

Arsenal

A Wiki History

Contents

Articles

Arsenal F.C.	1
Premier League	20
Henry Norris (businessman)	42
Woolwich	44
Herbert Chapman	52
Highbury	65
Ownership of Arsenal F.C.	71
Samuel Hill-Wood	74
Arsenal tube station	77
Robert Pirès	81
Thierry Henry	90
Arsenal Stadium	111
Arsène Wenger	119
Emirates Stadium	140
Arsenal F.C. supporters	153
Arsenal F.C. Academy	160
Arsenal Supporters' Trust	164
Stan Kroenke	166

References

Article Sources and Contributors	169
Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors	175

Article Licenses

License	178
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Arsenal F.C.

Arsenal

Full name	Arsenal Football Club
Nickname(s)	The Gunners
Founded	1886 as <i>Dial Square</i>
Ground	Emirates Stadium, Holloway, London (capacity: 60,361 ^[1])
Owner	Arsenal Holdings plc
Chairman	Peter Hill-Wood
Manager	Arsène Wenger
League	Premier League
2011–12	Premier League, 3rd
Website	Club home page ^[2]
Home colours Away colours Third colours	

Arsenal Football Club is an English Premier League football club based in Holloway, London. One of the most successful clubs in English football, it has won 13 First Division and Premier League titles and 10 FA Cups. Arsenal holds the record for the longest uninterrupted period in the English top flight and would be placed first in an aggregated league of the entire 20th century.^[3] It is the second side to complete an English top flight season unbeaten (in the 2003–04 season), and the only one to do it across 38 matches.

Arsenal was founded in 1886 in Woolwich and in 1893 became the first club from the south of England to join the Football League. In 1913, it moved north across the city to Arsenal Stadium in Highbury. In the 1930s the club won five League Championship titles and two FA Cups. After a lean period in the post-war years it won the League and FA Cup Double, in the 1970–71 season, and in the 1990s and first decade of the 21st century won two more Doubles and reached the 2006 UEFA Champions League Final. Arsenal has a long-standing rivalry with neighbours Tottenham Hotspur, with whom it contests the North London derby. Arsenal is the fourth most valuable association football club in the world as of 2012, valued at \$1.3 billion.^[4]

History



Woolwich Arsenal (in dark shirts) playing Newcastle United (in striped shirts) in an FA Cup semi-final — the club's first ever — at the Victoria Ground, Stoke.

Arsenal Football Club started out as Dial Square in 1886 by workers at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich, south-east London, and was renamed Royal Arsenal shortly afterwards.^[5] The club was renamed again to Woolwich Arsenal after becoming a limited company in 1893.^[6] The club became the first southern member of the Football League in 1893, starting out in the Second Division, and won promotion to the First Division in 1904. The club's relative geographic isolation resulted in lower attendances than those of other clubs, which led to the club becoming mired in financial problems and effectively bankrupt by 1910, when they were taken over by businessmen Henry Norris and William Hall.^[7] Norris sought to move the club elsewhere, and in 1913, soon after relegation back to the Second Division, Arsenal

moved to the new Arsenal Stadium in Highbury, North London; they dropped "Woolwich" from their name the following year.^[8] Arsenal only finished in fifth place in 1919, but were nevertheless elected to rejoin the First Division at the expense of local rivals Tottenham Hotspur, by reportedly dubious means.^[9]

Arsenal appointed Herbert Chapman as manager in 1925. Having already won the league twice with Huddersfield Town in 1923–24 and 1924–25 (see Seasons in English football), Chapman brought Arsenal their first period of major success. His revolutionary tactics and training, along with the signings of star players such as Alex James and Cliff Bastin, laid the foundations of the club's domination of English football in the 1930s.^[10] Under his guidance Arsenal won their first major trophies – victory in the 1930 FA Cup Final preceded two League Championships, in 1930–31 and 1932–33. In addition, Chapman was behind the 1932 renaming of the local London Underground station from "Gillespie Road" to "Arsenal", making it the only Tube station to be named specifically after a football club.^[11]

Chapman died suddenly of pneumonia in early 1934, leaving Joe Shaw and George Allison to carry on his successful work. Under their guidance, Arsenal won three more titles, in 1933–34, 1934–35 and 1937–38, and the 1936 FA Cup. As key players retired, Arsenal had started to fade by the decade's end, and then the intervention of the Second World War meant competitive professional football in England was suspended.^{[12][13][14]}

After the war, Arsenal enjoyed a second period of success under Allison's successor Tom Whittaker, winning the league in 1947–48 and 1952–53, and the FA Cup in 1950. Their fortunes waned thereafter; unable to attract players of the same calibre as they had in the 1930s, the club spent most of the 1950s and 1960s in trophyless mediocrity. Even former England captain Billy Wright could not bring the club any success as manager, in a stint between 1962 and 1966.^{[14][15][16]}

Arsenal began winning silverware again with the surprise appointment of club physiotherapist Bertie Mee as manager in 1966. After losing two League Cup finals, they won their first European trophy, the 1969–70 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup. This was followed by an even greater triumph: their first League and FA Cup double in 1970–71.^[17] This marked a premature high point of the decade; the Double-winning side was soon broken up and the following decade was characterised by a series of near misses. Arsenal finished as First Division runners-up in 1972–73, lost three FA Cup finals, in 1972, 1978 and 1980, and lost the 1980 Cup Winners' Cup final on penalties. The club's only success during this time was a last-minute 3–2 victory over Manchester United in the 1979 FA Cup Final, widely regarded as a classic.^{[14][18]}

The return of former player George Graham as manager in 1986 brought a third period of glory. Arsenal won the League Cup in 1986–87, Graham's first season in charge. This was followed by a League title win in 1988–89, won with a last-minute goal in the final game of the season against fellow title challengers Liverpool. Graham's Arsenal won another title in 1990–91, losing only one match, won the FA Cup and League Cup double in 1993, and a second

European trophy, the Cup Winners' Cup, in 1994.^{[14][19]} Graham's reputation was tarnished when he was found to have taken kickbacks from agent Rune Hauge for signing certain players,^[20] and he was dismissed in 1995. His replacement, Bruce Rioch, lasted for only one season, leaving the club after a dispute with the board of directors.^[21]

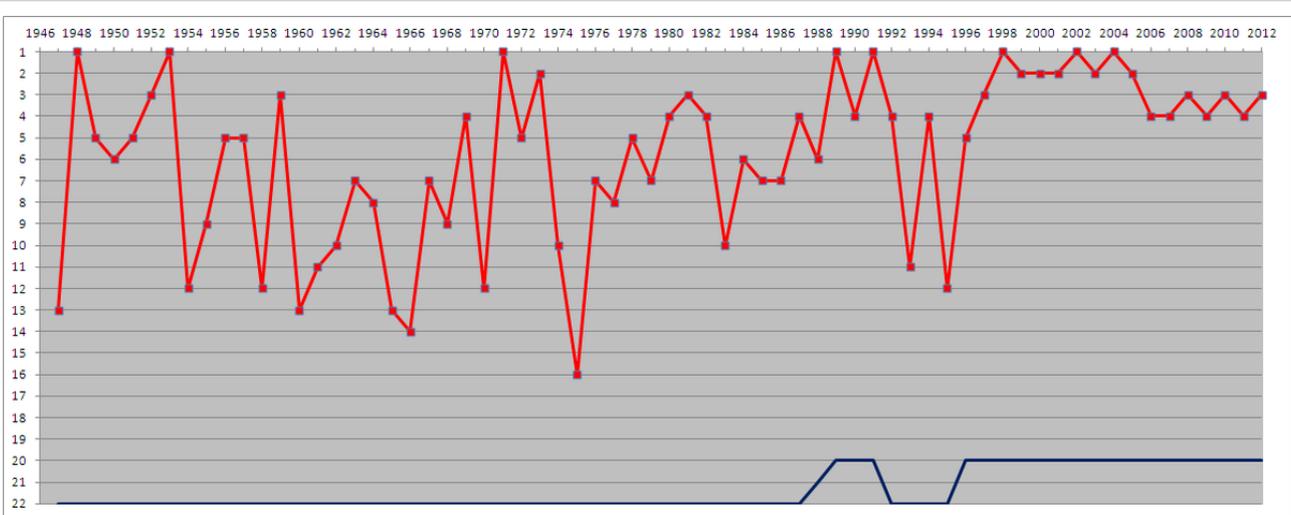
The club's success in the late 1990s and first decade of the 21st century owed a great deal to the 1996 appointment of Arsène Wenger as manager. Wenger brought new tactics, a new training regime and several foreign players who complemented the existing English talent. Arsenal won a second League and Cup double in 1997–98 and a third in 2001–02. In addition, the club reached the final of the 1999–2000 UEFA Cup (losing on penalties to Galatasaray), were victorious in the 2003 and 2005 FA Cups, and won the Premier League in 2003–04 without losing a single match, an achievement which earned the side the nickname "The Invincibles".^[22] The club went 49 league matches unbeaten in that season, a national record.^[23]



Arsenal's players and fans celebrate their 2004 League title win with an open-top bus parade.

Arsenal finished in either first or second place in the league in eight of Wenger's first eleven seasons at the club, although on no occasion were they able to retain the title.^[14] As of June 2012, they were one of only five teams, the others being Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea, and Manchester City, to have won the Premier League since its formation in 1992.^[24] Arsenal had never progressed beyond the quarter-finals of the Champions League until 2005–06; in that season they became the first club from London in the competition's fifty-year history to reach the final, in which they were beaten 2–1 by Barcelona.^[25] In July 2006, they moved into the Emirates Stadium, after 93 years at Highbury.^[26]

Arsenal reached the final of the 2007 and 2011 League Cup final, losing 2–1 to Chelsea and Birmingham City respectively. The club has not gained a major trophy since the 2005 FA Cup.^[27]



Arsenal's finishing positions since 1947 (in red). The number of teams in the top flight is shown in blue.

Crest

Unveiled in 1888, Royal Arsenal's first crest featured three cannon viewed from above, pointing northwards, similar to the coat of arms of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich. These can sometimes be mistaken for chimneys, but the presence of a carved lion's head and a cascabel on each are clear indicators that they are cannon.^[28] This was dropped after the move to Highbury in 1913, only to be reinstated in 1922, when the club adopted a crest featuring a single cannon, pointing eastwards, with the club's nickname, *The Gunners*, inscribed alongside it; this crest only

lasted until 1925, when the cannon was reversed to point westward and its barrel slimmed down.^[28] In 1949, the club unveiled a modernised crest featuring the same style of cannon below the club's name, set in blackletter, and above the coat of arms of the Metropolitan Borough of Islington and a scroll inscribed with the club's newly-adopted Latin motto, *Victoria Concordia Crescit* "victory comes from harmony", coined by the club's programme editor Harry Homer.^[28] For the first time, the crest was rendered in colour, which varied slightly over the crest's lifespan, finally becoming red, gold and green. Because of the numerous revisions of the crest, Arsenal were unable to copyright it. Although the club had managed to register the crest as a trademark, and had fought (and eventually won) a long legal battle with a local street trader who sold "unofficial" Arsenal merchandise,^[29] Arsenal eventually sought a more comprehensive legal protection. Therefore, in 2002 they introduced a new crest featuring more modern curved lines and a simplified style, which was copyrightable.^[30] The cannon once again faces east and the club's name is written in a sans-serif typeface above the cannon. Green was replaced by dark blue. The new crest was criticised by some supporters; the Arsenal Independent Supporters' Association claimed that the club had ignored much of Arsenal's history and tradition with such a radical modern design, and that fans had not been properly consulted on the issue.^[31]

Until the 1960s, a badge was worn on the playing shirt only for high-profile matches such as FA Cup finals, usually in the form of a monogram of the club's initials in red on a white background.^[32]

The monogram theme was developed into an Art Deco-style badge on which the letters A and C framed a football rather than the letter F, the whole set within a hexagonal border. This early example of a corporate logo, introduced as part of Herbert Chapman's rebranding of the club in the 1930s, was used not only on Cup Final shirts but as a design feature throughout Highbury Stadium, including above the main entrance and inlaid in the floors.^[33] From 1967, a white cannon was regularly worn on the shirts, until replaced by the club crest, sometimes with the addition of the nickname "The Gunners", in the 1990s.^[32]

In the 2011–2012 season, Arsenal celebrated their 125th year anniversary. The celebrations included a modified version of the current crest worn on their jerseys for the season. The crest was all white, surrounded by 15 oak leaves to the right and 15 laurel leaves to the left. The oak leaves represent the 15 founding members of the club who met at the Royal Oak pub. The 15 laurel leaves represent the design detail on the six pence pieces paid by the founding fathers to establish the club. The laurel leaves also represent strength. To complete the crest, 1886 and 2011 are shown on either sides of the motto "Forward" at the bottom of the crest.^[34]



Arsenal's first crest from 1888

Colours

Arsenal's original home colours. The team wore a similar kit (but with redcurrant socks) during the 2005–06 season.

For much of Arsenal's history, their home colours have been bright red shirts with white sleeves and white shorts, though this has not always been the case. The choice of red is in recognition of a charitable donation from Nottingham Forest, soon after Arsenal's foundation in 1886. Two of Dial Square's founding members, Fred Beardsley and Morris Bates, were former Forest players who had moved to Woolwich for work. As they put together the first team in the area, no kit could be found, so Beardsley and Bates wrote home for help and received a set of kit

and a ball.^[5] The shirt was redcurrant, a dark shade of red, and was worn with white shorts and blue socks.^[35]

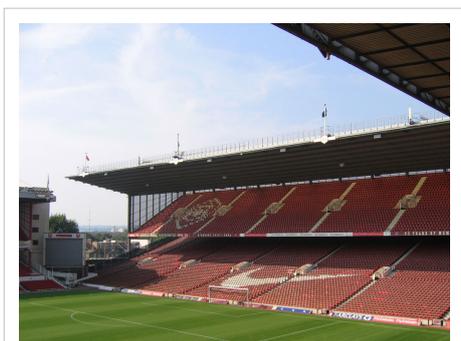
In 1933, Herbert Chapman, wanting his players to be more distinctly dressed, updated the kit, adding white sleeves and changing the shade to a brighter pillar box red. Two possibilities have been suggested for the origin of the white sleeves. One story reports that Chapman noticed a supporter in the stands wearing a red sleeveless sweater over a white shirt; another was that he was inspired by a similar outfit worn by the cartoonist Tom Webster, with whom Chapman played golf.^[36] Regardless of which story is true, the red and white shirts have come to define Arsenal and the team have worn the combination ever since, aside from two seasons. The first was 1966–67, when Arsenal wore all-red shirts;^[35] this proved unpopular and the white sleeves returned the following season. The second was 2005–06, the last season that Arsenal played at Highbury, when the team wore commemorative redcurrant shirts similar to those worn in 1913, their first season in the stadium; the club reverted to their normal colours at the start of the next season.^[36] In the 2008–09 season, Arsenal replaced the traditional all-white sleeves with red sleeves with a broad white stripe.^[35]

Arsenal's home colours have been the inspiration for at least three other clubs. In 1909, Sparta Prague adopted a dark red kit like the one Arsenal wore at the time;^[36] in 1938, Hibernian adopted the design of the Arsenal shirt sleeves in their own green and white strip.^[37] In 1920, Sporting Clube de Braga's manager returned from a game at Highbury and changed his team's green kit to a duplicate of Arsenal's red with white sleeves and shorts, giving rise to the team's nickname of *Os Arsenalistas*.^[38] These teams still wear these designs to this day.

For many years Arsenal's away colours were white shirts and either black or white shorts. Since the 1969–70 season, they have worn yellow and blue, but there have been exceptions. They wore a green and navy away kit in 1982–83, and since the early 1990s and the advent of the lucrative replica kit market, the away colours have been changed regularly. During this period the designs have been either two-tone blue designs, or variations on the traditional yellow and blue, such as the metallic gold and navy strip used in the 2001–02 season, and the yellow and dark grey used from 2005 to 2007.^[39] As of 2009, the away kit is changed every season, and the outgoing away kit becomes the third-choice kit if a new home kit is being introduced in the same year.^[40]

Arsenal's shirts have been made by manufacturers including Bukta (from the 1930s until the early 1970s), Umbro (from the 1970s until 1986), Adidas (1986–1994), and Nike (since 1994). Like those of most other major football clubs, Arsenal's shirts have featured sponsors' logos since the 1980s; sponsors include JVC (1982–1999), Sega (1999–2002), O2 (2002–2006), and Emirates (from 2006).^{[35][36]}

Stadiums



The North Bank Stand, Arsenal Stadium,
Highbury

For most of their time in south-east London, Arsenal played at the Manor Ground in Plumstead, apart from a three-year period at the nearby Invicta Ground between 1890 and 1893. The Manor Ground was initially just a field, until the club installed stands and terracing for their first Football League match in September 1893. They played their home games there for the next twenty years (with two exceptions in the 1894–95 season), until the move to north London in 1913.^{[41][42]}

Widely referred to as Highbury, Arsenal Stadium was the club's home from September 1913 until May 2006. The original stadium was designed by the renowned football architect Archibald Leitch, and had a design common to many football grounds in the UK at the time, with a single covered stand and three open-air banks of terracing.^[43] The entire stadium was given a massive overhaul in the 1930s: new Art Deco West and East stands were constructed, opening in 1932 and 1936 respectively, and a roof was added to the North Bank terrace, which was bombed during the Second World War and not restored until 1954.^[43]

Highbury could hold over 60,000 spectators at its peak, and had a capacity of 57,000 until the early 1990s. The Taylor Report and Premier League regulations obliged Arsenal to convert Highbury to an all-seater stadium in time for the 1993–94 season, thus reducing the capacity to 38,419 seated spectators.^[44] This capacity had to be reduced further during Champions League matches to accommodate additional advertising boards, so much so that for two seasons, from 1998 to 2000, Arsenal played Champions League home matches at Wembley, which could house more than 70,000 spectators.^[45]

Expansion of Highbury was restricted because the East Stand had been designated as a Grade II listed building and the other three stands were close to residential properties.^[43] These limitations prevented the club from maximising matchday revenue during the 1990s and first decade of the 21st century, putting them in danger of being left behind in the football boom of that time.^[46] After considering various options, in 2000 Arsenal proposed building a new 60,361-capacity stadium at Ashburton Grove, since renamed the Emirates Stadium, about 500 metres south-west of Highbury.^[47] The project was initially delayed by red tape and rising costs,^[48] and construction was completed in July 2006, in time for the start of the 2006–07 season.^[49]

The stadium was named after its sponsors, the airline company Emirates, with whom the club signed the largest sponsorship deal in English football history, worth around £100 million;^[50] some fans referred to the ground as Ashburton Grove, or the Grove, as they did not agree with corporate sponsorship of stadium names.^[51] The stadium will be officially known as Emirates Stadium until at least 2012, and the airline will be the club's shirt sponsor until the end of the 2013–14 season.^[50] From the start of the 2010–11 season on, the stands of the stadium have been officially known as North Bank, East Stand, West Stand and Clock end.^[52]

Arsenal's players train at the Shenley Training Centre in Hertfordshire, a purpose-built facility which opened in 1999.^[53] Before that the club used facilities on a nearby site owned by the University College of London Students' Union. Until 1961 they had trained at Highbury.^[54] Arsenal's Academy under-18 teams play their home matches at Shenley, while the reserves play their games at Underhill, home of Barnet.^[55]

Supporters



Arsenal against rivals Tottenham, known as the North London derby, in November 2010.

Arsenal fans often refer to themselves as "Gooners", the name derived from the team's nickname, "The Gunners". The fanbase is large and generally loyal, and virtually all home matches sell out; in 2007–08 Arsenal had the second-highest average League attendance for an English club (60,070, which was 99.5% of available capacity),^[56] and as of 2006, the fourth-highest all-time average attendance.^[57] Arsenal has the seventh highest average attendance of European football clubs only behind Borussia Dortmund, FC Barcelona, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, and Schalke.^{[58][59][60][61]} The club's location, adjoining wealthy areas such as Canonbury and Barnsbury, mixed areas such as Islington, Holloway, Highbury, and the adjacent

London Borough of Camden, and largely working-class areas such as Finsbury Park and Stoke Newington, has meant that Arsenal's supporters have come from across the usual class divides.

Like all major English football clubs, Arsenal have a number of domestic supporters' clubs, including the Arsenal Football Supporters Club, which works closely with the club, and the Arsenal Independent Supporters' Association,



The Emirates Stadium filling up on the day of Dennis Bergkamp's testimonial

which maintains a more independent line. The Arsenal Supporters' Trust promotes greater participation in ownership of the club by fans. The club's supporters also publish fanzines such as *The Gooner*, *Highbury High*, *Gunflash* and the less cerebral *Up The Arse!*. In addition to the usual English football chants, supporters sing "One-Nil to the Arsenal" (to the tune of "Go West") and "Boring, Boring Arsenal", which used to be a common taunt from opposition fans but is now sung ironically by Arsenal supporters when the team is playing well.^[62]

There have always been Arsenal supporters outside of London, and since the advent of satellite television, a supporter's attachment to a football club has become less dependent on geography. Consequently, Arsenal have a significant number of fans from beyond London and all over the world; in 2007, 24 UK, 37 Irish and 49 other overseas supporters clubs were affiliated with the club.^[63] A 2005 report by Granada Ventures, which at the time owned a 9.9% stake in the club, estimated Arsenal's global fanbase at 27 million.^[64]

Arsenal's longest-running and deepest rivalry is with their nearest major neighbours, Tottenham Hotspur; matches between the two are referred to as North London derbies.^[65] Other rivalries within London include those with Chelsea, Fulham and West Ham United. In addition, Arsenal and Manchester United developed a strong on-pitch rivalry in the late 1980s, which intensified in recent years when both clubs were competing for the Premier League title^[66] – so much so that a 2003 online poll by the Football Fans Census listed Manchester United as Arsenal's biggest rivals, followed by Tottenham and Chelsea.^[67] A 2008 poll listed the Tottenham rivalry as more important.^[68]

Ownership and finances

Arsenal's parent company, Arsenal Holdings plc, operates as a non-quoted public limited company, whose ownership is considerably different from that of other football clubs. Only 62,217 shares in Arsenal have been issued,^{[69][70]} and they are not traded on a public exchange such as the FTSE or AIM; instead, they are traded relatively infrequently on PLUS (AFC ^[71]), a specialist market. At 31 August 2010, a single share in Arsenal had a mid price of £10,250, which set the club's market capitalisation value at approximately £637.74m.^[72] The club made a pre-tax operating profit (excluding player transfers) of £62.7m in the year ending 31 May 2009, from a turnover of £313.3m.^[73]

The largest shareholder on the Arsenal board is American sports tycoon Stan Kroenke, who launched a bid for the club in 2007,^[74] and in November 2009 increased his holding to 18,594 shares (29.9%).^[75]

A rival bid to Kroenke's came from Red & White Securities, which is co-owned by Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov and London-based financier Farhad Moshiri.^[76] Red & White launched its bid in August 2007, buying the stake held by former Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein, and as at February 2009 owned 15,555 shares (25.0%) in the club.^[77] This led to press speculation of a bidding war between Kroenke and Usmanov.^[76] However, Kroenke agreed not to purchase more than 29.9% of the club until at least September 2009,^[78] while the rest of the board have first option on each other's shares until October 2012.^[79]

In April 2011, Stan Kroenke was rumoured to be in "advanced talks" with Arsenal over a possible takeover.^[80]

As of October 2011, Kroenke owns 41,574 shares (66.82%) and Red & White Securities own 18,261 shares (29.35%).^[81] Under company law Kroenke, as majority shareholder, is obliged to make an offer for the remaining shares in the club.

Kit manufacturers and shirt sponsors

Period	Kit manufacturer	Shirt sponsor
1930s–1970	Bukta	<i>none</i>
1971–1980	Umbro	JVC
1981–1986		
1986–1994	Adidas	JVC
1994–1999	Nike	
1999–2002		Dreamcast / Sega ¹
2002–2006		O2
2006–		Emirates

¹ Dreamcast was worn on the first and third shirt while Sega was printed on the second shirt.

In popular culture

Arsenal have appeared in a number of media "firsts". On 22 January 1927, their match at Highbury against Sheffield United was the first English League match to be broadcast live on radio.^{[82][83]} A decade later, on 16 September 1937, an exhibition match between Arsenal's first team and the reserves was the first football match in the world to be televised live.^{[82][84]} Arsenal also featured in the first edition of the BBC's *Match of the Day*, which screened highlights of their match against Liverpool at Anfield on 22 August 1964.^{[82][85]} BSkyB's coverage of Arsenal's January 2010 match against Manchester United was the first live public broadcast of a sports event on 3D television.^{[82][86]}

As one of the most successful teams in the country, Arsenal have often featured when football is depicted in the arts in Britain. They formed the backdrop to one of the earliest football-related films, *The Arsenal Stadium Mystery* (1939).^[87] The film centres on a friendly match between Arsenal and an amateur side, one of whose players is poisoned while playing. Many Arsenal players appeared as themselves and manager George Allison was given a speaking part.^[88] More recently, the book *Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby was an autobiographical account of Hornby's life and relationship with football and Arsenal in particular. Published in 1992, it formed part of the revival and rehabilitation of football in British society during the 1990s.^[89] The book was twice adapted for the cinema – the 1997 British film focuses on Arsenal's 1988–89 title win,^[90] and a 2005 American version features a fan of baseball's Boston Red Sox.^[91]

Arsenal have often been stereotyped as a defensive and "boring" side, especially during the 1970s and 1980s;^{[62][92]} many comedians, such as Eric Morecambe, made jokes about this at the team's expense. The theme was repeated in the 1997 film *The Full Monty*, in a scene where the lead actors move in a line and raise their hands, deliberately mimicking the Arsenal defence's offside trap, in an attempt to co-ordinate their striptease routine.^[88] Another film reference to the club's defence comes in the film *Plunkett & Macleane*, in which two characters are named Dixon and Winterburn after Arsenal's long-serving full backs – the right-sided Lee Dixon and the left-sided Nigel Winterburn.^[88]

The 1991 television comedy sketch show *Harry Enfield & Chums* featured a sketch from the characters Mr Cholmondly-Warner and Grayson where the Arsenal team of 1933, featuring exaggerated parodies of fictitious amateur players take on the Liverpool team of 1991.^[93]

Arsenal is mentioned in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* - when a bartender asks the alien Ford Prefect if he plans to watch the match, Ford replies that there's no point, and the bartender asks "Foregone conclusion, then? Arsenal without a chance?" Ford replies that it's just that the world's about to end.^[94]

Arsenal Ladies

Arsenal Ladies is the women's football club affiliated to Arsenal. Founded in 1987, they turned semi-professional in 2002 and are managed by Laura Harvey.^[95] Arsenal Ladies are the most successful team in English women's football. In the 2008–09 season, they won all three major English trophies – the FA Women's Premier League, FA Women's Cup and FA Women's Premier League Cup,^[96] and, as of 2009, were the only English side to have won the UEFA Women's Cup, having done so in the 2006–07 season as part of a unique quadruple.^[97] The men's and women's clubs are formally separate entities but have quite close ties; Arsenal Ladies are entitled to play once a season at the Emirates Stadium, though they usually play their home matches at Boreham Wood.^[98]

In the community

In 1985, Arsenal founded a community scheme, "Arsenal in the Community", which offered sporting, social inclusion, educational and charitable projects. The club support a number of charitable causes directly and in 1992 established The Arsenal Charitable Trust, which by 2006 had raised more than £2 million for local causes.^[99] An ex-professional and celebrity football team associated with the club also raised money by playing charity matches.^[100]

In the 2009/10 season Arsenal announced that they had raised a record breaking £818,897 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. The original target was £500,000 but thanks to the overwhelming support from fans, players, directors and staff. They were able to smash the target.^[101]

On September 2011, Arsenal won their case against Alicia Simon, a Seville resident who has now been forced by the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office to change the name of her shop "Arsenale". Ms Simon registered the name of her shop before she even opened it in 2007 and has faced litigation from the North London club ever since.^[102]

Statistics and records

Arsenal's tally of 13 League Championships is the third highest in English football, after Manchester United (19) and Liverpool (18),^[103] while the total of 10 FA Cups is the second highest, after Manchester United (11).^[104] Arsenal have achieved three League and FA Cup "Doubles" (in 1971, 1998 and 2002), a feat only previously achieved by Manchester United (in 1994, 1996 and 1999),^{[14][105]} and in 1993 were the first side in English football to complete the FA Cup and League Cup double.^[106] They were also the first London club to reach the final of the UEFA Champions League, in 2006, losing the final 2–1 to Barcelona.^[107]

Arsenal have one of the best top-flight records in history, having finished below fourteenth only seven times. Arsenal also have the highest average league finishing position for the period 1900–1999, with an average league placing of 8.5.^[3] In addition, they are one of only six clubs to have won the FA Cup twice in succession, in 2002 and 2003.^[108] Arsenal also hold the record for the longest unbeaten run in the Premier League at 49 games, and are the only team to have gone an entire Premier League season unbeaten in 2003–04.^[109]

David O'Leary holds the record for Arsenal appearances, having played 722 first-team matches between 1975 and 1993. Fellow centre half and former captain Tony Adams comes second, having played 669 times. The record for a goalkeeper is held by David Seaman, with 564 appearances.^[110]

Thierry Henry is the club's top goalscorer with 228 goals in all competitions between 1999 and 2012,^[111] having surpassed Ian Wright's total of 185 in October 2005.^[112] Wright's record had stood since September 1997, when he overtook the longstanding total of 178 goals set by winger Cliff Bastin in 1939.^[113] Henry also holds the club record for goals scored in the League, with 176,^[111] a record that had been held by Bastin until February 2006.^[114]

Arsenal's record home attendance is 73,707, for a UEFA Champions League match against RC Lens on 25 November 1998 at Wembley Stadium, where the club formerly played home European matches because of the limits on Highbury's capacity. The record attendance for an Arsenal match at Highbury is 73,295, for a 0–0 draw against Sunderland on 9 March 1935,^[110] while that at Emirates Stadium is 60,161, for a 2–2 draw with Manchester United

on 3 November 2007.^[115]

Arsenal have also set records in English football, including the most consecutive seasons spent in the top flight (85 as of 2011–12) and the longest run of unbeaten League matches (49 between May 2003 and October 2004).^[23] This included all 38 matches of their title-winning 2003–04 season, when Arsenal became only the second club to finish a top-flight campaign unbeaten, after Preston North End (who played only 22 matches) in 1888–89.^[22]

Arsenal also set a Champions League record during the 2005–06 season by going ten matches without conceding a goal, beating the previous best of seven set by A.C. Milan. They went a record total stretch of 995 minutes without letting an opponent score; the streak ended in the final, when Samuel Eto'o scored a 76th-minute equaliser for Barcelona.^[25]

Players

First-team squad

As of 31 August 2012.^[116]

Note: Flags indicate national team as has been defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.		Position	Player
1		GK	Wojciech Szczęsny
2		MF	Abou Diaby
3		DF	Bacary Sagna
4		DF	Per Mertesacker
5		DF	Thomas Vermaelen (<i>captain</i>)
6		DF	Laurent Koscielny
7		MF	Tomáš Rosický
8		MF	Mikel Arteta (<i>vice-captain</i>)
9		FW	Lukas Podolski
10		MF	Jack Wilshere
11		DF	André Santos
12		FW	Olivier Giroud
14		FW	Theo Walcott
15		FW	Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain

No.		Position	Player
16		MF	Aaron Ramsey
18		DF	Sébastien Squillaci
19		MF	Santi Cazorla
20		DF	Johan Djourou
21		GK	Łukasz Fabiański
22		MF	Francis Coquelin
23		MF	Andrei Arshavin
24		GK	Vito Mannone

25		DF	Carl Jenkinson
26		MF	Emmanuel Frimpong
27		FW	Gervinho
28		DF	Kieran Gibbs
29		FW	Marouane Chamakh

For recent transfers, see 2012–13 Arsenal F.C. season.

UEFA Reserve squad

As of 3 October 2012.^{[117][118]}

Note: Flags indicate national team as has been defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.		Position	Player
38		DF	Martin Angha
39		FW	Zak Ansah
41		DF	Samir Bihoutine
43		GK	Reice Charles-Cook
45		MF	Kyle Ebecilio
47		MF	Serge Gnabry
48		DF	Sead Hajrović
49		DF	Isaac Hayden
53		MF	Jernade Meade

No.		Position	Player
54		DF	Ignasi Miquel
55		DF	Elton Monteiro
56		FW	Nigel Neita
58		MF	Josh Rees
60		GK	James Shea
63		MF	Jordan Wynter
64		MF	Nico Yennaris
65		MF	Jack Jebb
66		FW	Austin Lipman

Out on Loan

Note: Flags indicate national team as has been defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.	Position	Player
30	FW	Park Chu-Young <i>(at Celta Vigo until the end of the 2012–13 season)</i> ^[119]
31	MF	Ryo Miyaichi <i>(at Wigan Athletic until the end of the 2012–13 season)</i> ^[120]
50	MF	Conor Henderson <i>(at Coventry City until 22 December 2012)</i> ^[121]
52	FW	Nicklas Bendtner <i>(at Juventus until the end of the 2012–13 season)</i> ^[122]

No.	Position	Player
62	FW	Sanchez Watt <i>(at Colchester United until 27 January 2013)</i> ^[123]
—	MF	Denílson <i>(at São Paulo until the end of the 2012–13 season)</i> ^[124]
—	FW	Joel Campbell <i>(at Real Betis until the end of the 2012–13 season)</i> ^[125]

Current technical staff

As of August 2012.^{[126][127][128]}



Arsène Wenger, who has been managing Arsenal since 1996.

Position	Name
Manager	 Arsène Wenger
Assistant manager	 Steve Bould
First team coaches	 Neil Banfield
	 Boro Primorac
Goalkeeping coach	 Gerry Peyton
Fitness coach	 Tony Colbert
Physiotherapist	 Colin Lewin
Club doctor	 Gary O'Driscoll
Kit manager	 Vic Akers
Reserves coach	 Terry Burton
Under-18s coach	 Steve Gattling
Academy director	 Liam Brady

Managers

There have been eighteen permanent and five caretaker managers of Arsenal since the appointment of the club's first professional manager, Thomas Mitchell in 1897.^[129] The club's longest-serving manager as of 2009, in terms of both length of tenure and number of games overseen, is Arsène Wenger, who was appointed in 1996.^{[130][131]} Wenger is also Arsenal's only manager from outside the United Kingdom.^[131] Two Arsenal managers have died in the job – Herbert Chapman and Tom Whittaker.^[132]

Honours

Domestic

- **First Division** (until 1992) and **Premier League**^{[14][133]}

13: 1930–31, 1932–33, 1933–34, 1934–35, 1937–38, 1947–48, 1952–53, 1970–71, 1988–89, 1990–91, 1997–98, 2001–02, 2003–04

- **FA Cup**^[14]

10: 1930, 1936, 1950, 1971, 1979, 1993, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2005

- **League Cup**^[14]

2: 1987, 1993

- **FA Community Shield (FA Charity Shield before 2002)**^[134]

12: 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1938, 1948, 1953, 1991 (shared), 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004

- **Mercantile Credit Centenary Trophy**

1: 1988–89

European

- **European Cup Winners' Cup**^[14]

1: 1993–94

- **Inter-Cities Fairs Cup**^[14]

1: 1969–70

Footnotes

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External links

Official websites

- Official website (<http://www.arsenal.com/>)
- Arsenal (<http://www.premierleague.com/page/arsenal/0,,12306~1072252,00.html>) at the Premier League official website
- Arsenal (<http://www.uefa.com/footballEurope/Club=52280/competition=1/index.html>) at the UEFA official website

News sites

- Arsenal on BBC Sport: Club news (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/teams/a/arsenal/default.stm>) – Recent results (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/teams/a/arsenal/results/default.stm>) – Upcoming fixtures (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/teams/a/arsenal/fixtures/default.stm>) – Club statistics (http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/football/teams/a/arsenal/club_stats/default.stm)
- Arsenal news (<http://www.skysports.com/football/teams/arsenal>) from Sky Sports
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Other

- Arsenal F.C. companies (http://opencorporates.com/corporate_groupings/Arsenal+Football+Club) grouped at OpenCorporates

Premier League

Premier League

Countries	England Wales
Confederation	UEFA
Founded	20 February 1992
Number of teams	20
Levels on pyramid	1
Relegation to	Football League Championship
Domestic cup(s)	FA Cup FA Community Shield
League cup(s)	League Cup
International cup(s)	UEFA Champions League UEFA Europa League
Current champions	Manchester City (1st title) (2011–12)
Most championships	Manchester United (12 titles)
TV partners	Sky Sports & ESPN (live matches) BBC (highlights)
Website	Premierleague.com ^[1]
 2012–13 Premier League	

The **Premier League** is an English professional league for association football clubs. At the top of the English football league system, it is the country's primary football competition. Contested by 20 clubs, it operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the Football League. The Premier League is a corporation in which the 20 member clubs act as shareholders. Seasons run from August to May, with teams playing 38 matches each, totalling 380 matches in the season. Most games are played in the afternoons of Saturdays and Sundays, the other games during weekday evenings. It is currently sponsored by Barclays Bank and thus officially known as the **Barclays Premier League**. Outside England it is commonly referred to as the **English Premier League** (EPL).

