Tottenham Hotspur versus Portsmouth



Didier Drogba – First player to score in four different FA Cup finals



Portsmouth versus Tottenham Hotspur



Denilson – Became the most expensive player in the world in 1998 moving to Real Betis for £24 million



Manchester United versus Sunderland



Erling Haaland – The first teenager to score in 5 consecutive Champions League games



Sunderland versus Manchester United



Gabriel Batistuta – The only player to have scored a hat-trick in 2 World Cup final tournaments





First starting XI not to feature a Brit in a Premier League game



Gianluca Zambrotta – 98 international caps and a World Cup winners medal for Italy and played his club football for Juventus, Barcelona and AC Milan having begun his career at Bari



First starting XI not to feature a Brit in a Premier League game

26th December 1999. Chelsea versus Southampton

Ed De Goey - Dutch goalkeeper, bought from Feyenoord in 1997 for £2.25m. Holland caps = 31

Albert Ferrer - Spanish right back, bought from Barcelona in 1998 for £2.2 million. Spain caps = 36

Emerson Thome - Brazilian centre back bought from Sheffield Wednesday in 1999 for £2.7m. Brazil caps = 0

Frank LeBoeuf - French centre back bought from Strasbourg in 1996 for £2.5m. France caps = 50

Celestine Babayaro - Nigerian left back bought from Anderlecht in 1997 for £2.25m. Nigeria caps = 27

Dan Petrescu - Romanian right sided player bought from Sheffield Wednesday in 1995 for £2.3m. Romania caps = 95

Didier Deschamps - French midfielder bought from Juventus in 1999 for £3m. France Caps = 103

Roberto Di Matteo - Italian midfielder bought from Lazio in 1995 for £4.9 million. Italy caps = 34

Gabrielle Ambrosetti - Italian left sided midfielder bought from Vicenza in 1999 for £3.5 million. Italy caps = 0

Gustavo Poyet - Uruguayan attacker moved from Real Zaragoza in 1996 on a free transfer. Uruguay caps = 26

Tore Andre Flo - Norwegian striker bought from Brann in 1997 for £300k. Norway caps = 76

Manager - **Gianluca Vialli**, Italian.

The substitutes bought on during the match bought some English representation as **Jody Morris** and **Jon Harley** were called upon from the bench



Gonzalo Higuain – 36 goals in a Serie A season is the most ever (joint), achieving this with Napoli in the 2014-15 season





Last starting XI to feature
all English players in the
Premier League



Luis Enrique – The ultimate Championship Manager
player as he was listed as DEF/MID/STR and
RIGHT/CENTRE/LEFT!



Last starting XI to feature all English players in the Premier League

27th February 1999. Aston Villa versus Coventry City

Goalkeeper - **Michael Oakes**. Promoted through the youth teams at Villa Park.

Centre back - **Gareth Southgate**. Moved to Villa from Crystal Palace in 1995, for £2.5m

Centre back - **Simon Grayson**. Moved to Villa from Leicester City in 1997 for £1.3m

Centre back - **Ricardo Scimeca**. Promoted through the youth teams at Villa Park.

Right full back - **Steve Watson**. Moved to Villa from Newcastle United in 1998 for £4m.

Left full back - **Alan Wright**. Moved to Villa from Blackburn Rovers in 1995 for £1m.

Central midfield - **Lee Hendrie**. Promoted through the youth teams at Villa Park.

Centre midfield - **Ian Taylor**. Moved to Villa from Sheffield Wednesday in 1994 for £1m

Attacking midfield - **Paul Merson**. Moved to Villa from Middlesbrough in 1998 for £6.75m

Striker - **Dion Dublin**. Moved to Villa from Coventry City in 1998 for £5.75m

Striker - **Julian Joachim**. Moved to Villa from Leicester City in 1996 for £1.5m

Manager - **John Gregory**

To remain an all England team over the full 90 minutes the three substitutes used were:

Mark Draper, Gareth Barry and Stan Collymore



Alexi Lalas – The first ever US player to play in Serie A, after signing for Padova in 1994





THE BOOTS GAZZA'S BEEN CRYING OUT FOR.



THE GASCOIGNE PRO



PUMA.

FROM THE NAME THAT'S ON EVERYONE'S LIPS, THE BOOTS THAT'LL BE ON EVERYONE'S FEET.



Wesley Sneijder – Currently the most capped Dutch men's footballer with 134 caps to his name



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.



In addition to our Mark Hughes 'quirk' in issue #3, we can add Juninho Pernambucano, the former Brazilian footballer to the list of few footballers to have played two top-level matches in two different countries in the same day. He represented his country in the second half of a friendly match between Brazil and Argentina in Porto Alegre, which Brazil won 4–2, playing about fifteen minutes. In spite of a delayed flight to Montevideo, he managed to arrive in Uruguay in time to feature in the second half of the Copa Mercosur match between Vasco da Gama and Nacional.

The Danish Super Cup was the trophy played out between the winners of the Danish League and the Danish Cup the previous season. It is (or was as it is no longer competed for) the equivalent of the English Community Shield.

It ran from 1994 – 2004, although you will not find a winner of the trophy in 2003.

It was not played, as the venue, the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen, was double booked, for a Robbie Williams concert!!!

Neither team would agree on an alternative venue, and so the fixture was scrapped!!

Just imagine that happening in England, the Community Shield game being cancelled as Ronan Keating was doing a gig at Wembley!!!



Fernando Couto – Played in Portugal, Spain and Italy and won a domestic double in each of the 3 countries



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.



Bursa Büyükşehir Belediye Stadyumu or nicknamed Timsah Arena (literally meaning Crocodile Arena) is a stadium in Bursa, Turkey. It has a capacity of 43,761 and is home to Bursaspor of the Süper Lig. Their nickname is Yeşil Timsahlar (Green Crocodiles).

What is quirky about that?
The venue literally has a large crocodile's mouth.

This may not be that 'quirky' but we wanted to include it as a fact as we think it is pretty darn impressive.

According to our statistics department, we think that there are 4 players to have played top division English football over the course of 4 separate decades.

Stanley Matthews - 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960's
*

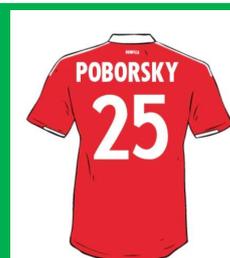
Peter Shilton – 1960's, 1970's, 1980's and 1990's
*

Steve Ogrizovic – 1970's, 1980's, 1990's and 2000's
*

John Lukic – 1970's, 1980's, 1990's and 2000's
*



Karel Poborsky – Czech midfielder famed for his Euro'96 scooped goal, also won league titles with both Slavia and Sparta Prague



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.



The player to have featured in the Premier League with the most of amount of characters in their *surname*, and the player you didn't want your children to ask to have the name on the back of their shirt was the Dutchman Johannes "Jan" Vennegoor of Hesselink. 20 characters!

If picking all characters, the former Hull City striker is joined by Cameron Borthwick-Jackson and Kevin Theophile-Catherine with 23 in total.

On 24th April 1996, a 17 year old Icelandic international came on for his debut, as Iceland were playing Estonia in an International friendly.

That is not particular quirky I imagine you are saying to yourself, but what adds to this is when Eidur Gudjohnsen came on for Iceland, the player he replaced in the game was none other than Arnor Gudjohnsen.
Still not quirky enough?

How about Arnor is Eidur's father!!

There is yet to be a father and son play in the same international game...yet...



Landon Donovan – Won a record 6 MLS Cups and is the MLS's all time assist leader (136 assists)



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.

From issue #3 of the Halfway Line, in cult heroes we profiled Keisuke Honda and how he'd played and scored in 5 continents of the world at club level.

We now know that Honda, David Villa and Tim Cahill, thanks to International football competitions (World Cups and Confederations Cups) have all each scored in 6 continents, combining their goals scored at club level.

Honda

Europe = AC Milan

North America = Pachuca

Africa = For Japan in the 2010 World Cup (South Africa hosted)

South America = Botafogo

Australasia = Melbourne Victory

Asia = Nagoya Grampus Eight



Villa

Europe = Barcelona

North America = New York City

Africa = For Spain in the 2010 World Cup (South Africa hosted)

South America = For Spain in the 2014 World Cup (Brazil hosted)

Australasia = Melbourne City

Asia = Vissel Kobe



Cahill

Europe = Everton

North America = New York Red Bulls

Africa = For Australia in the 2010 World Cup (South Africa hosted)

South America = For Australian in the 2014 World Cup (Brazil hosted)

Australasia = Melbourne City

Asia = Shanghai Shenhua



Rodrygo – Is the 2nd youngest player to score a hat-trick in the Champions League



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.

Quirkier than that is we have a player to have played professional **club** football in all 6 of the FIFA recognised continents! Introducing **Lutz Pfannenstiel**.

The German born goalkeeper may well have gone on the most outrageous footballing journey of all time, literally to all corners of the world.

The shot stopper has totalled 27 club moves in his career, and along the way become the only footballer to date to achieve the feat of playing club football in each of the recognised continents by FIFA.



Kolo Toure – Achieved an unbeaten League season in England with Arsenal and Celtic in Scotland. A double invincible



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.

The non-exhaustive list looks of the clubs Pfannenstiel has represented looks like this.

UEFA (Europe) – In Germany, Pfannenstiel's first club – FK BAD KOTZING, Wimbledon (ENG), FC Haka (FIN)

AFC (Asia) – In Malaysia - PENANG

CAF (Africa) – In South Africa – ORLANDO PIRATES

OFC (Oceania) - In New Zealand – DUNEDIN TECHNICAL, Otago United (NZL)

CONCACAF (North America, Central America and Caribbean) - In Canada - CALGARY MUSTANGS, Vancouver Whitecaps (CAN)

CONMEBOL (South America) – In Brazil - HERMANN AICHINGER

There are multiple other clubs and countries, including Nottingham Forest in England, Geyland United in Singapore, Vllaznia Shkoder in Albania as well as player/coaching roles in Armenia, Norway and Namibia.



Nicolas Burdisso – Received a 7 month ban from domestic and European football in 2007 due to involvement in a pitch side fracas playing for Inter Milan against Valencia



Quirky happenings in the world of football, Part 2.

To add to the adventure, Pfannenstiel has spent time in a Singapore prison for alleged match fixing (later cleared) and even died on a football pitch. Luckily for him he was revived. This was whilst playing for Bradford Park Avenue in England, he took a knee from a striker to the lungs, that then collapsed, and on 3 occasions he stopped breathing and had to be saved by the teams physio.

To add a final quirk, Pfannenstiel has also attempted, by becoming a player manager of an **Antarctica XI**, to host a game (for charity) on the 7th and final continent, but as you can imagine that is no small undertaking and the dream has yet to be realised.

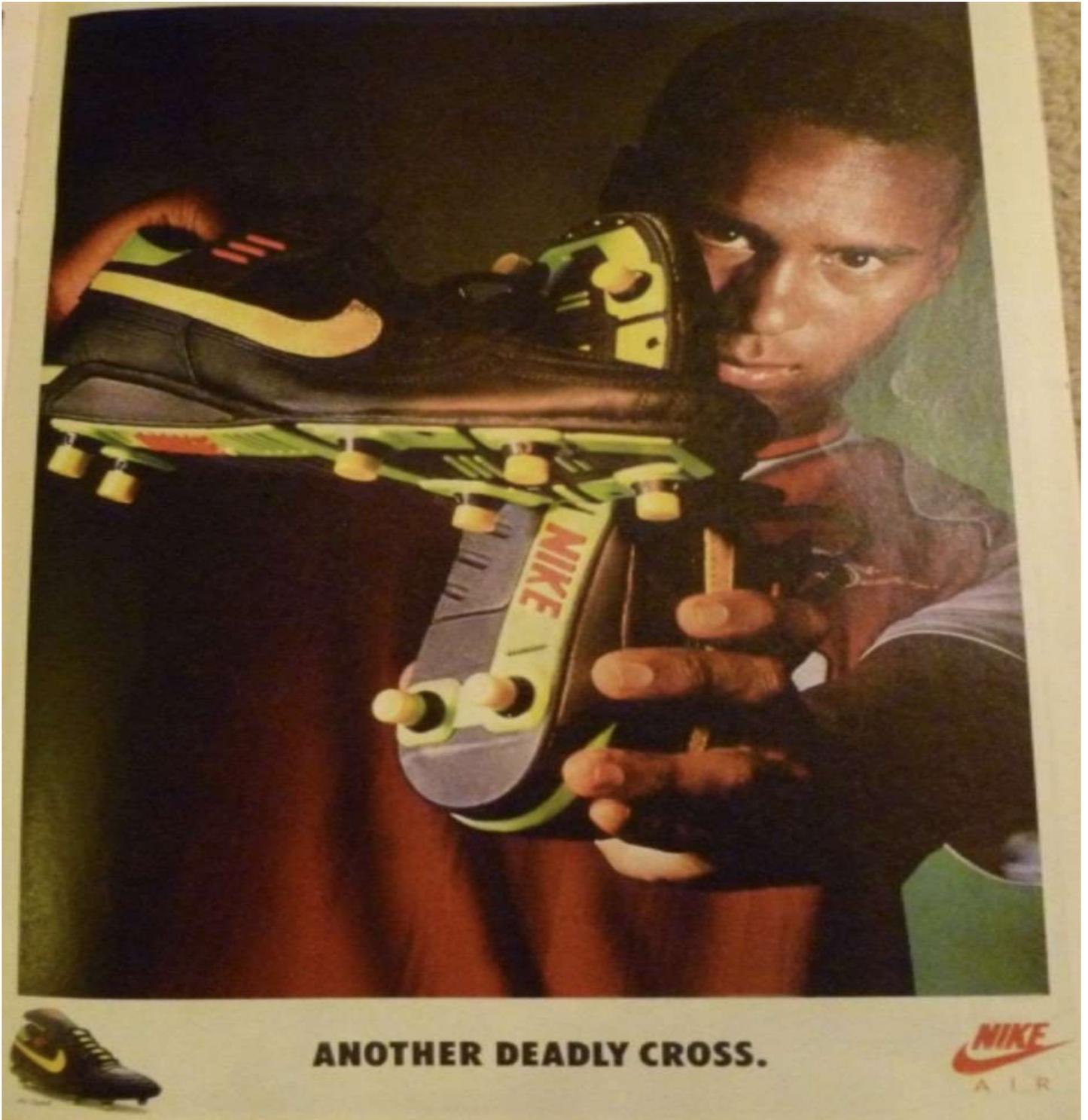


And they say goalkeepers have to be mad.....



Luca Toni – The oldest player, at 38, to win the Capocannoniere, the Serie A top goal scorer award





Faustino Asprilla – Inspired one of St. James Park’s most iconic moments, with a hat-trick against Barcelona in the Champions League for Newcastle United



Classic Kits

Every issue The Halfway Line features some classic kits. It maybe purely kit based, it could be a classic kit being worn by a classic player, or a classic kit in a classic match. In this issue we are focusing on a particular kit design.