The competition formed as the **FA Premier League** on 20 February 1992 following the decision of clubs in the Football League First Division to break away from The Football League, which was originally founded in 1888, and take advantage of a lucrative television rights deal.^[2] This deal will be worth £3 billion as of 2013–14, with BSkyB and BT Group securing the rights to broadcast 116 and 38 games respectively.^[3] The Premier League is the most-watched football league in the world, broadcast in 212 territories to 643 million homes.^[4] In the 2010–11 season the average Premier League match attendance was 35,363, the second highest of any professional football league other than the German Bundesliga,^[5] and stadium occupancy was 92.2% capacity.^[6] The Premier League ranked first in the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) coefficients of leagues based on performances in European competitions over the last five years.^[7]

Since 1888, a total of 23 clubs have been crowned champions of the English football system. Of the 45 clubs to have competed since the inception of the Premier League in 1992, five have won the title: Manchester United (12 titles),

Arsenal (3), Chelsea (3), Blackburn Rovers (1) and Manchester City (1). The current champions are Manchester City, who won the title in the 2011–12 season.

History

Origins

Despite significant European success during the 1970s and early 1980s, the late '80s had marked a low point for English football. Stadia were crumbling, supporters endured poor facilities, hooliganism was rife, and English clubs were banned from European competition for five years following the Heysel Stadium disaster in 1985.^[8] The Football League First Division, which had been the top level of English football since 1888, was well behind leagues such as Italy's Serie A and Spain's La Liga in attendances and revenues, and several top English players had moved abroad.^[9] However, by the turn of the 1990s the downward trend was starting to reverse; England had been successful in the 1990 FIFA World Cup, reaching the semi-finals. UEFA, European football's governing body, lifted the five-year ban on English clubs playing in European competitions in 1990 (resulting in Manchester United lifting the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup in 1991) and the Taylor Report on stadium safety standards, which proposed expensive upgrades to create all-seater stadia in the aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster, was published in January of that year.^[10]

Television money had also become much more important; the Football League received £6.3 million for a two-year agreement in 1986, but when that deal was renewed in 1988, the price rose to £44 million over four years.^[11] The 1988 negotiations were the first signs of a breakaway league; ten clubs threatened to leave and form a "super league", but were eventually persuaded to stay.^[12] As stadia improved and match attendance and revenues rose, the country's top teams again considered leaving the Football League in order to capitalise on the growing influx of money being pumped into the sport.^[12]

Foundation

Season	Champions
1992–93	Manchester United
1993–94	Manchester United
1994–95	Blackburn Rovers
1995–96	Manchester United
1996–97	Manchester United
1997–98	Arsenal
1998–99	Manchester United
1999–2000	Manchester United
2000–01	Manchester United
2001–02	Arsenal
2002–03	Manchester United
2003–04	Arsenal
2004–05	Chelsea
2005–06	Chelsea
2006–07	Manchester United
2007–08	Manchester United

2008–09	Manchester United
2009–10	Chelsea
2010–11	Manchester United
2011–12	Manchester City

At the close of the 1991 season, a proposal for the establishment of a new league was tabled that would bring more money into the game overall. The Founder Members Agreement, signed on 17 July 1991 by the game's top-flight clubs, established the basic principles for setting up the FA Premier League.^[13] The newly formed top division would have commercial independence from The Football Association and the Football League, giving the FA Premier League licence to negotiate its own broadcast and sponsorship agreements. The argument given at the time was that the extra income would allow English clubs to compete with teams across Europe.^[14]

In 1992 the First Division clubs resigned from the Football League *en masse* and on 27 May 1992 the FA Premier League was formed as a limited company working out of an office at the Football Association's then headquarters in Lancaster Gate.^[9] This meant a break-up of the 104-year-old Football League that had operated until then with four divisions; the Premier League would operate with a single division and the Football League with three. There was no change in competition format; the same number of teams competed in the top flight, and promotion and relegation between the Premier League and the new First Division remained the same as the old First and Second Divisions with three teams relegated from the league and three promoted.^[12]

The league held its first season in 1992–93 and was originally composed of 22 clubs. The first ever Premier League goal was scored by Brian Deane of Sheffield United in a 2–1 win against Manchester United.^[15] The 22 inaugural members of the new Premier League were Arsenal, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Chelsea, Coventry City, Crystal Palace, Everton, Ipswich Town, Leeds United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Middlesbrough, Norwich City, Nottingham Forest, Oldham Athletic, Queens Park Rangers, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton, Tottenham Hotspur, and Wimbledon.^[16] Luton Town, Notts County and West Ham United were the three teams relegated from the old first division at the end of the 1991–92 season, and did not take part in the inaugural Premier League season.

Development

Due to insistence by the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), the international governing body of football, that domestic leagues reduce the number of games clubs played, the number of clubs was reduced to 20 in 1995 when four teams were relegated from the league and only two teams promoted. On 8 June 2006, FIFA requested that all major European leagues, including Italy's Serie A and Spain's La Liga be reduced to 18 teams by the start of the 2007–08 season. The Premier League responded by announcing their intention to resist such a reduction.^[17] Ultimately, the 2007–08 season kicked off again with 20 teams. The league changed its name from the *FA Premier League* to simply the *Premier League* in 2007.^[18] Welsh club Swansea City were promoted to the Premier League for the 2011–12 season. They were the first non-English team to compete in the Premier League. On 20 August 2011, the first Premier League match to be played outside England was between Swansea City and Wigan Athletic at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, Wales.^[19]

Corporate structure

The Premier League is operated as a corporation and is owned by the 20 member clubs. Each club is a shareholder, with one vote each on issues such as rule changes and contracts. The clubs elect a chairman, chief executive, and board of directors to oversee the daily operations of the league.^[20] The current chairman is Sir Dave Richards, who was appointed in April 1999, and the chief executive is Richard Scudamore, appointed in November 1999.^[21] The former chairman and chief executive, John Quinton and Peter Leaver, were forced to resign in March 1999 after awarding consultancy contracts to former Sky executives Sam Chisholm and David Chance.^[22] The Football

Association is not directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the Premier League, but has veto power as a special shareholder during the election of the chairman and chief executive and when new rules are adopted by the league.^[23]

The Premier League sends representatives to UEFA's European Club Association, the number of clubs and the clubs themselves chosen according to UEFA coefficients. For the 2010–11 season the Premier League had 10 representatives in the Association: Arsenal, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Everton, Fulham, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur.^[24] The European Club Association is responsible for electing three members to UEFA's Club Competitions Committee, which is involved in the operations of UEFA competitions such as the Champions League and UEFA Europa League.^[25]

Competition format

Competition

There are 20 clubs in the Premier League. During the course of a season (from August to May) each club plays the others twice (a double round-robin system), once at their home stadium and once at that of their opponents, for a total of 38 games. Teams receive three points for a win and one point for a draw. No points are awarded for a loss. Teams are ranked by total points, then goal difference, and then goals scored. At the end of each season, the club with the most points is crowned champion. If points are equal, the goal difference and then goals scored determine the winner. If still equal, teams are deemed to occupy the same position. If there is a tie for the championship, for relegation, or for qualification to other competitions, a play-off match at a neutral venue decides rank.^[26] The three lowest placed teams are relegated into the Football League Championship, and the top two teams from the Championship, together with the winner of play-offs involving the third to sixth placed Championship clubs, are promoted in their place.^[27]

Qualification for European competitions

As of the 2009–10 season qualification for the UEFA Champions League changed, the top four teams in the Premier League qualify for the UEFA Champions League, with the top three teams directly entering the group stage. Previously only the top two teams qualified automatically. The fourth-placed team enters the Champions League at the play-off round for non-champions and must win a two-legged knockout tie in order to enter the group stage.^[28] The team placed fifth in the Premier League automatically qualifies for the UEFA Europa League, and the sixth and seventh-placed teams can also qualify, depending on the winners and runners-up of the two domestic cup competitions. Two Europa League places are reserved for the winner of each of the domestic cup competitions; if the winner of the FA Cup qualifies for the Champions League, then that place will go to the runner-up, and if the runner-up is also already qualified, then that place will go to the next-best placed finisher in the Premier League. If the winner of the League Cup has already qualified, that place goes to the next-best placed team in the league.^{[29][30]} A further place in the UEFA Europa League is also available via the Fair Play initiative. If the Premier League has one of the three highest Fair Play rankings in Europe, the highest ranked team in the Premier League Fair Play standings which has not already qualified for Europe will automatically qualify for the UEFA Europa League first qualifying round.^[31]



Arsenal against Borussia Dortmund in the UEFA Champions League in 2011

An exception to the usual European qualification system happened in 2005, after Liverpool won the Champions League the year before, but did not finish in a Champions League qualification place in the Premier League that season. UEFA gave special dispensation for Liverpool to enter the Champions League, giving England five

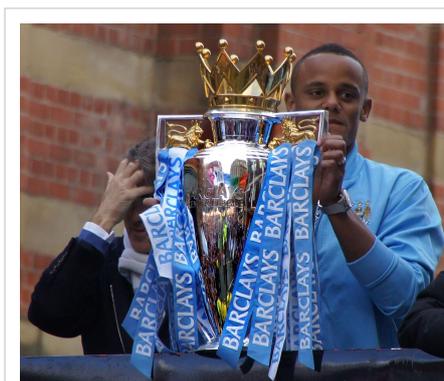
qualifiers.^[32] UEFA subsequently ruled that the defending champions qualify for the competition the following year regardless of their domestic league placing. However, for those leagues with four entrants in the Champions League, this meant that if the Champions League winner finished outside the top four in its domestic league, it would qualify at the expense of the fourth-placed team in the league. No association can have more than four entrants in the Champions League.^[33] This occurred in 2012, when Chelsea – who had won the Champions League the previous year, but finished sixth in the league – qualified for the Champions League in place of Tottenham Hotspur, who went into the Europa League.

In 2007, the Premier League became the highest ranking European League based on the performances of English teams in European competitions over a five-year period. This broke the eight-year dominance of the Spanish league, La Liga.^[34] The top three leagues in Europe are currently allowed to enter four teams into the Champions League. Michel Platini, the UEFA president, had proposed taking one place from the top three leagues and allocating it to that nation's cup winners. This proposal was rejected in a vote at a UEFA Strategy Council meeting.^[35] In the same meeting, however, it was agreed that the third-placed team in the top four leagues would receive automatic qualification for the group stage, rather than entry into the third qualifying round, while the fourth-placed team would enter the play-off round for non-champions, guaranteeing an opponent from one of the top 15 leagues in Europe. This was part of Platini's plan to increase the number of teams qualifying directly into the group stage, while simultaneously increasing the number of teams from lower-ranked nations in the group stage.^[36]

Trophy

The current Premier League trophy was created by Royal Jewellers Asprey of London. It consists of a trophy with a golden crown and a malachite plinth base. The plinth weighs 33 lbs (15 kg) and the trophy weighs 22 lbs (10 kg).^[37] The trophy and plinth are 76 cm (30 in) tall, 43 cm (17 in) wide and 25 cm (9.8 in) deep.^[38]

Its main body is solid sterling silver and silver gilt, while its plinth is made of malachite, a semi-precious stone. The plinth has a silver band around its circumference, upon which the names of the title-winning clubs are listed. Malachite's green colour is also representative of the green field of play.^[38] The design of the trophy is based on the heraldry of Three Lions that is associated with English football. Two of the lions are found above the handles on either side of the trophy – the third is symbolised by the captain of the title winning team as he raises the trophy, and its gold crown, above his head at the end of the season.^[39] In 2004, a special gold version of the trophy was commissioned to commemorate Arsenal winning the title without a single defeat.^[40]



The Premier League trophy, held by Vincent Kompany, captain of Manchester City.

Sponsorship

The Premier League has been sponsored since 1993. The sponsor has been able to determine the league's sponsorship name. There have been three sponsors since the league's formation.^[41]

- 1993–2001: Carling (FA Carling Premiership)^[9]
- 2001–2004: Barclaycard (Barclaycard Premiership)^[9]
- 2004–present: Barclays (Barclays Premiership (until 2007) then Barclays Premier League)^{[9][42]}

As well as sponsorship for the league itself, the Premier League has a number of official partners and suppliers.^[43] The official ball supplier for the league is Nike who have had the contract since the 2000–01 season when they took over from Mitre.^[44]

Finances

The Premier League has the highest revenue of any football league in the world, with total club revenues of €2.479 billion in 2009–10,^[45] and is the second most profitable after the German Bundesliga.^[46] In 2010 the Premier League was awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade category by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Premier League was recognised for its outstanding contribution to international trade and the value it brings to English football and the United Kingdom's broadcasting industry.^[47] The Premier League's gross revenue is regularly the fourth highest of any sports league worldwide, behind the annual revenues of the three most popular North American major sports leagues (the National Football League, Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association).^[48]

In terms of world football, the Premier League clubs are some of the richest in the world. Deloitte, who annually release figures on club revenues through its "Football Money League", listed seven Premier League clubs in the top 20 for the 2009–10 season.^[49] No other league has more than four clubs in this table. Premier League teams have dominated the list for many years, and even topped the list for almost a decade until the 2004–05 season. After the Premier League's new TV deal went into effect, the league-wide increase in revenues is expected to increase the Premier League clubs' standing in the list, and there is a possibility that a Premier League club will be top of the list.^{[50][51]}

Media coverage

United Kingdom and Ireland

Television has played a major role in the history of the Premier League. The money from television rights has been vital in helping to create excellence both on and off the field. The League's decision to assign broadcasting rights to BSkyB in 1992 was at the time a radical decision, but one that has paid off. At the time pay television was an almost untested proposition in the UK market, as was charging fans to watch live televised football. However, a combination of Sky's strategy, the quality of Premier League football and the public's appetite for the game has seen the value of the Premier League's TV rights soar.^[11]



A 2010 match between Chelsea and Newcastle United

The Premier League sells its television rights on a collective basis. This is in contrast to some other European Leagues, including La Liga, in which each club sells its rights individually, leading to a much higher share of the total income going to the top few clubs.^[52] The money is divided into three parts:^[53] half is divided equally between the clubs; one quarter is awarded on a merit basis based on final league position, the top club getting twenty times as much as the bottom club, and equal steps all the way down the table; the final quarter is paid out as facilities fees for games that are shown on television, with the top clubs generally receiving the largest shares of this. The income from overseas rights is divided equally between the twenty clubs.^[54]

The first Sky television rights agreement was worth £304 million over five seasons.^[55] The next contract, negotiated to start from the 1997–98 season, rose to £670 million over four seasons.^[55] The third contract was a £1.024 billion deal with BSkyB for the three seasons from 2001–02 to 2003–04. The league brought in £320 million from the sale of its international rights for the three-year period from 2004–05 to 2006–07. It sold the rights itself on a territory-by-territory basis.^[56] Sky's monopoly was broken from August 2006 when Setanta Sports was awarded rights to show two out of the six packages of matches available. This occurred following an insistence by the European Commission that exclusive rights should not be sold to one television company. Sky and Setanta paid a total of £1.7 billion, a two-thirds increase which took many commentators by surprise as it had been widely assumed

that the value of the rights had levelled off following many years of rapid growth. Setanta also hold rights to a live 3 pm match solely for Irish viewers. The BBC has retained the rights to show highlights for the same three seasons (on *Match of the Day*) for £171.6 million, a 63 per cent increase on the £105 million it paid for the previous three-year period.^[57] Raidió Teilifís Éireann broadcast the highlights package in Ireland. Sky and BT have agreed to jointly pay £84.3 million for delayed television rights to 242 games (that is the right to broadcast them in full on television and over the internet) in most cases for a period of 50 hours after 10 pm on matchday.^[58] Overseas television rights fetched £625 million, nearly double the previous contract.^[59] The total raised from these deals is more than £2.7 billion, giving Premier League clubs an average media income from league games of around £40 million-a-year from 2007 to 2010.^[60]

The TV rights agreement between the Premier League and Sky has faced accusations of being a cartel, and a number of court cases have arisen as a result.^[61] An investigation by the Office of Fair Trading in 2002 found BSkyB to be dominant within the pay TV sports market, but concluded that there were insufficient grounds for the claim that BSkyB had abused its dominant position.^[62] In July 1999 the Premier League's method of selling rights collectively for all member clubs was investigated by the UK Restrictive Practices Court, who concluded that the agreement was not contrary to the public interest.^[63] The BBC's highlights package on Saturday and Sunday nights, as well as other evenings when fixtures justify, will run until 2016.^[64] Television rights alone for the period 2010 to 2013 have been purchased for £1.782 billion.^[65] On 22 June 2009, due to troubles encountered by Setanta Sports after it failed to meet a final deadline over a £30 million payment to the Premier League, ESPN was awarded two packages of UK rights containing a total of 46 matches that were available for the 2009–10 season as well as a package of 23 matches per season from 2010–11 to 2012–13.^[66] On 13 June 2012, the Premier League announced that BT had been awarded 38 games a season for the 2013–14 through 2015–16 seasons at £246 million-a-year. The remaining 116 games were retained by BSkyB who will pay £760 million-a-year. The total rights have raised £3.018 billion, an increase of 70.2% over the 2010–11 to 2012–13 rights.^[67]



Cristiano Ronaldo preparing to take a free kick in a 2009 match between Manchester United and Liverpool.

Worldwide

Promoted as "The Greatest Show On Earth",^{[68][69]} being broadcast to over 600+ million people in over 200 countries worldwide,^[70] often on networks owned and/or controlled by NewsCorp, which owns BSkyB and thus the primary UK and Ireland TV rights. In the United States, coverage is shared between Fox Soccer, Fox Soccer Plus and ESPN; NewsCorp sometimes buys pitch-side advertising boards with the Fox Soccer logo replacing that of Sky.^[71] In Canada, Sportsnet owns the Premier League rights for three years from the 2010–11 season.^[72] In Australia, Fox Sports shows the games with a Viewers Choice option for up to five live games and up to nine games live on any given game-week.^[73]

The Premier League is particularly popular in Asia, where it is the most widely distributed sports programme.^[74] In India, the matches are broadcast live on ESPN and Star Sports. In the People's Republic of China, data from 2003 suggested that matches were attracting television audiences between 100 million and 360 million, more than any other foreign sport.^[75] However, when the Chinese rights to Premier League matches were sold to a subscription channel in 2007, the number of viewers proved to be in the tens of thousands.^[76] Due to its popularity in Asia, the league has held four pre-season tournaments there, the only Premier League affiliated tournaments ever to have been held outside England.^[77] The Premier League Asia Trophy has been played in Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong and China and involves three Premier League clubs playing against a local team from the host nation, often the national side.^[78]

Figures from UK tourism body VisitBritain suggest that 750,000 visitors to Britain attended a Premier League match in 2010, spending a total £595 million and an average of £766. Visitors from Norway are most likely to come to watch Premier League football, with one in 13 Norwegian tourists travelling specifically to attend matches. Second on the list is the United Arab Emirates. For those visiting family and friends, the most likely to watch a football match are from Japan, China and Australia.^[79]

Criticisms

"Big Four" dominance (2003-04 to 2008-09)

Season	A	C	L	MU
1992-93	10	11	6	1
1993-94	4	14	8	1
1994-95	12	11	4	2
1995-96	5	11	3	1
1996-97	3	6	4	1
1997-98	1	4	3	2
1998-99	2	3	7	1
1999-2000	2	5	4	1
2000-01	2	6	3	1
2001-02	1	6	2	3
2002-03	2	4	5	1
2003-04	1	2	4	3
2004-05	2	1	5	3
2005-06	4	1	3	2
2006-07	4	2	3	1
2007-08	3	2	4	1
2008-09	4	3	2	1
2009-10	3	1	7	2
2010-11	4	2	6	1
2011-12	3	6	8	2
Top four finishes	17	11	12	20
out of 20				
Key:	Champions			
	2nd, 3rd or 4th place			
	5th or below			

A major criticism of the Premier League has been the emergence of the so-called "Big Four" clubs (Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United).^{[80][81]} With the exception of Blackburn Rovers in 1994-95 and Manchester City in 2011-12, only three clubs have won the Premier League title – Manchester United (12 titles), Arsenal and Chelsea (three titles each). In addition, Manchester United have not finished outside the top three since the formation of the Premier League. With the top 4 places ensuring qualification for the UEFA Champions League

in the summer of 2002 and ever since, and with Chelsea's new-found wealth after its purchase by Roman Abramovic in the summer of 2003, the concept of a "Big Four" came into being, as they dominated the top four spots, and thus places in the UEFA Champions League, winning all but one of the top four places between 2003-04 and 2008-09, the only exception being Liverpool's 5th place behind Everton in 2004-05, though they still got into the Champions League for 2005-06 by winning it in 2004-05. (Qualification was one club for the first four seasons, increased to two clubs in 1997, three in 1999 and four since 2002). The benefits of qualification, especially increased revenue, are believed to have widened the gap between the "Big Four" clubs and the rest of the Premier League.^[81] Arsenal are second with 17 top four finishes, followed by Liverpool with 12 and Chelsea with 11. The team who have appeared in the top four on the most occasions, and are not part of this "Big Four", is Newcastle United.

In May 2008, then Newcastle United manager Kevin Keegan said the "Big Four"'s dominance threatened the division, stating: "This league is in danger of becoming one of the most boring but great leagues in the world."^[82] Following Keegan's comments, Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore defended the league, saying, "There are a lot of different tussles that go on in the Premier League depending on whether you're at the top, in the middle or at the bottom that make it interesting."^[83] The dominance of Chelsea and Manchester United has led some to believe that the "Big Four" has contracted to a "Big Two"; prior to 2012, no club other than these two had won the Premier League since 2005 and, as of May 2012, 21 of the last 28 major domestic trophies have gone to either Stamford Bridge or Old Trafford.^[84]

The years following 2009 marked a shift in the structure of the "Big Four" with two new clubs, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City, vying for top four places to secure Champions League football. In the 2009–10 season, Tottenham pipped Manchester City to finish fourth and become the first team to "break" the top four since Everton in 2005, with both Manchester City and Aston Villa also finishing above Liverpool, one of the "Big Four" teams. In 2010–11, Manchester City finished third – the first time a team has broken into the top three since Newcastle did so in the 2002–03 season. This has continued into the 2011–12 season, with Manchester City winning the title for the first time since 1968, the first team outside the "Big Four" to do so since 1994–95. In addition, Chelsea finished outside the top four for the first time since 2001–02, as did Liverpool for the third season in a row. Criticism of the gap between an elite group of "super clubs" and the majority of the Premier League has continued, nevertheless, due to their increasing ability to spend more than the other Premier League clubs.^[85]

Widening gap with lower leagues

One of the main criticisms levelled at the Premier League is the increasing gulf between the Premier League and the Football League. Since its split with the Football League, many established clubs in the Premier League have managed to distance themselves from their counterparts in lower leagues. Owing in large part to the disparity in revenue from television rights between the leagues,^[86] many newly promoted teams have found it difficult to avoid relegation in their first season in the Premier League. In every season except 2001–02 (Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers and Fulham) and 2011–12 (Queens Park Rangers, Swansea City and Norwich City), at least one Premier League newcomer has been relegated back to the Football League. In 1997–98 all three promoted clubs were relegated at the end of the season.^[87]

The Premier League distributes a small portion of its television revenue to clubs that are relegated from the league in the form of "parachute payments". Starting with the 2006–07 season, these payments are in the amount of £6.5 million over the club's first two seasons in lower leagues, although this rose to £11.2 million per year for clubs relegated in 2007–2008.^[86] Designed to help teams adjust to the loss of television revenues (the average Premier League team receives £45 million while the average Football League Championship club receives £1 million),^[86] critics maintain that the payments actually widen the gap between teams that have reached the Premier League and those that have not,^[88] leading to the common occurrence of teams "bouncing back" soon after their relegation. For some clubs, including Burnley, Leeds United, Charlton Athletic, Coventry City, Derby County, Nottingham Forest, Oldham Athletic, Sheffield Wednesday, Bradford City, Leicester City, Queens Park Rangers, Southampton,

Wimbledon, and Portsmouth who have failed to win immediate promotion back to the Premier League, financial problems, including in some cases administration or even liquidation have followed. Further relegations down the footballing ladder have ensued for several clubs unable to cope with the gap.^{[89][90]}

Clubs

A total of 45 clubs have played in the Premier League from its inception in 1992 up to and including the 2011–12 season. Seven clubs have been members of the Premier League for every season since its inception. This group is composed of Arsenal, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United, and Tottenham Hotspur.^[91]

The following 20 clubs will compete in the Premier League during the 2012–13 season.

Club	Position in 2011–12	First season in top division	Number of seasons in top division	Number of seasons in the Premier League	First season of current spell in top division	Top division titles	Last top division title
Arsenal ^{a, b}	3rd	1904–05	96	21	1919–20	13	2003–04
Aston Villa ^{a, b, c}	16th	1888–89	102	21	1988–89	7	1980–81
Chelsea ^{a, b}	6th	1907–08	78	21	1989–90	4	2009–10
Everton ^{a, b, c}	7th	1888–89	110	21	1954–55	9	1986–87
Fulham ^b	9th	1949–50	24	12	2001–02	0	n/a
Liverpool ^{a, b}	8th	1894–95	98	21	1962–63	18	1989–90
Manchester City ^a	1st	1899–1900	84	16	2002–03	3	2011–12
Manchester United ^{a, b}	2nd	1892–93	88	21	1975–76	19	2010–11
Newcastle United	5th	1898–99	82	19	2010–11	4	1926–27
Norwich City ^a	12th	1972–73	23	6	2011–12	0	n/a
Queens Park Rangers ^a	17th	1968–69	22	6	2011–12	0	n/a
Reading	1st in the Championship	2006–07	3	3	2012–13	0	n/a
Southampton ^a	2nd in the Championship	1966–67	36	14	2012–13	0	n/a
Stoke City ^{b, c}	14th	1888–89	57	5	2008–09	0	n/a
Sunderland	13th	1890–91	82	12	2007–08	6	1935–36
Swansea City ^b	11th	1981–82	4	2	2011–12	0	n/a
Tottenham Hotspur ^{a, b}	4th	1909–10	78	21	1978–79	2	1960–61
West Bromwich Albion ^c	10th	1888–89	76	7	2010–11	1	1919–20
West Ham United	3rd in the Championship	1923–24	55	17	2012–13	0	n/a

Wigan Athletic ^b	15th	2005–06	8	8	2005–06	0	n/a
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- Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers and Wolverhampton Wanderers were relegated to the Championship for the 2012–13 season, while Reading, Southampton and West Ham United, as winners, runners-up and play-off final winners respectively, were promoted from the 2011–12 Championship season.

^a: Founding member of the Premier League

^b: Never been relegated from Premier League

^c: One of the original 12 Football League teams

Stadiums

Premier League football has been played in 50 stadia since the formation of the Premier League in 1992. The Hillsborough disaster in 1989 and the subsequent Taylor Report saw a recommendation that standing terraces should be abolished; as a result all stadia in the Premier League are all-seater.^{[92][93]} Since the formation of the Premier League, football grounds in England have seen constant improvements to capacity and facilities, with some clubs moving to new-build stadia.^[94] Nine stadia that have seen Premier League football have now been demolished. The stadia for the 2010–11 season show a large disparity in capacity: Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United has a capacity of 75,957^[95] with Bloomfield Road, the home of Blackpool, having a capacity of 16,220.^[96] The combined total capacity of the Premier League in the 2010–11 season is 770,477 with an average capacity of 38,523.^[97]

Stadium attendances are a significant source of regular income for Premier League clubs.^[98] For the 2009–10 season, average attendances across the league clubs were 34,215 for Premier League matches with a total aggregate attendance figure of 13,001,616.^[97] This represents an increase of 13,089 from the average attendance of 21,126 recorded in the league's first season (1992–93).^[99] However, during the 1992–93 season the capacities of most stadia were reduced as clubs replaced terraces with seats in order to meet the Taylor Report's 1994–95 deadline for all-seater stadia.^{[100][101]} The Premier League's record average attendance of 36,144 was set during the 2007–08 season.^[102]

Managers

Managers in the Premier League are involved in the day to day running of the team, including the training, team selection, and player acquisition. Their influence varies from club-to-club and is related to the ownership of the club and the relationship of the manager with fans.^[103] Managers are required to have a UEFA Pro Licence which is the final coaching qualification available, and follows the completion of the UEFA 'B' and 'A' Licences.^[104] The UEFA Pro Licence is required by every person who wishes to manage a club in the Premier League on a permanent basis (i. e. more than 12 weeks – the amount of time an unqualified caretaker manager is allowed to take control).^[105] Caretaker appointments are managers that fill the gap between a managerial departure and a new appointment. Several caretaker managers have gone on to secure a permanent managerial post after performing well as a caretaker; examples include Paul Hart at Portsmouth and David Pleat at Tottenham Hotspur.

Only one manager, Alex Ferguson, has remained in his position since the formation of the Premier League in 1992.^[106] Arsène Wenger has been in charge of Arsenal in the Premier League since 1996, while David Moyes has been Everton's manager since 2002. No English manager has won the Premier League; the six managers to have won the title comprise two Scots Sir Alex Ferguson (Manchester United, twelve wins) and Kenny Dalglish (Blackburn Rovers, one win), a Frenchman (Arsène Wenger, Arsenal, three wins), a Portuguese (José Mourinho, Chelsea, two wins) and two Italians (Carlo Ancelotti, Chelsea and Roberto Mancini, Manchester City, one win each).^[107] The current managers in the Premier League are:



Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson is the only manager who has remained in his job since the formation of the Premier League.

	Name	Club	Appointed
	Sir Alex Ferguson	Manchester United	6 November 1986
	Arsène Wenger	Arsenal	1 October 1996
	David Moyes	Everton	15 March 2002
	Tony Pulis	Stoke City	15 June 2006
	Roberto Martínez	Wigan Athletic	15 June 2009
	Roberto Mancini	Manchester City	19 December 2009
	Brian McDermott	Reading	20 December 2009
	Nigel Adkins	Southampton	12 September 2010
	Alan Pardew	Newcastle United	9 December 2010
	Sam Allardyce	West Ham United	1 June 2011
	Martin Jol	Fulham	7 June 2011
	Martin O'Neill	Sunderland	3 December 2011
	Mark Hughes	Queens Park Rangers	10 January 2012
	Roberto Di Matteo	Chelsea	4 March 2012
	Brendan Rodgers	Liverpool	1 June 2012
	Paul Lambert	Aston Villa	2 June 2012
	Chris Hughton	Norwich City	7 June 2012
	Steve Clarke	West Bromwich Albion	8 June 2012
	Michael Laudrup	Swansea City	15 June 2012
	André Villas-Boas	Tottenham Hotspur	3 July 2012

Players

Appearances

Ryan Giggs holds the record number of Premier League appearances and is the only player to have played and scored in all 20 completed seasons. He also has 12 Premier League champion's medals, more than any other player.^[108]

Foreign players and transfer regulations

Rank	Player	Appearances
1	 <i>Ryan Giggs</i>	600
2	 <i>David James</i>	572
3	 Gary Speed	535
4	 <i>Frank Lampard</i>	526
5	 <i>Emile Heskey</i>	510
6	 Sol Campbell	504
7	 <i>Phil Neville</i>	486
8	 <i>Jamie Carragher</i>	481
9	 <i>Paul Scholes</i>	480
10	 <i>Mark Schwarzer</i>	469

Italics denotes players still playing professional football.
Bold denotes players still playing in the Premier League.^[109]

At the inception of the Premier League in 1992–93, just eleven players named in the starting line-ups for the first round of matches hailed from outside of the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.^[110] By 2000–01, the number of foreign players participating in the Premier League was 36 per cent of the total. In the 2004–05 season the figure had increased to 45 per cent. On 26 December 1999, Chelsea became the first Premier League side to field an entirely foreign starting line-up,^[111] and on 14 February 2005 Arsenal were the first to name a completely foreign 16-man squad for a match.^[112] By 2009 the average Premier League team had an average of 13 foreign players in their side^[113] with under 40% of the players in the Premier League being English.^[114] The effect of foreign players on the England national football team has been the subject of a long-standing debate with some such as José Luis Astiazarán, president of Spain's La Liga, suggesting that the high number of young foreign players is the reason behind the national side's lack of success at international football tournaments.^[114] Vicente del Bosque, the manager of the Spanish national team, disagrees stating that he "didn't think it's damaging for English football to have people from abroad."^[115]

In response to concerns that clubs were increasingly passing over young British players in favour of signing less-expensive foreign players, in 1999, the Home Office tightened its rules for granting work permits to players from countries outside of the European Union.^[116] Currently a non-EU player applying for the permit must have played for his country in at least 75 per cent of its competitive 'A' team matches for which he was available for selection during the previous two years, and his country must have averaged at least 70th place in the official FIFA world rankings over the previous two years. If a player does not meet those criteria, the club wishing to sign him may appeal if they believe that he is a special talent and "able to contribute significantly to the development of the game at the top level in the UK."^[117] One area where the Premier League's player registration rules are more restrictive than those of some other football leagues, such as those of Belgium and Portugal, is that academy level non-EU players have little access to English football by law.^[117]

Players can only be transferred during transfer windows that are set by the Football Association. The two current transfer windows run from the last day of the season to 31 August and from 31 December to 31 January. Player registrations cannot be exchanged outside these windows except under specific licence from the FA, usually on an emergency basis.^[118] As of the 2010–11 season, the Premier League introduced new rules mandating that each club must register a maximum 25-man squad of players aged over 21, with the squad list only allowed to be changed in transfer windows or in exceptional circumstances.^{[119][120]} This was to enable the 'home grown' rule to be enacted, whereby the League would also from 2010 require at least 8 of the named 25 man squad to be made up of 'home-grown players', defined as a player who:

irrespective of his nationality or age, has been registered with any club affiliated to The Football Association or the Welsh Football Association for a period, continuous or not, of three entire seasons or 36 months prior to his 21st birthday (or the end of the season during which he turns 21)^[119]

Wages and transfer records

There is no team or individual salary cap in the Premier League. As a result of the increasingly lucrative television deals, player wages rose sharply following the formation of the Premier League. In the first Premier League season the average player wage was £75,000 per year,^[121] but subsequently rose by an average 20 per cent per year for a decade,^[122] £409,000 in 2000–01, £676,000 in 2003–04 season^[123] rising to £1.1 million for the 2008–09 season.^[124]

The record transfer fee for a Premier League has been broken several times over the lifetime of the competition. Prior to the start of the first Premier League season Alan Shearer became the first British player to command a transfer fee of more than £3 million.^[125] The record rose steadily in the Premier League's first few seasons, until Alan Shearer made a world record breaking £15 million move to Newcastle United in 1996.^[125] This stood as a British record for four years until it was eclipsed by the £18 million Leeds paid West Ham for Rio Ferdinand.^[125] Manchester United subsequently broke the record three times by signing Ruud van Nistelrooy, Juan Sebastián Verón and Rio Ferdinand.^[126] Chelsea broke the record in May 2006, when they signed Andriy Shevchenko, from Milan. The exact figure of the transfer fee was not disclosed, but was reported as being around £30 million.^[127] This was surpassed by Manchester City's transfer of Robinho from Real Madrid on 1 September 2008 for £32.5 million.^[128] This fee was then surpassed twice on deadline day of the January 2011 window, first by Andy Carroll's £35 million move from Newcastle United to Liverpool.^[129] This was then beaten when Fernando Torres moved from Liverpool to Chelsea for £50 million.^[130] The Torres deal remains the British transfer record paid for a player. The record transfer in the sport's history had a Premier League club on the selling end, with Manchester United accepting an £80 million bid from Real Madrid for Cristiano Ronaldo in 2009.^[131]

Top scorers

Rank	Player	Goals
1	 Alan Shearer	260
2	 Andrew Cole	187
3	 <i>Thierry Henry</i>	175
4	 <i>Robbie Fowler</i>	162
5	 <i>Frank Lampard</i>	153
6	 Les Ferdinand	149
	 <i>Michael Owen</i>	149
8	 <i>Wayne Rooney</i>	148
9	 Teddy Sheringham	147