Whilst putting issue # 4 together in July, when researching through the kits with a diagonal stripe it stuck in our minds just how good some kits look without a sponsor brazened across the front. Don't get us wrong, we like a sponsor (see issue #1) but it has to be the right one! Don't imagine many Wolves fans celebrated the fact Doritos where front and central to their 2003/2004 kit?

In this issue we've gone out to find the best shirts that either don't have a sponsor at all, or have designed the kit with a discreet inclusion of the sponsor instead.

Setting ourselves certain rules means we are leaving out the most common kit where this occurs, and that's the national team. In very few circumstances do you see a national team kit don a sponsor and we're a firm believer that stance should remain. But we are not including them for this feature. Nor are we going back in time to show off kits in an era before kit sponsorships. We love retro, but that is cheating.

Our focus instead tends to lean on a few other themes.

Discretion - where there is a sponsor but it is smaller, off centre and doesn't necessarily jump out at you. Examples you'll see are from the Glasgow giants, Rangers and Celtic, Vasco da Gama (who appear a lot in this feature), Fulham as well as repeat appearance with Manchester City and also Italian power house Inter Milan.



Vincent Candela – Grossly under recognised world class full back. Left back for Fabio Capello's title winning Roma side



Another form of discretion is to have a sponsor but make it the same colour as the base of the kit. In recent years, to celebrate landmarks, teams have worn one off celebratory kits to mark anniversary's. Both Bayern Munich and Chelsea did so recently and no doubt encouraged by the sponsors themselves, the brand name is still included but it is merged into the kit. Leeds United recently followed suit with a beautiful anniversary offering, with their version going for a more discreet and less central sponsor being included, and there is a Toulouse offering also.

Others have gone with the option of no sponsorship at all. This could be down to club choice, be it traditional or a status. Both Real Madrid and Barcelona shared this approach in the mid to late 1990s, preferring not to have a sponsor.

Others followed, more likely for other reasons. West Ham United, the original Wimbledon and West Bromwich Albion all featured in the heavily sponsored Premier League without a brand covered across their jersey during their spells in the top English division. The Italian Capital team's Roma and Lazio also both pulling off this style in recent years.

Another reason you may come across a kit with no sponsor is if you're following your British team in Europe.

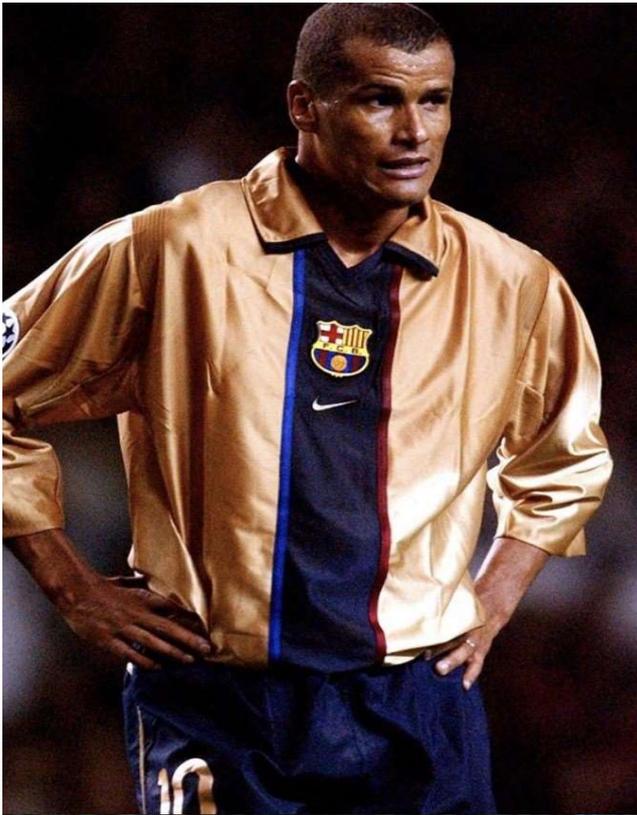
Certain countries have rules regarding what can and can't be advertised, for example alcohol, and so when travelling teams visit from another country they need to seek alternative kit fronts to adhere to local laws! See in the examples another offering from Celtic as well as Arsenal and Liverpool.

Sometimes less is more and that is certainly the summary in this case. Take a look at our gallery and see for yourselves.



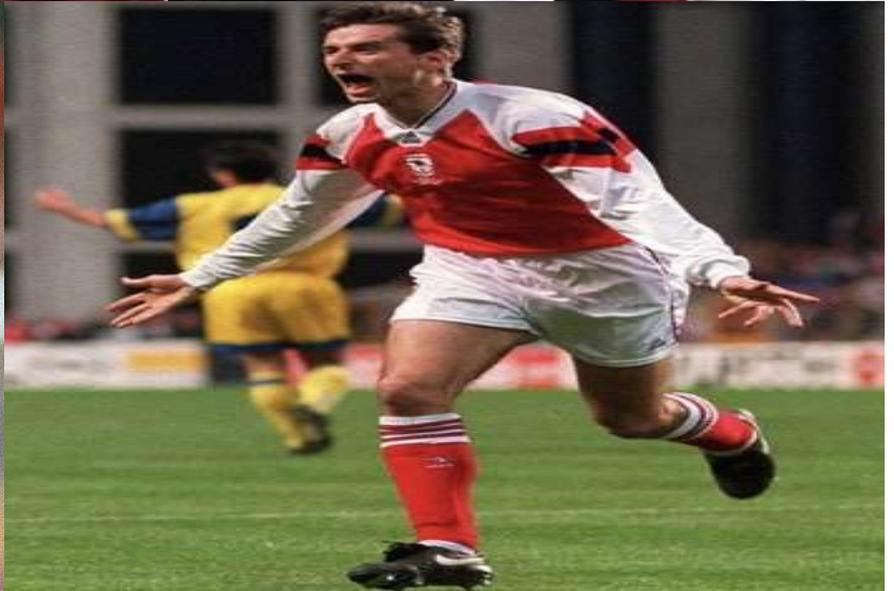
Vincent Kompany – 4 Premier League titles as a Manchester City player, 2 league titles with Anderlecht and one of the Premier League's bargain signings of all time





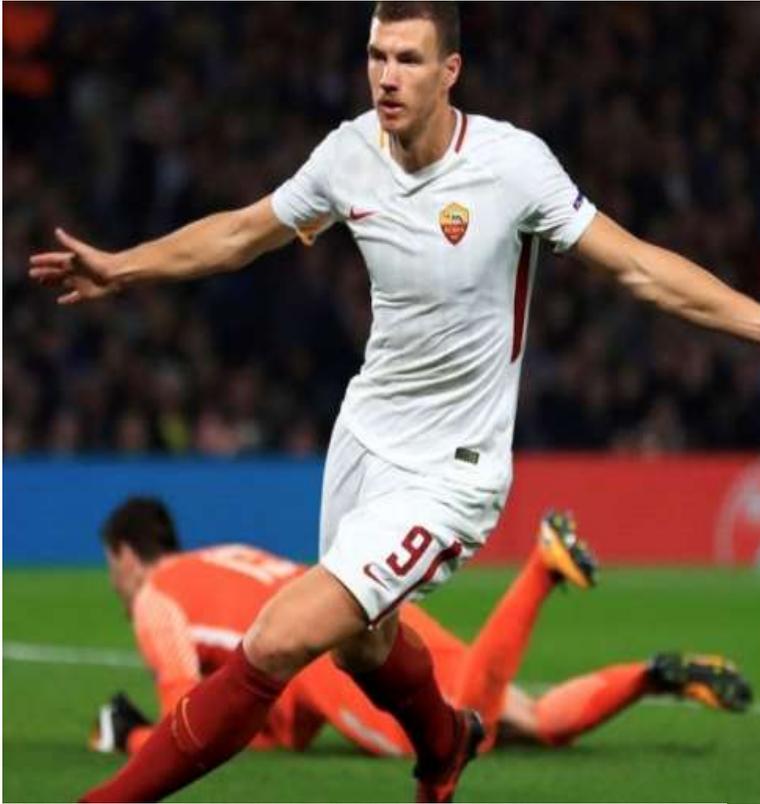
Taribo West – Quietly confident the only player to have played for AC Milan, Inter Milan and Plymouth Argyle





Juliano Belletti – The Brazilian full back broke Arsenal fan's heart with the winner in the 2006 Champions League final for Barcelona





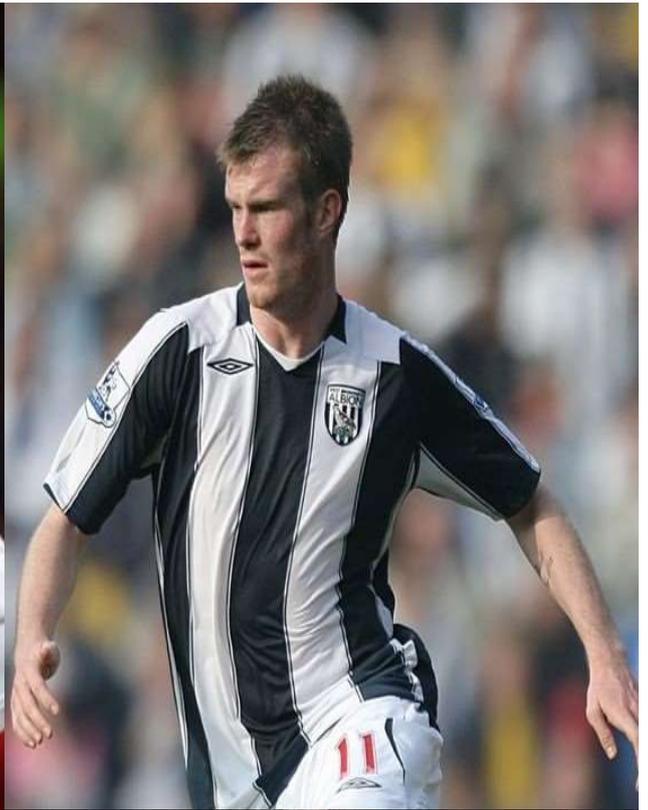
Romelu Lukaku – He became the first foreign player to score 80 goals before the age of 24 in the Premier League





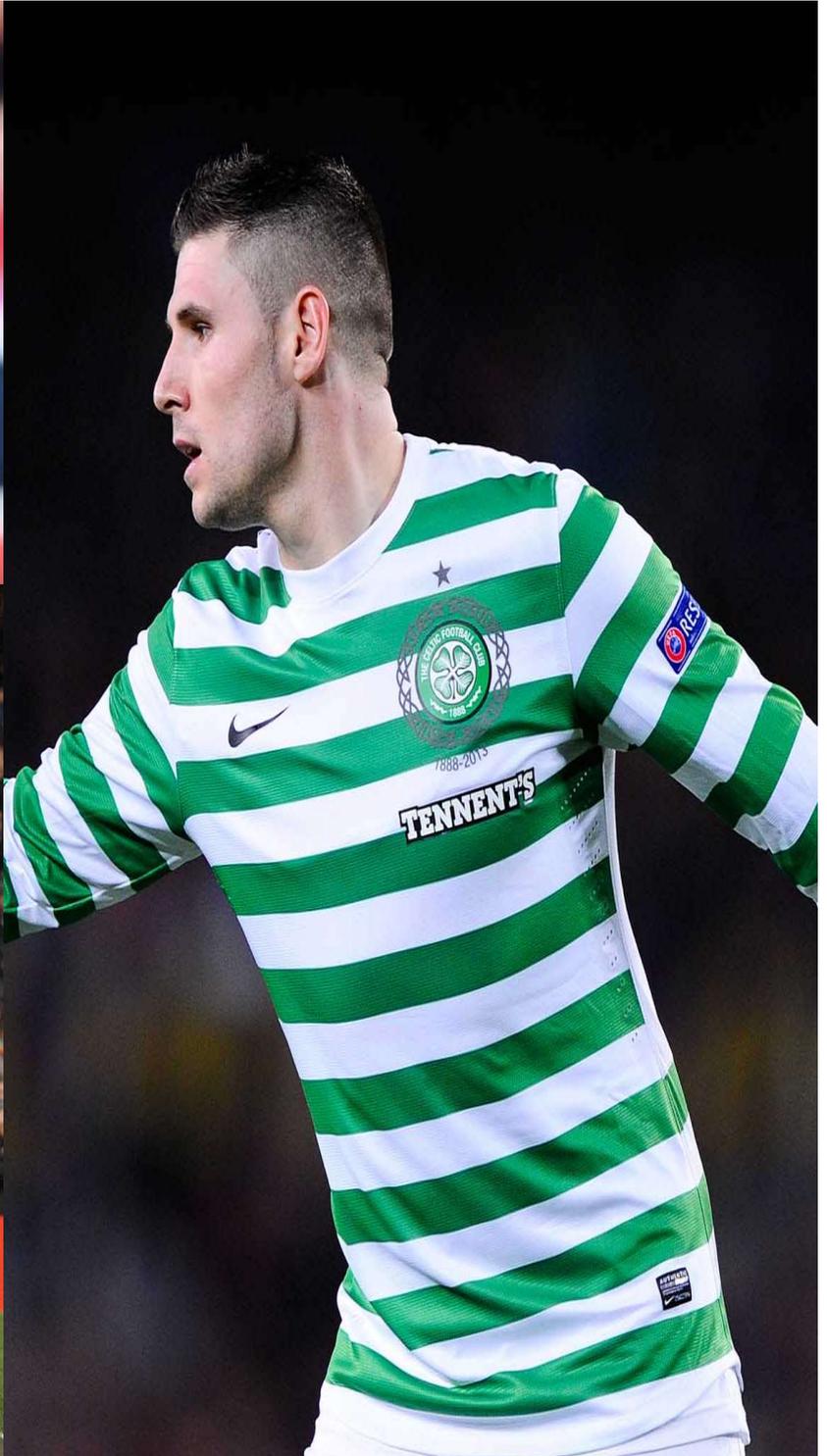
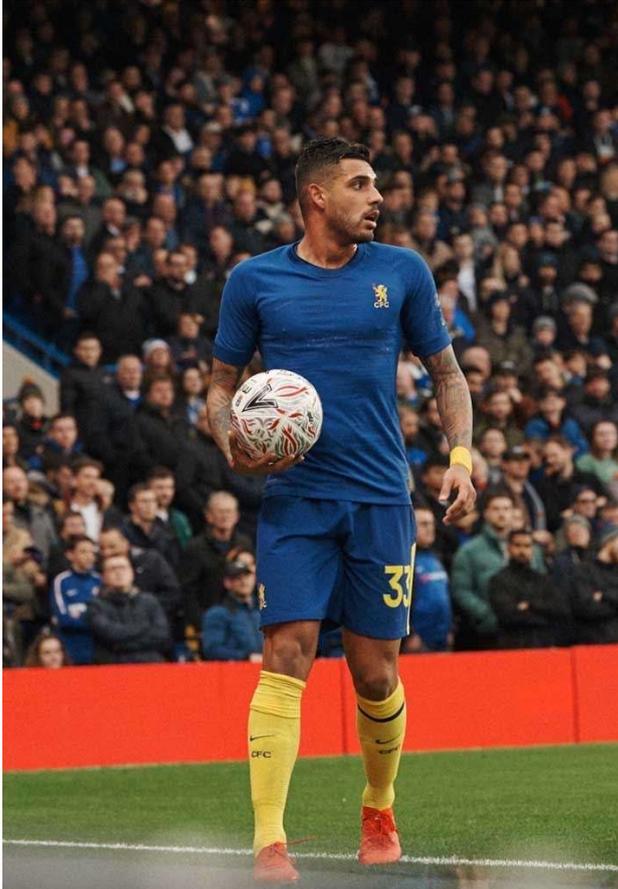
Milan Skriniar – When transferred from Sampdoria to Inter Milan he became the most expensive Slovak player of all time





Jamie Redknapp – At the time, he became the youngest Liverpool player to appear in Europe at 18 years and 120 days old when he debuted against Auxerre in 1991





Lucas Paqueta – Signed for AC Milan from Flamengo in January 2019 for a reported £35 million



The Premier League Greatest XI Nationalities

Featured here are the greatest line ups that only include players from one nation. In the this issue we are heading back into Europe, and to Scandinavia with representation from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.



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

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



Henrique Hilario – At Chelsea from 2006 to 2014;
tempted to see if he won more league titles then he
did make appearances



DENMARK XI

The pick for a Danish goalkeeper in one line of thought is pretty darn easy. It's Schmeichel. Easy right? The element of doubt that could cause the debate is which one?? Peter or his son Kasper? Both are Premier League winners, with Peter somewhat ahead with his 5 medals compared to Kasper's one. The achievement of Kasper's could potentially be argued is worth 5!!

Based on transfer fee (what a bargain) and overall influence on Manchester United and perhaps the Premier League as a whole, we are going for Peter Schmeichel.

In defence, to start, we have Thomas Helveg at right back. The classy full back, who featured for both Milan clubs and the national team on over 100 occasions, somewhat surprisingly rocked up at Norwich City, aged 33, and put in a solid seasons performance. Lars Jacobsen could challenge for the position for the sheer audacity of playing for 3 Premier League clubs, without anyone really taking any notice.

A strong centre back partnership of Daniel Agger and Martin Laursen would mean a struggle for most centre forwards. The latter extremely unlucky with injuries, though did enough at Villa park to be inducted into the "Villa Legends" section of Aston Villa's official website. Others who also held their own are Andreas Christensen at Chelsea, Marc Reiper at West Ham United, and despite relegations, Thomas Gaardsoe was a decent competitor at the back.

Not blessed with left back imports for Denmark, almost by default the former Manchester City and Fulham defender Niclas Jensen takes the number 3 jersey. The selection can also be based on his volley he scored for City against Leeds United in a league game back in the 2002/03 season.

In the midfield selection we have a mix of creativity, pace and grit.

John Jensen, fresh from a European Championship scoring performance in the 1992 final, plays in the middle. He didn't bring that scoring ability with him to Highbury, but a cult status has him in the XI. Alongside Jensen plays Thomas Gravesen. An absolute machine of a player, seemingly never keen to give less than 100%. Appearances can be deceptive, as although credited as a defensive midfielder, Gravesen could play a fair bit too. Solid central midfielders such as Phillip Billing, Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg and Allan Nielsen all worth a mention.

The creation comes from Christian Eriksen. A steal of a signing by Tottenham Hotspur from Ajax with some of their Bale money. Such was his creativity, he became only the second player after David Beckham to record 10+ assists in four successive Premier League seasons. Jan Molby and Per Frandsen had that job at their teams, but Eriksen did it better.

The pace comes from Jesper Gronkjaer. He beats off Dennis Rommedahl, as it was he who scored for Chelsea in the Champions League 'play off' game against Liverpool in 2003.

Up front. It's a case of what could have been if Brian Laudrup and Jon Dahl Tomasson had managed to produce in the Premier League, but they didn't so we go with Mikel Beck, who ousts Henrik Pedersen playing alongside the ego of Nicklas Bendtner.



Cheik Tiote – Scored the equaliser for Newcastle United in 'the' 4-4 draw with Arsenal. This was the only game in Premier League history when a team has been 4-0 down at half time and not lost the match





Federico Balzaretti – The former Italian full back, took the number 42 shirt as a tribute to his father, as this was the year of his birth



FINLAND XI

The poor relation in terms of Scandinavian representation, especially with Iceland having now made loads of friends with their big clapping!

The depth of talent into the Premier League has also been rather limited, but we have an XI for you.

The goalkeeping position was actually the most competitive. Antti Niemi, with successful spells at Southampton and Fulham would be above Peter Enckelman, who will always be remembered for the mess up at St. Andrews. However for performances and sheer longevity, the number 1 jersey goes to Jussi Jääskeläinen. He mustered over 500 games for Bolton Wanderers.

The defence is a tale of two extremes. Petri Pasanen, Toni Kallio and Hannu Tihinen were defenders on Premier League teams books and none of them would be held as great signings or even great players if being overly critical.

The forth defender in the line up is Sami Hyypia. A common theme of Scandinavian signings is they tend to be in the bargain category. The Finn fits that bill. Bought to Anfield by Gerard Houllier and excelled, and captained the team through a very successful period.

The midfield selection picks itself really as there really are only 4 midfielders to have graced the Premier League from Finland. Simo Valakari of Derby County, Aki Riihilahti and Jonas Kolkka at Crystal Palace and Teemu Taino, who played for three Premier League clubs, Tottenham Hotspur, Sunderland and Birmingham City.

Up front, a fellow 3 club man, Steffi Kuqi misses out as does the first Finn to play in the Premier League, Mixu Paatelainen.

The 2 that take the starting berths are Teemu Pukki, for his 6 goals in his first 5 Premier League games and Mikael Forssell, who for one season at Birmingham City looked the real deal.

Others considered were national treasure Jari Litmanen and work horse Jonatan Johansson.



Shkodran Mustafi – World Cup winning defender who went 20 games unbeaten at the start of his Arsenal career





Ethan Ampadu – Exeter City’s youngest ever player and the first player born in the 2000s to play for Chelsea



NORWAY XI

What struck us at The Halfway Line when doing the Norway team (and Sweden actually) is the era from which we've picked the players.

It seems Scandinavia is no longer the go to region to recruit foreign players into the Premier League. From the early days of the league for near on a decade it was in vogue to head to these countries but of the XI players picked for Norway only 2 were purchased after the year 2000.

In goal, is one of the originals. Erik Thorsvedt is in the sticks bearing off not great competition in Thomas Myhre and Froda Grodas.

Gunnar Halle plays right back and the forward thinking John Arne Riise in at left back. The latter will always be fondly remembered for his rocket free kick against Manchester United.

Pal Lydersen made a number of headlines during his time at Arsenal, but perhaps (and not his fault) for all the wrong reasons, and Vegard Heggem was always injured.

Premier League winner (and the first to do so with different clubs) Henning Berg partners Claus Lundekvam who seemed to be at Southampton forever!

The giant Brede Hangeland, and the two Johnsen's, Erland and Ronnie unlucky not to feature.

The midfield is made up of Oyvind Leonhardsen, Alf-Inge Haaland, Lars Bohnien and Morten Gamst Pedersen.

The first 3 more engine room type players as opposed to the flair and creativity offered by Pedersen, coming in from the left.

Workmen players like Eirik Bakke, Alex Tettey, Petter Rudi and Trond Soltvedt and seemingly a large number of Wimbledon and Blackburn Rovers players put in solid performances but sadly miss out.

Up front throws up plenty of names, with the likes of Jan Age Fjortoft, Tore Andre Flo and Egil Ostenstad but we've gone for Ole Gunnar Solskjær (most Premier League winners medals by a non British or Irish player) and Steffen Iversen, fighting off further competition from later arrivals Joshua King and John Carew.

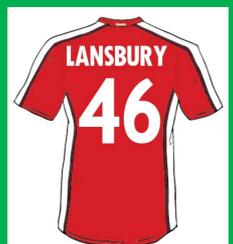


Micah Richards – He became the youngest defender ever to be called into the England squad





Henri Lansbury – Former Arsenal youth player who impressed on loan at Scunthorpe, Norwich, West Ham and then permanently at Nottingham Forest



SWEDEN XI

Our first observation of the 63 imports from Sweden is there aren't too many stand out players in their positions, and that was a slight surprise.

Starting in goal, Magnus Hedman instead of Andreas Isaksson. Neither particularly outstanding despite early promise.

An original from the 1992 season, Ronald Nilsson comes in a right back and the bearded viking Olaf Mellberg is at the back alongside the West Brom centre half Jonas Olsson. His name sake but no relation Marcus Olsson plays left back ahead of Erik Edman. Victor Lindelof has had a steady start to his Manchester United career but not enough to displace our two starting centre backs.

Midfield offers a variety of successes. Freddie Ljungberg of course stands out, ousting fellow gunner Anders Limpar. On the right Seb Larsson plays adding a set piece goal threat that Nicklaus Alexandersson couldn't. The central midfield pairing add the steel with Stefan Schwarz and Pontus Kaamark fighting off Klas Ingesson, Tobias Linderoth and the unlucky Anders Svensson.

Up front options also surprised us and we didn't want to just default to the easy option of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Henrik Larsson. So ultimately we have defaulted to Ibrahimovic and Larsson as players such as Andreas Andersson, Martin Allback, Martin Dahlin, Mathias Jonsson, Rade Prica, Markus Rosenberg, Bjorn Runstrom, Ola Toivonen and Johan Elmander were all below par.

Injury robbed us of more Zlatan and Larsson had promised to return to Sweden for his family so he only played for United for 3 months but left a lasting impression.

Looking at Allback, Anderson, Dahlin, Elmander (at Norwich), Jonsson, Prica, Rosenberg, Runstrom and Toivonen. 9 players, who mustered 16 league goals between them. Zlatan banged in 17 for Manchester United.



Billy Gilmour – Signed by Chelsea at the age of 16 after progressing through the Glasgow Rangers academy





Mbo Mpenza – He and brother Emile were part of the Belgium squads for 1998 World Cup and the 2000 Euros



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



William Carvalho – Seemingly linked to a move to Arsenal in every summer we can remember, but finally moved on from Sporting to Real Betis in 2018



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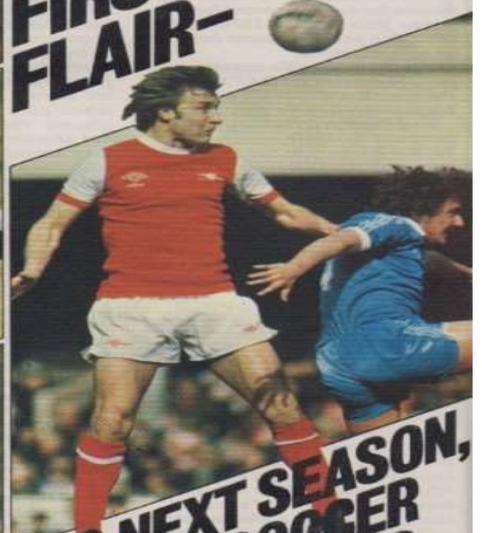
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Eric Garcia – Spanish centre back who graduated from La Masia but moved to Manchester City, though rumours are a move back is on the cards in the 2020 summer transfer window



CLUB BADGES

What has a football, flowers, boats, lions, buildings, dates and a fair amount of Latin?

If you mix a combination of the above items you are more than likely to find them on a Football Club's badge.

The badge or crest is essentially the clubs form of ID. It tells you who the clubs is, makes reference to the clubs age and there is a fair chance it will tell you something about the club and it's history.

As football evolves it seldom has any room for history or for sentiment, and the crest is no different.

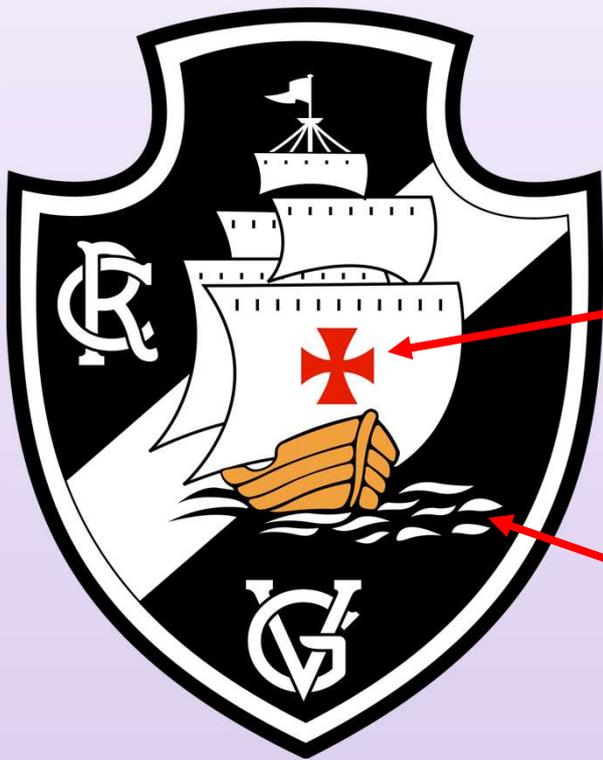
Modernisation of the badges has seen the ID and what went with it replaced with more eye pleasing designs with a 'less is more' approach.

At The Halfway Line we have selected a sample of clubs badges, old and new, from around the globe and looked to explain the details within them and picked some of our favourites to share with you.



Christian Atsu – Signed by Chelsea in 2013 (£3.5m) and loaned out 5 times before leaving for Newcastle United in 2017 (£6.2M) without ever making an appearance for the Blues





Vasco Da Gama

Named after the famous Portuguese explorer, the first European to reach India by sea.

The red cross is a Portuguese Cross.

The football club is actually part of a wider, sailing club, founded by Portuguese immigrants.

Barcelona

The St. George's flag, represents the patron saint of Catalonia and is present in the coat of arms of the City.

The Catalan flag is also present.

The below part of the crest features the clubs colours and of course a football.