10	 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink	129
(<i>Italics</i> denotes players still playing professional football, Bold denotes players still playing in the Premier League). ^[109])		

Players in the Premier League compete for the Premier League Golden Boot, awarded to the top scorer at the end of each season, as well as for Golden Boot awards for the first person to score 10, 20 or 30 goals in a season. They can also compete for the informal competitions of Goal of the Month and Goal of the Season. Former Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer holds the record for most Premier League goals with 260. Shearer finished among the top ten goal scorers in 10 out of his 14 seasons in the Premier League and won the top scorer title three times. During the 1995–96 season he became the first player to score 100 Premier League goals. Since then, 21 other players have reached the 100-goal mark.^[132]

Since the first Premier League season in 1992–93, 14 different players from 10 different clubs have won or shared the top scorers title.^[133] Thierry Henry won his third consecutive and fourth overall scoring title by scoring 27 goals in the 2005–06 season. This surpassed Shearer's mark of three titles which he won consecutively from 1994–95 through 1996–97. Other multiple winners include Michael Owen, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Didier Drogba who have won two titles each. Andrew Cole and Alan Shearer hold the record for most goals in a season (34) – for Newcastle and Blackburn respectively. Cole's record came in the 1993–94 season, while Shearer's came in 1994–95, both of which were 42-game seasons.^[134] Shearer's mark of 31 goals from a 38-game season in 1995–96 was equalled in the 2007–08 season by Cristiano Ronaldo.^[135] Five goals is the record individual scoring total for a player in a single Premier League game held by four players; Andy Cole, Alan Shearer, Jermain Defoe and Dimitar Berbatov.^[136] Only Ryan Giggs of Manchester United has scored in all 20 completed seasons.^[137]

Manchester United became the first team to have scored 1,000 goals in the league after Cristiano Ronaldo scored in a 4–1 defeat by Middlesbrough in the 2005–06 season.^[138] Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastle United are the only other teams to have reached the 1,000-goal mark, with Newcastle being the latest team to do so after Demba Ba's first goal against Everton on 17 September 2012.^[139]

The highest-scoring match to date in the Premier League occurred on 29 September 2007 when Portsmouth beat Reading 7–4.^[140]

Player and manager awards

In addition to the winner's trophy and the individual winner's medals awarded to players, the Premier League also awards the monthly Manager of the Month and Player of the Month awards,^[141] as well as annual awards for Manager of the Season,^[142] Player of the Season,^[143] Golden Boot and the Golden Glove awards.^[144]

10 Seasons Awards

In 2003, the Premier League celebrated its first decade by holding the 10 Seasons Awards:^[145]

- Teams of the Decade:
 - **Domestic:** David Seaman, Gary Neville, Tony Adams, Steve Bruce, Stuart Pearce, David Beckham, Paul Ince, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Alan Shearer, Michael Owen
 - **Overseas:** Peter Schmeichel, Dan Petrescu, Jaap Stam, Marcel Desailly, Denis Irwin, Fredrik Ljungberg, Patrick Vieira, Roy Keane, Robert Pirès, Thierry Henry, Eric Cantona
 - **Overall:** Peter Schmeichel, Gary Neville, Tony Adams, Marcel Desailly, Denis Irwin, David Beckham, Patrick Vieira, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Alan Shearer, Eric Cantona



Alan Shearer training in 2005

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Player of the Decade – Alan Shearer • Domestic Player of the Decade – Alan Shearer • Overseas Player of the Decade – Eric Cantona • Goal of the Decade – David Beckham, 17 August 1996, Wimbledon vs Manchester United • Save of the Decade – Peter Schmeichel, 21 December 1997, Newcastle United vs Manchester United • Match of the Decade – Liverpool 4–3 Newcastle United, 3 April 1996 • Photograph of the Decade – Phil Noble (PA), 11 September 1999, Michael Owen of Liverpool miss against Manchester United • Commentator of the Decade – Martin Tyler of Sky Sports • Quote of the Decade – "I would love it if we beat them. Love it!", Kevin Keegan, 29 April 1996 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager of the Decade – Sir Alex Ferguson • Outstanding Contribution – Alan Shearer • Contribution to the Community – Lucas Radebe • Most Appearances – Gary Speed (352) • Goalkeeper with most clean sheets – David Seaman (130) • Most Coaching Appearances – Sir Alex Ferguson (392) • 10,000th Goal – Les Ferdinand, 15 December 2001, Tottenham Hotspur vs Fulham • Top Goalscorer – Alan Shearer (204)
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20 Seasons Awards

In 2012, the Premier League celebrated its second decade by holding the 20 Seasons Awards:^[146]

- Fantasy Team of the 20 Seasons
 - **Panel Choice:** Peter Schmeichel, Gary Neville, Tony Adams, Rio Ferdinand, Ashley Cole, Cristiano Ronaldo, Roy Keane, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Thierry Henry, Alan Shearer
 - **Public Vote:** Peter Schmeichel, Gary Neville, Tony Adams, Nemanja Vidić, Ashley Cole, Cristiano Ronaldo, Steven Gerrard, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs, Thierry Henry, Alan Shearer

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Manager: Sir Alex Ferguson • Best Player: Ryan Giggs • Best Team: 2003–04 Arsenal • Best Season: 2011–12 season • Most Memorable Quote: "I would love it if we beat them. Love it!" – Kevin Keegan, 29 April 1996 • Best Save: Craig Gordon, 18 December 2010, Sunderland vs Bolton Wanderers • Best Goal: Wayne Rooney, 12 February 2011, Manchester United vs Manchester City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Match: Manchester United 4–3 Manchester City, 20 September 2009 • Best Goal Celebration: Eric Cantona, 21 December 1996, Manchester United vs Sunderland • Most Appearances: Ryan Giggs (598) • Top Goalscorer: Alan Shearer (260) • Most Clean Sheets: David James (173) • 500 Club: Ryan Giggs, David James, Gary Speed, Frank Lampard, Emile Heskey, and Sol Campbell.
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External links

- Official website (<http://www.premierleague.com/>)

Henry Norris (businessman)

Henry Norris	
Born	Kennington, London
Died	30 July 1934
Nationality	British
Occupation	Property developer, businessman, politician
Known for	Chairmanship of Arsenal and Fulham football clubs

Sir Henry George Norris (23 July 1865 – 30 July 1934^[1]) was an English businessman, politician and football club director, most famous for his chairmanship of both Fulham and Arsenal. He is particularly notorious for his alleged role in Arsenal's promotion to the top flight in 1919, despite them only finishing fifth in the Second Division.

Business and political career

Born in Kennington, to a working class family but educated privately,^[2] Norris left school at 14 to join a solicitor's firm, leaving 18 years later to pursue a career in property development trade, partnering W.G. Allen in the firm Allen & Norris.^[2] He made his fortune building houses in south and west London — Fulham in particular.^[3] He was commissioned into the 2nd Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteers in 1896, but resigned the following year. He was later Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Fulham from 1909 to 1919,^[4] a member of the London County Council from 1916 to 1919,^[2] and served as Conservative MP for Fulham East from 1918 to 1922,^[1] retiring after falling out with his party on the issue of tariff reform.^[2]

During World War I Norris had worked heavily as a military recruitment officer for the British Army. He served in the 3rd Middlesex Artillery Volunteers and in 1917 he was knighted and given the honorary rank of colonel for services to his country. He was also a prominent Freemason, rising to become Grand Deacon of the United Grand Lodge of England, and a well-known local philanthropist with close connections to the Church of England; he counted the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Thomas Davidson as a personal friend.^[3]

Chairmanship of Fulham FC

A keen football fan, Norris first became a director of Fulham, during which the time when the Cottagers won promotion from the Southern League to the Football League. While chairman of Fulham, Norris had an indirect role in the foundation of nearby Chelsea Football Club. He was offered the chance to move Fulham to Stamford Bridge, which businessman Gus Mears had recently acquired, but Norris balked at the £1500 per annum rent, so Mears subsequently created his own team to occupy the ground.^[5]

Chairmanship of Arsenal FC

In 1910, Norris became the majority shareholder of the ailing Woolwich Arsenal (after the club had gone into voluntary liquidation) while still retaining his post on the Fulham board, and became club chairman two years later. With Arsenal's low attendances and poor financial performance, Norris tried to create a London superclub by merging the two clubs, but this was blocked by the Football League.^[6] Undeterred, he turned his attention to moving Arsenal to a new stadium; he eventually settled on a site in Highbury, north London, on the site of the recreation ground of St John's College of Divinity; his close relationship with Randall Davidson helped, and the archbishop personally signed the ground's title deed.^[7] The Arsenal Stadium opened in 1913, and the club dropped the Woolwich from its name the following year.

Norris's most infamous contribution to Arsenal's history was his role in the club's promotion from the Second Division to the First in 1919. Arsenal were elected to the top flight in spite of only finishing fifth the previous season (1914-15, as competition had been suspended for most of World War I). This promotion came at the expense of other clubs, most notably Arsenal's arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur. It has been alleged that Norris bribed or in some way unduly influenced the voting members of the Football League, in particular the league chairman and owner of Liverpool, John McKenna;^{[8][9]} at the League's AGM, McKenna made a speech recommending Arsenal's promotion ahead of Spurs thanks to the former's longer spell in the League (Arsenal joined in 1893, Spurs in 1908. Wolves, who finished ahead of Arsenal, had been members of the league since its inception in 1888).^[8] Although no firm proof has ever been offered, Norris's other activities, including the scandal that led to his downfall, are often cited as circumstantial evidence. Some claim that Norris 'bribed' McKenna, although this is pure speculation. Probably more likely is that he lobbied McKenna, who fearful of Norris exposing the corruption in the league at the time (Utd and Liverpool were accused of fixing the last game of the season) yielded to Norris's request to promote Arsenal to Division 1 based on their longer spell in the league and their professional status.^[9]

Norris made one other lasting contribution to Arsenal's history. In 1925, after acrimoniously firing manager Leslie Knighton, Norris hired Huddersfield Town's Herbert Chapman as his replacement. After Norris's departure, Chapman fulfilled the chairman's ambition and turned Arsenal into the dominant side in English football in the 1930s, although later Norris later cited Knighton's sacking as the only decision he ever regretted.^[10]

However, Norris was not in charge by the time Arsenal had come to dominate English football. In 1927, the *Daily Mail* reported that Norris had made under-the-counter payments to Sunderland's Charlie Buchan as an incentive for him to join Arsenal in 1925;^[11] this was in an era of the League's maximum wage, and any additional financial incentives to players were strictly outlawed, although many clubs at the time broke the rules.^[11] A subsequent investigation by the Football Association found that Norris had also used Arsenal's expense accounts for personal use to pay for his chauffeur,^[2] and had pocketed the proceeds of £125 from the sale of the team bus.^[11] Norris sued the *Daily Mail* and the FA for libel, but in February 1929, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Hewart, found in favour of the FA, and they subsequently banned Norris for life from football.^[12]

Retirement

He largely left public life after his enforced departure from football. He died in 1934 at his home in Barnes a week after his 69th birthday,^[2] of a heart attack.

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General

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History

In 1796 Daniel Lysons wrote, "this place in old charters is called Hulviz, Wolwiche, Wollewic, &c. I can find nothing satisfactory relating to its etymology."^[2] But it is now generally believed that the name Woolwich derives from the Anglo-Saxon name, "trading place for wool". Woolwich has been inhabited since at least the Iron Age, and a Roman fort was found in the current Riverside park.^[3]

Woolwich remained a small Kentish village until it started to become a leading military and industrial town. It was home to the Woolwich Dockyard (founded in 1512), the Royal Arsenal (dating back to 1471), the Royal Military Academy (1741) and the Royal Horse Artillery (1793); the town still retains an army base at the Royal Artillery Barracks (although 16RA Royal Artillery left in 2007, Woolwich Barracks still house the Royal Artillery Band and more recently Second Battalion Princess of Wales Royal Regiment and Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery), and the Royal Artillery Museum, Firepower. The nearby Greenwich Heritage Centre also houses exhibits relating to the Royal Arsenal.

Arsenal Football Club were founded in Woolwich in 1886 by workers at the Arsenal – the club were initially known as *Dial Square*, then *Royal Arsenal* and then became *Woolwich Arsenal* in 1891. They moved to Arsenal Stadium, Highbury in north London in 1913, and dropped the Woolwich prefix the following year. This is a rare example of a British football team moving from its local area, albeit relocating within the same conurbation. Royal Ordnance Factories F.C. was founded in response to Woolwich Arsenal joining the League but only lasted several years.

In 1889, Woolwich became part of London, with the formation of London County Council. In 1900 Woolwich, Eltham and Plumstead became the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich until the current Borough of Greenwich came into being in April 1965 following implementation of the London Government Act 1963 and subsequently became Royal Borough in the Queen's jubilee year, 2012.

Woolwich Polytechnic, founded in 1892, merged with other local colleges and became Thames Polytechnic in 1970. In 1992 it was granted university status as the University of Greenwich. In 2000, the University began a relocation to the Old Royal Naval College, several miles to the west in Greenwich town centre, leaving only an administrative presence in Woolwich.

Woolwich was the start of the route of the last London tram, on 5 July 1952.^[4] A scheduled Route 40 tram, restricted to just a nominal number of fare paying passengers, was driven through enormous crowds to New Cross, finally arriving at New Cross depot around 1am on the 6 July.^[5]

Woolwich was home to the experimental Auto Stacker car park. Built on the site of the Empire Theatre, it was officially opened in May 1961 by Princess Margaret. It was never actually used by the public and was demolished in 1962, after the council could not get it to work.

Woolwich is the location of the United Kingdom's first branch of McDonald's (the 3,000th in the world), which opened on 13 November 1974. Woolwich was chosen because it was considered to be a representative English town at the time.^[6]

Woolwich once had four cinemas. Today, one, the former Granada cinema (which once hosted Buddy Holly in 1958,^[7] and later Roy



Woolwich town hall dates from when this was a borough in its own right. (February 2007)

Orbison and The Beatles in 1963^[8]), is a bingo hall; another, the former ABC (previously Regal) is a nightclub, while the former Odeon, later Coronet, is now a Pentecostal church. The Century cinema, which faced Beresford Square, was demolished for redevelopment in the late 1960s.

Woolwich was used as a location for the 2006 film *Children of Men*.

Recent development

Woolwich declined as a town in the late 20th century, starting with the closure of the Siemens factory in 1968 and continuing as the Royal Arsenal scaled back operations and finally closed in 1994. Without major local employers, the local economy was affected and the demographics of Woolwich changed. In the town centre, department and chain stores closed and the sprawl of the town centre shrank. The focus of shopping activity was limited mostly to Powis Street and the area around the market. By the early 1990s, the town centre had the typical appearance of a town in decline—discount retailers and charity shops using the empty stores. The local Council used several properties as offices. The last cinema, the Coronet, closed and in general Woolwich seemed to have lost its previous vigour.

However, once redevelopment of the former Royal Arsenal site began, Woolwich started to enjoy a renaissance. Several High Street chains previously absent from Woolwich have opened branches, and longer-established shops have been refurbished. The new terminus of the Docklands Light Railway's London City Airport branch, Woolwich Arsenal station, opened on 10 January 2009.^[9]

A large-scale redevelopment of the area around Love Lane called Woolwich Central^[10], near the eastern end of Powis Street, commenced in 2011. The project includes demolition of several buildings including the Post Office, Crown Building, Peggy Middleton House and Thomas Spencer Halls of Residence, and the construction of new council offices called the Woolwich Centre (opened in August 2011) and housing, local shops and a large branch of Tesco. Due for completion in 2012.

Local residents have been consulted about the design of the development.^[11] Plans exhibited to the public originally preserved the *Director General* public house,^[12] but in the final plans by Greenwich Council the pub was to be demolished^[13]

By June 2011 the Director General had been demolished, as had one of the council buildings, the Borough Treasurer's Office. The demolition of the former University of Greenwich halls of residence Thomas Spencer House had been completed, as had another former Council building, Peggy Middleton House. A new building is nearing completion on Wellington Street. The main Square in Woolwich is currently under redevelopment and new landscaping and will include a new water feature.

A Nandos restaurant opened in June 2010, two doors down from McDonalds. Several offices have been developed above shops on Powis Street, which is part of the regeneration of the area. The old Woolwich Building Society building is also in use again.

Planning for further development around the "Woolwich Triangle" area at the other end of town is in the early stages. This development includes plans to demolish the old art deco Co-op/"Scottley's" building at the west end of Powis Street.^[14] These plans have now been made public and exhibitions of the plans held. Since these plans became public, scaffolding has been put on the building on the Powis Street Side. Some locals are not happy about the plans for the Woolwich Triangle. A petition has been raised to save the building.^[15] In October 2008 a fire in the Woolwich Triangle area left the upper storeys of an empty Victorian shop building severely damaged, contributing to the decline of the area. The cause of the fire is not known.^[16]



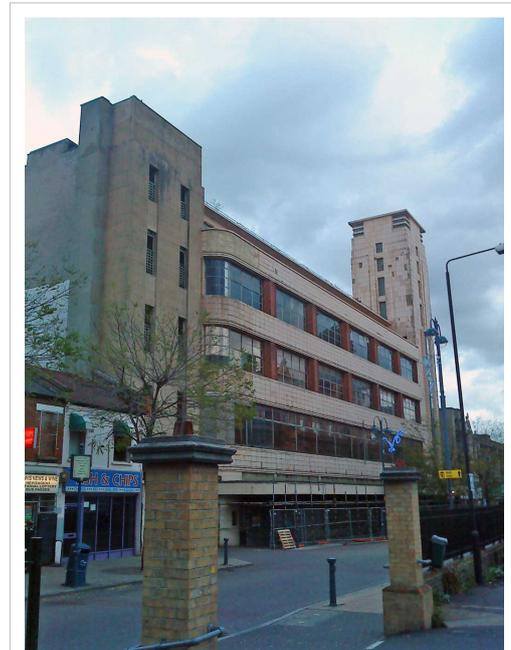
The original gatehouse to Woolwich Royal Arsenal.
(February 2007)

Some redevelopment has begun at the Riverside end of Woolwich already, with the June 2008 demolition of the derelict Crown and Cushion pub (the last remnant of the "old" riverside) next to the Waterfront leisure centre, and the completion of a residential block on the site of the old Union Tavern, next to Riverside House. The last buildings which once stood on Beresford Street at the junction with Warren Lane have been demolished, and this site has been cleared with residential development planned. It is currently being used as a car park.

Isis Prison (a Young Offenders Institution) was opened within the perimeter wall of Belmarsh Prison in 2010.

The 2012 Summer Olympics will include Woolwich as a venue for shooting events, and building work has begun in the barracks for the location. The choice of Woolwich as the venue for the shooting has not been universally welcomed.^[17]

On Wellington Street the Woolwich Grand Theatre (formerly the ABC Regal Cinema and Flamingo's Nightclub) has recently reopened as an arts centre with a cafe. There is currently an art and craft market on Saturdays; as well as live entertainment, talks and film shows during the week.



The likely to be demolished art deco Co-Op on Powis Street (Nov 2008)

London riots

During the 2011 England riots Woolwich, on Monday 8 August, was one of the areas affected. Several buildings were attacked, with a few being destroyed. Blue Inc. in Powis Street had to be demolished following a major fire. The Great Harry Wetherspoons' Pub was also set on fire, leaving it a burned-out shell.^[18] The Wimpy burger restaurant and Coral bookmakers were also damaged by fire. Several other shops were looted or damaged, including Nando's, Charles Dance (the oldest jewellers in Woolwich) and other shops in Powis Street and Hare Street. Many local residents felt that the destruction of Woolwich was under-reported by local and national media, and on Saturday 13 August local residents began writing their thoughts on the hoarding around the shell of the Great Harry.^[19] This writing was later deemed to be graffiti, and painted over by Greenwich Council.

Notable people

- Afrikan Boy, grime music MC
- William Barefoot, born to Plymouth Brethren family, became the first socialist mayor of Woolwich in 1925.
- Peter Barlow, mathematician, taught at the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich and his son Peter W. Barlow, civil engineer, was born there in 1809.
- Hubert Bland, early socialist and co-founder of the Fabian Society, born in Wood Street, now Woodhill in 1855.
- Tom Cribb, bare-knuckle boxing champion in the early 19th century, retired to, died, and was buried (1848) in Woolwich.
- Andy Fordham, 2004 World darts champion, was publican of the *Queen's Arms* public house in Woolwich, although he has since moved to the Cutty Sark pub in Thamesmead.
- Julius Francis, heavyweight boxer
- General Charles George Gordon of Khartoum was born at 29 Woolwich Common and educated at the Royal Military Academy.
- John Henry Hayes, politician, born in Woolwich

- Frankie Howerd, comedian, was educated at Shooter's Hill Grammar School in Woolwich.
- Marvin Humes, singer JLS, born in Herbert Road, Woolwich.
- Richard Lovelace, poet
- Merveille Lukeba, actor, born in D.R. Congo, raised in Woolwich
- Scott Maslen, actor who plays Jack Branning in BBC's *EastEnders*, born and raised in Woolwich.
- Henry Maudslay, engineer and tool-maker, was born in Salutation Alley (now demolished) and buried in the parish churchyard of St Mary Magdalen's.
- Gareth Murdock, bass player of Alestorm, lives in Woolwich
- Thomas Paine, author of the *Rights of Man* and *The Age of Reason*, spent a short time living in Woolwich.
- Samuel Pepys lodged in Woolwich during 1665 to escape the Great Plague of London.
- William Ranwell (1797–1861), artist and Army Drawing Master lived at 8 Beresford Terrace (now 42 Hillreach), from 1849-1861.
- Oswald Hope Robertson, medical pioneer who invented blood banks, born in Woolwich in 1886.
- James Joseph Sylvester, mathematician, taught at the Royal Military Academy from 1855-1869.
- David Sheppard, former England cricket captain, was Bishop of Woolwich from 1969-1975.
- Sylvia Syms, actress born in Woolwich.
- Glenn Tilbrook, singer, songwriter & guitarist of UK pop/rock band Squeeze, born there.
- John Wilson, the 'Spurgeon of Woolwich', a notable Baptist preacher in the 1930s and served a congregation of 3,000 members
- Ian Wright, former Arsenal footballer and later a television personality, born and raised in Woolwich.
- Shaun Wright-Phillips, Q.P.R footballer, adopted son of Ian Wright, also born in Woolwich.
- Bradley Wright-Phillips, Charlton Athletic footballer, son of Ian Wright and half-brother of Shaun Wright-Phillips, also born in Woolwich.

Education

For education in Woolwich see the main Royal Borough of Greenwich article

Sport and leisure

Woolwich has two Non-League football clubs Bridon Ropes F.C. and Meridian F.C. who both play at Meridian Sports & Social Club.

Transport and locale

Nearest places

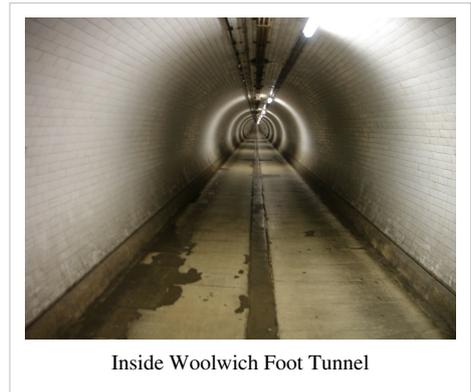
- Abbey Wood
 - Charlton
 - Eltham
 - Plumstead
 - Thamesmead
 - Kidbrooke
 - Sidcup
 - Welling
-

Nearest railway stations

- Woolwich Arsenal railway station
- Woolwich Dockyard railway station
- Plumstead railway station

Nearest tube station

- North Greenwich tube station is the only Underground station in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. It is located on the Greenwich Peninsula close to The O2 and can be reached from Woolwich by bus.



Docklands Light Railway

- A new Docklands Light Railway station for central Woolwich opened on the 10th January 2009, linked to Woolwich Arsenal railway station. Frequent trains run to Bank Station.
- King George V station is close to the north side of the Woolwich foot tunnel in North Woolwich. This station is on the same line as Woolwich Arsenal DLR station.

The DLR link to Woolwich Arsenal has proven a success. Over 15,000 passengers use the station every weekday. The line is on track to carry over 5 million users in its first 12 months - 5 per cent above projections. Since its launch in January 2009, Woolwich Arsenal station has become the seventh busiest station on the DLR network.

Buses

Woolwich is served by 18 Transport for London bus routes, including one dedicated night-only route and two 24-hour services. All routes serve the town centre,^[20] some also serve the south of the town,^[21] the Dockyard area^[22] and/or the Woolwich Common area.^[23] Three routes serve the nearby Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and another three terminate there. Some services use central Woolwich as a terminus.

The routes serving Woolwich are as follows:

- **51** (Orpington-Woolwich via Sidcup, Welling)
- **53** (Plumstead-Whitehall via Charlton Village, New Cross, Elephant & Castle) - 24hr service
- **54** (Elmers End-Woolwich via Blackheath, Lewisham, Beckenham) - links with Tramlink at Elmers End
- **96** (Bluewater-Woolwich via Welling, Bexleyheath, Crayford, Dartford) - non-stop between Dartford and Bluewater
- **99** (Bexleyheath-Woolwich via Erith, Slade Green)
- **122** (Crystal Palace-Plumstead via Eltham, Lewisham)
- **161** (Chislehurst-North Greenwich via Eltham)
- **177** (Peckham-Thamesmead via Greenwich, Charlton, New Cross)
- **178** (Lewisham-Woolwich via Kidbrooke)
- **180** (Belvedere-Lewisham via Greenwich, Abbey Wood)
- **244** (Abbey Wood-Queen Elizabeth Hospital via Thamesmead, Shooter's Hill)
- **291** (Woodlands Estate-Queen Elizabeth Hospital via Plumstead Common)
- **380** (Lewisham-Belmarsh Prison via Charlton)
- **386** (Blackheath Village-Woolwich via Greenwich, Queen Elizabeth Hospital)
- **422** (Bexleyheath-North Greenwich via Charlton)
- **469** (Erith-Queen Elizabeth Hospital via Belvedere, Abbey Wood)
- **472** (North Greenwich-Thamesmead) - 24hr service

- **N1** (Tottenham Court Road-Thamesmead via Waterloo, Greenwich, Charlton, Abbey Wood)

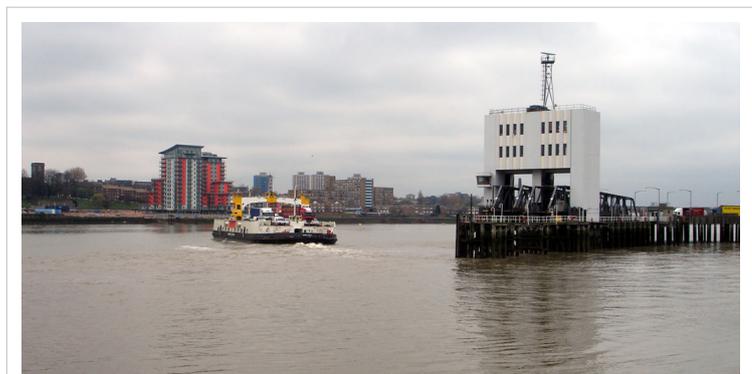
These routes provide a variety of links to locations within the Royal Borough of Greenwich, nearby and neighbouring boroughs including Bexley, Lewisham and Bromley, plus links into Central London and to Bluewater which is across the London boundary in the Dartford borough of Kent. Some locations are only served directly from Woolwich by the N1 and thus not served directly during the run of daytime routes - these include Aldwych, Holborn, Waterloo and Surrey Quays.

River

The free Woolwich Ferry service operates across the River Thames to North Woolwich in the London Borough of Newham carrying trucks, cars, cyclists and pedestrians during the day until 8pm on Weekdays. A two boat service runs on Mondays to Saturdays and Sundays only has a one boat service. Woolwich foot tunnel is also available for use by pedestrians (and cyclists pushing their cycles) at any time. It is served by lifts during traditional shopping hours.

London River Services, operated by Thames Clipper, provide a peak hour, seven days a week service to central London (Savoy Pier) from Woolwich Arsenal Pier (adjacent to the Royal Arsenal residential development).

The Thames flood barrier is located a mile upstream from the tunnel and ferry.



Ferry departing north terminal

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External links

- Hidden London page about Woolwich (<http://www.hidden-london.com/woolwich.html>).
- History of the Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich (<http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/RoyalArtilleryTheatreWoolwich.htm>)
- We Love Woolwich (<http://www.welovewoolwich.co.uk>)
- (<http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/Travel/LocalTravelServices/DocklandsLightRailway.htm>)

Herbert Chapman

Herbert Chapman

Personal information			
Full name	Herbert Chapman		
Date of birth	19 January 1878		
Place of birth	Kiveton Park, Yorkshire, England		
Date of death	6 January 1934 (aged 55)		
Place of death	Hendon, Middlesex, England		
Playing position	Inside forward		
Youth career			
	Kiveton Park Colliery		
Senior career*			
Years	Team	Apps [†]	(Gls) [†]
1895–1897	Ashton North End		
1897	Stalybridge Rovers		
1897–1898	Rochdale		
1898–1899	Grimsby Town	10	(4)
1899	Swindon Town ^[1]	3	(2)
1899–1900	Sheppey United		
1900–1901	Worksop Town		
1901–1902	Northampton Town ^[1]	22	(14)
1902–1903	Sheffield United	22	(2)
1903–1905	Notts County	7	(1)
1904–1905	→ Northampton Town (loan)		
1905–1907	Tottenham Hotspur ^[1]	42	(16)
1907–1909	Northampton Town		
Teams managed			
1907–1912	Northampton Town		
1912–1918	Leeds City		
1921–1925	Huddersfield Town		
1925–1934	Arsenal		
* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only. † Appearances (Goals).			

Herbert Chapman (19 January 1878 – 6 January 1934) was an English association football player and manager. Though he had an undistinguished playing career, he went on to become one of the most successful and influential managers in early 20th century English football, before his sudden death in 1934.

As a player, Chapman played for a variety of clubs, at League and non-League levels. His record was generally unremarkable as a player; he made fewer than 40 League appearances over the course of a decade and did not win any major honours. Instead, he found success as a manager, first at Northampton Town between 1908 and 1912, whom he led to a Southern League title.

This attracted the attention of larger clubs and he moved to Leeds City, where he started to improve the team's fortunes before the First World War intervened. After the war ended, City were implicated in an illegal payments scandal and were eventually disbanded. Chapman was initially banned from football but successfully appealed, and then took over at Huddersfield Town, winning an FA Cup and two First Division titles in the space of four years.

In 1925, Arsenal successfully tempted Chapman to join them, and he brought the previously trophyless club an FA Cup and two First Division titles. He set them up to be the dominant team of the 1930s – they would eventually win five League titles that decade – but he did not live to see them do so, dying suddenly from pneumonia in 1934, at the age of 55.

Not only credited with turning round the fortunes of both Huddersfield Town and Arsenal, he is also regarded as one of the game's first modernisers. He introduced new tactics and training techniques into the English game, as well as championing innovations such as floodlighting, European club competitions and numbered shirts, and has received many posthumous honours in recognition.

Early life

Chapman was born in Kiveton Park, near Rotherham.^[2] His father, John, was a coal miner, but rather than spend his life working down the pit, the young Herbert was bright enough to win a place at Sheffield Technical College (later to become part of the University of Sheffield), where he studied mining engineering.^[3]

Chapman was one of eleven children^[4] and born into a keen sporting family, with two of his brothers also playing professional football. The most successful of these was his younger brother, Harry, who played for The Wednesday during the 1900s, winning two League Championships and an FA Cup.^[4] His older brother Tom played for Grimsby Town, while another brother, Matthew, later became a director of the same club.^[4]

Playing career

Chapman's playing career was that of a typical journeyman, owing mostly to the fact he often played as an amateur; this meant that whether he could play for a particular club was dictated by whether he could find an appropriate job nearby.^[3] He first played as a youth for his local side, Kiveton Park Colliery,^[2] before leaving home in 1895. He moved to Ashton-under-Lyne and played as an amateur for Ashton North End, before moving on to Stalybridge Rovers^[2] and then Rochdale (not to be confused with the modern-day Rochdale A.F.C.) – all three clubs being members of the Lancashire League. Chapman played at inside right, and although he lacked the skill of his brother Harry, he compensated for it with his strength and robustness.^[5]

In 1898, he joined his brother Tom at Second Division Grimsby Town. Though now playing in the professional Football League, Chapman was still an amateur at this stage and took up a job at local solicitors to earn his way.^[6] Grimsby started the season poorly – they were near the bottom of the division by Christmas and were beaten 7–0 by Preston North End in the FA Cup, but rallied to finish tenth at the end of 1898–99.^[7] However, by this time Chapman had been dropped, having been unsuccessfully moved to centre forward, an unfamiliar position for him.^[8] He was released by Grimsby and drifted down into non-league football with a brief spell at Swindon Town, playing three games and scoring twice,^[9] but had to leave the club as he was unable to find a job in the area.^[10] He moved on to see out the season with Sheppey United, who finished bottom of the Southern League in 1899–1900.^[11] Chapman finished as United's top scorer but was injured at the end of this season, and still unable to find a job.^[12] Disheartened, he returned to his hometown and turned out for Worksop Town of the Midland League in 1900–01, while resuming his studies, this time at Old Firth College in Sheffield.^[12]

Though due to his studies he mainly played for Worksop's reserves, in a first-team match against Northampton Town he caught the opposition's eye, and they offered him a contract, leading him to turn professional for the first time in 1901.^[13] He played for Northampton for the whole 1901–02 season, finishing as top scorer with 14 goals in 22 games for the club.^[14] During that season he had impressed in an FA Cup match against Sheffield United, leading them to offer Chapman a contract at the end of the season; Chapman accepted but dropped down to amateur status, wishing to make use of his engineering qualifications in the local area.^[14] He played 22 matches and scored twice for United, but struggled to keep his place in a team full of internationals, and was sold to Notts County for £300 at the end of 1902–03.^[15] Chapman turned professional again, but only made seven appearances in two years for County, scoring once.

In 1904, Chapman moved back to his old club Northampton Town, playing a season effectively on loan from Notts County (as they kept his registration), before being transferred permanently in 1905 to Tottenham Hotspur for £70.^[16] He scored eleven goals for Spurs in their 1905–06 Southern League campaign.^[17] He spent 1906–07 in and out of the side, scoring just three goals. With the season drawing to a close, he decided that he had had "a good innings" and decided to leave Tottenham and professional football for good, in favour of pursuing his career in engineering.^[18]

Managerial career

Northampton Town

In 1907, as he was about to leave Tottenham Hotspur, Chapman had recommended Spurs team-mate Walter Bull to his old club Northampton Town, as their new manager. However, Bull changed his mind, and in turn recommended that Chapman take the job instead.^[19] Chapman changed his mind about retiring from the game, and instead agreed to become player-manager of Northampton Town. Northampton had finished bottom of the Southern League two seasons running immediately before Chapman's appointment,^[11] but Chapman turned the club around within a short space of time.