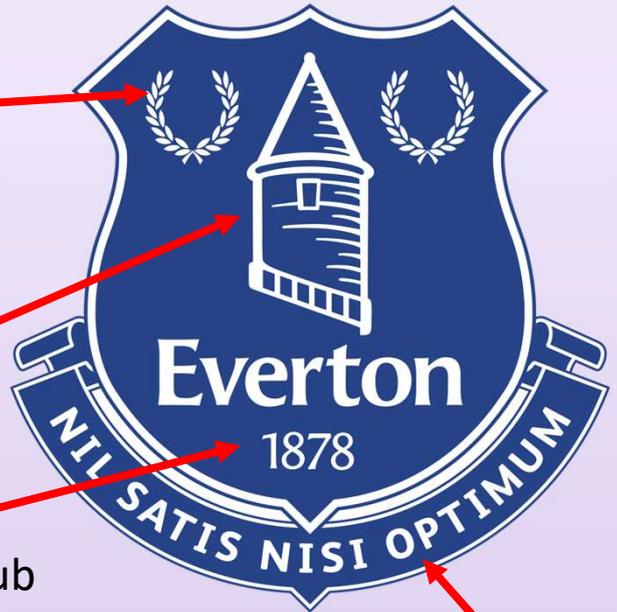
Darren Ward – Bought by Liverpool in 2012 for around £100,000 from Wrexham. 6 years later and a total of 3 games for the club was sold to Leicester City for £12.5m, where he is yet to play a league game



Everton

The laurel wreaths are supposed to be a sign of winners. (ironically in the new badge, below, these have been removed!)

The tower like structure is the Everton Lock-Up, a 19th century building, still present today in the area.



The year the club was formed.

The translation of Latin reads, 'Nothing but the best is good enough.'



New badge

Blackburn Rovers



The Lancashire Rose dominates the club's badge. Other clubs that include flowers on their badge are Manchester City, Leicester City and Chelsea.

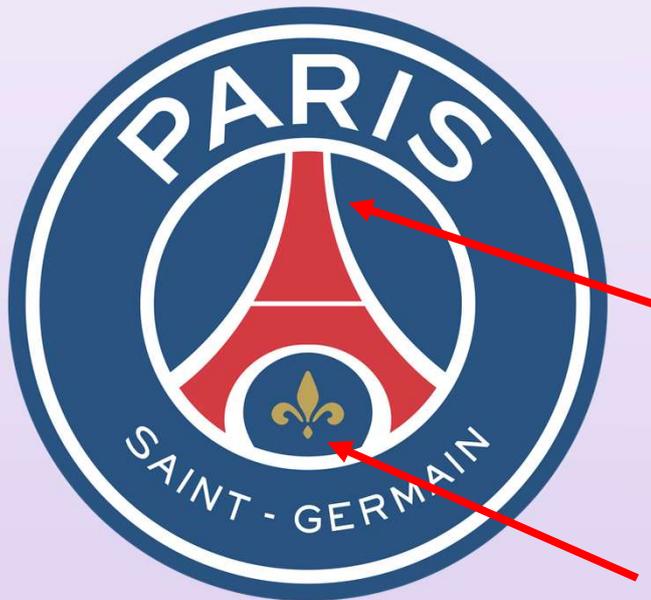
The year founded again features as well as Latin, 'By Skill & By Labour'



Nordin Amrabat – Moroccan international has spent time playing for PSV, Galatasaray, Malaga and in the Premier League with Watford



Paris Saint-Germain



The newly designed badge is very much a modern version of previous ones.

The Eiffel Tower clearly represents the city of Paris.

The colours in the badge represent the clubs colours.

The Fleur de Lys is a hint to the coat of arms of Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

AC Milan

Simple, but effective

ACM is the acronym of the club name.

The badge represents the clubs colours.

The Flag of the Comune di Milano (simply put, the Flag of Milan)

And the year the club was formed.



Simone Palombi – Italian forward on Lazio's books with U21 caps to his name, but yet to make a club breakthrough



Napoli

Sometimes the less is more approach works. Napoli choosing to go with nothing other than their colours, and the initial of their club.



Borussia Dortmund

The German giants follow a similar approach, but go a little further in detail by including the year they formed, 1909.

Aston Villa

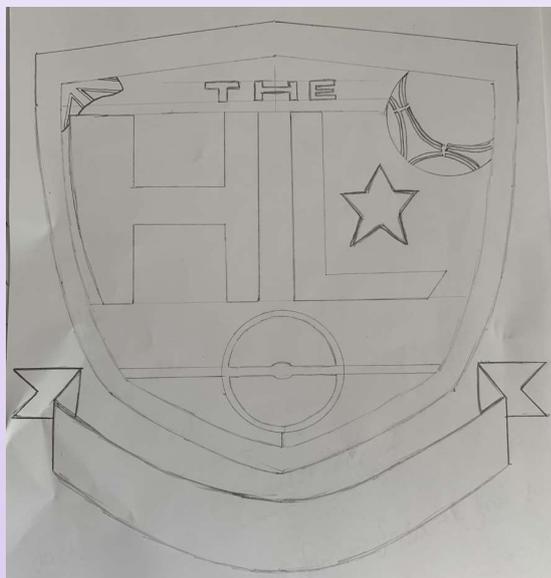
The Villains have gone through a few badge versions, but we've included this one (their latest) as it includes a reference to the club's sole victory in the European Cup, where they triumphed in 1982 and pay homage to the win by virtue of a star on the badge.



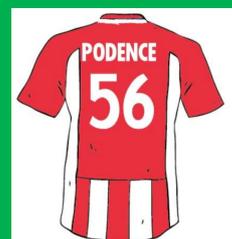
Morgan Gibbs-White – Made his Wolves debut as a 16 year old having joined the club as an 8 year old

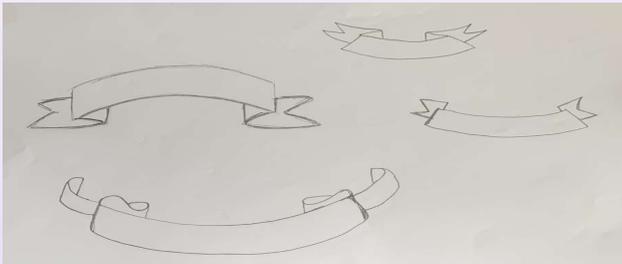


This article then got us to thinking (dangerous I know) what would our badge look like if The Halfway Line had the need for one!
So of course we took this further and designed one! Have a look at some of our designs and plans and what we came up with and why..



Daniel Podence – Now part of the Portuguese pack at Wolves having signed from Olympiakos for £17m in January 2020





We are keen for a Latin script, we think that's a real must for the badge. For those who don't speak the lingo, our moto reads, FACTA ET FRUI EU AMET meaning 'Enjoy Football, Facts and Fun.' *we think that's what it reads!!!!!!

We have put in a single star, as a sign of recognition. Granted, we've not won anything (yet) but we are a confident bunch, and we like this touch.



We gone for the retro Adidas Tango football, shows our love of the old school and it includes the year we were formed.



We have the United Kingdom flag – this points to our origination and where our football knowledge is based. We've the colours of the Italian flag as sign to our love of Serie A and Italian football.

We've got the colours of the Brazilian nation team as a sign of respect we have for that country and it's football.



Hugo Almeida – Portuguese striker somewhat of a journeyman but worth googling his free kick for Porto against Inter Milan in the 2005/2006 season



The abbreviation of The Halfway Line is the striking feature of the design. The Orange text choice is not an accident. This points to our appreciation of Dutch football.

Subtle features on the badge also include the design of the halfway line that you'll see twice at the top of the badge and indeed central to the design also.

Below are options we played with, to future proof the badge, with the less is more approach.



Jonathan Biabiany – Fantastic career history from the French winger seeing him sign for Inter Milan and Parma on 3 separate occasions, for both clubs!



So there is our attempt, and our new ID for the magazine!!



You'll see the details that lend themselves to what we are, and what we believe in here at The Halfway Line!!

- Retro football
- When we were established
- Brazilian National team and players
 - Serie A
 - Dutch football
- A star for success (we are forward looking!)
- The UK and that extends to the heart of our football passion
- The motto that tells our fans we thoroughly enjoy Football and Facts – this is what keeps us going.

We don't have landmarks to reference and nor do we have any affiliation to a flower, or any animals for that matter!



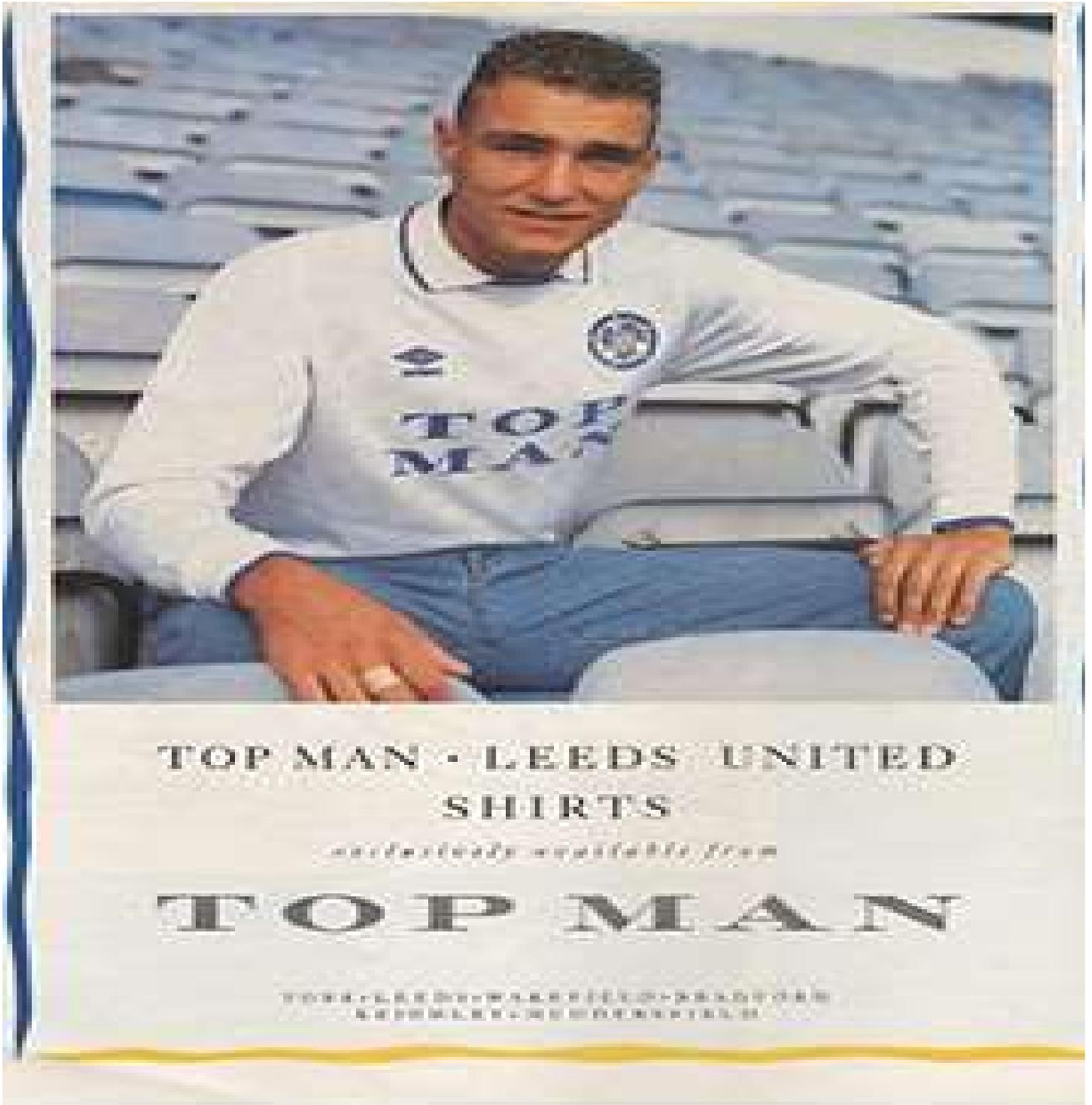
Gabriel – Former AC Milan backup goalkeeper who has represented the Brazilian national team.





Alex Iwobi – Football is in the family as his maternal Uncle is former Nigerian international Jay-Jay Okocha





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Abdulkadir Omur – Turkish international plying his trade as an attacking midfielder for Trabzonspor



THE LOCAL DERBY

The grudge match, the marking of the territory, the bragging rights, the one to look forward to.

For this feature we are talking the local derby, and geography is absolutely pivotal to this.

We recognise of course the big games that feature the most successful clubs within the same countries, ala the Manchester United v's Liverpool, or the El Clásico between Real Madrid and Barcelona or Le Classique between Marseille and Paris Saint-Germain, but these games are not for this feature.

We want local, passionate, noisy neighbour style derbies and we've picked our best from the around the globe.

What will very often go alongside the derbies is passion that can sometimes cross the line of what is acceptable. When researching the article the number of instances where football fans have lost their lives at or in the build up to derby games is heart-breaking. For all the will to win, and to have those bragging rights until the next fixture, remember this is a game and no one deserves not to go home after a football match.



Luca Vido – Italian attacker who never made the breakthrough at Milan and is now on Atalanta's books



The Eternal Derby

Also known as The Romania Derby, or the Great derby.

Contested by **Steaua Bucharest** (the Red and Blues) and **Dinamo Bucharest** (the Red Dogs), both of whom are based in the capital of Romania, Bucharest.



The overall record across all competitions sees Steaua on 61 wins, Dinamo on 60 wins and 57 draws.

A decent number of players have featured for both clubs, the stand out players are Romanian internationals Gheorghe Popescu, Bogdan Stelea, and Ion Vladioiu. The latter even making appearances for a third Bucharest team, Rapid.

The player to have made the most derby appearances (35) and joint most goals (13) also appeared for both rival clubs, Ionel Dănciulescu, who is also the second highest goal scorer in Liga 1 history. He joined Dinamo on three separate occasions, and even went on to manage them briefly.

The most successful of the two teams is Steaua, both domestically and in Europe. They won the then European Cup in the 1985/86 season.

Steaua lead the number of league titles won, winning 26 to Dinamo's 18.

A slightly random fact we can bring you is that both sides have been managed by former Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga.



Boli Bolingoli – Has a claim to fame for causing a cancellation of a Scottish Premiership game due to travelling during the COVID-19 pandemic



The Intercontinental Derby

Also known as Ezelî Rekabet (Eternal Rivalry).

Contested by **Galatasaray** (The Yellow-Reds) and **Fenerbahçe** (The Yellow Canaries), both of whom are based in the largest city in Turkey, Istanbul.



The overall record across all competitions sees Fenerbahçe on 146 wins, Galatasaray on 124 wins and 121 draws.

A decent number of players have featured for both clubs, the stand out players are Turkish internationals Emre Belozoglu, Colin Kazim-Richards and Burak Yilmaz. The latter even making appearances for Besiktas and Trabzonspor, the other 2 leading clubs in Turkey.

The player to have made the most derby appearances (35) is Turgay Seren (all for Galatasaray), and the player to score the most goals in the fixture is Zeki Riza Sporel (27 - all for Fenerbahçe. History suggests he scored 470 league goals in 352 games for the club!)

The most successful of the two teams is Galatasaray, both domestically and in Europe. They won the then UEFA Cup, beating Arsenal in the 1999/2000 season.

Galatasaray lead the number of league titles won, winning 22 to Fenerbahçe's 19.

A slightly random fact as pictured, in 1996, the Scottish manager Graeme Souness celebrated a Turkish Cup victory by planting a Galatasaray flag on arch-rival Fenerbahçe's pitch in the centre circle.

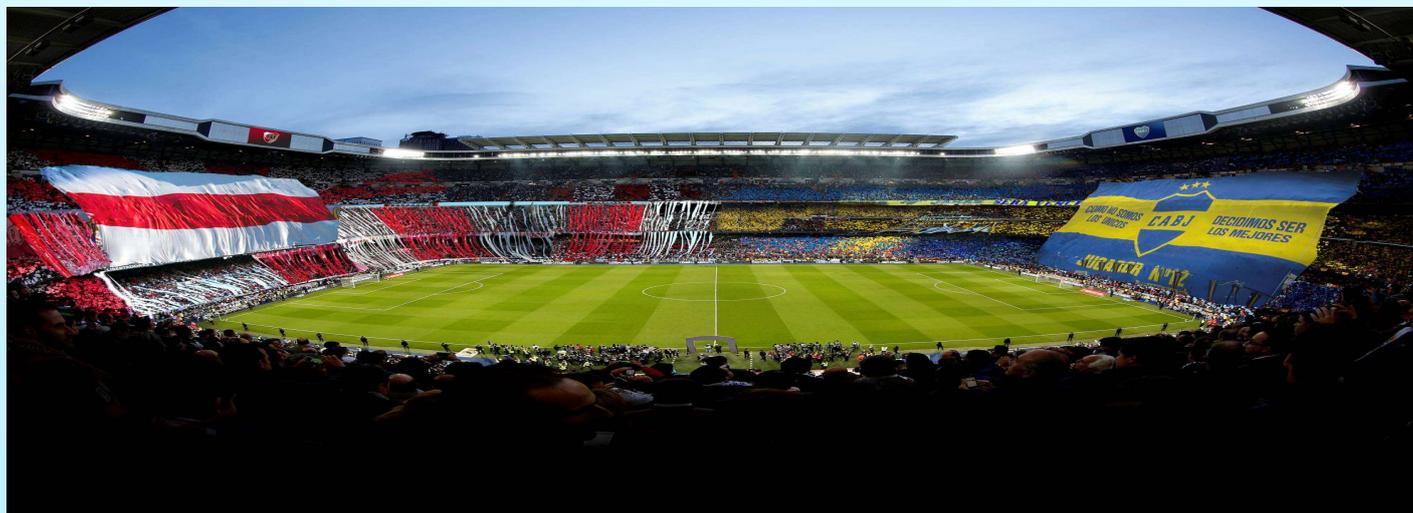


Rony Lopes – When scoring for Manchester City in 2013 he became the youngest ever goal scorer for the club aged 17 years and 9 days



The SuperClasico

Contested by **Boca Juniors** (Xeneizes) and **River Plate** (The Millionaires), both of whom are based in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires.



The overall league record between the 2 teams sees Boca Juniors on 77 wins, River Plate on 69 wins and 64 draws.

A decent number of players have featured for both clubs the stand out players are Argentine internationals Gabriel Batistuta, Claudio Caniggia and Oscar Ruggeri.

The player to have made the most derby appearances (42) is Reinaldo Merlo (all for River Plate), and the player to score the most goals in the fixture is Angel Labruna (16 - all for River Plate)

The most successful of the two teams is marginally Boca Juniors, with total honours at 69 compared to River Plate's 66

However River Plate lead the number of league titles won, winning 36 to Boca's 34.

The 2018 Copa Libertadores saw both teams reach the final to play each other for the first time at this stage of the competition. Due to crowd trouble and River Plate fans attacking the Boca team bus, the second leg of the final was held, remarkably outside of Argentina, and South America, and played instead at the Santiago Bernabéu in Madrid, with River Plate coming out on top.



Fabio Cardoso – Portuguese centre back bought by Glasgow Rangers during the infamous reign of Pedro Caixinha



The Cairo Derby

Also known as Clasico El Arba, or The Peak.

Contested by **Al Ahly SC** (The Red Devils) and **Zamalek** (The Royal Club), both of whom are based in the capital of Egypt, Cairo.



The overall record across all competitions sees Al Ahly SC on 102 wins, Zamalek on 57 wins and 78 draws.

A decent number of players have featured for both clubs, the stand out players are Egyptian internationals Ibrahim Said (once on loan to Everton), Hossam Hassan and Ahmed Hassan. The latter is the most capped international male footballer in history, with 184 appearances for The Pharaohs.

The player to have made the most derby appearances (34) Hossam Ashour (all for Al Ahly SC), and the player to score the most goals in the fixture is Abdel-Karim Sakr (all for Al Ahly SC)

The most successful of the two teams is Al Ahly SC, both domestically and in other African and worldwide competitions.

Al Ahly SC lead the number of league titles won, winning 41 to Zamalek's 12

A slightly random fact is its reported Non-Egyptian referees are often flown in to officiate the derby in order to ensure impartiality



Tiago Cesar Moreira Pereira – Former Portuguese defensive midfielder who won the UEFA Cup with Porto in 2002/03



The Old Firm

Contested by **Celtic** (The Bhoys) and **Rangers** (The Gers), both of whom are based in the largest city in Scotland, Glasgow.



The overall league record between the 2 teams sees Rangers on 162 wins, Celtic on 159 wins and 99 draws.

Not many players have featured for both clubs post World War 1 and only 4 since 1977. The stand out players are Scottish internationals Mo Johnston, Kenny Miller, Steven Pressley and Mark Brown.

The player to have made the most league derby appearances (54) is Paul McStay (all for Celtic), and the player to score the most league goals in the fixture is Ally McCoist (17 - all for Rangers)

The most successful of the two teams is marginally Rangers, with total honours at 115 compared to Celtic's 110

Rangers lead the number of league titles won, winning 54 to Celtic's 51.

You'll note a large number of companies have jointly sponsored both Old Firm clubs in the past. Tennants, McEwans Lager, CR Smith and NTL. Rumour being if any local businesses only sponsor one of the clubs, they would be likely to lose half of their customers, due to the rivalry!!



Charly Musonda Jr – Chelsea and former Anderlecht youth player. Musonda's older brothers, Lamisha and Tika were also youth graduates at Chelsea and Anderlecht. His father, also named Charles, was also a footballer who appeared mainly for Anderlecht



The Derby of Southeast Europe

Also known as the Eternal derby, or the Belgrade derby.

Contested by **Red Star Belgrade** (the Star) and **Partizan Belgrade** (the Black-Whites), both of whom are based in the capital of Serbia, Belgrade.



The overall record across all the domestic league competitions sees Red Star on 64 wins, Partizan on 47 wins and 51 draws.

A decent number of players have featured for both clubs, but the frequency of direct transfers between the two clubs is minimal. Only once since 1990 has a player made the move directly, this being Cleo in 2009 joining Partizan from Red Star, but even then his Red Star career was a loan move.

The player to have made the most derby appearances (31) is Sasa Ilic, all for Partizan and the highest goal scorer in the derby matches is Marko Valok, with 13 goals, also all for Partizan.

Since the break up of Yugoslavia, the Belgrade derby has further intensified, and the two clubs have since won all national titles except one, with Partizan winning 16 and Red Star winning 11.

Perhaps the most successful of the two teams is Red Star as they have succeeded in Europe. They won the then European Cup in the 1990/91 season, beating Marseille on penalties in the final.

Both the clubs stadiums are located in the Autokomanda neighbourhood of Belgrade, less than 1km apart as the picture shows above.



Federico Nicolás "Fede" Varela - An Argentine footballer who plays as an attacking midfielder for Spanish club CD Leganés, but formerly of Porto



Yo-Yo Clubs

Promotions and Relegation specialists



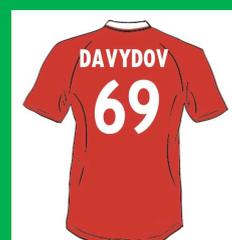
What goes up must come down? Well, not everything, like sadly your age.

Add to that Arsenal, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur. These 6 teams have yet to experience relegation from the Premier League. The other 43 clubs to have played Premier League football have experienced 'the drop'... but who likes to do it the most?

The trio of Crystal Palace, West Bromwich Albion and Norwich City have been in the Premier League of 5 separate occasions. The former two have been relegated 4 times from the league but post the 2019/20 season, Norwich City were relegated for a record 5th time.



Denis Davydov – the former Spartak Moscow and CSKA Sofia winger won a solitary cap for the Russian national team, and we assume his favourite aftershave is Cool Water....



	Crystal Palace	West Bromwich Albion	Norwich City
Promotions	(founding member)	2001-02	(founding member)
	1993-94	2003/04	2003-04
	1996-97	2007/08	2010/11
	2003-04	2009/10	2015/16
	2012-13	2019/20	2018/19
Relegations	1992/93	2002/03	1994/95
	1994/95	2005/06	2004/05
	1997/98	2008/09	2013/14
	2004/05	2017/18	2015/16
			2019/20

There are players (not all having played for Norwich City) that can lay claim to being Yo-Yo players themselves; Robert Green, Sebastian Bassong and Marcus Bent have been relegated 4 times in their careers from the Premier League. Bent played the odds by playing for a record 8 teams (Crystal Palace, Blackburn, Ipswich, Leicester, Everton, Charlton, Wigan, Birmingham and Wolves)

Hermann Hreidarsson has been relegated 5 times from the Premier League, doing so with every team he had played for in that division, which is some feat. Equal with the Icelandic defender on 5 relegations is Nathan Blake, who takes the Yo-Yo trophy as he has also secured 3 promotions back into the top flight. There are others with 3, and we pick out Danny Simpson for his 3 Championship promotions to go with this League title medal.



Angelo Peruzzi – Hugely successful Italian goalkeeper excelling at both Juventus and Lazio, as well as a World Cup winner in 2006



Looking beyond the Premier League (yes, we are capable of doing this) we looked at who is the ultimate English Yo-Yo club. Spare a thought for the fans of Notts County. They have enjoyed 13 promotions and 17 relegations! 30 up and down campaigns is one hell of a roller-coaster to be on board!

No.	Team	Promotions	Relegations	Total
1	Notts County	13	17	30
2	Grimsby Town	13	16	29
3	Birmingham City	12	12	24
4	Bolton Wanderers	10	13	23
5	Leicester City	11	11	22

But adding some context, Notts County is the oldest professional association football club in the world, having been formed in 1862. The club predates The Football Association and initially played a game of its own devising, rather than association football.

From what we can gather, the 'world record' for consecutive promotions and relegations goes to SK Brann of the Norwegian leagues. From the years 1979 to 1987, in every odd-numbered year they were promoted and relegated in every even-numbered year.

How's that for a Yo-Yo club!!



Paolo Poggi – In the 2001/02 season he set the record for the fastest ever goal in Serie A, scoring after 8 seconds for Piacenza v's Fiorentina



The Halfway Line mash ups

Where we would usually have searched through the internet for cool football related stuff to share with you, truth be told the graphics department had such a good time with the Ghostbusters mock up, they got a bit carried away and asked for their own feature this month. Who are we to refuse artistic flair!!

The criteria given was pretty simple. Mix up something football related with something our 80's and 90's child audience would relate to.

Here is what they came up with.

What happens when Tango fizzy Orange cans are mixed with a Adidas Tango Rosario ball??

What about the deadly Alien Predator and the iconic Adidas Predator boot?

Ever think of mixing the Italian sports brand Lotto with the UK lottery brand Lotto?

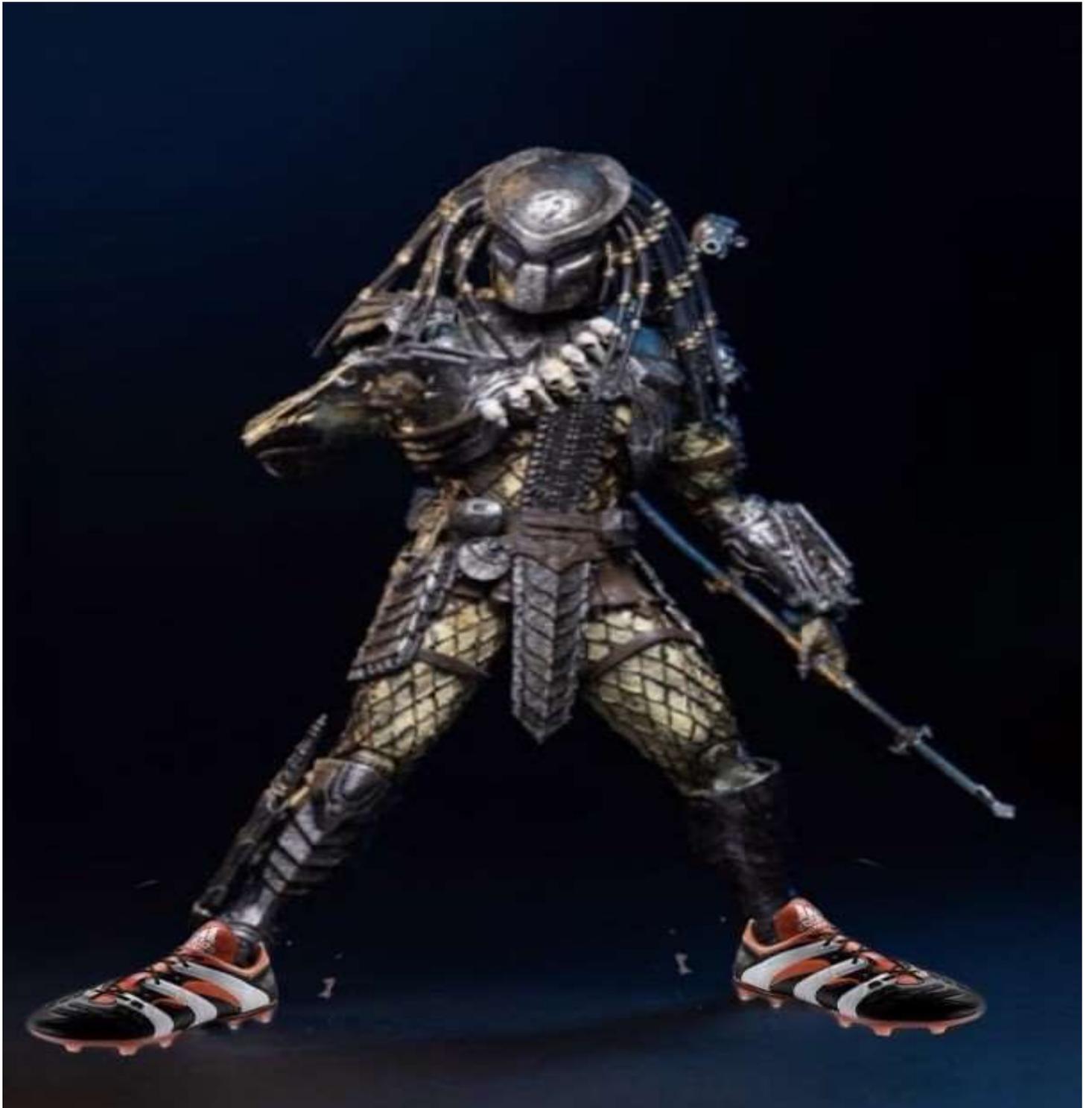
And on the theme of 1980's films, the team saw a vision of a fine Portuguese footballer taking over the lead role as opposed to Michael J. Fox!!!