At the time, teams rarely employed tactics of any sort – Chapman would later remark: "no attempt was made to organise victory. The most that I remember was the occasional chat between, say two men playing on the same wing."^[20] As a manager he sought to change that; after seeing Northampton lose to Norwich City despite dominating, Chapman opined that "a team can attack for too long". He thus set about creating a tactical framework for all his players; he dropped the half backs (midfield) back to give his forwards more space and draw the opposition defenders out of the penalty area,^[21] while encouraging his own back line to pass their way out of trouble.^[22] Gradually, he created a style of highly-organised, counter-attacking football, which was at odds with the prevailing orthodoxy but nevertheless highly effective; Swindon Town's England international Harold Fleming, after losing 4–1 at home to Northampton, remarked to Chapman: "You have something more than a team: you have a machine."^[23]

To allow his system to reach its full potential, Chapman encouraged his chairman to spend money on new players. The club's first ever transfer fee, £400, was paid for Welsh international Lloyd Davies who remains Northampton's most-capped player,^[24] winger Fred McDiarmid and playmaking centre half David McCartney.^[21] With this new talent, in his first season in charge, Chapman led Northampton to eighth place; with additional new signings, such as inside forward Albert Lewis from Coventry City, he used this as a springboard to take the Southern League title in 1908–09,^[11] with Lewis finishing as top scorer.^[25]

By now, Chapman had retired as a player in first-class football, having played his last match against Watford in January 1909,^[25] but filled the gap he left, as well as showing his eye for spotting talent, by signing players such as future England international Fanny Walden.^[23] As Southern League champions, Northampton contested and lost the 1909 Charity Shield, 2–0 to Newcastle United,^[26] and although they did not win the Southern League title again during Chapman's reign as manager, they finished in the top four for each of the following three seasons.^[27]

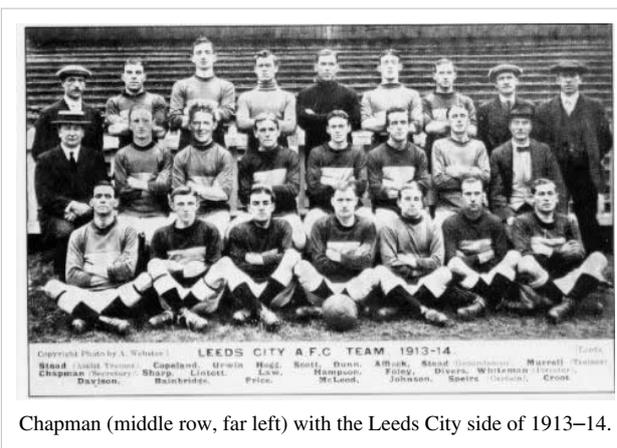
Additionally, they proved their mettle in the FA Cup against First Division sides, knocking out The Wednesday and taking Nottingham Forest and Newcastle United to replays, losing 1–0 both times.^[27]

Chapman was keen to get Northampton Town in to the Football League, but with no automatic promotion or relegation rules at the time this proved very difficult. Chapman proposed a new two-division Football Alliance underneath the two divisions of the Football League, with automatic promotion and relegation (a similar system to the four-division League setup introduced in 1921), but this was rejected at the time (and would not come about until 1920).^[28] In the 1912 close season, he was offered the chance to manage Second Division Leeds City, and with Northampton's blessing moved north again to join the League side.^[29]

Leeds City

Leeds City had finished 19th in the Second Division in the season preceding Chapman's arrival, and were facing re-election. Chapman played an essential part in lobbying for the side's readmission and Leeds City were duly re-elected.^[29] That done, Chapman signed new talent such as Jimmy Speirs from Bradford City and despite some erratic performances – losing 6–0 in between two 5–1 wins, for example – City finished sixth in 1912–13, Chapman's first season.^[30]

Attendances rose at Elland Road from 8,500 to 13,000 in his first year,^[30] as Chapman's attacking side scored 70 goals, the second-highest total in the entire division.^[31]



Chapman (middle row, far left) with the Leeds City side of 1913–14.

With a strengthening of the defence, City's form improved further the next season, in 1913–14, coming fourth, two points outside the promotion places.^[32] Despite having failed on his promise to get the team promoted within two years, City's rising attendances and resulting better profits for the club kept the directors happy, and the club were confident of promotion in 1914–15.^[32] However, the declaration of World War I disrupted Leeds City's season, with attendances down as men signed up to fight. Chapman by now had amassed a very large squad and was unable to pick a consistent side, continually changing his first-choice lineup.^[33] Leeds City lost six of their last eight games of the season to finish just fifteenth.^[32]

League football was suspended for the rest of the war, with Leeds City playing in regional competitions. With many players away fighting or having left the game due to a drop in wages, Leeds relied heavily on guest players during these matches.^[34] Chapman, meanwhile, had decided to help the war effort by taking up a position as manager of a munitions factory at Barnbow, near Cross Gates in 1916.^[35] For the next two years, City's assistant manager, George Cripps stood in for Chapman on the administrative side, while chairman Joseph Connor and another director took charge of the team.^[34]

Chapman returned to Leeds City from Barnbow after hostilities had ended, but resigned suddenly in December 1918, eventually moving to Selby to take up a position as a superintendent at an oil and coke works.^[36] No reason was given for his resignation, but as football resumed in 1919–20, Leeds City were accused by a former player of financial irregularities, involving illegal payments to guest players during wartime matches.^[34] No documentary evidence was produced, but Leeds' refusal to allow the authorities access to their financial records was deemed a sign of guilt, and they were expelled from the Football League in October 1919 and five club officials, including Chapman, were banned from football for life.^[34] The club was dissolved, with the players auctioned off and their Elland Road ground taken over by the newly formed Leeds United.^[34]

Huddersfield Town

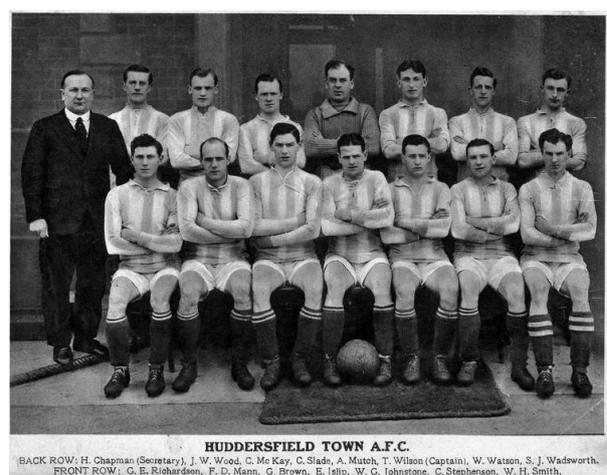
Chapman was still working at the coke works in Selby when his ban was imposed, but by Christmas 1920 the company was sold up and he was laid off.^[37] Soon after, however, he was approached by Huddersfield Town to become assistant to Ambrose Langley, who had been a former team-mate of Herbert Chapman's brother Harry at The Wednesday. Huddersfield Town backed Chapman in his appeal against his ban, arguing that as he had been working at the factory in Barnbow during the war, he had not been in charge of Leeds City during the time illegal payments were paid. The ban was overturned, and Chapman was formally installed as Langley's assistant on 1 February 1921.^[38]

Chapman was promoted to full secretary-manager, replacing Langley, the following month,^[39] and soon

made an impact, signing players such as England international Clem Stephenson from Aston Villa (who became captain under Chapman)^[40] and 18-year-old unknown George Brown (who went on to become Huddersfield's all-time top scorer).^[41] In Chapman's first full season in charge (1921–22), Huddersfield Town won the FA Cup, beating Preston North End 1–0 in the final at Stamford Bridge, the club's first major trophy.^[42] However his side had spent most of the season fighting relegation and had finished 14th,^[43] so Chapman looked to strengthen his squad.

Like at Northampton, Chapman's tactics were based upon the principles of a strong defence and a fast, counter-attacking approach to the game, with a focus on quick, short passing and mazy runs from his wingers,^[44] who would pass low inside the defence instead of crossing from the byline.^[45] His extended control to all footballing affairs at the club worked to his advantage, making the club's reserve and third teams play the same style of football so their players could slot into the first team if need be.^[44] He also employed a wide-ranging scouting network to find the right players for his tactical system; bolstered by the money from the cup run, Chapman was able to make further signings such as goalkeeper Ted Taylor and forward Charlie Wilson (later to be joined by George Cook).^[46] With new players and Chapman's system, Huddersfield were transformed – they finished third in 1922–23^[43] and then went on to win their first ever League title in 1923–24, by the narrowest of margins – equal on points with Cardiff City, Huddersfield won by a difference of 0.024 (1.818 to 1.794) in goal average.^[47] The final goal by Brown in a 3–0 win over Nottingham Forest on the final day of the season proved crucial, although ultimately it was Huddersfield's superior defensive record which had given them the initial advantage.^[48]

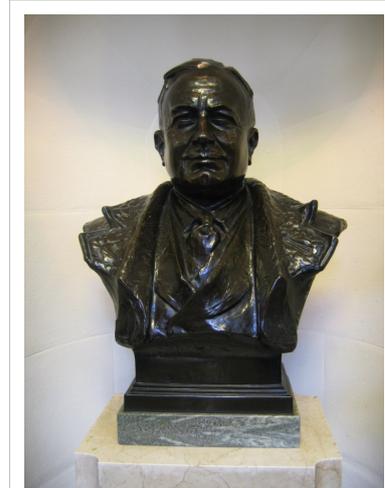
Following the title win, Chapman kept faith in his squad, making only one new signing – outside right Joey Williams^[49] – as they successfully defended their League title in 1924–25. Huddersfield started brightly but a poor run of form in October and November (in part caused by an injury to goalkeeper Ted Taylor) saw them drop to as low as ninth.^[50] However, with Taylor replaced by new signing Billy Mercer, a resurgence in form saw Huddersfield climb back up again, regaining top spot with a 5–0 win over Arsenal in February,^[51] and eventually finishing two points clear of runners-up West Bromwich Albion.^[52] As a testament to Chapman's philosophy of relying on a strong defence, it was the first time a title-winning side had gone through a season without conceding more than two goals in any match.^[53]



CHAPMAN (standing far left), with the Huddersfield Town team of 1921–22, the season they first won the FA Cup.

Arsenal

In the 1925 close season, Chapman had already set about improving his squad for a third successive title (something which had never been achieved before). At the same time, Arsenal were looking for a replacement for the sacked Leslie Knighton, with Arsenal chairman Sir Henry Norris placing an advertisement in the *Athletic News*:^[54]



A bronze bust of Chapman stands inside Emirates Stadium as a tribute to his achievements at the club.

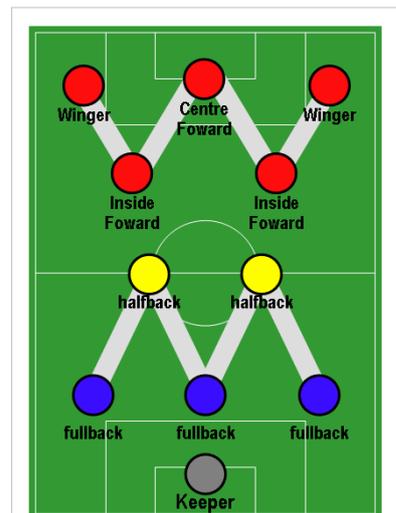
Arsenal Football Club is open to receive applications for the position of TEAM MANAGER. He must be experienced and possess the highest qualifications for the post, both as to ability and personal character. Gentlemen whose sole ability to build up a good side depends on the payment of heavy and exhorbitant [*sic*] transfer fees need not apply.

Despite the fact Arsenal had been fighting relegation the previous two seasons, and the chairman's restriction on spending, Chapman moved to Arsenal soon after, attracted both by the London club's larger crowds and a salary of £2,000, double what he earned at Huddersfield Town.^[55] At Arsenal, Chapman immediately made an impact by signing 34-year-old Charlie Buchan, an England international and Sunderland's all-time record goalscorer, whom he made Arsenal captain.^[56]

Chapman and Buchan's arrival at the club coincided with a change in the laws of the game in June 1925, that modified the offside law. The change had reduced the number of opposition players that an attacker needed between himself and the goal-line from three to two (including the goalkeeper). Buchan's idea, implemented by Chapman, was to move the centre half from a roaming position in midfield to a "stopper" position in defence. With the inside forwards brought back to help the midfield, this changed the usual formation from 2–3–5 to 3–4–3, or a "WM", so called after the shape it formed spelled out the letters. This meant the offside trap was now the responsibility of the single centre half, while the full backs were pushed wider to cover the wings.^[57]

Arsenal were by no means the only team to have come up with the idea of dropping the centre half into defence – Newcastle United beat Arsenal 7–0 that season employing such a system with Charlie Spencer at centre-half; Queen's Park and Tottenham Hotspur had also adopted similar systems.^[57]

However, Chapman was able to refine and improve on the idea better than his rivals, melding the tactical change with his own ideas on counter-attacking football, pacy wingers and a strong defence.^[57] Chapman himself summed it up by saying: "the most opportune time for scoring is immediately after repelling an attack, because opponents are then strung out in the wrong half of the field."^[58]



The "WM" formation that Chapman implemented at Arsenal.

Arsenal went on to finish second in 1925–26, five points behind Chapman's old side Huddersfield Town,^[59] as they became the first club in England to manage three titles in a row.^[60] However this proved to be an early dawn and Arsenal spent most of the rest of the twenties in mid-table, as Chapman took his time finding the right players to fit his new system, outlining a five year plan for success.^[61] He retained relatively few players of his predecessor Knighton's era – Bob John, Alf Baker and Jimmy Brain being the exceptions^[57] – and instead looked to bringing in talent elsewhere.

In February 1926, he signed the pacy winger Joe Hulme, followed that summer by forward Jack Lambert and full-back Tom Parker, who would later succeed Buchan as captain.^[61] Although Arsenal's league form was indifferent, in 1927 they reached the FA Cup Final, their first, but lost 1–0 to Cardiff City after an error by goalkeeper Dan Lewis.^[62]

The same year, Arsenal became embroiled in a scandal; footballers' pay at the time was limited by a maximum wage, but an FA enquiry found that Charlie Buchan had secretly received illegal payments from Arsenal as an incentive to sign for the club.^[63] Sir Henry Norris was indicted for his part and banned from football, but Chapman escaped punishment, and with the autocratic Norris replaced by the more benign Samuel Hill-Wood, Chapman's power and influence within the club increased, allowing him control over all aspects of the club's business.^[57] He persevered in building the club, strengthening his attacking lineup with the signings of David Jack in 1928, and Alex James and Cliff Bastin in 1929.^[64] As with his previous teams, Chapman also worked on improving his defence, with the signings of Herbie Roberts and Eddie Hapgood at centre half and left back respectively.^[65]

It was the signing of David Jack in particular, that highlighted Chapman's cunning when it came to transfer negotiations. Bolton had originally asked for a fee of £13,000, almost double the existing record at the time. Bob Wall, Chapman's personal assistant at the time, later recounted the negotiations he made with Bolton's directors as follows:^[64]

“We arrived at the hotel half-an-hour early. Chapman immediately went into the lounge bar. He called the waiter, placed two pound notes in his hand and said: "George, this is Mr Wall, my assistant. He will drink whisky and dry ginger. I will drink gin and tonic. We shall be joined by guests. They will drink whatever they like. See that our guests are given double of everything, but Mr Wall's whisky and dry ginger will contain no whisky, and my gin and tonic will contain no gin.”

Chapman's subterfuge succeeded, as he managed to bargain the inebriated Bolton directors down to £10,890.

Chapman had laid out a five-year plan for success in 1925, and it came to fruition exactly on schedule, as his Arsenal won their first major trophy in the 1930 FA Cup Final, beating his old side, Huddersfield Town, 2–0.^[66] Despite having only finished 14th in the League the same season, the win spurred Arsenal on and laid the foundations for a decade in which Arsenal would become the dominant team in England and eventually win five league titles.

Chapman had by now perfected the ruthless, counter-attacking football he had been honing. Up front, he employed a robust front line of Lambert supported by David Jack and Alex James as deep-lying inside forwards, filling the gap vacated by the movement of the centre half into defence; Alex James in particular, with his passing supplying the front men, became celebrated as the engine of the team during the coming decade.^[67] Chapman employed Bastin and Hulme as pacy wingers who could cut inside instead of hugging the touchline;^[68] they could either shoot for goal themselves or pick each other out if the centre forward was marked out of the game.^[69] With the exception of James, keeping and dwelling on the ball and individuality were discouraged in favour of a quick passing game, although Chapman still conceded: "all the men are expected to play to plan, but not so as to stifle individuality."^[70]

Chapman's tactics of fast-moving play meant the wing half line of John and Jones were now pushed in to cover central midfield, pivoting around the halfway line so that they could drop back to defend when necessary.^[68] Chapman was also equally committed to a strong defence, saying maintaining a back line was "the rock bottom of football".^[68] Arsenal's defence were told to play deep and with the support of the wing halves, fall back into their own penalty area when the opposition had the ball; this allowed the opposition plenty of possession in Arsenal's half, until they reached the 18-yard line and faced a massed defence.^[71] Once Arsenal regained the ball – usually through

the centre half Herbie Roberts – the ball would be quickly passed forward and the wing halves would push up to support the attackers, meaning Arsenal could quickly commit as many as seven men forward as a unit to rapidly attack and score.^{[68][69]}

Chapman's system demanded a high level of fitness from his players, something which he emphasised strongly upon. He also balanced the need for players suited to each task – something which his skill in spotting the right players and his extensive scouting network proved vital – with adapting his system to account for their abilities.^[72] Though highly effective, Chapman's fast, counter-attacking passing approach to football contrasted with how the game was traditionally played in England at the time, with its emphasis on dribbling, possession and dwelling on the ball,^[73] and thus brought accusations of "Lucky Arsenal" or "Boring Arsenal" from commentators and opposition alike.^[68] Nevertheless, despite the stereotype, in Arsenal's first title-winning season of 1930–31, they scored 127 goals in the League, which still stands as a club record to this day.^[74]

Having won both League and Cup in separate seasons with two clubs, Chapman was determined to go one better and win the Double – which had not yet been won in the 20th century – in 1931–32 but ended up missing out on both, finishing second in the League behind Everton^[75] and losing the 1932 FA Cup Final controversially to Newcastle United, with Newcastle's equaliser coming after the ball had gone behind for a goal kick.^[76] Undeterred, Chapman kept faith with his side and launched a bid for the 1932–33 title. However it was during this season that Arsenal suffered one of the most infamous defeats in their history.

In the FA Cup Third Round, Arsenal had been drawn against Walsall of the Third Division North. Arsenal, as last season's losing finalists and league leaders, were clear favourites to win the match. On the day, five of the Arsenal first team were out with injury or flu and had their place taken by reserves,^[77] but despite six first-team players Arsenal lost 2–0 in one of the greatest FA Cup upsets of all time.^[78] Chapman was enraged by the result, and showed his ruthlessness by selling one player, Tommy Black, who had conceded a penalty in the game, to Plymouth Argyle within a week of the result; another, striker Charlie Walsh, was sold to Brentford a week later.^[79]

However despite the Cup setback, Arsenal bounced back in the League, and with the same scoring form as in 1930–31, finished the season having scored 118 League goals in total, which included a 5–0 win over title rivals Aston Villa, in that season's title-deciding match.^[80] In the following close season, Chapman became the first professional manager in charge of England, albeit in an *ad hoc* unofficial capacity, for a summer tour of Europe. He did not have any input into the selection process, the team being determined by the FA's International Selection Committee, but did advise on tactics and gave pre-match team talks.^[81] Chapman was in charge for a friendly against Italy in Rome on 13 May 1933, which finished 1–1, and England's 4–0 win over Switzerland a week later.^[81]

Wary of his ageing Arsenal team and the club's inadequate reserves (as proven by the Walsall match), around this time Chapman noted to club director George Allison: "The team's played out, Mr Allison, we must rebuild."^[82] Chapman started the process, signing Ray Bowden, Pat Beasley and Jimmy Dunne, and had converted the young George Male from left half to right back.^[83] However, he would not live to see the end of the season, let alone complete the task of rebuilding his side. Arsenal went into 1933–34 looking to retain the title, and started consistently; they worked their way to the top of the league and were a comfortable four points clear after a goalless draw with Birmingham City on 30 December 1933. This proved to be Chapman's last match in charge.^[79]

Death

Chapman celebrated New Year in London before travelling north on a scouting trip to see Bury play Notts County on 1 January 1934. The following day he travelled back to his native Yorkshire to watch Sheffield Wednesday, Arsenal's next opponents, before spending a final night in his home town of Kiveton Park.^[84] He returned to London nursing a cold but was well enough to watch an Arsenal third team match against Guildford City. However soon after, his illness suddenly worsened; pneumonia set in, and Chapman quickly succumbed. He died in the early hours of 6 January 1934 at his home in Hendon.^[79] He was buried four days later in St Mary's Churchyard, Hendon.^[2]

Chapman left behind a widow, Annie, two sons, Ken (born 1908) and Bruce (born 1911), and two daughters, Molly (born 1915) and Joyce (born 1919). Ken was a rugby union player for Harlequins, and later served as president of the Rugby Football Union.^[4]



Chapman is buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Hendon, alongside his wife Annie, who died in 1958.

Legacy

Chapman was one of the first football managers in the modern sense of the word, taking full charge of the team, rather than letting board members pick the side. As well as his tactical innovations, he was also a strong believer in physical fitness in football – he instituted a strict training regime and the use of physiotherapists and masseurs. He encouraged his players to openly discuss tactics and the game, instituting weekly team meetings at his clubs, and also encouraged them to socialise in extra-curricular activities such as golf.^[30] He also wrote regularly on football for the *Sunday Express* newspaper, and a collection of his writings was published after his death in a book, entitled *Herbert Chapman on Football*.

Unlike many of his contemporaries in Britain, Chapman was a fan of the continental game and counted among his friends Hugo Meisl and Jimmy Hogan, coaches of the Austrian "Wunderteam" of the 1930s.^[85] As long ago as 1909, he had taken his Northampton side on a tour of Germany to play Nuremberg,^[86] and at Arsenal he had instituted an ongoing series of home-and-away friendlies against the likes of Racing Club de Paris. Chapman had proposed a Europe-wide club competition more than twenty years before the European Cup was instituted, and regularly took his teams abroad to play foreign sides.^[87] He was one of the first managers to consider signing black and foreign players; as well as signing Walter Tull, one of the first black professionals in the game, for Northampton Town in 1911,^[88] he attempted to recruit Austrian international goalkeeper Rudy Hiden for Arsenal in 1930, but was blocked by the Ministry of Labour, after protests from the Players' Union and the Football League.^[89] He did however succeed in signing Gerard Keyser, the first Dutchman to play English league football, as an amateur the same year, and Hiden was signed by Jimmy Hogan for Racing Club de Paris.^[89]

After attending a night-time match in Belgium in 1930 with his friend Hugo Meisl, Chapman became an early advocate of floodlights. He had lights installed in Highbury's new West Stand when it was constructed in 1932; however they were only used for training and Arsenal would have to wait until the 1950s for their officially-sanctioned use in matches.^[90] Chapman oversaw much of the development of Highbury in the early 1930s, including the building of the West Stand and the addition of a clock which was eventually placed by the south terrace, giving it the name of the "Clock End".^[90] He is also credited with being behind the renaming of London Underground's Gillespie Road station to Arsenal.^[91] He even designed the scoreboard and turnstiles at the stadium.^[90]

Chapman also advocated the use of white footballs and numbered shirts, as well as adding hoops to Arsenal's socks to make it easier for players to pick each other out.^[90] He later made a further change to Arsenal's kit, adding white sleeves to the previously all-red shirt and brightening the colour, before a match against Liverpool on 4 March 1933; the same kit theme of red with white sleeves or trim survives to this day.^[92] The tradition of both teams walking out together at the FA Cup Final was started in 1930 due to Herbert Chapman's involvement with both clubs, and has continued since.^[93]

Honours

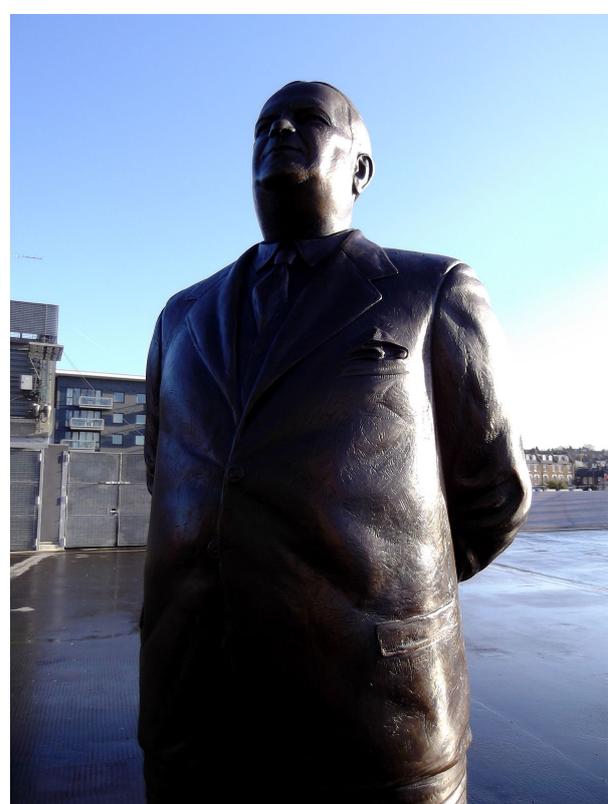
Although he did not win any major honours as a player, as a manager Chapman won a Southern League title in 1908–09 with Northampton Town, four Football League titles (1923–24 and 1924–25 with Huddersfield Town, 1930–31 and 1932–33 with Arsenal) and two FA Cups (1922–23 with Huddersfield Town, 1929–30 with Arsenal). After his death the team he had built at Arsenal, under his successors Joe Shaw and George Allison, went on to win the 1933–34 and 1934–35 titles, emulating his Huddersfield Town team by completing a hat-trick. No team was to repeat the feat until Liverpool between 1982 and 1984.^[60] Chapman was honorary president of Scottish amateur football club Chirnside United until his death in 1934.^[94]

In 2003, Chapman was inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame in recognition of his impact as a manager.^[95] An English Heritage blue plaque commemorating Chapman was unveiled in March 2005, at the house in Hendon where Chapman lived from 1926 until his death. Chapman was the first footballer or football manager to be commemorated in this way by English Heritage.^[96] In 2004, on the seventieth anniversary of his death, *The Sunday Times* named him the greatest British manager of all time in a poll.^[97]

In tribute to his achievements at Arsenal, a bronze bust of Chapman, sculpted by Jacob Epstein resided inside the marble halls of the East Stand of Arsenal Stadium, Highbury until its closure in 2006 and will be reinstated there once redevelopment work in the stadium is completed.^[98] A replica sits in the Directors' Entrance at Emirates Stadium; he is one of only two Arsenal managers to be honoured this way, the other being current manager Arsène Wenger.^[98] Furthermore, Arsenal's white away kit for the 2007–08 season was dedicated to Chapman and his achievements.^[99]



The English Heritage blue plaque outside Chapman's former residence in Hendon, the first such plaque to commemorate a football player or manager



Statue of Chapman at Emirates Stadium

Huddersfield Town were presented with a replica of Chapman's bust by Arsenal, to celebrate their centenary in 2008.^[100] Additionally, as part of their centennial, Huddersfield also contested the inaugural Herbert Chapman Trophy against Arsenal at the Galpharm Stadium on 6 August 2008, which Arsenal won 2–1.^[101]

On 9 December 2011, Arsenal unveiled a statue of Chapman outside Emirates Stadium in celebration of the club's 125th anniversary. The club also unveiled statues of legendary players Tony Adams and Thierry Henry.^[102]

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External links

- Biography and *Times* obituary (<http://www.chrishobbs.com/herbertchapman.htm>)
- Biography at Leeds United history site (<http://www.mightyleeds.co.uk/managers/chapman1.htm>)
- Herbert Chapman profile on Arsenal-land (<http://www.arsenal-land.co.uk/history/?col=236>)

Highbury

Highbury	
 <p>Highbury House circa 1800</p>	
 <p>Highbury</p> <p>● <i>Highbury shown within Greater London</i></p>	
OS grid reference	TQ319854
London borough	Islington
Ceremonial county	Greater London
Region	London
Country	England
Sovereign state	United Kingdom
Post town	LONDON
Postcode district	N5
Dialling code	020
Police	Metropolitan
Fire	London
Ambulance	London
EU Parliament	London
UK Parliament	Islington North
London Assembly	North East

Highbury is a district in the London Borough of Islington.

History

Early Highbury

The area now known as Islington was part of the larger manor of Tolentone, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Tolentone was owned by Ranulf brother of Ilger and included all the areas north and east of Canonbury and Holloway Road. The manor house was situated by what is now the east side of Hornsey Road near the junction with Seven Sisters Road. After the manor decayed, a new manor house was built in 1271 (see below) to the south-east; to differentiate it from the original manor and because it was on a hill, it was called **Highbury**, from which the area takes its name.

The site for Highbury Manor was possibly used by a Roman garrison as a summer camp. During the construction of a new Highbury House in 1781, tiles were found that could have been Roman or Norman; unfortunately these have been lost.

Highbury Manor

Ownership of Highbury eventually passed to Alicia de Barrow, who in 1271 gave it to the Priory of St John of Jerusalem, also known as the Knights Hospitallers in England. The wealthy Lord Prior built Highbury manor as a substantial stone country lodging with a grange and barn.

In 1381, during the Peasants' Revolt, Jack Straw led a mob of 20,000 rioters who "so offended by the wealth and haughtiness" of the Knights Hospitallers destroyed the manor house. The Lord Prior at the time, Robert Hales, who had taken refuge in the Tower of London, was captured and beheaded on Tower Hill. Jack Straw and some of his followers used the site as a temporary headquarters; consequently the derelict manor became known for the next 500 years as Jack Straw's Castle. This should not be confused with the better known Jack Straw's Castle, formerly a pub and now residential flats at Whitestone Ponds, Hampstead, which was named after the semi-legendary leader of the revolt.

Highbury House

The Manor of Highbury remained the possession of the Knights of St John until it was confiscated by Henry VIII in 1540. The land then stayed as crown property until Parliament began selling it in the 17th century.

John Dawes, a wealthy stockbroker, acquired the site of Jack Straw's Castle together with 247 acres (1 km²) of surrounding land. In 1781 he built Highbury House at a cost of £10,000 on the spot where Highbury Manor had stood. Over the next 30 years the house was extended by new owners, firstly Alexander Aubert and then John Bentley, to include a large observatory and lavish gardens.

The grounds around Highbury House started to be sold off in 1794. By 1894 Highbury House and its remaining grounds became a school. Finally in 1938 Highbury House was demolished and is now the site of Eton House flats (on Leigh Road), built by the Old Etonian Housing Association in 1939.



Highbury Clock is located just north of Highbury Fields, near the junction of Highbury Barn and Highbury Hill.

It was presented in 1897 in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria.

Highbury Barn

After the Manor house had been destroyed in 1381, the grange and barn remained on the east side of the track that ran south to Hopping Lane, now St Paul's Road, roughly on the line of Highbury Park / Highbury Grove (the A1201). In 1740 a small ale and cake house was opened in the Barn, Highbury.

In 1770 William Willoughby took over Highbury Barn and greatly increased its popularity. He expanded its size and facilities, taking over land and buildings from the farm next door, reaching beyond what is now Kelvin Road and created a bowling green, trap-ball grounds and gardens. It could cater for company dinners of 2,000 people, concerts and dancing and became one of the most popular venues in London.

In 1854 events at the annual balls in the grounds of the Barn included the aeronaut Charles Green's balloon ascent. By 1865 there was a huge dancing platform, a rebuilt theatre, high-wire acts, pantomime, music hall and the original Siamese twins. The Barn became the victim of its own success. After a riot led by students from Bart's Hospital in 1869, locals complained about the Barn's increasingly riotous and bawdy clientele. This led to a court case and in 1871 authorities revoked the Barn's dancing licence.

Residential growth

By 1794 Highbury consisted of Highbury House and Highbury Hill House, Highbury Barn and the gated terraces of Highbury Terrace and Highbury Place, which had been built on land leased by John Dawes. Highbury may have stayed this way, as the plan was to create a 250 acres (1 km²) park – Albert Park – between St Paul's Road/Balls Pond Road and the Seven Sisters Road. Instead a 27.5 acre (111,000 m²) site, which is now Highbury Fields was saved in 1869 and the 115 acre (465,000 m²) Finsbury Park were created. The rest of the area was developed.

The majority of the development of the area occurred in two phases; until the 1870s many large Italianate villas were built, mostly in the southern part of Highbury. After this time, development went high-density with close packed mostly terraced houses being built, mainly in the north of Highbury. Available land continued to be in-filled with more housing until 1918, but little else changed until after World War II.

Highbury was bombed during the Blitz and again by V-1 flying bombs. For example, on June 27, 1944, a V-1 destroyed Highbury Corner, killing 26 people and injuring 150. Highbury Corner had an impressive station and hotel; that was damaged in this attack but its main building remained in use until demolished in the 1960s during the building of the Victoria line. The original westbound platform buildings remain on the opposite side of Holloway Road, as does a small part of the original entrance to the left of the present station entrance. A red plaque mounted on a building wall overlooking the roundabout, commemorates this event.

After the Second World War large-scale rebuilding in parts of Highbury replaced bombed buildings and provided new municipal housing. Some villas that had not been modernised were demolished to make way for yet more municipal housing; some buildings had to be listed to protect them. Following the property boom in the early 1980s, there has been some gentrification in the area^[1] and the council has begun selling some of the grand villas to private developers who have the finances to restore them, e.g. in 2004 Islington council sold four buildings on Highbury New Park to developers for £1 million each.



Highbury Barn, 1819.

Arsenal Stadium

In 1913 Woolwich Arsenal F.C. moved north to Highbury, dropping Woolwich from its name. Their chairman Sir Henry Norris took a 20 year lease on part of the grounds of St John's Hall for £20,000. The new Arsenal Stadium (also called Highbury) was built there. St John's Hall, originally called Highbury College (of Divinity), was built in 1825 on what is now Aubert Park and was a grand ionic-style building, reminiscent of the British Museum. St John's Hall burnt down in 1946 and was replaced by a block of flats.

The club prospered and by 1925 had purchased the freehold. Arsenal's subsequent success made Highbury well known, albeit initially with depressing effect on nearby housing. In 2006 the club moved to Ashburton Grove on the west side of Drayton Park in Highbury. The old stadium was converted into a luxury housing complex known as Highbury Square, with the two listed main stands being converted into apartments, ensuring their original exteriors remained almost entirely preserved. The unlisted North Bank and Clock End stands have been demolished to make way for entirely new apartment blocks. The pitch has been converted into a garden, with private gym and swimming pool located underneath it. Today, property in the area around the old Highbury stadium is highly sought after, and prices for apartments within the stadium start at £300k.

Highbury in the arts

For 40 years from 1965, Highbury New Park was home to Wessex Studios. Created by Beatles producer Sir George Martin (who grew up on Drayton Park in Highbury), the studios saw the recording of some of the best-known albums created by bands including Queen, Genesis, the Rolling Stones, the Sex Pistols and the Clash. The building is now a block of residential apartments called "The Recording Studio" and located at 106, Highbury New Park. (Refs: George Martin speaking on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs; The Independent, Nov 3 2004; the "Queen - Days of our Lives" documentary screened by BBC4 in April 2012.)

Highbury was also home to a movie/TV/recording studio further along the same street, at 65A Highbury New Park; these studios had a training school next door in a disused church hall. Built initially as a music conservatoire in 1890, the site became a recording studio in 1926 for the Piccadilly label. In 1933, they became the Highbury (film) Studios and in 1945 they were acquired by the Rank Organisation. Due to economic difficulties, Rank closed the studios down and they were demolished in 1960. Athenaeum Court, a block of flats, now occupies the site.

The following books and films feature parts of Highbury:

- The book *A London Family 1870-1900* by Molly Hughes, ISBN 0-19-282896-7. In particular it mentions Highbury New Park.
- The film *Killing Her Softly* was partially filmed on Highbury New Park.
- The film *Fever Pitch* was filmed around the Arsenal stadium and along Highbury Hill.
- The film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* begins with Hugh Grant trying to hail a taxi at Highbury Corner and ends in front of the houses that run along the edge of Highbury Fields.
- The film *The Arsenal Stadium Mystery* was filmed in and around the Arsenal stadium.
- The poem *Summoned by Bells* by John Betjeman. This verse autobiography mentions Highbury several times, including St Saviours Church on Aberdeen Park, which he used to attend. St Saviours closed in 1980 and is now an art studio.
- Highbury is where the fictional comedy character Mr Bean lives.
- Writer Alan Moore recorded a 'beat seance' in and about Highbury, titled 'The Highbury Working'.
- In the early 70's a drama was filmed by the BBC called "The House on Highbury Hill".
- Highbury is mentioned in *Vanity Fair*, the novel by William Makepeace Thackeray; in chapter 4, the Sedleys are said to be going "to dine with Alderman Balls, at Highbury Barn."
- The novel *Emma* by Jane Austen is set in a village called Highbury, though located in Surrey.
- Highbury is mentioned in The Fire Sermon, part III of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*: "Highbury bore me. Richmond and Kew / Undid me."

Demographics

According to the 2001 census Highbury has a population of 21,959. It is 75% White, 11% Black and 6% Asian. 40% of Highbury's residences are owner-occupied. The area is considered as multi-ethnic part-gentrified.

Geography

Highbury is situated 4.4 miles north of Charing Cross. Its area is approximately 500 acres (2 km²).