Make of it what you will - remember football is supposed to be fun!! All imagines are available in Prints, T-shirts or Hoodies. Get in touch with us at Stan@thehalfwayline.com



Antonin Barak – Czech Republic midfielder on the books of Udinese, currently on loan at Lecce





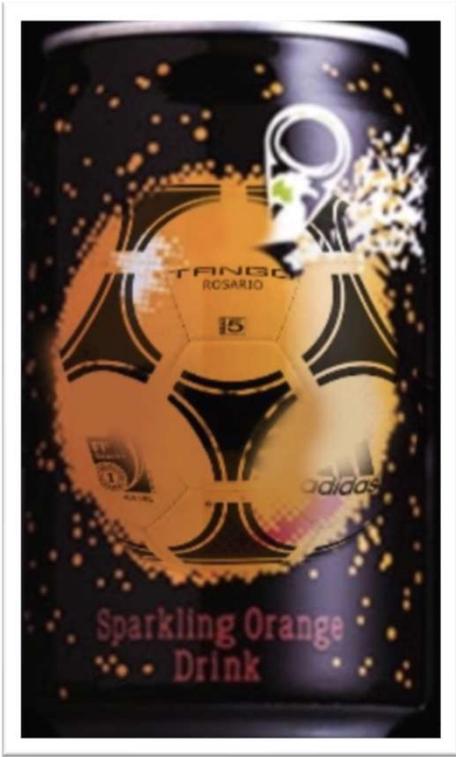
Jota Filipe – Young Portuguese winger who won the top goal scorer at the European U19 Championships 2018





Eddie Salcedo – Made his debut for Genoa aged 15 before a big money move to Inter Milan



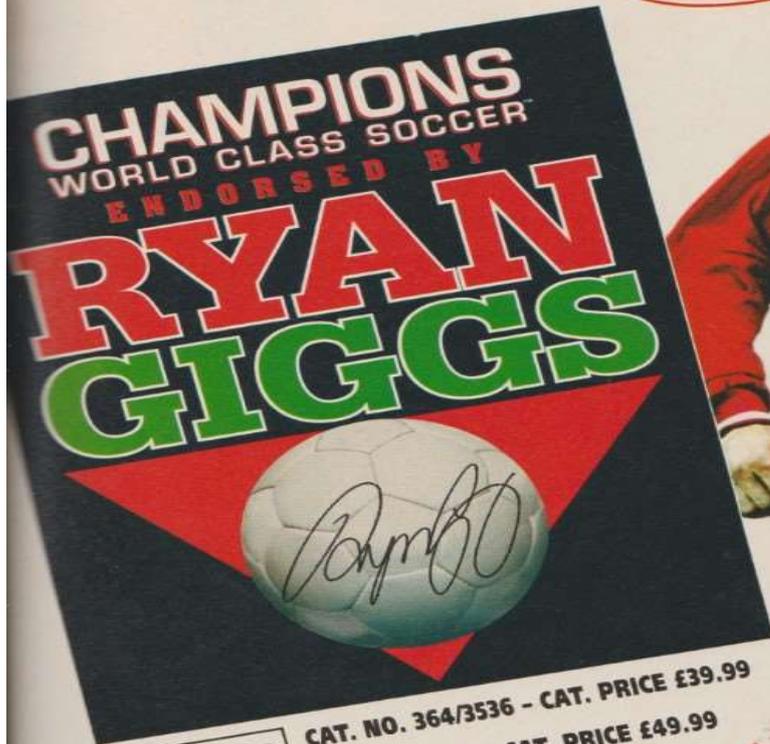


Alpaslan Ozturk – Originally on the books of Birmingham City, he has won U18 and U21 caps for both Turkey and Belgium



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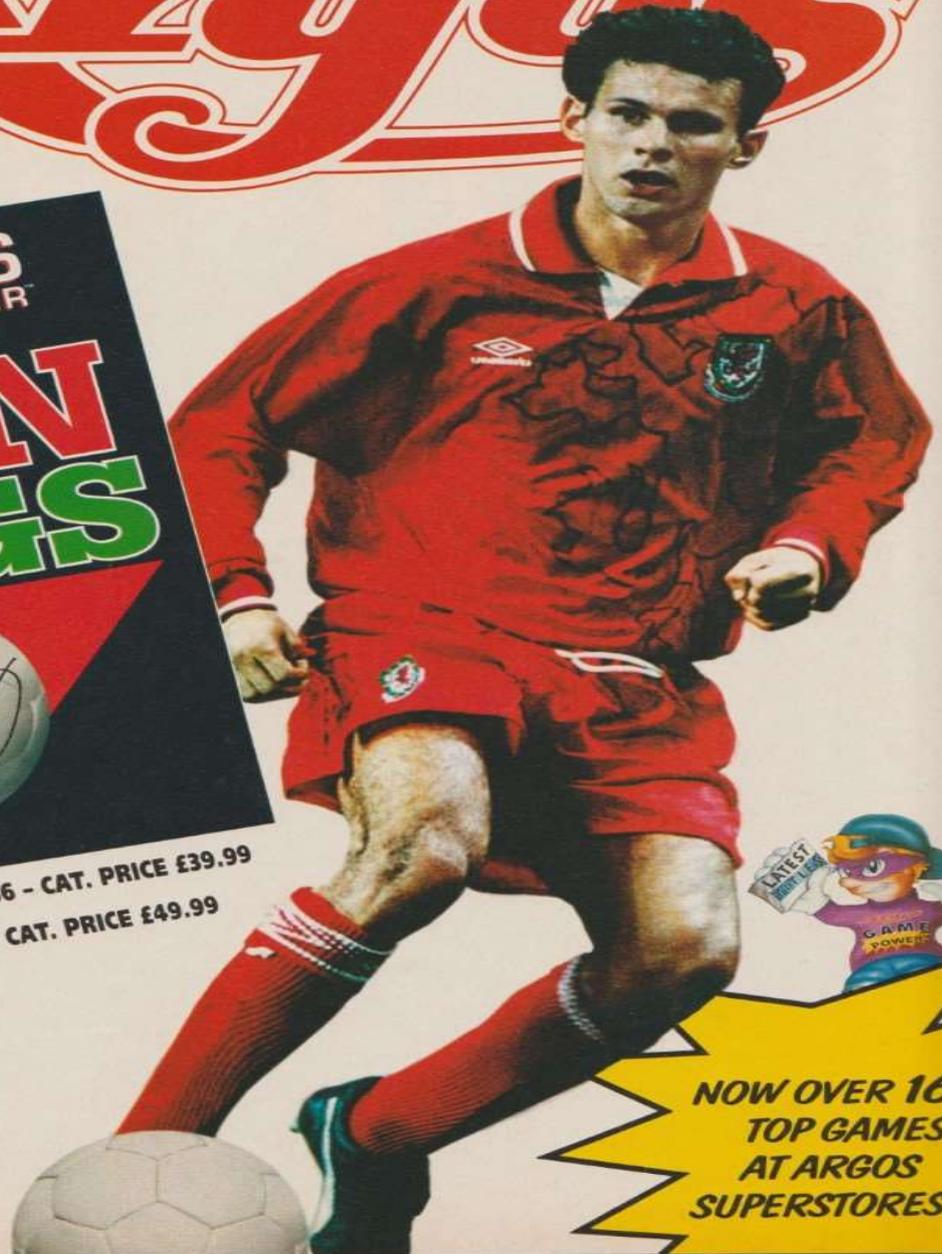
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Tiago Dias – Portuguese winger signed for AC Milan and although he made the bench, he never played for the first team



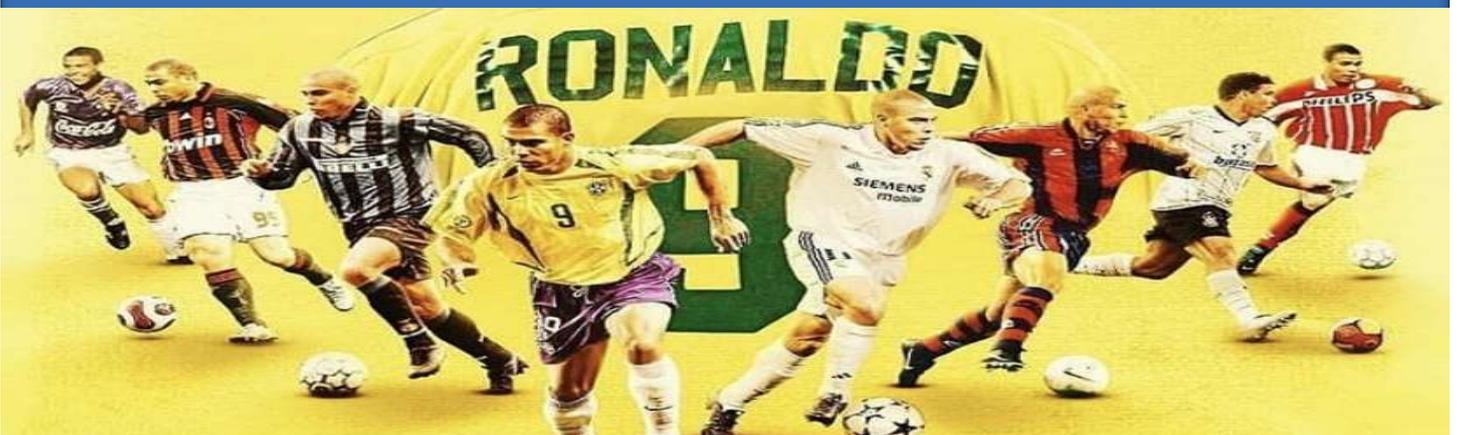
Historical Line Ups

In this feature we pick a team, be it an international side, or domestic teams and pick 5 historical line ups to trigger memories of the good, or bad or even ugly times.

In this issue, we look to celebrate one of The Halfway Line's favourite footballers. We have mentioned him in the past but there is no getting away just how good Ronaldo Luís Nazário de Lima was, known as "O Fenômeno" (The Phenomenon), in Portuguese. He came to European shores in 1994 and lit up football pitches across the continent for 15 years.

The 5 line ups we have gone for are his 5 league debuts for the European clubs he played for before heading back to Brazil in 2009.

- 1) Vitesse versus PSV Eindhoven – 28th August 1994
- 2) Real Oviedo versus Barcelona – 1st September 1996
- 3) Inter Milan versus Brescia – 31st August 1997
- 4) Real Madrid versus Alaves – 6th October 2002
- 5) Cagliari versus AC Milan – 25th November 2007



Marcelo Brozovic – Croatian box to box midfielder who has the claim to be the 900th player to play for Inter Milan

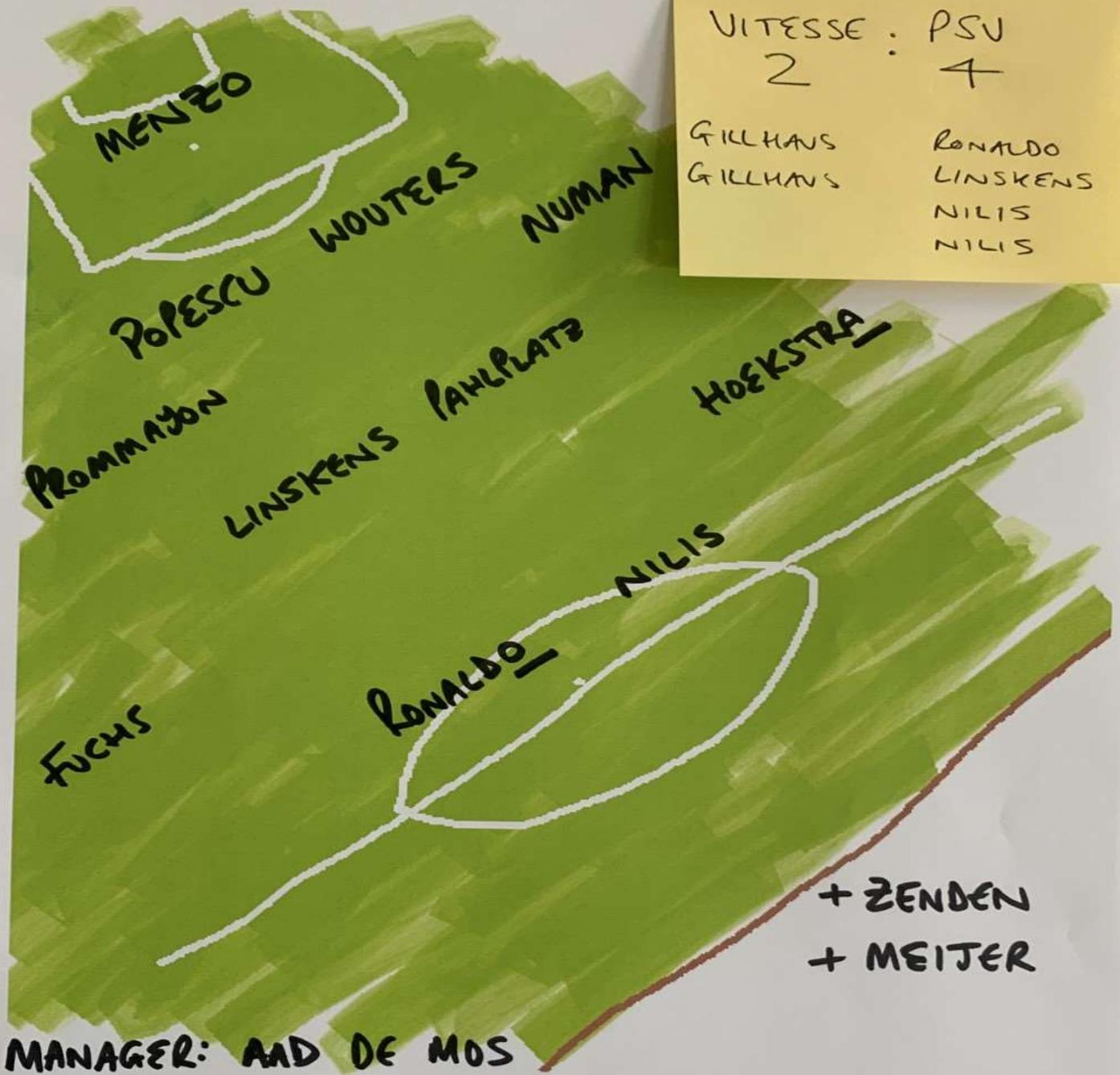


28th AUGUST 1994

VITESSE : PSU
2 : 4

GILLHAUS
GILLHAUS

RONALDO
LINSKENS
NILIS
NILIS



Nicola Ventola – Italian striker known more for his spells at Inter Milan and Atalanta as opposed to his time at Crystal Palace



1ST SEPTEMBER 1996

REAL OVIEDO BARCELONA
2 : 4

OLI
SERGI (o.g.)

STOICHKOV
STOICHKOV
LUS ENRIQUE
LUS ENRIQUE



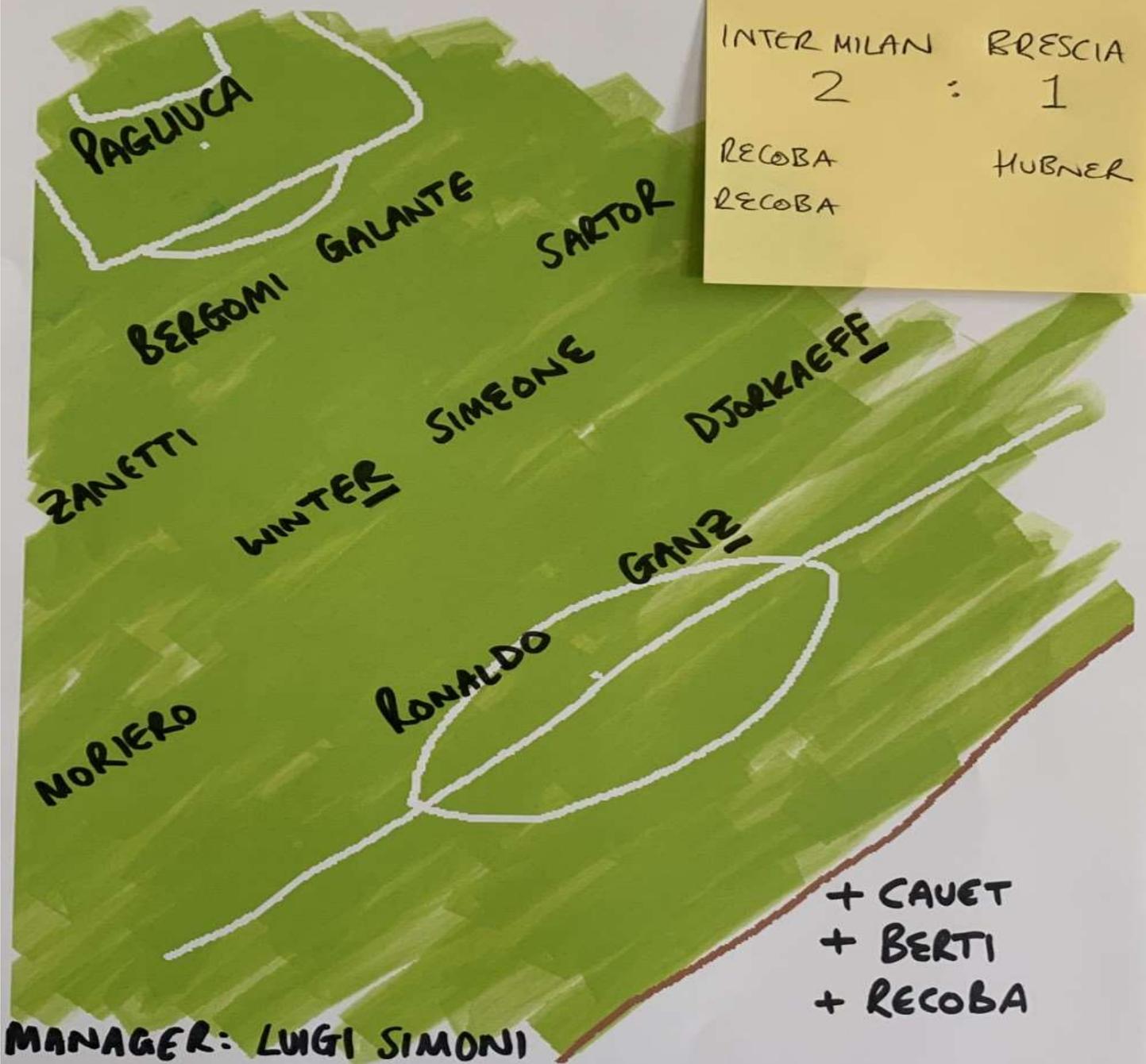
Samir Beloufa – Former Algerian defender who mustered 3 appearances in 3 years for AC Milan



31ST AUGUST 1997

INTER MILAN BRESCIA
2 : 1

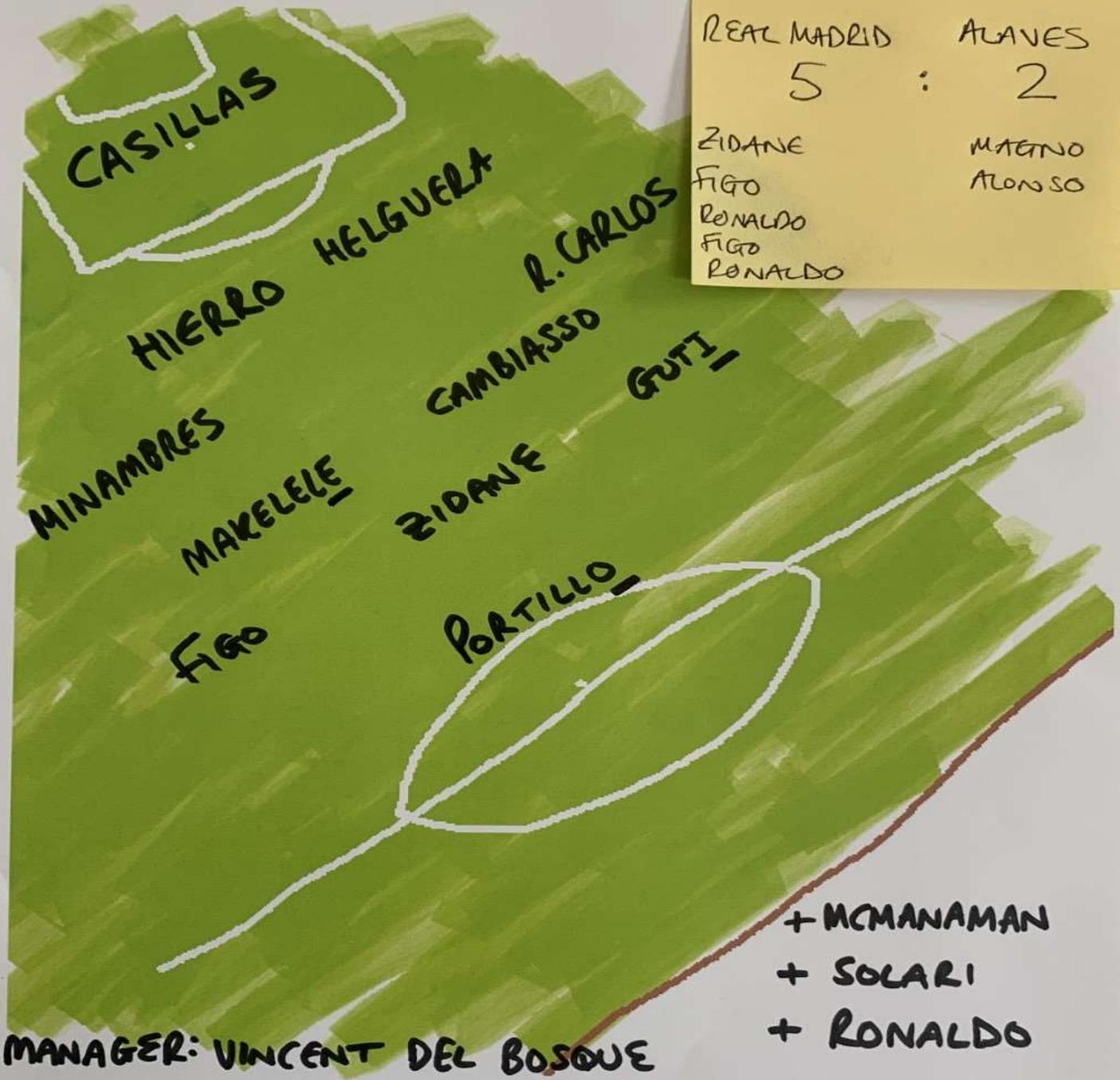
RECOBA HUBNER
RECOBA



Serhat Kot – Young German born midfielder who played one game for Fenerbahce, now playing his football in Holland



6th OCTOBER 2002
REAL MADRID : ALAVES
5 : 2
ZIDANE : MATENO
FIGO : ALONSO
RONALDO
FIGO
RONALDO



Sammy Dalla Bona – His move from Atalanta to Chelsea as a 17 year old saw the Italian Football Federation amend the regulations regarding the sale of their young players



25th NOVEMBER 2007

CAGLIARI AC MILAN
1 : 2

ACQUAFRESCA GILARDINO
PIRLO

DIDA

NESTA MALDINI

SERGINHO

ODDO

GATTUSO

PIRLO AMBROSINI

KAKA

GILARDINO

RONALDO

+ CAFU
+ BONERA
+ BROCCHI

MANAGER: CARLOS ANCELOTTI



Marquinhos – Brazilian centre back, formerly of Corinthians, who also spent time in Europe with Basaksehir



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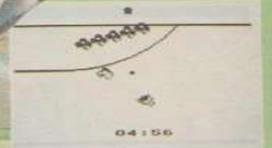
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SUPER KICK OFF (Gameboy)



KICK OFF (NES)



KICK OFF (Super NES)



KICK OFF (Super NES)



REVIEWERS RAVE

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Renato Santos – Another Brazilian centre back, this time representing Flamengo, amongst a number of other teams





THE BOOT ROOM

What do the Adidas Predator and the software program the 'Butler' (a device that shows what has been removed from a hotel minibar) got in common?

Answer - they were invented by the same person!

The same person also won 5 First Division Championships, an FA Cup, 2 League Cups and a European Cup!

Craig Johnston, the former Liverpool midfielder, prominent in the 1980s during their dominance, post retirement began to innovate! He designed and created the prototype for the Adidas Predator.

Since it's first release in 1994 it has become the iconic boot of the Premier League era, and not just in England but globally.

There have been 23 different versions but the feature in the boot room for this issue will be The Halfway Line's two favourite models.

The release of both boots coincided with the World Cups of the same year and Zidane graced the '98 final in the **Accelerators** and in 2002 the German national team styled the **Manias** all the way to the final.



Carlos Alberto – Scorer of the first goal in the 2004 Champions League final for Porto against Monaco



1998 - The Accelerator

The distinctive third Adidas stripe that reaches the heel of the boot. So good! It was Adidas's first real move away from the 3 stripes being so close together and they've not truly reapplied this design making the Accelerator even more unique and appealing.



Miguel Britos – Uruguayan centre back who was sent off on his Watford debut against Preston North End



2002 - The Mania

We are being specific with this inclusion. The Mania version has to be the hard ground model. The white sole of the boot, with the red and black leather - too good. Also any boot that encourages a significant fold over tongue with the use of elastic, is a shoe-in for the boot room. Or should that be a boot-in?



Vitali Kutuzov – Signed by AC Milan from Belarus giants BATE but failed to reach the required level and moved on to represent a further 5 Italian clubs



If you want to celebrate the design of the Predators, you can do so with this cracking print available from Foster Prints (<https://www.fosterprints.com/>)



Diogo Luis Santo – After scoring 132 goals in 154 games for Thai team Buriram United, he was signed by Johor Darul Ta'zim for €1.5m, the highest fee ever paid by a Malaysian club



TREATMENT ROOM

Truthfully, before Aldo Duscher crashed into a tackle with David Beckham when Manchester United played Deportivo La Coruna in April 2002, did you have any idea what a metatarsal was? No, us neither!

The metatarsal bones, or metatarsus are a group of five long bones in the foot, located between the tarsal bones of the hind and mid-foot and the phalanges of the toes.

Metatarsal Fractures in Football

The at times aggressive nature of the game makes players vulnerable to sustaining injuries to the bones in the leg and foot through collisions with other players or by falling heavily.



Marco Borriello – Journeyman Italian striker managing also to play for West Ham United on 2 occasions in 2014, failing to score on either appearance



What Causes a Metatarsal Fracture?

There are 5 metatarsal bones in the foot and they help to support the body and keep it balanced. Fractures are caused when players suffer a heavy blow to the foot from a tackle, or through excessive rotation of the foot. It can also occur from excessive strain on the feet over a long period of time. If you have a fractured metatarsal, the foot will be swollen and very painful and it will be difficult to walk. Bruising may appear after a couple of days. This is a very common injury in football because there is only a very small amount of soft tissue on the top of the foot, so the bones don't have much protection. Younger players tend to be more prone to suffering a fractured metatarsal and the 5th metatarsal bone is the one that gets fractured the most often, as a result from going over on your ankle or twisting the foot too sharply

Prevention of Metatarsal Fractures

This type of injury can be very hard to prevent because it is usually caused by sudden direct trauma to the foot. Ensuring that you wear the correct footwear however, will help to protect the ankles and feet and reduce the risk of a fracture.

Treatment for Metatarsal Fractures

It is imperative that a fracture is treated properly or it may get worse. Ice and medication will reduce pain and swelling. You will need to go to hospital for an X ray to determine that you have a fracture. For minor fractures, wearing a removable plastic cast may be sufficient to heal the bone. If the fracture is more substantial, surgery may be necessary to repair it. Footballers would be able to resume playing 6 weeks after the operation at the earliest.



Yannick Bolasisie – He became the first Crystal Palace player to score a hat-trick in the Premier League



COUNTRY FOCUS

At The Halfway Line, we are aware, although it may not seem it, that football is wider than just the Premier League, statistics and transfers within Europe. Our feature here will be a country focus on the less fashionable countries around the globe and you can learn a little more about the football, teams and players from the chosen country.

This issue focuses on New Zealand.

New Zealand Football (NZF) is the governing body for the sport of association football in New Zealand. It oversees the seven New Zealand Football federations, as well as the New Zealand national football team (nicknamed the "All Whites").

The ISPS Handa Premiership is at the top of the New Zealand league system. Founded in 2004, the New Zealand Football Championship was the successor to a myriad of short-lived football leagues in the country, including the National Soccer League, the National Summer Soccer League and the New Zealand Superclub League. The league is currently contested by ten teams in a franchise system, of which 8 are currently managed by Englishmen.



**NEW ZEALAND
FOOTBALL**

The current clubs are Auckland City, Canterbury United, Eastern Suburbs, Hamilton Wanderers, Hawke's Bay United, Southern United, Tasman United, Team Wellington, Waitakere United and Wellington Phoenix Reserves.

Auckland City are the most successful side since the competition's inception, with eight titles.

The 'All Whites', had their highest FIFA ranking of 47th in 2002.

The record cap holder is Ivan Vicelich with 88 caps and their record goal scorer is Vaughan Coveny with 28 goals in 64 appearances.