Rail and tube stations

Nearest rail and tube stations:

- Arsenal tube station
- Canonbury railway station
- Drayton Park railway station
- Finsbury Park station
- Holloway Road tube station
- Highbury & Islington station

Nearby places

Nearby places include:

- Finsbury Park, north of Highbury
- Holloway, west of Highbury
- Islington and Canonbury, south of Highbury
- Newington Green, east of Highbury
- Stoke Newington, north east of Highbury
- Barnsbury

Famous residents

- George Martin, Producer and arranger of The Beatles' music.
 - Hogan Ephraim, Professional footballer, playing for Queens Park Rangers
 - Clive Anderson, television presenter and comedy writer.
 - Matthew Bradbury, comedian.
 - Peter Osborne, political columnist and television presenter.
 - Neal Ascherson, historian, journalist and author.
 - Chris Lowe, a member of Pet Shop Boys lived on Highbury Grange.
 - David Starkey, historian and television presenter.
 - Mary Lilian Baels, who married King Leopold III of Belgium.
 - Anna Popplewell, actress, famous most notable for The Chronicles of Narnia film series.
 - Skandar Keynes, actor, The Chronicles of Narnia film series.
 - Jesse Birdsall, actor.
 - Gwyneth Strong, actress.
 - Charles Cruft, who started Crufts dog show, lived on Highbury Grove.
 - Joseph Chamberlain, politician; his boyhood home from 1845 to 1854 was no. 25 Highbury Place.
 - Henry Lawson, Australian poet and author, lived in Paradise Lane off St James Rd and Holloway Rd, in 1901.
 - Philip Fysh, Australian politician and Premier of Tasmania.
 - Nick Hornby, writer.
-

- Walter Sickert, painter; his studio from 1927 to 1934 was at no. 1 Highbury Place.
- Nick Robinson, BBC Political Editor
- Boris Johnson, Mayor of London
- Chas Smash, a member of Madness.
- Alan Davies, comedian
- Jimmy Carr, comedian.
- Dom Howard, drummer, Muse.
- Ainsley Harriott, famous chef and host.
- Elaine Lordan, actress.
- Andy Burrows, drummer, Razorlight.
- Ed O'Brien, guitarist, Radiohead.
- Nan Youngman, artist and educationalist.
- Leona Lewis, singer, grew up here.
- Rowan Atkinson, actor
- Ian Jack, journalist & writer
- Paul Brindley, bassist in The Sundays.
- Owen Thomas, BBC presenter
- Nigel Slater, food writer, journalist and broadcaster.

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- Chris Lowe of the Pet Shop Boys http://www.petshopboys.net/html/literallys/literally_31/page5.htm
- Tanis HINCHCLIFFE (1981), *Highbury New Park: A Nineteenth-Century Middle-Class Suburb*, in: *The London Journal* Vol 7, p29-44.
- John NELSON (1811), *The History of Islington*, p123-216, reprinted 1980, ISBN 0-85667-104-5
- John RICHARDSON (1988), *Islington Past*, p49-52, ISBN 0-948667-01-X

External links

- 'A History of Highbury' tribute at Arsenal-land (<http://www.arsenal-land.co.uk/history/highbury/>)
- London Landscape TV episode (6 mins) about Highbury and Arsenal (http://l1tv.libsyn.com/index.php?post_id=364823)

Ownership of Arsenal F.C.

The **ownership of Arsenal Football Club** is considerably different from that of other clubs in English football. It is owned by a parent company, Arsenal Holdings plc, which has relatively few shares which are infrequently traded. Historically, the club has been owned by descendants of the Bracewell-Smith and Hill-Wood families, but since 2007 the club has attracted outside interest and two rival tycoons have acquired significant share holdings. As of July 1, 2011, the majority shareholder in the club is the American Stan Kroenke, who holds 66.64% of the parent company. His rival, the Russian-Uzbek Alisher Usmanov, owns 29.11%.^[1] Under Takeover Panel rules, Kroenke must in due course make an offer for every available share in the club.^[2]

Overview

Arsenal's parent company, Arsenal Holdings plc, operates as a non-quoted public limited company, whose ownership is considerably different from that of other football clubs. Only 62,217 shares in Arsenal have been issued,^[3] and they are not traded on a public exchange such as the FTSE or AIM; instead, they are traded relatively infrequently on PLUS (AFC ^[71]), a specialist market. The 2011 takeover bid by Stan Kroenke puts the club's market capitalisation value at £731m.^[4] At 31 March 2012, a single share in Arsenal had a mid price of £16,250, which set the club's market capitalisation value at approximately £1000m.

Arsenal Holdings plc wholly owns twelve subsidiary companies, covering the group's activities. These include Arsenal Football Club plc (the football club itself), Arsenal (Emirates Stadium) Limited (which develops and owns Arsenal's Emirates Stadium), Arsenal Stadium Management Company (which manages the stadium on matchdays), and Arsenal Overseas Ltd (which manages retail operations). Other subsidiaries deal with property development on the site of Arsenal's former stadium at Highbury and the associated property holding and financing.^[3]

Financial performance

The club made an operating profit (excluding player transfers) of £72m in the year ending 31 May 2010, from a turnover of £379.9m.^[5] In April 2009, business magazine *Forbes* ranked Arsenal as third most valuable football team in the world, after Manchester United and Real Madrid, valuing the club at \$1.2bn (£605m), excluding debt.^[6] Accountants Deloitte rate Arsenal fifth in the 2011 Deloitte Football Money League, a ranking of the world's football clubs in terms of revenue, with the club earning £274.1m in the 2009–10 season.^[7]

History

As an amateur club, *Royal Arsenal FC*, Arsenal started out as a mutually owned club but after turning professional, converted to a limited liability company in 1893. The company struggled in the club's early years, with its location in industrial Woolwich resulting in low attendances. The club was liquidated and reformed in 1910, and taken over by the owner of Fulham FC, Henry Norris. Norris owned the club for the next nineteen years, moving it to Arsenal Stadium in Highbury in 1913. Norris however was forced to resign as chairman and leave Arsenal in 1929 following an expenses scandal.^[8]

By the time of World War II the majority of Arsenal shares were held by Samuel Hill-Wood and Sir Bracewell Smith, the MP for Holborn and a future Lord Mayor of London. In those days the shares were not considered to be valuable and have never paid a dividend, and were largely as a charitable exercise to provide recreational entertainment for the working people of North London.^[9]

After his death, the shareholding of Sir Bracewell Smith was divided between his son and daughter and ended up in the hands of his grandchildren, Sir Charles Bracewell-Smith, Clive Carr (Life-President), Richard Carr (still a director) and Sarah Carr, now Lady Phipps-Bagge.^[10] Samuel Hill-Wood's shares passed first to his son Denis and

then his grandson and current Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood; he sold much of his family's shareholdings in the 1980s to David Dein, who sold some of them on to Danny Fiszman (a London diamond dealer).^[11] In the early 2000s the club sold a 9.9% stake to Granada Holdings Ltd, a subsidiary of ITV plc,^[12] and a significant stake was also bought by hedge fund Lansdowne Partners.^[13]

Current shareholders

Summary

Stan Kroenke 66.76% Usmanov 29.9%

Details

As of September 4, 2011, the largest shareholder in the club is Stan Kroenke, owner of Kroenke Sports Enterprises (KSE), who owns 41,537 shares (66.76%). Kroenke's holdings in the club began with an initial 9.9% bought from ITV plc in April 2007;^[14] initially treated with hostility, he is now regarded as an ally of the Arsenal board and was appointed a non-executive director of the club in September 2008.^[15] Kroenke brought his stake in the club up to 20.5% following a purchase of shares from fellow director Danny Fiszman.^[16] On 1 May 2009, Arsenal announced that Kroenke had bought a further 4,839 shares from the Carr family, including Richard Carr, also a director, which made him the largest shareholder of the company with 28.3%.^[17] On November the same year, this increased to the maximum 29.9% limit.^[18]

A rival bid for the club came from Red & White Holdings, which is co-owned by Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov and London-based financier Farhad Moshiri.^[19] Red & White bought the stake held by former Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein, as well as stakes owned by Lansdowne and many other minor shareholders, and as of September 2011 own 18,204 shares (29.25%) of the club. This is the largest single stake owned by a non-board member. This led to press speculation of a bidding war between Kroenke and Usmanov.^[19] However, Kroenke agreed not to purchase more than 29.9% of the club until at least September 2009,^[15] while the rest of the board agreed not to consider a sale of their shares to "non-permitted persons" until at least April 2009, and had first option on each other's shares until October 2012.^[20]

In April 2011, Kroenke extended his ownership of the club by purchasing the shareholdings of Nina Bracewell-Smith (15.9%), Danny Fiszman (16.11%) and other directors of the Arsenal board, taking his shareholding to 66.64%. Under company law Kroenke, as majority shareholder, is obliged to make an offer for the remaining shares in the club, which would include those owned by Red & White Holdings as well as any stakes held by the remaining minority shareholders of the club;^[2] these include those owned by former players as well as three shares owned by the Arsenal Supporters' Trust.^[21]

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Samuel Hill-Wood

Samuel Hill-Wood

Personal information				
Full name	Sir Samuel Hill-Wood, 1st Baronet			
Born	21 March 1872 Glossop, Derbyshire, England			
Died	4 January 1949 (aged 76) Westminster, England			
Batting style	Right-handed batsman			
Role	Derbyshire captain 1899-1901			
Relations	Basil Hill-Wood, Wilfred Hill-Wood, Denis Hill-Wood, Charles Hill-Wood			
Domestic team information				
Years	Team			
1894–1902	Derbyshire			
First-class debut	30 July 1894 Derbyshire v Yorkshire			
Last First-class	21 August 1902 Derbyshire v Essex			
Career statistics				
Competition	First-class			
Matches	34			
Runs scored	758			
Batting average	17.62			
100s/50s	-/5			
Top score	81*			
Balls bowled	93			
Wickets	0			
Bowling average				
5 wickets in innings	–			
10 wickets in match	–			
Best bowling	0/6			
Catches/stumpings	12/–			
Source: [1], 4 February 2010				

Sir Samuel Hill Hill-Wood, 1st Baronet (21 March 1872 – 4 January 1949), born **Samuel Hill Wood**, was a British businessman, Conservative politician, cricketer and football club chairman.

Early life

Wood was born in Glossop, Derbyshire the son of Samuel Wood, a cotton manufacturer and his wife Annie. His father made his fortune in the cotton industry in Derbyshire during the late 19th century. Samuel Hill Wood was educated at Eton College and was a keen sportsman. He continued to run the cotton business.

Cricket career

Wood made his cricket debut for Derbyshire in the 1894 season, and became their captain in the 1899 season for three seasons. Wood was the only batsman to score 10 runs off one ball in a first-class game.^[2] In May 1900, when playing for Derbyshire against MCC, he struck a ball from Cuthbert Burnup and as a result of the netting and an overthrow clocked up ten - a feat which was originally included in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Wood was a right hand batsman and played 54 innings in 24 first-class matches, with an average of 17.62 and a top score of 81 not out. He took no wickets in the 93 balls he bowled. Under his captaincy Derbyshire were fifteenth in the County Championship in 1899, thirteenth in 1900 and back to fifteenth in 1901.^[3]

Football at Glossop

Wood was chairman and owner of Glossop North End funding it up until World War I. His expenditure was estimated to be more than £30,000 at that time. His efforts and enthusiasm led to the club being included in the enlarged Football League Second Division in 1898. He scoured the country for professional footballers and after only one season Glossop qualified as Second Division runners up and were promoted to the First Division.^[4] They were relegated after a season and by 1914 Hill Wood severed his connection and Glossop later resigned from the Football League.

Political career

In 1910, Hill Wood was elected MP for High Peak, holding the seat until 1929. He changed his name to Hill-Wood by royal licence in 1912. In the First World War, he served in the Cheshire Regiment reaching the rank of Major. He was created a baronet in the 1921 New Year Honours.

Arsenal chairmanship

In 1929, after leaving parliament, he succeeded the disgraced Henry Norris as chairman of Arsenal, and presided over the club during its first period of success in the 1930s. He stepped down in 1936 but returned to the role after the Second World War, holding the post until his death in Westminster in 1949. In another field of sport, he owned two greyhounds who won the Waterloo Cup.

Family

Hill Wood married the Hon Rachel Bateman-Hanbury youngest daughter of Lord Bateman-Hanbury in 1899 and had four sons Basil, Wilfred, Denis and Charles. His son Denis and grandson Peter Hill-Wood have also served as chairmen of Arsenal, while his sons, Basil, Denis, Wilfred and Charles and brother-in-law David Brand, have all played county cricket for Derbyshire at various points in their history.

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External links

- Hansard 1803–2005: contributions in Parliament by Sir Samuel Hill-Wood (<http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/people/sir-samuel-hill-wood>)

Arsenal tube station

Arsenal

	
	
	
<p>● Arsenal</p> <p>Location of Arsenal in Greater London</p>	
Location	Highbury
Local authority	Islington
Managed by	London Underground
Number of platforms	2
Fare zone	2
London Underground annual entry and exit	
2008	▲ 3.210 million ^[1]
2009	▼ 3.052 million ^[1]
2010	▼ 2.980 million ^[1]
1906	Opened (GNP&BR)
1932	Renamed <i>Arsenal (Highbury Hill)</i>
c. 1960	Renamed <i>Arsenal</i>
Lists of stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLR • Underground • National Rail • Tramlink

Arsenal tube station is a London Underground station located in Highbury, London. It is on the Piccadilly Line, in Travelcard Zone 2, between Holloway Road and Finsbury Park. Originally known as **Gillespie Road**, it was renamed in 1932 after Arsenal Football Club, who at the time played at the nearby Arsenal Stadium. It is the only Tube station named directly after a football club.^[2] Although Arsenal's Highbury Stadium closed in 2006, the station retains its name and is still used by spectators attending matches at Arsenal's new Emirates Stadium, but it is otherwise quieter than other stations on the same stretch of line.

History

Arsenal tube station was opened by the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway (GNP&BR) as *Gillespie Road* on 15 December 1906.^[3] The GNP&BR later renamed the Piccadilly line after the consolidation & nationalisation of the Tube network as London Underground. The original station building and ticket hall were red terracotta-clad buildings designed by Leslie Green, similar to neighbouring Holloway Road and Caledonian Road stations.

At the time of Gillespie Road's construction, it served a residential area and a local divinity college. In 1913, Arsenal Football Club moved to Highbury on the site of the college's playing fields, and the club's presence there eventually led to a campaign for a change of name. Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman was a particularly keen advocate, and on 5 November 1932 it was renamed *Arsenal (Highbury Hill)*.^[4] The station was expanded in the 1930s, with the original station building demolished and being replaced with a wider building of a more modern design.

The *(Highbury Hill)* suffix was dropped from the station's name some time around 1960, giving the current name of *Arsenal*.^[5] The original tiled walls of the platforms still bear the Gillespie Road name, spelt out in large letters. In 2007, the station underwent a major upgrade; as part of this the wall tiling was completely restored, the floor resurfaced and an electronic Tannoy system introduced.^[6]



Tiling on the platform indicates the station's previous guise as "Gillespie Road"

Structure

The station is in a narrow Victorian residential street: when built, the station building was squeezed incongruously between residential properties on each side, occupying the width of just two terraced houses. Even after the surface building was rebuilt in the early 1930s and widened, with a further house being demolished, it has one of the narrowest frontages of any underground station. It is also unusual in not having any bus routes pass its entrance, though routes 4, 19, 106 and 236 serve nearby Blackstock Road.^[7]

Unusually for a "deep level" tube station, Arsenal possesses neither escalators nor lifts. Instead, a sloping passageway leads down to the platforms. This is due to the combination of the tunnels being both relatively shallow at this point and being some distance from the station entrance (being underneath the East Coast Main Line). Due to short flights of stairs at both ends of the passageway the station is not wheelchair accessible. When the station was rebuilt in the early 1930s an extra tunnel was dug to platform level from the main access passage in anticipation of increased traffic, which is now used to handle the large crowds on match days. The station has a "tidal" system unique on the Underground network, with a narrow section on one side divided from the main passageway by a full-height fence. The narrow section is used on match days for the lighter flow, according to time of day - for passengers catching trains before matches, or leaving the station afterwards.

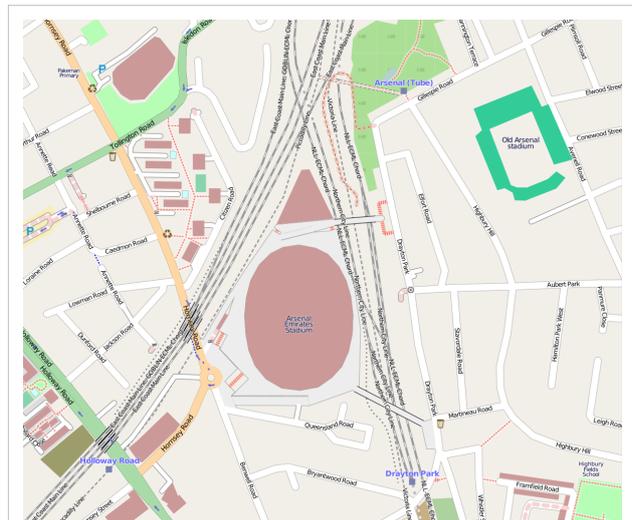


Passageway linking the tunnels to the ticket office, looking towards the latter. Note tidal flow segregation, in operation on football match days (fans using the wider section).

Usage

The station is located in a residential area, away from any main roads, and is considerably less busy than other stations on the same stretch of line. In 2007 only 2.735 million entries and exits were recorded, compared with Holloway Road's 7.487m and Caledonian Road's 5.333m.^[1] It is largely deserted outside rush hours except on Arsenal match days.

In 2006 Arsenal FC moved to a new stadium, the Emirates Stadium. The stadium is on the site of Ashburton Grove, a former industrial estate approximately 500 yards from Highbury, and closer to Drayton Park and Holloway Road stations. However, Drayton Park (along with the rest of the Northern City Line) is closed on weekends and weekday evenings, and trains do not stop at Holloway Road before and after matches to prevent overcrowding. Arsenal station meanwhile is still within easy walking distance of the new stadium and is recommended by the club for use on matchdays.^[8] The station thus still retains the "Arsenal" name and, along with Finsbury Park and Highbury & Islington, is still used by many Arsenal supporters to get to matches.



Map of Arsenal's old and new stadiums in relation to Arsenal tube station

As part of the commemoration of Arsenal's move, a temporary mural was placed along the walls of the station passageways as part of London Underground's Art on the Underground scheme.^[9] It was unveiled in February and removed in September 2006.

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 - Rebuilt station building in 1934 (<http://www.ltmcollection.org/images/webmax/17/9884817.jpg>).

Preceding station	 London Underground	Following station
Holloway Road <i>towards Uxbridge or Heathrow Airport (Terminal 4 or Terminal 5)</i>	Piccadilly line	Finsbury Park <i>towards Cockfosters</i>

Robert Pirès

Robert Pirès



Personal information			
Full name	Robert Emmanuel Pirès		
Date of birth	29 October 1973		
Place of birth	Reims, France		
Height	1.85 m (6 ft 1 in) ^[1]		
Playing position	Winger/Attacking midfielder		
Club information			
Current club	Free agent		
Youth career			
1989–1992	Reims		
1992–1993	Metz		
Senior career*			
Years	Team	Apps [†]	(Gls) [†]
1993–1998	Metz	162	(43)
1998–2000	Marseille	66	(8)
2000–2006	Arsenal	189	(62)
2006–2010	Villarreal	102	(13)
2010–2011	Aston Villa	9	(0)
National team [‡]			
1995–1996	France U21	12	(5)
1996–2004	France	79	(14)
<p>* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only and correct as of 6 January 2011.</p> <p>† Appearances (Goals).</p> <p>‡ National team caps and goals correct as of 19 December 2005</p>			

Robert Emmanuel Pirès (French pronunciation: [ʁɔ.bɛʁ pi.ʁɛs] ; born 29 October 1973 in Reims) is a French international footballer who is currently a free agent. He is best known for his time with Arsenal, with whom he won three FA Cups and two FA Premier League titles including the club's famous unbeaten season of 2003–04. A former

France international, Pirès earned 79 caps between 1996 and 2004 for his country, including winning both the 1998 FIFA World Cup and UEFA Euro 2000.

Pirès has played the majority of his career as a left winger, but can also play all across the midfield or in a position to support the striker(s).^[2]

Early years

Pirès was born in Reims to a Portuguese father and Spanish mother. Pirès, the elder of two boys, spent most of his childhood dressed in two football shirts that reflected his divided loyalty. One was a Portugal shirt (his father was a Benfica fan) and the other was a Real Madrid shirt. Pirès confessed he had difficulty in school because his French was not good due to the fact his parents only spoke Spanish and Portuguese.^[3] His passion for football was inherited from his father, António, who played with *Les Corpo*, a local team, and every Saturday night Pirès would watch him play. At the age of 15, Pirès left school and began his dream of a career in football with a two-year sports degree course in Reims. At the insistence of his mother, Pirès continued with Reims and eventually was called up four years later.^[3]

Career

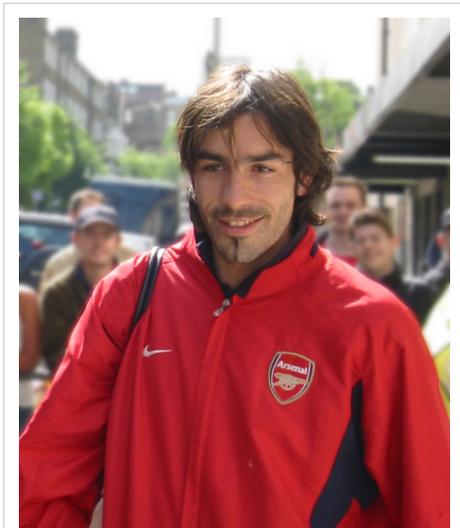
France

Pirès is a graduate of the FC Metz youth academy, making his senior debut in 1993 against Lyon. During his six seasons there, he scored 43 goals in 162 matches, and won the Coupe de la Ligue, prompting a £5 million move to Olympique de Marseille in 1998. At Marseille, Pirès had a mixed two-year stay. His first season saw Marseille miss the French league title by a point and they also lost the 1999 UEFA Cup Final to Parma. His second season saw him suffer a spate of on- and off-field problems, which led him to boycott the club at the season's end.^[4]

Arsenal

Pirès was signed by Arsenal for £6 million in 2000, after stiff competition from Real Madrid and Juventus, replacing Marc Overmars, who had left for Barcelona for a record £25 million.^[3] Initially, Pirès' form was indifferent, and some people criticised him after his comments that the English game was too physical. However, he slowly began to regain the form he had shown at Metz, scoring a superb solo goal against Lazio in the 2000–01 Champions League,^[5] and the winner against Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup semi-finals.^[6] However, Arsenal went on to lose the Cup final to Liverpool 2–1.

By 2001–02, Pirès had fully got to grips with the English game and had one of his best seasons. Pirès scored superb goals against Middlesbrough and Aston Villa. Against Aston Villa, Pirès chased after a long ball by Freddie Ljungberg, and lobbed the ball over the pursuing George Boateng, and finished off the move with a delightful chip over Peter Schmeichel. He led the Premier League assist charts and was voted both FWA Footballer of the Year and Arsenal's player of the season, as Arsenal won the league title. This was despite not playing the last two months of the season after suffering a cruciate ligament injury in a FA Cup match against Newcastle United. This also ruled him out of playing in the 2002 World Cup with France.



Pirès spent six seasons at Arsenal

After a lengthy layoff, Pirès made his comeback in November 2002 as a substitute against AJ Auxerre in the UEFA Champions League. Although Pirès initially found it tough, he eventually returned to form, scoring 14 Premiership goals in 20 starts that season, including a hat-trick against Southampton on the penultimate day of the season. Pirès was voted Barclaycard Player of the Month for February 2003. Pirès capped off his season by scoring the winning goal in the FA Cup Final against Southampton.^[7]

He went on to be a crucial part of Arsenal's quest for the Premier League title in the 2003–04 season, which they achieved, remaining unbeaten and becoming the first English top flight club to do so in 115 years. Pirès and his Arsenal teammate Thierry Henry were instrumental in that season, scoring a combined 57 goals in all competitions. Pirès made a sluggish start to the campaign, but a wonder-goal against Liverpool at Anfield kick-started his season. Pirès showed football fans his sublime technique, skills and finishing, most notably with his goals against Liverpool, Bolton Wanderers, and Leeds United. He surprised a lot of people with a world class tackle on Claude Makélélé and, following that, a run into the penalty box which dragged William Gallas and John Terry away, thus making space for Patrick Vieira to have a one-on-one with the Chelsea goalkeeper and subsequently scoring. Arsenal won that match 2–1, with Vieira's goal the equaliser. That day of Premier League action proved decisive, as Manchester United's failure to beat Leeds United during the same day resulted in Arsenal getting a huge lead in the title race. Arsenal never lost 1st place in the table for the rest of the season. More notably, Pirès will always be remembered for a game in the UEFA Champions League quarter-final's 1st leg match against Chelsea, where he managed to beat John Terry to a header, which resulted in the equaliser for Arsenal, after Eiður Guðjohnsen had given Chelsea the lead. However, Arsenal were eliminated after they lost 1–2 in the return leg, courtesy of a 87th minute Wayne Bridge goal. Pirès also showed his playmaking skills in a goal against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane, in which Pirès was the architect in building up the goal, and capped off the move with a goal to score Arsenal's 2nd goal of the game. Tottenham refused to give up, and managed to claw their way back and claimed a 2–2 draw. Despite that, Arsenal won the title after the match. Pirès finished that season with an impressive tally of 14 goals and seven assists in the Premier League. He was Arsenal's second top scorer (behind Thierry Henry) and had the joint amount of assists (along with Dennis Bergkamp) that season.

In the 2004–05 season, Pirès finished third in the Premiership goalscorers table with 14 goals, behind teammate Thierry Henry and Crystal Palace's Andrew Johnson. Pirès also picked up a second FA Cup winners' medal after Arsenal beat Manchester United on penalties. Pirès was replaced by Edu in the 2nd half of extra time in that match.

During the 2005–06 season, Pirès wrangled with Arsenal over a new contract, in the hope of a new two-year deal. In keeping with the club's policy regarding players over 30, Pirès was only offered a 12-month extension to his contract, which expired in June 2006. Pirès started the season poorly, and players such as Freddie Ljungberg, José Antonio Reyes and Alexander Hleb were preferred to him on both wings. As the season progressed, though, Pirès's form improved, outscoring his selection rivals overall mainly because of a bizarre penalty incident with Thierry Henry against Man City when Pirès having scored from the spot earlier in the game tried passing it to Arsenal's star striker but Henry missed the ball and it went down as a penalty miss. Pirès was instrumental in Arsenal Quarter Final Champions League first leg against Juventus. He got the better of Vieira with his tackle which was the build up to Arsenal's first goal scored by Fàbregas. Arsenal won that leg 2–0. Pirès played his last game for Arsenal in the UEFA Champions league final against Barcelona, in which he was substituted after goalkeeper Jens Lehmann's sending off during the match.

In May 2006, Pirès agreed to an offer from Villarreal CF^[8] after a month of speculation, during which time he played against Villarreal in the Champions League semi-final. One of the main reasons Pirès gave for leaving Arsenal was that he felt he was no longer a first choice under manager Arsène Wenger. Pirès was quoted saying: "I have to say I have had some disappointments this season. For instance, I was on the bench very often".^[9] Pirès additionally suggested that Wenger's decision to withdraw him in the UEFA Champions League Final showed he had slipped in the eyes of his French boss. Pirès said that he felt hurt by how Wenger did not trust him anymore, which was a major factor that convinced him that it was time to move on from Arsenal.^[9]

Arsenal fans and players alike were saddened by Pirès's departure. His ex-Arsenal teammate Cesc Fàbregas told the August 2006 edition of the Sky magazine how sad it was to lose him.

On the official Arsenal matchday program for the game against Wigan Athletic on 11 February 2007, Pirès revealed his heartbreak of being substituted so early on during the Champions League final. Pirès stated: "I was very disappointed. When I saw my number on the fourth official's board to be substituted, I couldn't believe it. It was my last game after six years at the club, a Champions League Final in front of all my family in Paris where I became World Cup champion and it lasted just 12 minutes. That was very hard to take".

On 11 July 2008, Arsenal fans voted Pirès as the club's sixth greatest player of all time.^[10]

Villarreal

In May 2006, Pirès agreed to join Spanish side Villarreal. He joined on a free transfer, subject to passing a medical, bringing to an end his six-year career as an Arsenal player. Pirès was officially unveiled as a Villarreal player on 3 July 2006.^[11] He scored his first goal for the club in 3–3 pre-season draw with Newcastle United on 5 August 2006. However, on 18 August 2006, Pirès damaged the cruciate ligament in his left knee in a friendly match against Cádiz and required corrective surgery to alleviate the problem, which kept him out of action for seven months in his new club in Spanish top flight.

Pirès finally recovered from knee injury and made his first league appearance for Villarreal as a second-half substitute when he was named in Villarreal's squad to face Real Sociedad on 17 March 2007. Pirès scored his first league goal on his return from injury in a 3–3 draw away to Real Betis on 31 March 2007. After three appearances as a substitute, Pirès made his first start for Villarreal on 22 April 2007 against Barcelona. He opened the scoring for his team to defeat league leaders Barcelona 2–0, avenging his premature departure against Barcelona in the Champions League Final the previous May. On 13 May 2007, in a thumping 4–1 win at Osasuna, the former France international midfielder gave the visitors the perfect start with a seventh-minute opener as Villarreal continued their late-season push for a European spot. The run took "The Yellow Submarine", sinking at 11th spot without him in the side, to the brink of a UEFA Cup place in barely six weeks. Villarreal ended the season in 5th spot wherein Pirès played crucial roles in helping Villarreal with the late charge up winning each of their final eight games and an entry into the UEFA Cup.

With the ongoing saga between Juan Román Riquelme and the board of Villarreal, Pirès' leadership qualities the following season helped Villarreal to win six of their opening eight games. Against Barcelona at El Madrigal, Pirès technique earned the Yellow Submarine two penalties which were duly converted by captain Marcos Senna.

In 2009, Pirès faced former club Arsenal in the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League, coming on as a 70th minute substitute in the first leg and playing the full 90 minutes at the Emirates Stadium. Villarreal were defeated 4–1 on aggregate, but Pirès received a warm return from the Arsenal supporters, who sang his name throughout both legs.

Pirès was told in May 2010 that his contract would not be extended and he would have to look for a new club during the summer as Villarreal will be "changing their philosophy".^[12]

Aston Villa

Pirès returned to England, where he trained during October at former club Arsenal's London Colney training ground in order to keep his fitness levels up.^[13] Later that month, it was reported that Conference National club Crawley Town intended to talk to Pirès about joining them for some part of the season, but the player's spokesman said they were "not aware of any interest" from that club.^[14]

On 16 November 2010, it was confirmed that Aston Villa boss Gérard Houllier had been in talks with representatives of Pirès.^[15] On 18 November, the 37-year-old midfielder completed his move to Aston Villa on a six-month contract.^[16] He made his Villa début in the Premier League on 21 November as a second-half substitute, although his new club were beaten 2–0 by Blackburn Rovers. Pirès' arrival at the club was praised by many of Villa's senior players, including Gabriel Agbonlahor, Stewart Downing and Shane Lowry.^{[17][18][19]} Pires scored his first goal for Aston Villa in the 3–1 FA Cup win against Blackburn Rovers on 29 January 2011. His next start was also against Blackburn Rovers in the Premier League on 26 February. His performance in Villa's 4–1 win was described by Sky Sports as "his most influential" since joining the club.^[20]

In early March, Pirès announced that he would like to remain at Aston Villa for the 2011–12 season.^{[21][22]} Villa boss Gérard Houllier responded positively to this claim, but admitted that no decision would be made until the Summer of 2011.^[23] However, he was released by the club on 27 May 2011 after the 2010–11 season finished.^[24]

In September 2011 Pires made 1 appearance for Scottish Premier League side Hibernian

International career

Pirès was part of France's 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 winning squads, but had to miss the 2002 World Cup due to an injury he sustained playing for Arsenal. He also played in 1996 Olympic Games and Euro 2004. However, a dispute in late 2004 with French national coach Raymond Domenech put a halt to Pirès' international career. He won 79 caps for his country and scored 14 goals. He won the Golden Ball (for most outstanding football) and Golden Shoe (for most goals scored) awards at the 2001 Confederations Cup in Korea/Japan. Pirès notably provided two golden goal assists during his international career, first setting up Laurent Blanc against Paraguay in the 1998 World Cup round of 16 and providing David Trézéguet with the match-winning ball in the Euro 2000 final. The former was the first Golden Goal ever scored at a FIFA World Cup.

Personal life

When Pirès made his professional debut for FC Metz in 1992, he met his future wife, Nathalie.^[3] The two were married for six years and divorced in 2003. Pirès told *The Daily Mirror* that his divorce ruined him and that it affected him professionally. He divulged that he was unable to concentrate or sleep. He also started exhibiting odd behavior such as publicly fighting with French coach Raymond Domenech in early 2004.^[25]

Shortly after the split from Nathalie, Pirès met French model Jessica Lemarie through mutual friends. On 10 August 2005, she gave birth to the couple's first child, Naia. Pirès claims that "*[Naia] has allowed me to find calm and be a lot more at ease*".^[26] Since then, Lemarie and Pirès have married and had a son named Theo, born 11 July 2007.^[27]

On 17 January 2012, Pirès became an ambassador for Grassroot Soccer, an international non-profit that uses the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize communities to stop the spread of HIV.^[28]

Pirès uses Twitter to communicate with fans.^[29]

Pirès is good friends with Dennis Bergkamp, with whom he played at Arsenal.

Career statistics

Club	Season	League			Cup		Europe		Total	
		Apps	Goals	Assists	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Metz	1992–93	2	-	?	-	-	-	-	2	-
	1993–94	24	1	?	1	-	-	-	25	1
	1994–95	35	9	?	6	-	-	-	41	9
	1995–96	38	11	?	7	2	4	-	49	13
	1996–97	32	11	?	3	1	6	-	41	12
	1997–98	31	11	?	6	2	3	-	40	13
	Total	162	43	?	23	5	13	-	198	48
Marseille	1998–99	34	6	?	2	-	11	3	47	9
	1999–2000	32	2	?	3	1	11	2	46	5
	Total	66	8	?	5	1	22	5	93	14
Arsenal	2000–01	33	4	7	6	3	12	1	51	8
	2001–02	28	9	15	5	1	12	3	45	13
	2002–03	26	14	3	7	2	9	-	42	16
	2003–04	36	14	10	5	1	10	4	51	19
	2004–05	33	14	4	6	2	8	1	47	17
	2005–06	33	7	4	3	2	12	2	48	11
	Total	189	62	43	32	11	63	11	284	84
Villarreal	2006–07	11	3	1	-	-	2	-	13	3
	2007–08	32	3	4	5	1	2	-	39	4
	2008–09	32	3	9	-	-	8	1	40	4
	2009–10	28	4	1	2	1	7	2	37	7
	Total	103	13	14	7	2	19	3	129	18
Aston Villa	2010–11	9	-	-	3	1	-	-	12	1
	Total	9	-	-	3	1	-	-	12	1
Career Total		529	126	58	70	20	117	19	716	165

National team statistics

[30]

France national team		
Year	Apps	Goals
1996	3	1
1997	4	1
1998	14	1
1999	9	1
2000	10	2
2001	13	4
2002	1	0
2003	12	4
2004	13	0
Total	79	14

International goals

#	Date	Venue	Opponent	Score	Result	Competition
1.	9 October 1996	Parc des Princes, Paris, France	 Turkey	4 – 0	4 – 0	Friendly match
2.	26 February 1997	Parc des Princes, Paris, France	 Netherlands	1 – 1	2 – 1	Friendly match
3.	10 October 1998	Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow, Russia	 Russia	0 – 2	2 – 3	UEFA Euro 2000 qualifying
4.	13 November 1999	Stade de France, Saint-Denis, France	 Croatia	1 – 0	3 – 0	Friendly match
5.	28 May 2000	Maksimir Stadium, Zagreb, Croatia	 Croatia	0 – 1	0 – 2	Friendly match
6.	16 August 2000	Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, France	FIFA XI	4 – 0	5 – 1	Friendly match
7.	3 June 2001	Munsu Cup Stadium, Ulsan, South Korea	 Mexico	3 – 0	4 – 0	2001 FIFA Confederations Cup
8.	7 June 2001	Suwon World Cup Stadium, Suwon, South Korea	 Brazil	1 – 0	2 – 1	2001 FIFA Confederations Cup
9.	15 August 2001	Stade de la Beaujoire, Nantes, France	 Denmark	1 – 0	1 – 0	Friendly match
10.	6 October 2001	Stade de France, Saint-Denis, France	 Algeria	4 – 1	4 – 1	Friendly match
11.	30 April 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis, France	 Egypt	3 – 0	5 – 0	Friendly match
12.	20 June 2003	Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, Saint-Étienne, France	 Japan	1 – 0	2 – 1	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup
13.	22 June 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis, France	 New Zealand	5 – 0	5 – 0	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup
14.	26 June 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis, France	 Turkey	2 – 0	3 – 2	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup

Honours

Club

Metz

- Coupe de la Ligue: 1996

Arsenal

- FA Premier League: 2001–02, 2003–04
- FA Cup: 2002, 2003, 2005
- FA Community Shield: 2002, 2004
- UEFA Champions League Runner Up: 2006

International

France

- FIFA World Cup: 1998
- UEFA European Championship: 2000
- FIFA Confederations Cup: 2001, 2003

Individual

- Ligue 1 Young Player of the Year: 1995–96
- *Chevalier* (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur, France's highest decoration 1998^{[31][32]}
- Football Writers' Association's Footballer of the Year: 2001–02 (with Arsenal)
- PFA Team of the Year: 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04
- FA Premier League Player of the Month: February 2003
- 2001 FIFA Confederations Cup: Player of the Tournament
- 2001 FIFA Confederations Cup: Top scorer
- FIFA 100

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External links

- Robert Pirés (<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/statisticsandrecords/players/player=170705/>) – FIFA competition record
- Robert Pirés (<http://www.footballdatabase.com/index.php?page=player&Id=208>) statistics and biography at FootballDatabase.com
- Robert Pirés career stats (http://www.soccerbase.com/players_details.sd?playerid=14092) at Soccerbase
- Profile (<http://www.arsenal.com/player.asp?thisNav=first+team&plid=60082&clid=4421&cpid=703>) at Arsenal.com
- Profiles (<http://www.sporting-heroes.net/football-heroes/searchresults.asp?ButtonLeap=0&countryLinkDescription=+matching+search+results&FootballHeroName=pires&FootballHeroClubCountry=&FootballHeroDecade=Select+One&SearchButton=Search>) at sporting-heroes.net

Thierry Henry

Thierry Henry



Henry with the New York Red Bulls

Personal information			
Full name	Thierry Daniel Henry ^[1]		
Date of birth	17 August 1977 ^[1]		
Place of birth	Les Ulis, Essonne, France		
Height	1.88 m (6 ft 2 in)		
Playing position	Striker		
Club information			
Current club	New York Red Bulls		
Number	14		
Youth career			
1983–1989	CO Les Ulis		
1989–1990	US Palaiseau		
1990–1992	Viry-Châtillon		
1992	Clairefontaine		
1992–1994	Monaco		
Senior career*			
Years	Team	Apps [†]	(Gls) [†]
1994–1999	Monaco	105	(20)
1999	Juventus	16	(3)
1999–2007	Arsenal	254	(174)
2007–2010	Barcelona	80	(35)
2010–	New York Red Bulls	62	(31)
2012	→ Arsenal (loan)	4	(1)
National team [‡]			
1997	France U20	5	(3)
1997–2010	France	123	(51)

* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only and correct as of 21:49, 27 October 2012 (UTC).

† Appearances (Goals).

‡ National team caps and goals correct as of 16:56, 11 February 2012 (UTC)

Thierry Daniel Henry (French pronunciation: [tjɛʁi ɑ̃ʁi]; born 17 August 1977) is a French footballer who plays as a striker for New York Red Bulls in Major League Soccer. Henry was born in Les Ulis, Essonne (a suburb of Paris) where he played for an array of local sides as a youngster and showed great promise as a goal-scorer. He was spotted by AS Monaco in 1990 and signed instantly, making his professional debut in 1994. Good form led to an international call-up in 1998, after which he signed for the Serie A defending champions Juventus. He had a disappointing season playing on the wing, before joining Arsenal for £11 million in 1999.

It was at Arsenal that Henry made his name as a world-class footballer. Despite initially struggling in the Premier League, he emerged as Arsenal's top goal-scorer for almost every season of his tenure there. Under long-time mentor and coach Arsène Wenger, Henry became a prolific striker and Arsenal's all-time leading scorer with 228 goals in all competitions. The Frenchman won two league titles and three FA Cups with the Gunners; he was nominated for the FIFA World Player of the Year twice, was named the PFA Players' Player of the Year twice, and the FWA Footballer of the Year three times. Henry spent his final two seasons with Arsenal as club captain, leading them to the 2006 UEFA Champions League Final.

In June 2007, after eight years with Arsenal, he transferred to Barcelona for a fee of €24 million. His first honours with the Catalan club came in 2009 when they won the La Liga, Copa del Rey and Champions League treble. He went on to achieve an unprecedented sextuple by also winning the Supercopa de España, the UEFA Super Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup. In total, Henry has been named in the UEFA Team of the Year five times. In 2010, he joined the New York Red Bulls of the Major League Soccer, and won the Eastern Conference title with them in 2010. He returned to Arsenal on loan for two months in 2012.

Henry enjoyed similar success with the French national team, having won the 1998 FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro 2000 and 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup. In October 2007, he surpassed Michel Platini's record to become France's top goal-scorer of all time. Henry retired from international football after the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Off the pitch, Henry is an active spokesperson against racism in football, partially due to his own experiences. He married English model Nicole Merry in 2003 and had a daughter with her, but they divorced in 2007. Henry was also one of the top commercially marketed footballers; he was ranked ninth in the world in 2006.

Early years

Henry is of Antillean heritage:^[2] his father, Antoine, is from Guadeloupe (La Désirade island), and his mother, Maryse, is from Martinique. He was born and raised in Les Ulis suburb of Paris which, despite sometimes being seen as a tough neighbourhood, provided good footballing facilities.^{[3][4]} As a seven-year-old, Henry showed great potential, prompting Claude Chezelle to recruit him to the local club CO Les Ulis. His father pressured him to attend training, although the youngster was not particularly drawn to football.^[1] He joined US Palaiseau in 1989, but after a year his father fell out with the club, so Henry moved to ES Viry-Châtillon and played there for two years.^[2] US Palaiseau coach Jean-Marie Panza, Henry's future mentor, followed him there.^[3]

Club career

Monaco (1992–1999) and Juventus (1999)

In 1990, Monaco sent scout Arnold Catalano to watch Henry, then at the age of 13 in a match.^[5] Henry scored all six goals as his side won 6–0. Catalano asked him to join Monaco without even attending a trial first. Catalano requested that Henry complete a course at the elite Clairefontaine academy, and despite the director's reluctance to admit Henry due to his poor school results, he was allowed to complete the course and joined Arsène Wenger's Monaco as a youth player.^[1] Subsequently, Henry signed professional forms with Monaco, and made his professional debut on 31 August 1994, in a 2–0 loss against Nice.^[5] Although Wenger suspected that Henry should be deployed as a striker, he put Henry on the left wing because he believed that his pace, natural ball control and skill would be more effective against full-backs than centre-backs.^[2]

After a tentative start to his Monaco career, Henry was named the French Young Footballer of the Year in 1996, and in the 1996–97 season, his solid performances helped the club win the Ligue 1 title.^{[1][6]} During the 1997–98 season, he was instrumental in leading his club to the UEFA Champions League semi-final, setting a French record by scoring seven goals in the competition.^{[2][7]} By his third season, he had received his first cap for the national team, and was part of the winning team in the 1998 FIFA World Cup.^[2] He continued to impress at his tenure with Monaco, and in his five seasons with the French club, the young winger scored 20 league goals in 105 appearances.^[6]

Henry left Monaco in January 1999, one year before his friend and teammate David Trezeguet, and moved to Italian Serie A club Juventus for £10.5 million.^[1] He played on the wing,^[8] but he was ineffective against the Serie A defensive discipline in a position uncharacteristic for him, and scored just three goals in 16 appearances.^[9]

Arsenal (1999–2007)

Unsettled in Italy, Henry transferred from Juventus on 3 August 1999 to Arsenal for an estimated fee of £11 million, reuniting with his former manager Arsène Wenger.^{[10][11]} It was at Arsenal that Henry made his name as a world-class footballer,^[12] and although his transfer was not without controversy, Wenger was convinced he was worth the transfer fee.^[2] Brought in as a replacement for fellow French forward Nicolas Anelka, Henry was immediately moulded into a striker by Wenger, a move that would pay rich dividends in years to come. However, doubts were raised about his ability to adapt to the quick and physical English game when he failed to score in his first eight games.^[3] After several difficult months in England, Henry even conceded that he had to "be re-taught everything about the art of striking."^[3] These doubts were dispelled when he ended his first season at Arsenal with an impressive goal tally of 26.^[13] Arsenal finished second in the league behind Manchester United, and lost in the UEFA Cup Final against Turkish side Galatasaray.^[2]

Coming off the back of a victorious UEFA Euro 2000 campaign with the national team, Henry was ready to make an impact in the 2000–01 season. Despite recording fewer goals and assists than his first season, Henry's second season with Arsenal proved to be a breakthrough, as he became the club's top goalscorer.^[14] Armed with one of the league's best attacks, Arsenal closed in quickly on perennial rivals Manchester United for the league title. Henry remained frustrated, however, by the fact that he had yet to help the club win honours, and frequently expressed his desire to establish Arsenal as a powerhouse.^[2]



Henry was made captain following the departure of fellow Frenchman Patrick Vieira to Juventus in 2005

Success finally arrived during the 2001–02 season. Arsenal finished seven points above Liverpool to win the league title, and defeated Chelsea 2–0 in the FA Cup Final.^[2] Henry became the league's top goal-scorer and netted 32 goals in all competitions as he led Arsenal to a double and his first silverware with the club.^{[1][14]} There was much expectation that Henry would replicate his club form for France during the 2002 FIFA World Cup, but the defending champions suffered a shock exit at the group stage.^[2]

2002–03 proved to be another productive season for Henry, as he scored 32 goals in all competitions while contributing 23 assists—remarkable returns for a striker.^[14] In doing so, he led Arsenal to another FA Cup triumph (where he was man-of-the-match in the Final),^[15] although Arsenal failed to retain their Premier League crown.^[16] Throughout the season, he competed with Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy for the league scoring title, but the latter edged Henry to the title by a goal.^[2] Nonetheless, Henry was named both the PFA Players' Player of the Year and FWA Footballer of the Year.^{[17][18]} His rising status as one of the world's best footballers was affirmed when he emerged runner-up for the 2003 FIFA World Player of the Year award.^[12]



Henry in a game against Charlton Athletic in 2006

Entering the 2003–04 season, Arsenal were determined to reclaim the Premier League crown. Henry was again instrumental in Arsenal's exceptionally successful campaign; together with the likes of Dennis Bergkamp, Patrick Vieira and Robert Pirès, Henry ensured that *the Gunners* became the first team in more than a century to go through the entire domestic league season unbeaten, claiming the league title in the process.^[19] Apart from being named for the second year running as the PFA Players' Player of the Year and FWA Footballer of the Year,^{[17][18]} Henry emerged once again as the runner-up for 2004 FIFA World Player of the Year award.^[12] With 39 goals scored in all competitions, the Frenchman led the league in goals scored and won the European Golden Boot.^{[1][20]} However, as was the case in 2002, Henry was unable to lead the national side to honours during UEFA Euro 2004.^[2]

This dip in success was compounded when Arsenal failed again to secure back-to-back league titles when they lost out to Chelsea in the 2004–05 season, although Arsenal did win the FA Cup (the Final of which Henry missed through

injury).^[6] Henry maintained his reputation as one of Europe's most feared strikers as he led the league in scoring,^[1] and with 31 goals in all competitions,^[21] he was the co-recipient (with Diego Forlán) of the European Golden Boot, and is currently the only player to have officially won the award twice in a row (Ally McCoist also had two Golden Boots in a row, but both were deemed unofficial).^[20] The unexpected departure of compatriot Vieira in mid-2005 led to Henry being awarded club captaincy, a role which many felt was not naturally suited for him; the captaincy is more commonly given to defenders or midfielders, who are better-placed on the pitch to read the game.^[1] Along with being chief goal-scorer, he was responsible for leading a very young team which had yet to gel fully.^[22]

The 2005–06 season proved to be one of remarkable personal achievements for Henry. On 17 October 2005, Henry became the club's top goal-scorer of all time;^[23] two goals against Sparta Prague in the Champions League meant he broke Ian Wright's record of 185 goals.^[24] On 1 February 2006, he scored a goal against West Ham United, bringing his league goal tally up to 151, breaking Arsenal legend Cliff Bastin's league goals record.^[25] Henry scored his 100th league goal at Highbury, a feat unparalleled in the history of the club, and a unique achievement in the Premier League.^[26] He completed the season as the league's top goal-scorer,^[1] and for the third time in his career, he was voted the FWA Footballer of the Year.^[6]

Nevertheless, Arsenal failed to win the league title again, but hopes of a trophy were revived when Arsenal reached the 2006 UEFA Champions League Final. The Gunners eventually lost 2–1 to Barcelona, and Arsenal's inability to win the Premier League for two consecutive seasons combined with the relative inexperience of the Arsenal squad caused much speculation that Henry would leave for another club. However, he declared his love for the club and accepted a four-year contract, and said he would stay at Arsenal for life.^[18] Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein later claimed the club had turned down two bids of £50 million from Spanish clubs for Henry before the signing of the new contract.^[27] Had the transfer materialised, it would have surpassed the then world record £47 million paid for Zinédine Zidane.^[27]

Henry's 2006–07 season was marred by injuries.^[28] Although he scored 10 goals in 17 domestic appearances for Arsenal, Henry's season was cut short in February. Having missed games due to hamstringing, foot, and back problems, he was deemed fit enough to come on as a late substitute against PSV in a Champions League match,^[29] but began limping shortly after coming on. Scans the next day revealed that he would need at least three months to heal from new groin and stomach injuries, missing the rest of the 2006–07 season.^[30] Wenger attributed Henry's injuries to a protracted 2005–06 campaign, and reiterated that Henry was keen on staying with the Gunners to rebuild for the 2007–08 season.^[28]

Barcelona (2007–2010)



Henry in Barcelona colours

On 25 June 2007, in an unexpected turn of events, Henry was transferred to Barcelona for €24 million. He signed a four-year deal for a reported €6.8 (£4.6) million per season.^[31] It was revealed that the contract included a release clause of €125 (£84.9) million.^[32] Henry cited the departure of Dein and continued uncertainty over Wenger's future as reasons for leaving,^{[33][34]} and maintained that "I always said that if I ever left Arsenal it would be to play for Barcelona."^[35] Despite their captain's departure, Arsenal got off to an impressive start for the 2007–08 campaign, and Henry admitted that his presence in the team might have been more of a hindrance than a help. He stated: "Because of my seniority, the fact that I was captain and my habit of screaming for the ball, they would sometimes give it to me even when I was not in the best position. So in that sense it was good for the team that I moved on."^[36] Henry left Arsenal as the club's leading all-time league goal-scorer with 174 goals and leading all-time goal-scorer in Europe with 42 goals;^[1] in July 2008, Arsenal fans voted him as

Arsenal's greatest player ever in Arsenal.com's Gunners' Greatest 50 Players poll.^[37]



After the retirement of Dennis Bergkamp, Henry regularly partnered Robin van Persie up front in the Arsenal attack

At Barcelona, Henry was given the number 14 jersey, the same as he had worn at Arsenal. He scored his first goal for his new club on 19 September 2007 in a 3–0 Champions League group stage win over Lyon,^[38] and he recorded his first hat-trick for Barça in a league match against Levante ten days later.^[39] But with Henry mostly deployed on the wing throughout the season, he was unable to reproduce the goal-scoring form he achieved with Arsenal. He expressed dissatisfaction with the move to Barcelona in the initial year, amidst widespread speculation of a return to the Premier League. In an interview with Garth Crooks on BBC Football Focus, Henry described missing life "back home" and even "the English press".^[40] However, Henry concluded his debut season as the club's top scorer with 19 goals in addition to nine league assists, second behind Lionel Messi's 10.



Henry takes on Rio Ferdinand inside the Manchester United penalty area during the 2009 UEFA Champions League Final.

Henry went on to surpass this tally in a more integrated 2008–09 campaign, winning the first trophy of his Barcelona career on 13 May 2009 when Barcelona defeated Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey final. Barcelona won the league and Champions League soon after, completing a treble for the Frenchman, who had combined with Lionel Messi and Samuel Eto'o to score 100 goals between them that season. The trio was also the most prolific trio in Spanish league history, scoring 72 goals and surpassing the 66 goals of Real Madrid's Ferenc Puskás, Alfredo Di Stéfano and Luis del Sol of the 1960–61 season (this was later surpassed by Real Madrid trio Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Gonzalo Higuain who scored 89 goals in 2011–12).^[41] Later in 2009, Henry helped Barcelona win an unprecedented sextuple, consisting of the aforementioned treble, the Supercopa de España, the UEFA Super Cup, and the FIFA Club World Cup.^[42]

The following season, the emergence of Pedro Rodríguez meant that Henry only started 15 league games.^[14] Before the La Liga season ended, and with a year still left on his contract, club president Joan Laporta stated on 5 May 2010 that Henry "may go away in the summer transfer window if that's what he wants".^[43] After Henry returned from the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Barcelona confirmed that they had agreed to the sale of Henry to an unnamed club, with the player still to agree terms with the new club.^[44]

New York Red Bulls (2010–present)

In July 2010, Henry signed a multi-year contract with Major League Soccer (MLS) club New York Red Bulls for the 2010 season as its second designated player.^[45] He made his full MLS debut on 31 July in a 2–2 draw against Houston Dynamo, assisting both goals to Juan Pablo Angel. His first MLS goal came on 28 August in a 2–0 victory against San Jose Earthquakes. The Red Bulls eventually topped the MLS Eastern Conference by one point over Columbus Crew^[46] before losing 3–2 on aggregate against San Jose Earthquakes in the quarterfinals of the 2010 MLS Cup Playoffs.^[47] The next season, the Red Bulls were 10th overall in the league,^[48] and bowed out in the Conference Semi-finals of the 2011 MLS Cup Playoffs.^[49]



Henry facing Phil Jones in the 2011 MLS All-Star Game

After training with Arsenal during the MLS off-season, Henry re-signed for the club on a two-month loan deal on 6 January 2012. This was to provide cover for Gervinho and Marouane Chamakh, who were unavailable due to their participation in the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations.^[50] Henry made his second Arsenal debut as a substitute against Leeds United in the FA Cup third round and scored the only goal.^[51] In his last league game on loan, he scored the winning goal in stoppage time in a 2–1 win against Sunderland.^[52] On 17 February 2012, Henry returned to Red

Bulls to prepare for the 2012 season.

On 31 March 2012, Henry scored his first MLS hat-trick in a 5–2 Red Bulls win over Montreal Impact.^[53] He was named MLS Player of the Month that same month.

International career

Henry enjoyed a successful career with the France national team, winning the first of his 123 caps in June 1997, when his good form for Monaco was rewarded with a call-up to the Under-20 French national team, where he played in the 1997 FIFA World Youth Championship alongside future teammates William Gallas and David Trézéguet.^[1] Within four months, France head coach Aimé Jacquet called Henry up to the senior team. The 20-year-old made his senior international debut on 11 October 1997 in a 2–1 win against South Africa.^[54] Jacquet was so impressed with Henry that he took him to the 1998 FIFA World Cup. Although Henry was a largely unknown quantity at international level, he ended the tournament as France's top scorer with three goals.^[55] He was scheduled to appear as a substitute in the final, where France beat Brazil 3–0, but Marcel Desailly's sending off forced a defensive change instead. In 1998, he was made *Chevalier* (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur, France's highest decoration.^[56]

Henry was a member of France's UEFA Euro 2000 squad, again scoring three goals in the tournament, including the equaliser against Portugal in the semi-final, and finishing as the country's top scorer.^[57] France later won the game in extra time following a converted penalty kick by Zinédine Zidane. France went on to defeat Italy in extra-time in the Final, earning Henry his second major international medal.^[58] During the tournament, Henry was voted man-of-the-match in three games, including the final against Italy.^[59]

The 2002 FIFA World Cup featured a stunning early exit for both Henry and France as the defending champions were eliminated in the group stage after failing to score a goal in all three games.^[1] France lost their first match in group play and Henry was red carded for a dangerous sliding challenge in their next match against Uruguay.^[2] In that game, France played to a 0–0 draw, but Henry was forced to miss the final match due to suspension; France lost 2–0 to Denmark.^[2]

Henry returned to form for his country at the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup. Despite playing without team stalwarts Zidane and Patrick Vieira, France won, in large part owing to Henry's outstanding play, for which he was named Man of the Match by FIFA's Technical Study Group in three of France's five matches.^[1] In the final, he scored the golden goal in extra time to lift the title for the host country after a 1–0 victory over Cameroon.^[1] Henry was awarded both the adidas Golden Ball as the outstanding player of the competition and the adidas Golden Shoe as the tournament's top goal-scorer with four goals.^[1]

In UEFA Euro 2004, Henry played in all of France's matches and scored two goals.^[6] France beat England in the group stages but lost to the eventual winners Greece 1–0 in the quarter-finals.^[60] During the 2006 FIFA World Cup Henry remained as one of the automatic starters in the squad. He played as a lone striker, but despite an indifferent start to the tournament, became one of the top players of the World Cup. He scored three goals, including the winning goal from Zidane's free kick against defending champions Brazil.^[1] However, France subsequently lost to Italy on penalties (5–3) in the final. Henry did not take part in the penalty shoot-out, having been substituted in extra time after his legs had cramped.^[61] Henry was one of 10 nominees for the Golden Ball award for Player of the Tournament, an award which was ultimately presented to his teammate, Zidane^[62] and was named a starting striker on the 2006 FIFPro World XI team.^[63]

On 13 October 2007, Henry scored his 41st goal against the Faroe Islands, joining Michel Platini as the country's top goal-scorer of all time.^[36] Four days later at the Stade de la Beaujoire, he scored a late double against Lithuania, thereby setting a new record as France's top goal-scorer.^[64] On 3 June 2008, Henry made his 100th appearance for national team in match against Colombia, becoming the sixth French player ever to reach that milestone.^[65]

Henry missed the opening game of France's short-lived UEFA Euro 2008 campaign, where they were eliminated in the group stages after being grouped together with Italy, the Netherlands and Romania.^[66] He scored France's only

goal in the competition in a 4–1 loss to the Netherlands.^[67]

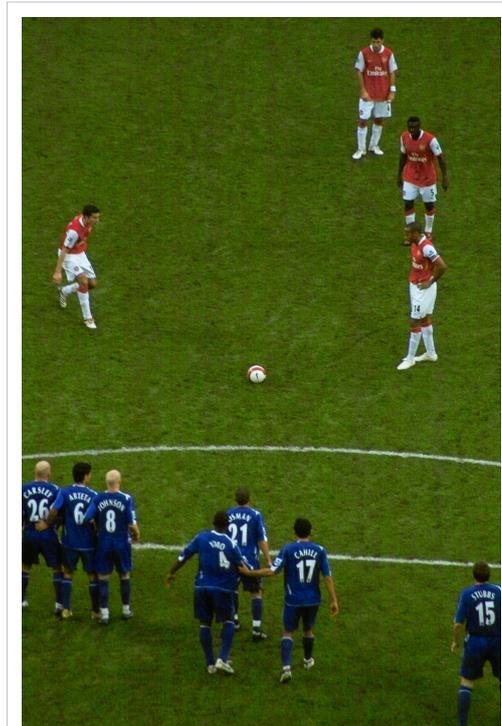
The French team struggled during the 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and finished second in their group behind Serbia. During the play-offs against the Republic of Ireland, Henry was involved in a controversy in the second leg of the game at the Stade de France on 18 November 2009. With the aggregate score tied at 1–1 and the game in extra time, he used his hand twice to control the ball before delivering a cross to William Gallas who scored the winner.^[68] This sparked a barrage of criticism against the Frenchman, while national team coach Raymond Domenech and Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger defended him.^{[69][70]} The Football Association of Ireland lodged a formal complaint with FIFA, seeking a replay of the game, which FIFA declined.^[71] Henry said that he contemplated retiring from international football after the reactions to the incident,^[72] but maintained that he was not a "cheat"; hours after FIFA had ruled out a replay, he stated that "the fairest solution would be to replay the game".^[73] FIFA President Sepp Blatter described the incident as "blatant unfair play" and announced an inquiry into how such incidents could be avoided in future, and added that the incident would be investigated by the Disciplinary Committee.^[74] Blatter also said Henry told him that his family had been threatened in the aftermath of the incident.^[75] In January 2010, FIFA announced that there was no legal basis to sanction Henry.^[76]

Henry did not feature in the starting line-up for France at the 2010 FIFA World Cup. France drew in their first game against Uruguay, and lost 2–0 in their second against Mexico. The team was thrown into disarray when Nicolas Anelka was expelled from the team, and captain Patrice Evra led a team protest by refusing to train.^[77] In the final group game against host-nation South Africa in which Henry came on as a second-half substitute, France lost 2–1 and were eliminated from the tournament. He then announced his retirement from international football, having won 123 caps and scored 51 goals for *Les Bleus*.^[78]

Style of play

Although Henry played up front as a striker during his youth,^[3] he spent his time at Monaco and Juventus playing on the wing. When Henry joined Arsenal in 1999, Wenger immediately changed this, switching Henry to his childhood position, often pairing him with Dutch veteran Dennis Bergkamp.^[8] During the 2004–05 season, Wenger switched Arsenal's formation to 4–5–1.^[79] This change forced Henry to adapt again to fit into the Arsenal team, and he played many games as a lone striker.^[8] Still, Henry remained Arsenal's main offensive threat, on many occasions conjuring spectacular goals. Wenger said of his fellow Frenchman: "Thierry Henry could take ball in the middle of park and score a goal that no one else in the world could score".^[80]

One of the reasons cited for Henry's impressive play up front is his ability to calmly score from one-on-ones.^[81] This, combined with his exceptional pace, means that he can get in behind defenders regularly enough to score.^{[3][82]} When up front, Henry is occasionally known to move out wide to the left wing position,^{[83][84]} something which enables him to contribute heavily in assists: between 2002–03 and 2004–05, the striker managed almost 50 assists in total and this was attributed to his unselfish play and creativity.^[23] Henry would also drift offside to fool the defence then run back inside before the ball is played and beat the offside trap, although he never provided Arsenal a distinct aerial threat.^[85] Given his versatility



Henry was the first-choice free kick taker for Arsenal

in being able to operate as both a winger and a striker, the Frenchman is not a prototypical "out-and-out striker", but he has emerged consistently as one of Europe's most prolific strikers.^[2] In set pieces, Henry was the first-choice penalty and free kick taker for Arsenal, having scored regularly from those positions.^[86]

Awards and honours

Club

Monaco

- Ligue 1 (1): 1996–97
- Trophée des champions (1): 1997

Arsenal

- Premier League (2): 2001–02, 2003–04
- FA Cup (3): 2002, 2003, 2005
- FA Community Shield (2): 2002, 2004

Barcelona

- La Liga (2): 2008–09, 2009–10
- Copa del Rey (1): 2008–09
- Supercopa de España (1): 2009
- UEFA Champions League (1): 2008–09
- UEFA Super Cup (1): 2009
- FIFA Club World Cup (1): 2009

New York Red Bulls

- MLS Eastern Conference (1): 2010

National

France

- FIFA World Cup
 - Winner:** France 1998
 - Runners-up:* Germany 2006
- UEFA European Football Championship
 - Winner:** Belgium & Netherlands 2000
- FIFA Confederations Cup
 - Winner:** France 2003
- King Hassan II International Cup Tournament
 - Winner:** Morocco 2000

Individual

Henry has received many plaudits and awards in his football career. He was runner-up for the 2003 and 2004 FIFA World Player of the Year awards;^[12] in those two seasons, he also won back-to-back PFA Players' Player of the Year titles.^[17] Henry is the only player ever to have won the FWA Footballer of the Year three times (2003, 2004, 2006),^[18] and the French Player of the Year on a record four occasions. Henry was voted into the Premier League Overseas Team of the Decade in the 10 Seasons Awards poll in 2003,^[87] and in 2004 he was named by football legend Pelé as one of the top 125 greatest living footballers.^[88]

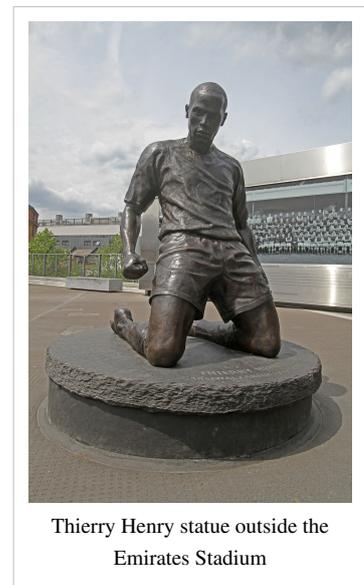


Henry won two Premier League titles and three FA Cups with Arsenal

In terms of goal-scoring awards, Henry was the European Golden Boot winner in 2004 and 2005 (sharing it with Villarreal's Diego Forlán in 2005) and is the first ever player to retain the award.^[20] Henry was also the top goal-scorer in the Premier League for a record four seasons (2002, 2004, 2005, 2006).^[1] In 2006, he became the first player to score more than 20 goals in the league for five consecutive seasons (2002 to 2006).^[89] Henry is currently third in the list of all-time Premier League goal-scorers, behind Alan Shearer and Andy Cole. Given his accomplishments, France's all-time goal-scorer was in his prime regarded by many coaches, footballers and pundits as one of the best footballers in the world.^{[14][90][91][92]} In November 2007, he was ranked 33rd on the Association of Football Statisticians' compendium for "Greatest Ever Footballers".^[93] Arsenal fans honoured their former player in 2008, declaring Henry the greatest Arsenal player.^[37] In two other 2008 surveys, Henry emerged as the favourite Premier League player of all time among 32,000 people surveyed in the Barclays 2008 Global Fan Report.^{[94][95]} In 2009, Henry was voted the best Premier League player of the 2000s.^[96] On 10 December 2011, Arsenal unveiled a bronze statue of Henry at the Emirates Stadium as part of its 125th anniversary celebrations.^[97]

A summary of Henry's individual awards is as follows:

- UNFP Ligue 1 Young Player of the Year (1): 1996–97
- PFA Players' Player of the Year (2): 2002–03, 2003–04
- PFA Team of the Year (6): 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06
- FWA Footballer of the Year (3): 2002–03, 2003–04, 2005–06
- Premier League Golden Boot (4): 2001–02, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06.
- Golden Boot Landmark Award 10 (1): 2004–05
- Golden Boot Landmark Award 20 (1): 2004–05
- Premier League Player of the Month (4): April 2000, September 2002, January 2004, April 2004
- Goal of the Season (1): 2002–03
- UEFA Team of the Year (5): 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006
- MLS Best XI (2): 2011, 2012
- MLS Player of the Month (1): March 2012
- Onze d'Or (2): 2003, 2006
- European Golden Boot (2): 2003–04, 2004–05
- French Player of the Year (5): 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
- IFFHS World's Top Goal Scorer of the Year (1): 2003
- FIFA FIFPro World XI (1): 2006
- FIFA World Cup All-Star Team (1): Germany 2006
- FIFA Confederations Cup Golden Ball (1): France 2003
- FIFA Confederations Cup Golden Shoe (1): France 2003
- UEFA European Football Championship Team of the Tournament (1): 2000
- FIFA 100 : 2004
- Time 100 Heroes & Pioneers no.16 : 2007
- English Football Hall of Fame : 2008
- Premier League 10 Seasons Awards (1992–93 – 2001–02)
 - Overseas Team of the Decade
- Premier League 20 Seasons Awards
 - Fantasy Team (Panel choice)
 - Fantasy Team (Public choice)
- Légion d'Honneur : 1998



Thierry Henry statue outside the Emirates Stadium

Career statistics

Club

As of 27 October 2012^{[1][6][98][99]}

Club	Season	League			Cup ^[100]			Continental ^[101]			Total		
		Apps	Goals	Assists	Apps	Goals	Assists	Apps	Goals	Assists	Apps	Goals	Assists
Monaco	1994–95	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	1
	1995–96	18	3	5	3	0	1	1	0	0	22	3	6
	1996–97	36	9	8	3	0	1	9	1	4	48	10	13
	1997–98	30	4	9	5	0	2	9	7	1	44	11	12
	1998–99	13	1	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	19	1	5
	Total	105	20	26	12	0	4	24	8	7	141	28	37
Juventus	1998–99	16	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	19	3	2
	Total	16	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	19	3	2
Arsenal	1999–2000	31	17	9	5	1	0	11	8	2	47	26	11
	2000–01	35	17	3	4	1	0	14	4	0	53	22	3
	2001–02	33	24	5	5	1	2	11	7	0	49	32	7
	2002–03	37	24	23	6	1	0	12	7	1	55	32	24
	2003–04	37	30	9	4	4	2	10	5	3	51	39	14
	2004–05	32	25	15	2	0	1	8	5	1	42	30	17
	2005–06	32	27	7	2	1	0	11	5	2	45	33	9
	2006–07	17	10	6	3	1	1	7	1	0	27	12	7
	Total	254	174	77	31	10	6	84	42	9	369	226	92
Barcelona	2007–08	30	12	9	7	4	0	10	3	2	47	19	11
	2008–09	29	19	8	1	1	0	12	6	4	42	26	12
	2009–10	21	4	2	3	0	0	8	0	1	32	4	3
	Total	80	35	19	11	5	0	30	9	7	121	49	26
New York Red Bulls	2010	11	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	3
	2011	26	14	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	29	15	5
	2012	25	15	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	15	12
	Total	62	31	19	4	1	1	0	0	0	66	32	20
Arsenal (loan)	2011–12	4	1 ¹	1 ¹	2	1	0	1	0	0	7	2 ¹	0
	Total	258	175¹	78	33	11	6	85	42	9	378	228¹	93
Career total		521	264¹	145	63	17	11	139	59	23	725	340¹	178

¹Henry originally had two Premier League goals accredited to his name, but the seventh goal in Arsenal's 7–1 win over Blackburn Rovers was given as an own goal to Scott Dann. This takes his club figure down to 228 goals, and his overall figure down to 332 goals.^[102]

International

As of 23 December 2011.^{[103][104][105][106]}

National team	Season	Apps	Goals
France U20	1996–97	5	3
Total		5	3
France	1997	1	0
	1998	10	2
	1999	0	0
	2000	14 ^[A]	6
	2001	7	3
	2002	10	3
	2003	14	11
	2004	13	3
	2005	6	3
	2006	16	8
	2007	6	5
	2008	11	4
	2009	9	3
	2010	6	0
Total		123	51

Note

^A Includes one appearance from the match against FIFA XI on 16 August 2000 which FIFA and the French Football Federation count as an official friendly match.^[107]

International goals

Under–20

Scores and results list France U–20's goal tally first.

#	Date	Venue	Opponent	Score	Result	Competition
1.	19 June 1997	Sarawak Stadium, Kuching	 South Korea	1–0	4–2	1997 World Youth Championship
2.				3–0		
3.	22 June 1997	Sarawak Stadium, Kuching	 South Africa	3–1	4–2	1997 World Youth Championship

Senior team

Scores and results list France's goal tally first.