Their most successful World Cup campaigns are split across 2 tournaments (their only 2). They reached the group stages in 1982 and 2010, where they were the only undefeated team in the entire tournament despite early elimination.

The National team have won the OFC Nations Cup 5 times, the most recent in 2016.



Ivan Cavaliero – It is suggested he scored his first Premier League goal with his first ever touch in the competition having just come on as a substitute for Wolves



The NZF are part of The Oceania Football Confederation (OFC). The OFC is one of the six continental confederations of international association football. In January 2013, members of the FIFA Executive Committee met to discuss the possibilities of moving the New Zealand Football Federation for the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) in order to enhance the sport in the country. This was ultimately proven to be an unsuccessful attempt.

Wellington Phoenix Football Club is a professional football club based in Wellington, New Zealand. It competes in the Australian A-League, under licence from Football Federation Australia. Phoenix entered the competition in the 2007–08 season after its formation in March 2007, by New Zealand Football to replace New Zealand Knights as a New Zealand-based club in the Australian A-League competition. **The club is one of the few clubs in the world to compete in a league of a different confederation (AFC) from that of the country where it is based (OFC)**

There have been 6 New Zealand players to grace the Premier League. The lesser known Simon Elliott (Fulham), Danny Hay (Leeds United, below), Lee Norfolk (Ipswich Town) alongside the more familiar Ryan Nelsen, Winston Reid and Chris Wood.



Danny Hay is the current manager of the New Zealand Men's national team.



In terms of high profile players who have played in the New Zealand leagues, there are significantly few! Paul Ifill, previously of Millwall, Sheffield United and Crystal Palace, spent the best part of 10 years playing for four separate New Zealand clubs.

The one British export we could find was Terry Phelan. The former Irish international full back turned out for Otago United, that has since reformed to Southern United, from 2005-2009. (can you spot him in a picture in this issue?)



Mbaye Diagne – Controversial Senegalese striker, who has ruffled a few feathers with his penalty shenanigans (ignoring managers instructions) once scored 8 goals in his first 6 games in the Turkish Super Liga, which is a record



Quiz time

Try your luck with the following questions and find out the answers next month or email us at Stan@thehalfwayline.com to submit your answers

1. Which former Premier League manager and player holds the record for most appearances in the Coppa Italia?
2. Can you name the United Kingdom's and Ireland's men's national teams record goal scorers?
3. When Hernan Crespo moved to Lazio from Parma in 2000, which 2 players moved in the opposite directions as part of the transfer?
4. Who was the first Brazilian to play in the Premier League?
5. Who is the only player to score in the Manchester derby, the Old Firm derby and the Merseyside derby?
6. Which 2 grounds have shared Premier League football? I.e., 2 clubs have used 1 ground as their home ground.

Teammates

1. I have been a teammate of, Steven Pienaar, Arjen Robben, Samuel Eto'o, Lukas Podolski and Alain Saint-Maximin. Who am I?
2. I have been a teammate of Matt Holland, Steven Gerrard, Fabio Borini, Glyfi Sigurdsson and Andy Carroll. Who am I?
3. I have been a teammate of Tyrone Mears, Jean-Pierre Papin, Karim Benzema, Dennis Bergkamp and Djimi Traore, Who am I?
4. I have been a teammate of Luis Enrique, Shaun Derry, Gheorghe Hagi, Bebeto and Joesph Yobo. Who am I?
5. I have been a teammate of Magno Vieira, Matthew Upson, Harry Kane, Paul Konchesky and Riyad Mahrez. Who am I?

What club links the following players?

1. Didier Drogba, Nicolas Anelka, Odion Ighalo and Obafemi Martins?
2. Nicolas Bendtner, Andres D'Alessandro, Edin Dzeko and Claudio Reyna?
3. Juan Pablo Angel, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Youri Djorkaeff and Juninho Pernambucano?
4. Emile Heskey, Wes Hoolahan, Mario Jardel and Joe Ledley?
5. Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink, Robbie Fowler, Kevin Campbell and Ross McCormack?
6. Phil Babb, Jason McAteer, Paul Rideout and Jeff Kenna?
7. Manuel Neuer, Rafinha, Leroy Sane and David Wagner?
8. Frederic Kanoute, Didier Zokora, Vinny Samways and Gael Kakuta?



Armando Izzo – Former Napoli youth player who when playing for Avelino was charged for match fixing and subsequently banned for 18 months (later reduced to 6 months)



Last Issues Quiz answers

1. Name a player to play for Barcelona, Liverpool, AC Milan and Bayern Munich between the years 1999-2018 but has never won the Champions League? **Pepe Reina**
2. Who has won more FA Cups, Chelsea or Liverpool? **Chelsea**
3. Name 5 teenagers to have scored Premier League hat-tricks? **Chris Bart-Williams, Robbie Fowler, Michael Owen, Nicolas Anelka and Luke Moore**
4. Which club shares a stadium name with one club and a nickname with another club? **Newcastle United**
5. Who has played in a Merseyside, West London, Manchester, North London, and Tyneside derby? **Louis Saha**
6. Who was the first player to win the top 3 divisions with the same club, in the Premier League era? **Andy King, Leicester City**

Teammates

1. I have been a teammate of, Hernan Crespo, Samir Nasri, Kevin Prince-Boateng, Raheem Sterling and Dimitri Payet. Who am I? **Mario Balotelli**
2. I have been a teammate of John Jensen, Eric Cantona, Joao Pinto, Nicolas Anelka and Paul Merson. Who am I? **Peter Schmeichel**
3. I have been a teammate of Clinton Morrison, Cesc Fabregas, Daniel Sturridge, Mantil Pantic, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Mason Mount. Who am I? **Ashley Cole**
4. I have been a teammate of Mario Melchiot, Rivaldo, Hakan Sukur, Charlie Adam and Sonny Anderson. Who am I? **Frank de Boer**
5. I have been a teammate of Claudio Pizarro, Benni McCarthy, Craig Bellamy, Joaquin, and Isco. Who am I? **Roque Santa Cruz**

What club links the following players?

1. Gabriel Heinze, Patrice Evra, Fabian Barthez and Steven Fletcher? **Marseille**
2. David Hirst, Dan Petrescu, Gordon Watson and James Beattie? **Southampton**
3. Sylvain Distin, Louis Saha, Gabriel Obertan and Mathieu Debuchy? **Newcastle United**
4. Rodrigo, Fernando Hierro, Ivan Campo and Mario Jardel? **Bolton Wanderers**
5. Michele Padovano, Nicola Ventola, Attilio Lombardo and Tomas Brodin? **Crystal Palace**
6. Joe Max-Moore, Brian McBride, Landon Donovan and Tim Howard? **Everton**
7. Danny Dichio, Lee Sharpe, Clarence Seedorf and Ariel Ortega? **Sampdoria**
8. Claudio Canigga, Fabrizio Ravanelli, Gavin Rae and Ivano Bonetti? **Dundee**



Rafael Leao – Former Sporting Lisbon and Lille striker, now playing at the San Siro for AC Milan



Forgot they played for them?

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

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

In this issue we look at clubs that have had their fair share of ups and downs in the Premier League. Crystal Palace, Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United provide the line ups making up the feature.

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



Yannick Boli – Upon leaving French football he embarked on a journey covering Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, China, USA and Thailand. His nephew is Basile Boli, formerly of Marseille



Crystal Palace

You'd hope the strikers weren't pacey!



0 apps



10 apps

6 apps

3 apps
1 goal



12 apps
1 goal



Gabriele Rolando – Youth player at Sampdoria, the defender is now at Reggina yet to make his mark (or an appearance) in Serie A



Bolton Wanderers



Real Madrid, AC Milan
and 5 apps for Bolton

Before the big time



8 apps
0 goal

13 apps
1 goal

The desert fox, was the first
Mexican in the Premier
League



Real Madrid, Benfica, Valencia
and 17 apps for Bolton



Alessandro Murgia – The Italian midfielder left Lazio to join SPAL on loan and then on a permanent move. Has earned U21 caps



West Ham United



0 apps

At least managed more games here than Everton & Blackburn



Loan ranger

7 apps



12 apps

14 apps
3 goals



8 apps



Paolo Ghiglione – Italian winger, yet to make his breakthrough at Genoa, spending time away from the club with multiple loan moves



GO FOR GOLD
IT'S TOTALLY

addictive

FOOTBALL MANAGER 2



AMSTRAD



Luiz Antonio – Brazilian defensive midfielder who represented Flamengo for 6 years before moves to different clubs in the Middle East



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

1 Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	1991-1999	51 Christian Itsu	Porto	2010-2011
2 Raphael Varane	Real Madrid	2012-2016	52 Danny Ward	Liverpool	2012-2018
3 Gerard Pique	Barcelona	2008-2020	53 Nordin Amrabat	Galatasaray	2012-2015
4 Josep Guardiola	Barcelona	1995-2001	54 Simone Palombi	Lazio	2014-2015
5 Fabio Cannavaro	Real Madrid	2006-2009	55 Morgan Gibbs-White	Wolverhampton Wanderers	2016-2017
6 Clarence Seedorf	Ajax Amsterdam	1993-1995	56 Daniel Podence	Olympiakos	2018-2019
7 Ousmane Dembele	Borussia Dortmund	2016-2018	57 Hugo Almeida	Porto	2002-2003
8 Ian Wright	Arsenal	1991-1998	58 Jonathan Biabiany	Inter Milan	2006-2007
9 Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Manchester United	2016-2017	59 Gabriel	AC Milan	2012-2015
10 Rui Costa	Fiorentina	1994-2001	60 Alex Iwobi	Arsenal	2013-2014
11 Frank Lampard	England	2003-2005	61 Abdulkadir Omur	Trabzonspor	2018-2019
12 Sergi Barjuan	Barcelona	1994-2002	62 Luca Vido	AC Milan	2015-2016
13 William Gallas	Chelsea	2001-2006	63 Boli Bolingoli	Club Brugge	2013-2017
14 Paul Lambert	Borussia Dortmund	1996-1998	64 Rony Lopes	Manchester City	2012-2014
15 Didier Drogba	Chelsea	2004-2006	65 Fabio Cardoso	Benfica	2012-2013
16 Denilson	Real Betis	1998-2003	66 Tiago	Porto	2002-2004
17 Erling Haaland	Borussia Dortmund	2019-2020	67 Charles Musonda	Celtic	2017-2018
18 Gabriel Batistuta	Roma	2000-2001	68 Fede Varela	Porto	2017-2018
19 Gianluca Zambrotta	Juventus	2000-2006	69 Denis Davydov	Spartak Moscow	2013-2018
20 Gonzalo Higuain	Real Madrid	2006-2013	70 Angulo Peruzzi	Lazio	2000-2003
21 Luis Enrique	Barcelona	1996-2004	71 Paolo Poggi	Bari	2000-2001
22 Alexei Lalas	USA	1992-1998	72 Antonin Barak	Udinese	2017-2020
23 Wesley Sneijder	Real Madrid	2007-2008	73 Jota	Benfica	2018-2020
24 Fernando Couto	Barcelona	1996-1997	74 Eddie Salcedo	Inter Milan	2018-2019
25 Karel Poborsky	Benfica	1997-1998	75 Alpaslan Ozturk	Standard Liege	2013-2014
26 Landon Donovan	Bayer Leverkusen	2000-2001	76 Tiago Dias	AC Milan	2017-2018
27 Rodrygo	Real Madrid	2019-2020	77 Marcelo Brozovic	Inter Milan	2014-2020
28 Kolo Toure	Arsenal	2001-2006	78 Nicola Ventola	Inter Milan	2001-2004
29 Nicolas Burdisso	Roma	2009-2014	79 Samir Beloufa	AC Milan	2000-2001
30 Luca Toni	Fiorentina	2005-2007	80 Serhat Kot	Fenerbahce	2017/2018
31 Faustino Asprilla	Parma	1997-1998	81 Sammy Dalla Bona	Atalanta	2010-2011
32 Vincent Candela	Roma	1996-2005	82 Marquinhos	Basaksehir	2008-2010
33 Vincent Kompany	Manchester City	2008-2010	83 Renato Santos	Flamengo	2011-2012
34 Taribo West	Derby County	2000-2001	84 Carlos Alberto	Vasco Da Gama	2011-2012
35 Juliano Belletti	Chelsea	2007-2010	85 Miguel Britos	Napoli	2011-2013
36 Romelu Lukaku	Anderlecht	2008-2010	86 Vitali Kutuzov	Bari	2011-2012
37 Milan Skriniar	Inter Milan	2017-2020	87 Diogo	Olympiakos	2011-2013
38 Jamie Redknapp	Southampton	2004-2005	88 Marco Borriello	Roma	2013-2015
39 Lucas Paqueta	AC Milan	2018-2020	89 Yannick Bolasie	Sporting Lisbon	2019-2020
40 Henrique Hilario	Chelsea	2006-2014	90 Ivan Cavaliero	Benfica	2013-2014
41 Cheik Tiote	Anderlecht	2004-2007	91 Mbaye Diagne	Galatasaray	2018-2020
42 Federico Balzaretti	Roma	2012-2015	92 Armando Izzo	Napoli	2010-2011
43 Shkodran Mustafi	Everton	2009-2011	93 Rafael Leao	Sporting Lisbon	2017-2018
44 Ethan Ampadu	Chelsea	2017-2020	94 Yannick Boli	Anzhi Makhachkala	2014-2017
45 Micah Richards	Manchester City	2005-2006	95 Gabriele Rolando	Sampdoria	2018-2019
46 Henri Lansbury	Arsenal	2010-2012	96 Alessandro Murgia	Lazio	2014-2019
47 Billy Gilmour	Chelsea	2019-2020	97 Paolo Ghiglione	Genoa	2014-2016
48 Mbo Mpenza	Sporting Lisbon	1999-2001	98 Luiz Antonio	Flamengo	2012-2013
49 William Carvalho	Sporting Lisbon	2010-2011	99 Gianluigi Donnarumma	AC Milan	2014-2020
50 Eric Garcia	Manchester City	2018-2020	100 Adolfo Bautista	Guadalajara	2005-2007



Gianluigi Donnarumma – The second youngest goalkeeper ever to debut in Serie A (16 years & 242 days) as well as the youngest goalkeeper ever to appear for Italy



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

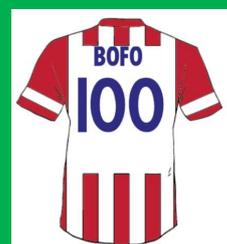
- Title winning surprise packages
- Weird and wonderful one off games of football
- Playing for two national teams?
- Deadly duos

And the usual.....

- The Boot Room
- Classical kits
- Historical line ups
- Country focus
- Best Nations XI
- The Treatment Room
- Forgotten men
- Team XI never to have...
- And much much more



Adolfo 'Bofo' Bautista – For Chivas Guadalajara's centenary season, the Mexican striker swapped his number 7 shirt and instead played with the 100 number of the back of his shirt





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