#	Date	Venue	Opponent	Score	Result	Competition
1.	12 June 1998	Stade Vélodrome, Marseille	 South Africa	3–0	3–0	1998 FIFA World Cup
2.	18 June 1998	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Saudi Arabia	1–0	4–0	1998 FIFA World Cup
3.				3–0		
4.	29 March 2000	Hampden Park, Glasgow	 Scotland	1–0	2–0	Friendly
5.	6 June 2000	Stade Mohamed V, Casablanca	 Morocco	1–0	5–1	Friendly
6.	11 June 2000	Jan Breydel Stadium, Bruges	 Denmark	2–0	3–0	UEFA Euro 2000
7.	16 June 2000	Jan Breydel Stadium, Bruges	 Czech Republic	1–0	2–1	UEFA Euro 2000
8.	28 June 2000	King Baudouin Stadium, Brussels	 Portugal	1–1	2–1	UEFA Euro 2000
9.	24 March 2001	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Japan	2–0	5–0	Friendly
10.	25 April 2001	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Portugal	3–0	4–0	Friendly
11.	6 October 2001	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Algeria	3–0	4–1	Friendly
12.	27 March 2002	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Scotland	3–0	5–0	Friendly
13.	16 October 2002	Ta' Qali National Stadium, Valletta	*  Malta	1–0	4–0	UEFA Euro 2004 qualifier
14.				2–0		
15.	29 March 2003	Stade Félix-Bollaert, Lens	*  Malta	2–0	6–0	Friendly
16.				3–0		
17.	30 April 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Egypt	1–0	5–0	Friendly
18.				2–0		
19.	18 June 2003	Stade de Gerland, Lyon	 Colombia	1–0	1–0	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup
20.	22 June 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 New Zealand	2–0	5–0	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup
21.	26 June 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Turkey	1–0	3–2	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup
22.	29 June 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Cameroon	1–0	1–0	2003 FIFA Confederations Cup
23.	6 September 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Cyprus	4–0	5–0	UEFA Euro 2004 qualifier
24.	11 October 2003	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Israel	1–0	3–0	UEFA Euro 2004 qualifier
25.	15 November 2003	Veltins-Arena, Gelsenkirchen	 Germany	1–0	3–0	Friendly
26.	21 June 2004	Estádio Cidade de Coimbra, Coimbra	 Switzerland	2–1	3–1	UEFA Euro 2004
27.				3–1		
28.	13 October 2004	GSP Stadium, Nicosia	 Cyprus	2–0	2–0	2006 FIFA World Cup qualifier
29.	17 August 2005	Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier	 Côte d'Ivoire	3–0	3–0	Friendly
30.	7 September 2005	Lansdowne Road, Dublin	 Republic of Ireland	1–0	1–0	2006 FIFA World Cup qualifier
31.	9 November 2005	Stade d'Honneur de Dillon, Fort-de-France	 Costa Rica	3–2	3–2	Friendly
32.	31 May 2006	Stade Félix-Bollaert, Lens	 Denmark	1–0	2–0	Friendly
33.	7 June 2006	Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, Saint-Étienne	 China PR	3–1	3–1	Friendly
34.	18 June 2006	Zentralstadion, Leipzig	 South Korea	1–0	1–1	2006 FIFA World Cup
35.	23 June 2006	FIFA WM Stadion Köln, Cologne	 Togo	2–0	2–0	2006 FIFA World Cup
36.	1 July 2006	FIFA WM-Stadion Frankfurt, Frankfurt	 Brazil	1–0	1–0	2006 FIFA World Cup
37.	6 September 2006	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Italy	2–0	3–1	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifier
38.	11 October 2006	Stade Auguste Bonal, Montbéliard	 Faroe Islands	2–0	5–0	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifier

39.	15 November 2006	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Greece	1–0	1–0	Friendly
40.	22 August 2007	Štadión Antona Malatinského, Trnava	 Slovakia	1–0	1–0	Friendly
41.	13 October 2007	Tórsvøllur, Tórshavn	 Faroe Islands	2–0	6–0	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifier
42.	17 October 2007	Stade de la Beaujoire, Nantes	 Lithuania	1–0	2–0	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifier
43.				2–0		
44.	21 November 2007	Olimpiysky National Sports Complex, Kiev	 Ukraine	1–1	2–2	UEFA Euro 2008 qualifier
45.	13 June 2008	Stade de Suisse, Bern	 Netherlands	1–2	1–4	UEFA Euro 2008
46.	10 September 2008	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Serbia	1–0	2–1	2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier
47.	14 October 2008	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Tunisia	1–1	3–1	Friendly
48.				2–1		
49.	5 September 2009	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Romania	1–0	1–1	2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier
50.	9 September 2009	Stadion FK Crvena Zvezda, Belgrade	 Serbia	1–1	1–1	2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier
51.	14 October 2009	Stade de France, Saint-Denis	 Austria	2–0	3–1	2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier

Career totals

Professional career totals				
Teams	Appearances	Goals	Assists	Goals per game
Clubs	702	328	169	0.46
National team	123	51	29	0.41
Total	825	379	198	0.46

Outside football

Personal and family life

Henry married English model Nicole Merry, real name Claire, on 5 July 2003.^[3] The ceremony was held at Highclere Castle, and on 27 May 2005 the couple celebrated the birth of their first child, T \acute{e} a.^[108] Henry dedicated his first goal since T \acute{e} a's birth to her by holding his fingers in a "T" shape and kissing them after scoring in a match against Newcastle United.^[109] When Henry was still at Arsenal, he also purchased a home in Hampstead, North London.^[3] However, shortly after his transfer to Barcelona, it was announced that Henry and his wife would divorce; the decree nisi was granted in September 2007.^[110] Their separation concluded in December 2008 when Henry paid Merry a divorce settlement close to her requested sum of £10 million.^[111] Henry is now dating Bosnian model Andrea Rajačić.^{[112][113]}

As a fan of the National Basketball Association (NBA), Henry is often seen with his friend Tony Parker at games when not playing football. Henry stated in an interview that he admires basketball, as it is similar to football in pace and excitement.^[114] Having made regular trips to the NBA Finals in the past, he went to watch Parker and the San Antonio Spurs in the 2007 NBA Finals;^[115] and in the 2001 NBA Finals, he went to Philadelphia to help with French television coverage of the Finals as well as to watch Allen Iverson, whom he named as one of his favourite players.^[114]

Social causes

UNICEF

Henry is a member of the UNICEF-FIFA squad, where together with other professional footballers he appeared in a series of TV spots seen by hundreds of millions of fans around the world during the 2002 and 2006 FIFA World Cups. In these spots, the players promote football as a game that must be played on behalf of children.^[55]

Stand Up Speak Up

Having been subjected to racism in the past, Henry is an active spokesperson against racism in football. The most prominent incident of racism against Henry was during a training session with the Spanish national team in 2004,^{[116][117]} when a Spanish TV crew caught coach Luis Aragonés referring to Henry as "black shit" to José Antonio Reyes, Henry's team mate at Arsenal.^[109] The incident caused an uproar in the British media, and there were calls for Aragonés to be sacked.^[118] Henry and Nike started the Stand Up Speak Up campaign against racism in football as a result of the incident.^[119] Subsequently, in 2007, *Time* featured him as one of the "Heroes & Pioneers" on "The Time 100" list.^[120]

Other work

Along with 45 other football players, Henry took part in FIFA's "Live for Love United" in 2002. The single was released in tandem with the 2002 FIFA World Cup and its proceeds went towards AIDS research. Henry also supports the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Cystic Fibrosis Trust.^[121]

Endorsements

In 2006, Henry was valued as the ninth most commercially marketable footballer in the world,^[122] as well as being the eighth richest Premier League player, with £21 million.^[123]

Renault

Henry featured in the Renault Clio advertisements in which he popularised the term *va-va-voom*, meaning "life" or "passion". His romantic interest in the commercial was his then-girlfriend, later his wife (now divorced), Claire Merry. "*Va-va-voom*" was subsequently added to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary.^[124]

Nike

In 2004, Henry signed with sportswear giant Nike. In one of the advertisements, Henry pits his wits against football stars such as Claude Makélélé, Edgar Davids and Freddie Ljungberg in locations such as his bedroom and living room. The advertisement was partly inspired by Henry himself, who revealed that he always has a football nearby, even at home.^[125] Henry was also featured in Nike's "Secret Tournament" advertisement along with 24 superstar football players including Ljungberg, Ronaldinho, and Francesco Totti. In tandem with the 2006 FIFA World Cup, Henry also featured in Nike's Joga Bonito campaign, Portuguese for "beautiful game".^[126]

Reebok

Henry's deal with Nike ended after the 2006 FIFA World Cup, when he signed a deal with Reebok to appear in their "I Am What I Am" campaign.^[127] As part of Reebok Entertainment's "Framed" series, Henry was the star of a half-hour episode that detailed the making of a commercial about Henry directed by Spanish actress Paz Vega.^[128]

Puma

In 2011 Henry switched to Puma boots,^[129] first wearing the brand in the 2011 MLS All Star game against Manchester United, before announcing a multi-year partnership for Puma to be his performance and lifestyle footwear and apparel sponsor. His first official game with Puma was in the Emirates Cup against former club Arsenal.

Gillette

In February 2007, Henry was named as one of the three ambassadors of Gillette's "Champions Program," which purported to feature three of the "best-known, most widely respected and successful athletes competing today" and also showcased Roger Federer and Tiger Woods in a series of television commercials.^[20] For reasons of recognition, Derek Jeter appears in Henry's place in the advertisements broadcast in North America.^[130] In reaction to the handball controversy following the France-Ireland 2010 FIFA World Cup qualifier, Gillette faced a boycott and accusations of doctoring French versions of their Champions poster, but subsequently released a statement backing Henry.^[131]

Pepsi

Henry was part of Pepsi's "Dare For More" campaign in 2005, alongside the likes of David Beckham and Ronaldinho.^[132]

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Arsenal Stadium

Arsenal Stadium	
Highbury - "The Home of Football" ^{[1][2]}	
	
Full name	Highbury
Location	Highbury, London, England
Coordinates	51°33′28″N 0°6′10″W﻿ / ﻿51.557778°N 0.102778°W﻿ / 51.557778; -0.102778
Opened	6 September 1913
Renovated	1932-1936, 1992-1993
Closed	7 May 2006
Demolished	2006; been redeveloped as housing
Owner	Arsenal Holdings plc
Operator	Arsenal
Construction cost	£125,000 (1913 original) £175,000 (1930s redevelopment) £22.5m (1990s redevelopment)
Architect	Archibald Leitch (1913 original) C. W. Ferrier and W. Binnie (1930s redevelopment) Populous (North Bank)
Capacity	38,419 (at closure), 73,000 (peak)
Field dimensions	109×73 yds / 100×67 m ^[3]
Tenants	
Arsenal F.C. (1913-2006)	

Arsenal Stadium was a football stadium in Highbury, North London, which was the home ground of Arsenal Football Club between 6 September 1913 and 7 May 2006. It was mainly known as **Highbury** due to its location and was given the affectionate nickname of "The Home of Football" by the club.^[1]

It was originally built in 1913 on the site of a local college's recreation ground and was significantly redeveloped twice. The first came in the 1930s, from which the Art Deco East and West Stands date; the second in the late 1980s and early 1990s following the Taylor Report, during which the terraces at both ends of the pitch were removed, making it all-seater with four stands. The resulting reduction in capacity and matchday revenue eventually led to Arsenal opting to build the Emirates Stadium nearby, to which they moved in 2006. Recently, Highbury has undergone redevelopment to turn it into a block of flats, with most of the stadium being demolished; parts of the East and West Stands remained to be incorporated into the new development due to their listed status.

The stadium also hosted international matches – both for England and in the 1948 Summer Olympics – and FA Cup semi-finals, as well as boxing, baseball and cricket matches.^[4] Its presence also led to the local London Underground station being renamed to Arsenal in 1932, making it the only station on the Underground network to be named after a football club.

In addition to its architecture, the stadium was known for its small but immaculate pitch^[5] and for the famous clock which was positioned in the southern side of the ground since its introduction in 1930.^[6]

History

The original stadium was built in 1913, when Woolwich Arsenal moved from the Manor Ground in Plumstead, South East London to Highbury, leasing the recreation fields of St John's College of Divinity for £20,000.^[7] The lease negotiation also agreed that no matches were to be played on "holy days" and that no "intoxicating liquor" would be sold at the stadium, these stipulations were dropped within a year.^[8] The stadium was hurriedly built over the summer of that year, and was designed by Archibald Leitch, architect of many other football grounds of that era. It featured a single stand on the eastern side and the other three sides had banked terracing. The new stadium cost £125,000.^[7] It opened whilst not fully complete, with Arsenal's first match of the 1913–14 season, a 2–1 Second Division win against Leicester Fosse on 6 September 1913. Leicester's Tommy Benfield scored the first goal at the new ground while George Jobey was the first Arsenal player to do so.^[9] Highbury hosted its first England match in 1920.

The Australian rugby league team suffered the first loss of their 1921–22 Kangaroo tour of Great Britain at Highbury to an English side 4 points to 5 before approximately 12,000 spectators.^[10]

Arsenal bought the stadium site outright in 1925, for £64,000.^[7]

No significant portion of Leitch's original stadium remains today following a series of bold redevelopments during the 1930s. The idea was to create a ground for London that could capture the grandeur of England's finest club stadium, Villa Park, home of The Aston Villa Football Club. The Highbury project was ambitious in its scale and reach, the first stand completed being the West Stand, designed by Claude Waterlow Ferrier and William Binnie in the Art Deco style which opened in 1932.^[7] On 5 November the same year the local Tube station was renamed from Gillespie Road to Arsenal. Leitch's main stand was demolished to make way for a new East Stand, matching the West, in 1936. The West Stand cost £45,000 while the East Stand went far over budget and ended up costing £130,000, mainly thanks to the expense of the facade.^[11] The North Bank terrace was given a roof and the southern terrace had a clock fitted to its front, giving it the name the Clock End.

During the 1948 Summer Olympics, the stadium hosted the football preliminaries. For the next 50 years, the stadium changed little, although during World War II the North Bank terrace was bombed and had to be rebuilt; the roof was not restored until 1956.^[12] Floodlights were fitted in 1951, with the first floodlit match being a friendly against Hapoel Tel Aviv on 19 September of that year.^[13] Undersoil heating was added in 1964. Unlike at many other grounds, Arsenal refused to install perimeter fencing, even at the height of hooliganism in the 1980s, a decision that saw it struck off the list of eligible FA Cup semi-final venues.^[14]



The façade of the East Stand, on Avenell Road, in 2005.



Sheffield Wednesday take on Arsenal at Highbury, 2000

The Clock End was remodelled in 1988/89 with the addition of a roof and executive boxes, before seating was fitted into the remaining standing area in 1993.^[15]

In the early 1990s, the Taylor report on the Hillsborough disaster was published, which recommended that football stadia become all-seater. The North Bank, which had become home of Arsenal's most passionate supporters, was demolished at the end of the 1991-92 season, and a new all-seater stand opened in its place the following year. During the work, a giant mural of fans was placed behind the goal at that end, to give the illusion that the players were kicking towards a crowd rather than a construction site. The mural initially attracted criticism for its absence of black fans, which was quickly rectified.^[16]

The old stand had received a fitting send off with a 5-1 defeat of Southampton, though the new stand had a less auspicious start, the first game being a surprise 0-3 defeat to Coventry City with all 3 goals coming from striker Micky Quinn. The first victory came 10 days later against Leeds United.^[17]

The Clock End was also redeveloped, with a roof and executive boxes fitted, in 1989 and seating installed four years later.

Structure

At the time of its closure, the stadium consisted of four separate all-seater stands; the pitch was aligned north-south, with the North Bank Stand (formerly the Laundry End) and South Stand (popularly known as the Clock End) at the ends. The East and West Stands ran alongside the pitch and are two of the few examples of British football stands designed in the Art Deco style. The East Stand incorporated the club's offices and was well known for its marble halls (though the floors were actually terrazzo) which are often cited in media depictions of the stadium,^[18] and the facade that faces onto Avenell Road. The stand is considered architecturally significant enough to have been designated a Grade II listed building.^[7]



Henry waiting to take a corner kick. The last ever game at Highbury in 2006



The Clock End, with executive boxes above, in 2005; since demolished.

The stadium's main entrances were on Gillespie Road, Avenell Road and Highbury Hill. When it closed, Highbury had a capacity of 38,419^[19] (approximately 12,500 in the North Bank, 11,000 in the West Stand, 9,000 in the East Stand and 6,000 in the Clock End), all seated, and had Jumbotron screens in the south-east and north-west corners. Before the Taylor Report and the era of all-seater stadiums in Britain, both the North Bank and Clock End consisted of terracing, and the stadium often saw crowds of up to 60,000 or more; its largest attendance was 73,295 on 9 March 1935 when Arsenal played Sunderland in the First Division; the game finished 0–0.^[20]

Arsenal Stadium was well known for its very small immaculately-kept pitch, which measured only 109×73 yards (100×67 metres).^[3] Arsenal's groundsmen, Steve Braddock and his successor Paul Burgess, have won the FA Premier League's Groundsman of the Year award several times.^[21]

Closure and redevelopment

The post-Taylor capacity of Highbury was limited to 38,419, while Arsenal's success during the 1990s and 2000s meant that virtually every home match was filled to near capacity.^[22] Restrictions, such as the East Stand's status as a listed building and the fact the stadium was surrounded on all sides by a residential area, made any future expansion of Highbury difficult and expensive.^[23] Eventually Arsenal decided to leave Highbury and construct a new stadium, the Emirates Stadium in nearby Ashburton Grove, which opened in July 2006. Arsenal's offices were moved to a new building, Highbury House, which was named in commemoration of the former stadium.^[24]

For their final season at Highbury (2005–06) Arsenal ran a series of promotions honouring the stadium's legacy. A commemorative logo was designed featuring the club's traditional Art Deco crest from the 1930s and the club's history at Highbury was celebrated through a series of themed matchdays. On the field, Arsenal temporarily set aside their traditional red shirts with white sleeves for the season and adopted a solid redcurrant shirt, the colour they wore during their first season at Highbury in 1913–14.

Arsenal's final game at the stadium was their FA Premier League match on 7 May 2006 against Wigan Athletic, the last game of the season. The team needed to better the result of neighbours Tottenham Hotspur in order to again secure qualification for the Champions League. Having been 2-1 behind, a hat trick by captain and all-time leading goal scorer Thierry Henry secured qualification, with Henry kneeling down to kiss the turf on scoring what proved to be the final goal seen at the stadium.^[25] The last goal scored in a regulation game at the stadium came in a Football Aid charity match when lifelong fan Alan Alger scored a penalty in the final minute of a fixture played on Thursday 8 June 2006 (exactly one month and one day after Henry's goal).^[26] After the stadium's closure, Arsenal held an auction to sell off many of the stadium's parts, including pieces of the pitch, the goalposts and former manager George Graham's desk.^[27] Sale of the stadium's seats had to be cancelled after it was found they contained trace amounts of the toxic metal cadmium.^[28]

As of 2010, Arsenal Stadium was redeveloped and converted into flats in a project known as "Highbury Square", a scheme that had 711 properties built on the site.^[29] The North Bank and Clock End stands were demolished and the famous clock was moved to the new stadium.^[30] The exteriors of the listed Art Deco East Stand and the matching West Stand were preserved and incorporated into the new developments, while the rest of the stands' structures were removed, and the pitch became a communal garden. In October 2005 the proposed flats went on sale; as of May 2006 all properties in the North, East and West Stands had been taken.^[31]

Arsenal's famous clock was moved from Highbury to the outer side of the new stadium, with a new larger version of the feature added inside the ground in August 2010. At the same time as the unveiling of the new clock, the south stands at the venue were also renamed *Clock End* inline with the same name previously used at Highbury.^{[32][33]}



The final part of the stadium left standing in 2007



Apartments in one of the converted Listed Stands

Other roles

As well as being home to Arsenal, it also hosted games as home stadium for England matches; 12 internationals were played at Highbury from 1920 to 1961, most of them being friendlies. These included both England's first full home international against opposition outside of Great Britain and Ireland (Belgium in 1923), and the "Battle of Highbury", England's 3–2 win over World Champions Italy in 1934, where a record seven Arsenal players started the match, the most players from a single club to play in an England fixture.^{[34][35]} Highbury was also used as a football venue for two matches in the 1948 London Olympics – a first-round match and a quarter-final.^[36] It was also provisionally named as one of London's two host stadiums for the 1966 FIFA World Cup (along with Wembley), but was eventually dropped with White City Stadium taking the role instead.^[37] By the time of Euro 96, the pitch had been ruled too small for international football and the stadium would have been ineligible.



A replica facade of the famous cannon made from polystyrene for the redevelopment

Highbury was the venue for twelve FA Cup semi-finals as a neutral ground, the first in 1929 and the last in 1997, although between 1984 and 1992 it was off the FA's list of approved venues, after Arsenal's refusal to install perimeter fencing following a pitch invasion by Everton fans during their semi-final against Southampton.^[14] It also hosted the London XI's home leg against Lausanne Sports in the 1955-58 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup semi-finals; London won 2-0 on the night and 3-2 on aggregate.^[38] Clapton Orient also played a single home game at Highbury in 1930 while their own ground, Lea Bridge Road, underwent development work to meet League standards.

Arsenal did not always play their home matches at Highbury in the 93 years they were based there. During the Second World War the stadium was used as an ARP station and was bombed; Arsenal played their matches at White Hart Lane, home of North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur, until Highbury re-opened in 1946. More recently, Arsenal's home UEFA Champions League matches in the 1998–99 and 1999–00 seasons were played at Wembley Stadium, as Highbury's already limited capacity had to be reduced to accommodate advertising hoardings.^[39] Arsenal's record at Wembley (P6 W2 D1 L3) was relatively poor, and after two seasons the club switched back to playing at Highbury, not least because since Wembley closed for rebuilding in October 2000, it would not have been able to host their 2000–01 campaign.

Highbury has also hosted several cricket games and also baseball matches involving American servicemen between 1916 and 1919.^[40] It was the venue for the 1966 World Heavyweight boxing title bout between Henry Cooper and Muhammad Ali, which Ali won.^[41] It has featured on the silver screen as well, having been the backdrop for at least two movies: *The Arsenal Stadium Mystery*, and *Fever Pitch*.^{[42][43]}

Record scorelines

Arsenal's biggest win at Highbury was came on 9 January 1932, with a 11-1 defeat of Darwen in the FA Cup. Their biggest defeats were 0-5 losses to Huddersfield Town in the First Division on 14 February 1925 and against Chelsea in the League Cup on 11 November 1998.^[44]

Final record of results

Arsenal

Arsenal's complete competitive record at Highbury is as follows:^[45]

Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Win %
League ^[46]	1689	981	412	296	3372	1692	58%
FA Cup ^[47]	142	92	32	18	305	123	65%
League Cup	98	69	14	15	195	74	70%
Europe ^[48]	76	50	17	9	153	60	66%
Charity Shield	5	4	0	1	13	6	80%
Total	2010	1196	475	339	4038	1955	60%

England

England's record at Highbury is as follows:^[49]

Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Win %
World Cup Qualifiers	1	1	0	0	4	1	100%
British Home Championship	1	0	0	1	1	2	0%
Friendly matches ^[50]	10	8	2	0	42	12	80%
Total	12	9	2	1	47	15	75%

FA Cup semi-finals

FA Cup semi-finals held at Highbury are listed below. Arsenal never played a semi-final at their own stadium. Teams in bold went on to win the competition that year

#	Date	Winner	Score	Loser
1	1929	Portsmouth	1–0	Aston Villa
2	1937	Preston North End	4–1	West Bromwich Albion
3	1939	Portsmouth	2–1	Huddersfield Town
4	1949	Leicester City	3–1	Portsmouth
5	1958	Manchester United	5–3	Fulham
6	1978	Ipswich Town	3–1	West Bromwich Albion
7	1981	Tottenham Hotspur	3–0	Wolverhampton Wanderers
8	1982	Queens Park Rangers	1–0	West Bromwich Albion
9	1983	Brighton & Hove Albion	2–1	Sheffield Wednesday

10	1984	Everton	1–0 aet	Southampton
11	1992	Liverpool	1–1	Portsmouth
12	1997	Chelsea	3–0	Wimbledon

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External links

- Highbury - The Final Salute (<http://www.arsenal.com/news/news-archive/highbury-final-salute>) Official tribute on Arsenal.com
- Highbury Square (<http://www.highburysquare.com/>) Official website of the redevelopment project
- Arsenal Stadium (<http://members.lycos.co.uk/keke/arsenalstad1.htm>) History and photos at Keke's Stadium Mania

- Highbury (<http://www.stadiumguide.com/highbury.htm>) Photos at The Stadium Guide
- Expanded Polystyrene (<http://www.shop4poly.co.uk/>) Creators of the new arsenal cannon motif situated at the new development

Arsène Wenger

Arsène Wenger

			
Personal information			
Date of birth	22 October 1949		
Place of birth	Strasbourg, France		
Height	6 ft 3 in (1.91 m) ^[1]		
Playing position	Uncertain ^[2]		
Club information			
Current club	Arsenal (manager)		
Youth career			
1963–1969	FC Duttlenheim		
Senior career*			
Years	Team	Apps [†]	(Gls) [†]
1969–1973	Mutzig		
1973–1975	Mulhouse	56	(4)
1975–1978	ASPV Strasbourg		
1978–1981	RC Strasbourg	11	(0)
Total		67	(4)
Teams managed			
1984–1987	Nancy-Lorraine		
1987–1994	Monaco		
1995–1996	Nagoya Grampus Eight		
1996–	Arsenal		
* Senior club appearances and goals counted for the domestic league only.			
† Appearances (Goals).			

Arsène Wenger, OBE (French pronunciation: [aʁsɛn vɛŋ(ɡ)ɛʁ]; born 22 October 1949) is the manager of English Premier League side Arsenal. He is the club's longest serving manager and most successful, winning 11 individual honours since 1996. Journalists give Wenger credit for revolutionising football in England in the late 1990s, primarily through the introduction of changes in the training and diet of players, while attempting to implement a philosophy that football ought to be entertaining on the pitch.

Wenger was born in Strasbourg, France and subsequently raised in Duttlenheim. He was introduced to football by his father, the manager of the local village team. After a modest playing career, making appearances for several amateur clubs, Wenger obtained a manager's diploma in 1981. His subsequent managerial career brought him greater triumph and recognition than he achieved as a player. Following an unsuccessful period at Nancy which culminated in his dismissal in 1987, Wenger won the league championship with Monaco in 1988. In 1991, he guided the club to victory in the Coupe de France, but failure to regain the domestic championship in later seasons led to Wenger departing Monaco by mutual consent in September 1994. He briefly coached Japanese J. League side Nagoya Grampus Eight, winning the Emperor's Cup and the Japanese Super Cup.

In 1996, Wenger was named manager of Arsenal and two years later, in 1998, became the first manager born outside Britain to win the league and FA Cup double. He led the club to appearances in the 2000 UEFA Cup Final and 2001 FA Cup Final, before replicating the double achievement in 2002. Arsenal retained the FA Cup in 2003 and a year later regained the league, becoming the first club since Preston North End, 115 years previously, to go through an entire league season undefeated. The team later eclipsed Nottingham Forest's sequence of 42 league matches unbeaten and went seven more matches before defeat in October 2004. Arsenal made their first appearance in a Champions League final in 2006, having gone 10 consecutive games without conceding a goal. In 2012, the club qualified for a fifteenth successive season of Champions League football, after making their worst start to a season for 58 years. During his tenure, Arsenal moved to a new training centre and after 93 years at Highbury, in August 2006, relocated to the Emirates Stadium.

The nickname "Le Professeur" is used by fans and the British media today, to reflect his studious demeanour. Wenger's approach to the game emphasises an attacking mentality. His Arsenal teams are often criticised for their indiscipline; his players received 80 red cards between September 1996 and October 2010, though the team has also won awards for sporting fair play. At Monaco, Wenger earned a reputation for spotting young talent and has retained a focus on developing a youth system, where his clubs develop young players instead of buying expensive, experienced ones. He has faced criticism for sticking closely to his principles, with some commentators questioning his ambition to win trophies.

Early life and playing career

Wenger was born on 22 October 1949 in Strasbourg, Alsace, to Alphonse and Louise Wenger. He was raised in the village of Duttlenheim, 13 miles south west of his birthplace, along with his older sister and brother.^[3] Alphonse, like many Alsatians, was conscripted into the German army by *incorpore de force* (recruitment by force) following the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine during the Second World War.^{[4][5]} He was sent to fight on the Eastern Front at the age of 24, four years before Wenger was born.^[5]

In spite of his nationality, Wenger did not speak French until the age of seven, instead expressing himself in the local Alsatian dialect of Low Alemannic German.^[6] The family owned an automobile spare-parts business, as well as a bistro titled *La Croix d'Or*.^[3] Wenger regarded his childhood as "like being brought up in a kibbutz" because everyone looked after the children in the village.^[6] Reflecting on his upbringing in an address to the League Managers Association in 2009, Wenger said:

There is no better psychological education than growing up in a pub because when you are five or six years old, you meet all different people and hear how cruel they can be to each other. From an early age you get a practical, psychological education to get into the minds of people. It is not often that a boy of five or six is always living with adults in a little village. I learned about tactics and selection from the people talking about

football in the pub – who plays on the left wing and who should be in the team.^[7]

According to his father, the manager of the village team, Wenger was introduced to football, "at about the age of six."^[8] He was taken to games in Germany, where he held an affection for Borussia Mönchengladbach.^[9] Alsace was an area steeped in religion, so Wenger and the village boys often needed to seek permission from the Catholic priest to miss vespers (evening prayers), in order to play football.^[10] Because the population of Duttlenheim was small, fielding a team of 11 players of equal ages proved difficult: Wenger did not play team football until the age of 12.^[11]

For much of his youth, Wenger spent time playing football and organising matches for the village team, FC Duttlenheim.^[11] He reached the first team aged 16 and was subsequently recruited to nearby third division club Mutzig. The club was famed for playing the "best amateur football" in Alsace, managed by Max Hild, who would later go on to become Wenger's mentor.^[3] Wenger's playing career was modest. It is unclear which position he played^[2] but he was described by Marcel Brandner, president of FC Duttlenheim as having "an ability to guard the ball ... he seemed to have a complete vision of the pitch and he certainly had an influence among his team-mates."^[5] He joined Mulhouse in 1973, where he spent time balancing studies at the *Faculté des sciences économiques et de gestion* (Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences) at the University of Strasbourg; he completed an economics degree^[12] in 1974.^[13] Wenger realised the importance and usefulness of speaking English in his studies and enrolled on a three-week language course at Cambridge.^[14] After two seasons at Mulhouse, during which time he made 56 league appearances, he rejoined Hild and signed for amateur club ASPV Strasbourg in 1975.^[11]

In 1978, Wenger joined RC Strasbourg and made his top-flight debut against Monaco.^[15] He only made 12 appearances for the team, including two as they won the Ligue 1 (then called Division 1) title in 1978–79, playing once in the UEFA Cup in the same season. In 1981, he obtained a manager's diploma and was appointed the coach of RC Strasbourg's youth team.^[16]

Managerial career

Nancy and Monaco: 1984–1994

Wenger joined Ligue 2 (then called Division 2) club AS Cannes as assistant manager in 1983. A year later, after being recommended by Aldo Platini (father of Michel Platini) he became manager of Nancy, who participated in Ligue 1.^[17] At the end of the 1984–85 season, his first as a manager, Nancy finished 11th in the league, four places higher than in the previous campaign. However, the club ended the 1985–86 season in 18th position and had to win a play-off match to avoid relegation.^[17] In Wenger's final season in charge, Nancy finished 19th and were relegated to Ligue 2.^[17] Aldo in later years defended the appointment of Wenger, stating "It wasn't [his] fault. He had no money to spend with us".^[17]

During his stay at Nancy, Wenger attracted the interest of fellow Ligue 1 club Monaco.^[17] In favour of taking up a challenge in the south, he offered his resignation prior to the start of the 1986–87 season, only to be turned down by Nancy president Jacques Rousselot.^[18] Following Nancy's relegation in 1987, Wenger was permitted to leave the club by mutual consent and join Monaco, succeeding manager Ştefan Kovács.^[17]

Wenger identified several players to build his desired team.^[18] Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Glenn Hoddle, granted a free transfer, and Patrick Battiston, out of contract at Bordeaux were signed.^[18] Striker Mark Hateley joined from Milan and was encouraged to hear his fellow Englishman Hoddle would be playing with him.^[19] Wenger won the league in his debut season at Monaco and finished six points ahead of runners-up Bordeaux.^[20] Despite scoring more goals in 1988–89 due to the purchase of Liberian striker George Weah, Monaco failed to retain the league and finished third behind Olympique de Marseille and Paris Saint-Germain.^[21] The club reached the final of the Coupe de France, the national knockout cup competition in the same season, but lost 4–3 to Marseille.^[22]

Monaco again finished third in 1989–90, with striker Ramón Díaz scoring 15 goals in his first season at the club.^{[23][24]} Wenger resolved to integrate more youth into the first team, signing 23-year old Yuri Djorkaeff from

RC Strasbourg and promoting Lilian Thuram and Emmanuel Petit from the reserve set up.^{[25][26]} Monaco ended the championship season as runners-up, but beat league winners Marseille in the Coupe de France final through a last minute goal from substitute Gérald Passi.^[22] In 1991–92, Wenger led Monaco to second place for the second successive season and lost the 1992 European Cup Winners' Cup Final 2–0 to Werder Bremen.^[27] Despite acquiring the services of German striker Jürgen Klinsmann, the club could not retain the championship and concluded the subsequent seasons in third and ninth positions.^{[28][29]} Monaco did reach the semi-finals of the Champions League in April 1994, but lost to eventual winners Milan.^[30] Wenger's reputation grew as a result of the run in Europe, and Bayern Munich in particular wanted him as their next manager.^[26] Monaco refused to let him leave and Wenger chose to stay, but a poor start to the 1994–95 season meant he was dismissed on 17 September 1994, with the team in 17th spot in the table.^[31] In 2001, Wenger said that the impact of bribery and corruption had influenced his decision to leave France, as Marseille, who had held Monaco off the top spot for several years, were found guilty in 1994 of match fixing.^[26]

Nagoya Grampus Eight: 1995–96

In January 1995, Wenger joined Japanese J. League team Nagoya Grampus Eight.^[32] He hired former Valenciennes manager Boro Primorac, whom he had befriended in 1993, as his assistant.^[33] Wenger fully supported the Bosnian manager when he gave evidence against Marseille over match fixing. Primorac remained Wenger's right-hand man in the following years and, as of 2012, still holds the position.^[34]

Wenger enjoyed a successful 18-month stint with the club, winning the national cup competition, the Emperor's Cup, in his first season and receiving the J. League Manager of the Year award in 1995, making him the first foreign manager to be given the accolade.^[35] In his final season, he took Nagoya Grampus from the bottom three to runners-up position in the league. This was the team's best showing until 2010, when Wenger's former protégé Dragan Stojković led the club to its first title, citing Wenger's positive influence and continued advice throughout the season.^[36]

Arsenal

1996–2003

In August 1996, Arsenal dismissed manager Bruce Rioch.^[37] Although bookmakers made former Barcelona player and manager Johan Cruyff the favourite to take over, Arsenal appointed Wenger on 30 September 1996.^[38] He officially assumed the position the following day.^[39] Wenger was a close friend of club vice-chairman David Dein, whom he first met during a match between Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers in 1988.^[40] Although previously touted as a technical director of The Football Association, Wenger was a relative unknown in English football; the *Evening Standard* greeted his appointment with the headline "Arsène Who?".^{[41][42]}

At first, I thought: What does this Frenchman know about football? He wears glasses and looks more like a schoolteacher. He's not going to be as good as George [Graham]. Does he even speak English properly?

Arsenal captain Tony Adams.^[43]

A month before formally taking charge of the team, Wenger advised the club to sign French midfielders Patrick Vieira and Rémi Garde.^[44] His first match was a 2–0 away victory over Blackburn Rovers on 12 October 1996, but he did have direct input in the team's defeat to Borussia Mönchengladbach in the UEFA Cup on 25 September 1996, suggesting "one or two changes" to caretaker manager and later assistant Pat Rice.^{[45][46]} Arsenal finished third in Wenger's first season, missing out on second place (occupied by Newcastle United), and hence Champions League qualification on goal difference – the tiebreaker used to determine the difference between the number of goals both clubs scored and conceded.^[47]

In his second season, Arsenal won the Premier League and FA Cup, completing the second league and cup double in the club's history.^[48] The team, written off by many journalists after losing 1–3 at home to Blackburn Rovers had

made up a 12-point deficit on Manchester United in the final nine weeks of the season, securing the league title with two games to spare.^[49] The success was built on an already stalwart defence, assembled by former manager George Graham, consisting of Tony Adams, Steve Bould, Nigel Winterburn, Lee Dixon and Martin Keown. The defenders contributed to a run of eight consecutive clean sheets between January and March 1998.^[50] Wenger regarded striker Dennis Bergkamp as the "catalyst" for their good form towards the end of the season.^[51] New signings, Petit as a partner for Vieira, winger Marc Overmars and teenage striker Nicolas Anelka also profited from the manager's attack-minded principles.^[52]

The following seasons were comparatively barren with a series of near misses. In 1998–99 the club failed to retain the league title, losing out to Manchester United by a single point on the final day of the season.^[53] United also eliminated Arsenal in a FA Cup semi-final replay, with the winning goal scored by Ryan Giggs; Wenger rued after the match that "it was not our night and we were unlucky".^[54] A year later, Arsenal lost the 2000 UEFA Cup Final to Galatasaray on penalties^[55] and in 2001, were beaten by Liverpool in the 2001 FA Cup Final, having dominated the majority of the match.^[56] During the trophy drought, Overmars and Petit left to join Barcelona and Wenger was linked to a coaching move there.^[57] Instead, he agreed a new four-year contract in July 2001, giving the Arsenal board assurances over his commitment to the club.^[58] Wenger made several signings in the summer, including the controversial arrival of defender Sol Campbell, on a free transfer, from local rivals Tottenham Hotspur^[59] and midfielder Giovanni van Bronckhorst from Rangers.^[60] Fredrik Ljungberg, Thierry Henry and Robert Pirès – brought in during preceding transfer windows, had now established themselves into the first team.^{[61][62]}



Wenger in training with Arsenal

Wenger achieved the double once more in the 2001–02 season.^[63] The crowning moment was the win against Manchester United at Old Trafford in the penultimate game of the season.^[63] Striker Sylvain Wiltord scored the winning goal to secure the club's 12th league championship and third double; four days earlier, Arsenal beat Chelsea 2–0 in the 2002 FA Cup Final.^[64] The team scored in every single league fixture and remained unbeaten away from home, winning thirteen and drawing five.^{[63][65]}

Arsenal extended their good form into the 2002–03 season, overhauling Nottingham Forest's top-flight record of 22 away league matches without defeat and surpassed Manchester United's Premier League total of 29 matches unbeaten.^[66] The team's impressive run led to Wenger declaring that it was possible for Arsenal to go the entire season unbeaten.^[67] Arsenal lost to Everton on 19 October 2002 – their first league defeat in over 10 months, but built an eight-point lead over challengers Manchester United by March 2003.^[68] In the final weeks of the season, Manchester United overhauled Arsenal, as the team drew against Bolton Wanderers after leading 2–0 and lost at home to Leeds United.^[68] Wenger was compensated with a 1–0 win over Southampton in the 2003 FA Cup Final, becoming the first manager since Keith Burkinshaw in 1982 to retain the trophy.^[69] He refuted suggestions that the season was a failure, by saying:

"Of course we want to win the league, but I think the most difficult thing for the club is to be consistent and we have been remarkably consistent. We lose the league to a team [Manchester United] who spends 50% more money every year – last year they bought a player for £30m pounds when they lost the championship. They will do the same next year and we [have] done miracles just to fight with them."^[70]

2003–present

In the 2003–04 season, Arsenal made history by winning the Premier League without a single defeat – an accomplishment last achieved by Preston North End 115 years ago, in the Football League.^[71] Wenger, who was derided for his suggestions that Arsenal could go unbeaten a year earlier, reflected that he was "a season too early".^[72] Arsenal's run of 49 league games unbeaten came to an end with a 2–0 defeat at Manchester United on 24 October 2004.^[73] The team enjoyed another relatively strong league campaign in 2004–05, but finished second to Chelsea, who ended the season 12 points in front.^[74] Consolation again came in the 2005 FA Cup Final; Arsenal defeated Manchester United on penalties, after a goalless final.^[75]

Arsenal endured two comparatively poor seasons in 2005–06 and 2006–07, finishing fourth in the Premier League on both occasions and outside of the top two for the first time under Wenger's tenure.^{[76][77]} The club reached their first Champions League final in May 2006, but ended the competition as runners-up, conceding twice in the final 15 minutes against Barcelona.^[78] In the summer of 2006, Arsenal relocated to the Emirates Stadium, which Wenger said was "vital" to the club's future, as it offered a bigger capacity than Highbury, thus generating more revenue to spend on players.^[79] The club contested the 2007 Football League Cup Final in February 2007, fielding a young team throughout the competition, who lost 2–1 against Chelsea.^[80]



Arsenal supporters hold up cards that spell out 'In Arsène We Trust' in May 2009.

The departure of Dein in April 2007 and club captain Henry two months later, led to uncertainty over Wenger's position as manager, prior to the 2007–08 season.^[81] In September 2007, Wenger signed a new three-year extension at Arsenal, insisting that he remained committed to "the club of my life".^[82] Arsenal made an impressive start in the league, losing once at the turn of the year and became the first team to reach 60 points in February 2008.^[83] A career threatening injury to striker Eduardo against Birmingham City on 23 February 2008 led to Wenger calling for a permanent football ban on tackler Martin Taylor, a comment he later retracted.^[84] A run of three consecutive draws in March for Arsenal allowed first Manchester United and subsequently Chelsea to overhaul Arsenal, who finished the season in third position.^[85]

Arsenal made a poor start to Wenger's twelfth season, having sold first-team players Mathieu Flamini, Gilberto Silva and Alexander Hleb.^[86] In spite of securing fourth position in the league and reaching the semi-finals of the Champions League and FA Cup, Wenger was subject to criticism from Arsenal fans. He praised the travelling fans, but alluded to a section of the home crowd of making him feel like a murderer.^[87] Arsenal finished third in the league in 2009–10 and were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Champions League by Barcelona.^[88] The performance of striker Lionel Messi in particular prompted Wenger to name him "the best player in world", likening the footballer to a PlayStation creation.^[88]

In August 2010, Wenger signed a further three-year contract to continue his managerial career at Arsenal.^[89] The club were on course for a quadruple trophy haul in 2010–11 before defeat to Birmingham City in the 2011 Football League Cup Final, when a mix-up between goalkeeper Wojciech Szczęsny and defender Laurent Koscielny allowed striker Obafemi Martins to score the winning goal.^[90] This was followed by a run of just two wins in 11 Premier League games, to take them from title contenders to a fourth place finish; they made exits in the FA Cup and the Champions League to Manchester United and Barcelona respectively.^{[91][92]} At the start of the 2011–12 season, Arsenal sold first team players Cesc Fàbregas and Samir Nasri.^[93] Suspensions and injuries left an understrength team to face Manchester United at Old Trafford on 29 August 2011, with the result ending 8–2, Arsenal's worst defeat for 115 years.^[94] Sir Alex Ferguson in his post-match comments defended Wenger from increasing criticism, as many lambasted the Frenchman for refusing to pay big money to bring established stars to the club.^[95] Defeat

against Tottenham Hotspur in October meant Arsenal made worst start to a season in 58 years, losing four of their opening seven matches.^[96] However, the team, on the final day of the season secured third position in the Premier League, thus qualifying for the Champions League for a fifteenth successive campaign.^[97] Striker Robin van Persie, who was appointed by Wenger as captain, scored 37 goals, in his first injury-free season for the club.^[98] He joined Manchester United in August 2012, with Wenger admitting the club purchased strikers Olivier Giroud and Lukas Podolski earlier to replace Van Persie.^[99]

Approach and philosophy

Wenger has been described by BBC Sport as a coach who "has spent his career building teams that combine the accumulation of silverware with a desire to entertain and attack",^[100] and by the *Daily Mail* as "a purist, dedicated to individual and collective technical quality".^[101] *The Times* notes that since the 2003–04 season, Wenger's approach to the game has placed an emphasis on attack.^[102] His style of play has been contrasted with the pragmatic approach of his rivals, but he has assembled teams to produce disciplined performances, markedly the 2005 FA Cup Final against Manchester United.^[103] Although Wenger for a number of years employed a 4–4–2 formation, he used 4–5–1 for Champions League matches in the 2005–06 season, often with a lone striker and packed midfield for security.^[104] From the 2009–10 season, Wenger instituted a fluid 4–3–3 formation at Arsenal, which benefited midfielder Fàbregas.^[105] The team have been criticised by journalist Jeff Powell for lacking a "killer touch",^[106] footballer Michael Ballack for being one-dimensional^[107] and former manager David Pleat for "want[ing] to score a 'nice' goal" as opposed to shooting.^[108]

Since Wenger rarely gives interviews unrelated to football, little is known of his personal feelings. Living in Japan helped him control his emotions and define his behaviour whilst managing: "Everybody there is controlled. They laugh at you if you show emotion."^[109] His demeanour, once mild-mannered and reflective of his nickname "Le Professeur",^[110] has altered in recent seasons, with frequent touchline antics that have drawn comparison to *Fawlty Towers* character Basil Fawlty.^[111]

Psychometric tests are used by Wenger, once every two years, to examine whether a player is mentally right for his squad.^[112] He encourages sportsmen to solve their own problems; when asked by a player with the ball for guidance on what to do next, Wenger shouted at him "Decide for yourself! Why don't you think it out?"^[113] Several players have rejuvenated their careers, under his guidance. Henry, his former protégé at Monaco, was developed from a winger into a striker, subsequently becoming Arsenal's all-time top goalscorer.^[114] He stood by captain Tony Adams, who publicly admitted to alcoholism in 1996.^[115] Dennis Bergkamp, who became a peripheral player in his final years at Arsenal, praised Wenger for getting the best out of him.^[116]

At Monaco, Wenger earned a reputation for unearthing young talent.^[117] He signed Liberian George Weah, who was later judged FIFA World Player of the Year, and Nigerian Victor Ikpeba, a future African Player of the Year.^[118] Weah, while receiving his award from FIFA president João Havelange and vice-president Lennart Johansson invited Wenger up to the stage, spontaneously giving his medal to the manager, as a token of his appreciation.^[119] Throughout his managerial career at Arsenal, Wenger has signed relatively unknown and inexperienced players such as Vieira, Fàbregas, Alex Song and Kolo Touré, helping them to become familiar names in European football.^{[120][121]} He continues to trust youth instead of purchasing experienced players, as a means of creating an



Wenger prior to the FA Cup fifth-round match between Manchester United and Arsenal in February 2008.

"identity" with Arsenal: "I felt it would be an interesting experiment to see players grow together with these qualities, and with a love for the club. It was an idealistic vision of the world of football."^[122] UEFA president Michel Platini and Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge have openly criticised the policy, with the latter disputing it was tantamount to child trafficking.^{[123][124]} Wenger refuted the analogy, by saying "Look at Santa Cruz at Blackburn. Ask him what age he came to Bayern Munich. Then you have an answer for Rummenigge".^[124]

In England, Wenger is known for stressing the importance of diet and nutrition in football.^[125] When arriving at Arsenal, he cited the culture of the country being at the root of the problem, saying "It's silly to work hard the whole week and then spoil it by not preparing properly before the game. As a coach you can influence the diet of your players. You can point out what is wrong."^[126] Dieticians were brought in at Arsenal to explain the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and Wenger acquired the help of Philippe Boixel, an osteopath for the France national team to work on realigning the players' bodies every month.^[127] Training sessions, "timed scientifically", lasted no more than 45 minutes.^[128] The innovations had a desirable effect on the team as it prolonged the careers of his defence.^[125]

The day I do not want to do it at the top level, I may become a director but even more I feel attracted by coaching the youth – in Africa or India or somewhere like that where nothing has happened until now.

Wenger speaking of his desire to return to grassroots football^[129]

Although Wenger has made some big-money signings for Arsenal, his net spending record on transfers is far superior to other leading Premier League clubs. A survey in 2007 found he was the only Premier League manager to have made a profit on transfers, and between 2004 and 2009, Wenger made an average profit of £4.4 million per season on transfers, far more than any other club.^{[130][131]} A notable example of his shrewdness in the transfer market was the purchase of Anelka from Paris Saint-Germain in 1997, for only £500,000^[132] and the player's subsequent sale to Real Madrid just two years later for £23.5 million.^[133] The transfer helped the club fund its new training centre at London Colney, which Wenger campaigned for.^{[134][135]} The Arsenal defence, which set a new record in 2006 after going 10 consecutive games without conceding a goal in the Champions League, cost the club approximately £6 million to assemble.^[136] Wenger's reluctance to spend more money on transfers is often cited as being the principal reason for Arsenal's failure to win trophies, since moving to the Emirates Stadium.^[137] The current youth system has not had its desired effects, with footballer Patrice Evra branding Arsenal a "football training centre", who are incapable of winning silverware.^[138] Wenger has argued that trophies are "one way to judge a club," pointing out that regular Champions League participation was itself worthy of praise.^[139] Commentators suggest that the departures of players such as Ashley Cole in 2006 were a sign that Arsenal was becoming a "feeder club" to bigger teams.^[140]

Wenger is an advocate of financial fair play in football.^[141] He has criticised the approach of other clubs—namely Chelsea, Manchester City and Real Madrid—for spending more than they take from revenue, something he refers to as "financial doping".^[142] The ongoing European sovereign debt crisis has coincided with Wenger forecasting that it will put football into "perspective", comments supported by the *Financial Times* writer Gideon Rachman.^[143]

Foreigners at Arsenal

Several English players have started their careers at Arsenal under Wenger, including Cole, David Bentley, Steve Sidwell, Jermaine Pennant and Matthew Upson, while young English talent such as Theo Walcott, Kieran Gibbs and Jack Wilshere are still building careers at the club.^{[144][145]} However, Wenger has often been criticised for fielding many foreign players. In a league match against Crystal Palace on 14 February 2005, Arsenal fielded a 16-man squad, that featured no British players for the first time in the club's history. This prompted PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor to express it would begin "a worrying pattern for English football".^[146] In March 2006, manager Alan Pardew commented that Arsenal's Champions League success was "not necessarily a triumph for British football".^[147] Wenger saw the issue of nationality as irrelevant and said, "When you represent a club, it's about values and qualities, not about passports".^[148]

Other pundits including Trevor Brooking, the director of football development at The Football Association, have defended Wenger. Brooking has stated that a lack of English players in "one of England's most successful clubs" was more of a reflection on England's limited talent pool rather than on Wenger, an opinion shared by youth team coach and ex-Liverpool player Craig Johnston.^{[149][150]}

Team indiscipline and fair play

Wenger's Arsenal sides were criticised for their indiscipline, receiving 80 red cards between September 1996 and October 2010.^[151] He has often tried to defend his players, involved in controversial incidents on the field, by saying that he has not seen the incident; this is an option Wenger says he resorts to when there is no "rational explanation" to defend him, and that he has the player's best interests in mind.^{[152][153]} However, in both 2004 and 2005, Arsenal topped the Premier League's Fair Play League tables for sporting behaviour and almost repeated the feat in 2006, finishing second.^{[154][155][156]} Their record as one of the most sporting clubs in the division continued up to 2009, featuring in the top four of the Fair Play table.^{[157][158]} Wenger's team again topped the fair play table for the 2009–10 season.^[159]

In February 1999, Wenger offered Sheffield United a replay of their FA Cup fifth round match immediately after the match had finished, due to the controversial circumstances in which it was won.^[160] Arsenal's winning goal, scored by Overmars, had resulted from Kanu failing to return the ball to the opposition after it had been kicked into touch to allow Sheffield United's Lee Morris to receive treatment for an injury.^[161] Arsenal went on to win the replayed match 2–1.^[162]

Relations with others

Wenger's relations with his fellow football managers and officials have not always been genial. In a joint-interview with *The Times* and *Daily Mail* in 2009, he explained that his discourtesy is mistaken for mistrust: "There are managers I respect, and I respect what they do, but you cannot be completely friendly and open".^[163] He is well known for his rivalry with Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson.^[164] Beginning in 1997, the dispute reached its culmination in the "Pizzagate" incident at Old Trafford in October 2004.^[165] After Manchester United ended Arsenal's 49 game unbeaten Premier League run, in acrimonious circumstances, a member of the Arsenal squad allegedly threw a pizza at the opposition in the tunnel.^[166] Wenger was fined £15,000, for calling United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy "a cheat" in a post-match television interview.^[167] Both managers have since agreed to tone down their words, in an attempt to defuse the rivalry.^[168]

During October and November 2005, Wenger became embroiled in a war of words with then Chelsea manager José Mourinho. Mourinho accused Wenger of having an "unprofessional obsession" with Chelsea, labeling Wenger a "rat" and "voyeur".^{[169][170]} Mourinho was quoted as saying, "He's worried about us, he's always talking about us – it's Chelsea, Chelsea, Chelsea, Chelsea".^[170] Wenger responded by pointing out he was only answering journalists' questions about Chelsea, and described Mourinho's attitude as "disrespectful".^[171] Mourinho later apologised, saying that he regretted the "voyeur" comment, and Wenger accepted the apology.^[172]

Wenger has directed his anger towards referees when decisions have not gone his team's way. In August 2000, he was charged with "alleged threatening behaviour and physical intimidation" towards fourth official Paul Taylor, after Arsenal's 1–0 defeat at Sunderland on the opening day of the 2000–01 season.^[173] A FA disciplinary commission found Wenger guilty, carrying a 12-match touchline ban and a fine of four weeks' salary.^[174] He successfully appealed the ban, but was reprimanded and fined £10,000 for his actions.^[175] Following the 2007 Football League Cup Final, he called a linesman a liar, for stating Emmanuel Adebayor aimed a punch at Chelsea's Frank Lampard.^[176] This led to an investigation by The FA, a fine of £2,500 and a warning.^[177] In March 2011, Wenger was charged with improper conduct by UEFA, over comments made to referee Massimo Busacca, after his team's defeat to Barcelona.^[178] He was fined €10,000 and suspended for one UEFA club competition match, later extended to a further two games, after he was found guilty over communicating with Arsenal's bench, while serving a

touchline ban against Udinese.^{[179][180]} A year later, Wenger was charged for post-match comments made about referee Damir Skomina, in Arsenal's defeat to Milan in the Champions League.^[181] He was fined £33,000 and handed a three-match touchline ban in the competition.^[181]

Plaudits and awards

At Arsenal, Wenger has enjoyed a great deal of support and backing from the club board of directors, who have demonstrated exceptional faith in the manager and his long-term vision.^[182] His arrival at the club prompted a change in the style of football – once derided as "Boring, boring Arsenal", for a lack of creativity, Arsenal are considered the "great entertainers" of English football,^[183] with pundit Alan Hansen describing the 2004 team as "quite simply the most fluid, devastating team the British Isles has seen."^[184] Wenger himself reflected that his "greatest legacy" at Arsenal would be the attacking football played.^[185] In spite of failing to win a trophy at the club since 2005, supporters regularly display banners affirming "Arsène knows" and "In Arsène we trust" during home matches.^{[186][187]} At the Arsenal valedictory campaign at Highbury throughout the 2005–06 season, supporters showed appreciation by holding a "Wenger Day" as one of various themed matchdays. It was held on his 56th birthday, on 22 October 2005, in a league match against Manchester City.^[188]



A bronze sculpture of Wenger, unveiled by Arsenal in 2007.

Dein described Wenger as the most important manager in the club's history: "Arsène's a miracle worker. He's revolutionised the club. He's turned players into world-class players. Since he has been here, we have seen football from another planet."^[189] Similar sentiments have been expressed by his fellow peers and former players, most notably from Alex Ferguson,^[190] Pep Guardiola,^[191] Patrick Vieira^[192] and Brian Clough, who described Wenger as a "top, top manager" after surpassing his Nottingham Forest side's record of 42 matches unbeaten.^[193] Former Watford manager Graham Taylor praised Wenger's contribution in English football: "It is that change of culture, the change of philosophy which I think was the most important ... I believe his biggest contribution to football is getting across the idea that players have to prepare right and look after themselves".^[194] American baseball general manager Billy Beane regards Wenger as an "idol" to him, lauding his transfer strategy.^[195]

Wenger was awarded France's highest decoration, the Légion d'Honneur, in 2002^[196] and in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 2003, he along with fellow Frenchman Gérard Houllier were awarded honorary OBEs for their services to football.^[197] In recognition of a decade at Arsenal, Wenger became the second foreign manager, after Italian-born Dario Gradi, to be inducted into the English Football Hall of Fame in 2006.^[198] Furthermore, a commissioned bronze bust of Wenger, similar to the earlier version of Herbert Chapman was unveiled as a tribute to him by the board of directors of Arsenal, at the club's annual general meeting on 18 October 2007.^[199] Wenger had an asteroid, 33179 Arsènewenger, named after him^[200] by the astronomer Ian P. Griffin, who states Arsenal as his favourite football club.^[201]

In January 2011, it was announced that Wenger was voted 'World Coach of the Decade' by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics.^[202] The organization aggregated the results from each year of the decade, and Wenger had narrowly beaten Ferguson and Mourinho for the honour.^[203]

Personal life

Wenger is married to former basketball player Annie Brosterhous, with whom he has one daughter, Léa (born 1997), and lives in Totteridge, London.^{[3][204]} He spends his leisure time predominantly studying football matches: "I watch games on most days," and holds an interest in politics and the arts.^[205] Away from managerial duties, he is a football consultant for French television station TF1, a position he has held since 2004.^[206] Wenger is a world brand ambassador for Nike Football^[207] and FIFA World Cup sponsor Castrol.^[208] As part of the latter's arrangement, he has conducted several training camps for international youth teams worldwide, providing input to the Castrol Performance Index, FIFA's official ratings system, used for gauging player ratings at official FIFA tournaments ever since the system's inception.^[209] Wenger is fluent in French, German and English and speaks Italian, Spanish and Japanese.^[210]

He has authored a book on football management exclusively for the Japanese market, *Shōsha no Spirit* (勝者のエスプリ *Shōsha no Esupuri*, lit. *The Spirit of Conquest* in English), published by Japan Broadcast Publishing (a subsidiary of NHK) in August 1997.^[211] The book highlights his managerial philosophy, ideals and values, as well as his thoughts on Japanese football and the game as a whole.^[3]

Statistics

Player

[212][213]

Season	Club	League	League		Cups		Europe		Total	
			Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
1969–70	Mutzig	CFA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1970–71		Division 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1971–72			–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1972–73			–	–	3	1	–	–	3	1
1973–74	Mulhouse	Division 2	25	2	–	–	–	–	25	2
1974–75			31	2	–	–	–	–	31	2
1975–76	Vauban	Bas-Rhin	–	–	3	1	–	–	3	1
1976–77		Division d'Honneur	–	–	5	0	–	–	5	0
1977–78		Division 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1978–79	Strasbourg	Division 1	2	0	–	–	1	0	3	0
1979–80			1	0	–	–	–	–	1	0
1980–81			8	0	1	0	–	–	9	0
Career total			67	4	12	2	1	0	80	6

Manager

As of 1 December 2012.^{[213][214]}

Team	From	To	Record				
			G	W	D ^[215]	L	Win %
Nancy-Lorraine	1984	1987	114	33	30	51	28.95
Monaco	1987	17 September 1994	266	130	53	83	48.87
Nagoya Grampus Eight	9 December 1994	30 September 1996	56	38	0	18	67.86
Arsenal	1 October 1996	<i>Present</i>	923	524	222	177	56.77
Total			1,359	725	305	329	53.35

Honours

Player

Strasbourg

- Ligue 1 (1): 1978–79

Manager

Monaco

- Ligue 1 (1): 1987–88
- Coupe de France (1): 1990–91

Nagoya Grampus

- Emperor's Cup (1): 1995
- J-League Super Cup (1): 1996

Arsenal

- FA Premier League (3): 1997–98, 2001–02, 2003–04
- FA Cup (4): 1997–98, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2004–05
- FA Community Shield (4): 1998, 1999, 2002, 2004

Individual

- French Manager of the Year: 2008
- J. League Manager of the Year: 1995
- Officer of the British Empire: 2003^[197]
- Onze d'Or Coach of The Year (4): 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004
- Premier League Manager of the Season (3):^[216] 1998, 2002, 2004
- LMA Manager of the Year (2): 2001–02, 2003–04^{[217][218]}
- BBC Sports Personality of the Year Coach Award (2): 2002, 2004^{[219][220]}
- Freedom of Islington: 2004^[221]
- FWA Tribute Award: 2005^[222]
- English Football Hall of Fame: 2006^[198]
- Premier League Manager of the Month (12):^[216] March 1998, April 1998, October 2000, April 2002, September 2002, August 2003, February 2004, August 2004, September 2007, December 2007, February 2011, February 2012
- World Coach of the Decade: 2001–2010^[202]

Notes

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External links

- Arsène Wenger management career stats (<http://www.soccerbase.com/managers2.sd?managerid=92>) at Soccerbase
- Arsène Wenger profile (<http://www.arsenal.com/first-team/coaching-staff/ars-ne-wenger>) at Arsenal.com

Emirates Stadium

Ashburton Grove	
	
Emirates Stadium	
Location	London
Coordinates	51°33′18″N 0°6′31″W
Broke ground	July 2003
Opened	22 July 2006
Owner	Arsenal F.C.
Surface	Desso GrassMaster
Construction cost	£ 390 million £ 470 million (entire project to date)
Architect	Populous (formerly HOK Sport) ^[1]
Structural engineer	Buro Happold
Services engineer	Buro Happold
Main contractors	Sir Robert McAlpine
Capacity	60,361 ^[2]
Executive suites	152
Field dimensions	105 × 68 metres
Tenants	
Arsenal Football Club (2006–)	

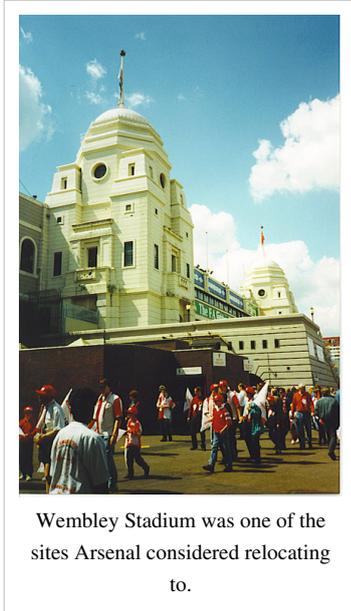
Ashburton Grove, known for sponsorship reasons as the **Emirates Stadium** or simply **The Emirates**, is an association football stadium located in Islington, North London, England. It is the current home of Arsenal Football Club. At a capacity of 60,361, the Emirates is the third-largest football stadium in England after Wembley and Old Trafford and fourth-largest in the United Kingdom.

In 1997, Arsenal started exploring the possibility of relocating to a new stadium, having been denied planning permission by Islington Council to expand its then home ground of Highbury. After considering various options, the club settled on purchasing an industrial and waste disposal estate in Ashburton Grove and submitted their planning brief to the public in 2000. In spite of opposition to the move by local residents and club shareholders, Arsenal succeeded in winning the council's approval to which manager Arsène Wenger later described as being the "biggest decision in Arsenal's history since the board opted to bring Herbert Chapman to the club in 1925."^[3] Estate relocation work began in August 2002 and commenced four months later. Financing for the stadium proved difficult, resulting in the club delaying work until February 2004. Emirates Airline was later announced as the main sponsor for the stadium in October 2004 and work reached completion in July 2006 at a cost of £390 million.

The stadium has undergone a process of 'Arsenalisation' beginning in August 2009, with the aim of restoring the club's heritage and history. The ground has frequently hosted music concerts and several international fixtures featuring the Brazil national football team.

History

Origin



In response to the Hillsborough disaster of April 1989, an inquiry led by Lord Taylor of Gosforth was launched into crowd safety at sports grounds. Finalised in January 1990, the Taylor Report recommended the capacity restriction of grounds by 15% with all terraces replaced by seating.^[4] Many football clubs – now faced with the requirement of making their grounds all-seater by the start of the 1994–95 season sought ways of raising income for converting terraced areas to new seated stands.^[5] Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein at the end of the 1990–91 season introduced a 'bond scheme', giving supporters a right to buy a season ticket in the newly built stand replacing the North Bank terrace at Highbury.^[5] At a price of between £1,000 to £1,500, the 150-year bond was criticised by supporters, who felt this potentially blocked the participation of those less well-off from supporting their club.^[6] A campaign directed by the Independent Arsenal Supporters' Association in retaliation, brought relative success as only a third of all bonds were sold.^[7]

The North Bank Stand, the last area of Highbury to be refurbished, was opened in August 1993 at a cost of £20 million.^[8] The stadium's capacity, however, was reduced significantly, from 57,000 at the beginning of the decade to under 40,000.^[9] With high ticket prices to serve the club's existing debts and low attendance figures, Arsenal explored the possibility of building a larger stadium to attract an ever growing fanbase and compete financially with the biggest clubs in England.^{[10][9]} By comparison Manchester United enjoyed a rise in gate receipts from £43.9 million in 1994 to £87.9 million in 1997 helped by the expansion of Old Trafford.^[11]

Arsenal's initial plan was to expand Highbury to 48,000 through rebuilding the West Stand and Clock End.^[12] The idea, met with outcry from local residents, became problematic as the East Stand of the stadium was granted Grade II listing in July 1997.^[13] After much consultation, the club eventually abandoned the plan, having decided the capacity would not be big enough and looked for other sites.^[14] In January 1998, Arsenal investigated the opportunity of relocating to Wembley Stadium and made an official bid two months later.^{[15][16]} By the end of the 1997–98 season, the bid was withdrawn and Wembley was purchased by the Football Association in July 1998.^[14] The stadium, however, played host to all of Arsenal's UEFA Champions League home ties during the 1998–99 and 1999–2000 seasons. Although the club fared poorly in the competition – eliminated twice from the group stages in successive seasons – Arsenal's record home attendance (73,707 against RC Lens in November 1998) was set and earned up to £1 million for each Wembley matchday, highlighting potential profitability.^[17]

Site chosen and conflict

Through the persuasion of estate agent and club property adviser Anthony Spencer, Arsenal examined the feasibility of building a new stadium in Ashburton Grove in November 1999.^[14] The land, 500 yards (460 m) from Highbury, comprised a rubbish processing plant and industrial estate, 80% owned by the Islington London Borough Council, Railtrack and Sainsbury's.^[18] The move therefore depended on the club buying out the existing occupants and financing for their relocation. After passing the first significant milestone at the council's planning committee, Arsenal submitted their planning application for a new 60,000 seater stadium in November 2000.^{[19][14]} This included a redevelopment project at Drayton Park, converting the existing ground Highbury as flats and building a new waste station in Lough Road.^[14] The scheme also involved the club creating 1,800 new jobs for the community and 2,300 new homes.^{[20][21]} Improvements to three train stations, Holloway Road, Drayton Park and Finsbury Park, were promised in order to cope with the matchday crowds.^[21]



A board displaying the acquisition of the Ashburton Grove site for the stadium development.

The move to Ashburton Grove was at first met with opposition by members of the Arsenal Independent Supporters' Association, who were concerned about environmental issues.^[19] The Islington Stadium Communities Alliance – an alliance of 16 groups representing local residents and businesses was set up in January 2000 to promote awareness against the redevelopment.^[22] Alison Carmichael, a spokeswoman for the group said of the move: "It may look like Arsenal are doing great things for the area, but in its detail the plan is awful. We blame the council; the football club just wants to expand to make more money."^[23] Seven months after the planning application was submitted in June 2001, a poll showed that 75% of respondents were against the scheme, with 2,133 residents objecting and 712 in support.^[23] By October 2001, the club asserted that a poll of Islington residents found that 70% were in favour.^[24]

To push for more support locally, the club planted the slogan 'Let Arsenal support Islington' around Highbury during matches against Aston Villa and Juventus in December 2001 and as a backdrop for manager Arsène Wenger's press conference in the lead up to Christmas.^{[25][26][27]} Islington Council approved Arsenal's plans on 10 December 2001 as 34 councillors voted in favour of the Ashburton Grove development with seven against and one abstention.^[28] 31 voted for the transfer of a waste recycling plant in Lough Road and eight against.^[28] The final vote was ratified by Mayor of London Ken Livingstone and Transport secretary Stephen Byers.^[29] Arsenal was given the all clear to start work in July 2002 after a High Court judge rejected a challenge by local residents and ISCA.^[30] The club succeeded in a further legal challenge by small firms in January 2005 as the High Court upheld a decision by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott to grant a compulsory purchase order in support of the scheme.^[31]

The stadium became a major issue in the local elections in May 2006. The Metropolitan Police demanded that supporters' coaches be parked in the nearby Sobel Sports Centre rather than in the underground car park, and restrictions on access to 14 streets be imposed on match days. The health and safety certificate would not be issued unless the stadium meets such conditions, without which the stadium could not open. The road closures were passed at a council meeting, but kept under review.^[32]

Finance and naming

Financing for the project proved difficult as Arsenal was not granted any public subsidy by the government. The club therefore sought other ways to generate income, namely by adopting a policy of buying football players for a low transfer fee and selling high as well as agreeing sponsorship deals. Arsenal recouped over £50 million from transfers involving Nicolas Anelka to Real Madrid and Marc Overmars, in a joint deal with Emmanuel Petit to Barcelona.^[33] The transfer of Anelka in particular helped fund the club's new training ground, Shenley Training Centre in London Colney, which opened in October 1999.^[34]

In September 2000, Granada Media Group purchased a five-percent stake in Arsenal at a price of £47 million.^[35] As part of the acquisition, Granada became the premier media agent for the football club, handling advertising, sponsorship, merchandising, publishing and licensing agreements.^[35] The company furthermore invested £20 million in a joint venture, AFC Broadband, to exploit the club's internet viewership.^[36] Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood said of the deal: "This partnership will assist us in meeting Arsenal's two strategic objectives. First, to build a world-class team and a new stadium with an increased capacity so that more of our fans can enjoy watching the team. Secondly, to develop the Arsenal brand on a global basis by extending our fanbase around the world."^[37] Managing Director Keith Edelman added that the investment would be used directly to fund for the new stadium.^[35] The collapse of ITV Digital – part-owned by Granada – in April 2002 coincided with company being tied in to pay £30 million once arrangements for the new stadium were finalised.^{[38][39]}



The Emirates Stadium sign

After announcing pre-tax loss of £22.3m for the financial year 2001–02, the club formulated plans to reduce their wage bills in order to continue with the stadium work.^[40] Investment bank NM Rothschild and Sons was appointed to examine the financial situation at the club and advise whether it was feasible for Arsenal to move on with construction at the end of March 2003.^[41] Although Arsenal secured a £260 million loan from a group of banks led by the Royal Bank of Scotland in April 2003, the club suspended work on Ashburton Grove citing in a statement, "We have experienced a number of delays in arrangements for our new stadium project in recent months across a range of issues. The impact of these delays is that we will now be unable to deliver a stadium opening for the start of the 2005–06 season."^{[38][42]} The cost of building the stadium, forecasted at £400 million, had risen by a £100 million during that period.^[43] To combat the financial difficulties, Arsenal throughout the summer of 2003 gave fans the opportunity to register their interest in a relaunched bond scheme via the club website.^[44] The club planned to issue 3,000 bonds for between £3,500 and £5,000 each for a season ticket at Highbury, then at Ashburton Grove.^[38] Arsenal supporters reacted with surprise to the reintroduction of the bond scheme with AISA chairman Steven Powell adding: "We are disappointed that the club has not consulted supporters before announcing a new bond scheme."^[45] Though they never stated how many bonds were sold, Arsenal did raise several million pounds through the scheme.^[38]

Sportswear provider Nike signed a contract extension with Arsenal in August 2003 to remain as the club's official kit supplier.^[46] This was presented as a solution to the stadium financing; in addition to paying £55 million over seven years, Nike paid a minimum of £1 million each year as a royalty fee, dependant on sales.^[47] On 23 February 2004, Arsenal Holdings plc – the club's parent company announced that funding for the stadium was now secured with construction work being able to resume.^[48] Wenger said of the announcement: "It has been a big target of mine to participate in pushing the club forward and relocating to a new stadium is a necessity as it will enable us to become one of the biggest clubs in the world."^[49] Interest on the £260 million debt was set at a commercial fixed rate over a 14-year period.^[49] To refinance the cost, the club planned to convert the money into a 30-year bond financed by banks.^[50] The proposed bond issue went ahead on 13 July 2006. Arsenal issued £210 million worth of 13.5-year bonds with a spread of 52 basis points over government bonds and £50 million of 7.1-year bonds with a spread of 22 basis points over LIBOR. It was the first publicly marketed, asset-backed bond issue by a European football club.^[51] The effective interest rate on these bonds is 5.14% and 5.97%, respectively, and are due to be paid back over a 25-year period; the move to bonds has reduced the club's annual debt service cost to approximately £20 million a year.^[52] In September 2010, Arsenal announced that the Highbury Square development – one of the main sources of income to reduce the stadium debt – was now debt free and making revenue.^[53]

On 5 October 2004, Emirates Airline signed a 15-year contract with Arsenal estimated at £100 million.^[54] Under the deal, the group secured naming rights to the stadium and shirt sponsorship when the club's deal with O2 expired at

the end of the 2005–06 season.^[54] The stadium name is often colloquially shortened from "Emirates Stadium" to "The Emirates", although some supporters continue to use the former name "Ashburton Grove" or even "The Grove" for the new stadium, especially those who object to the concept of corporate sponsorship of stadium names.^[55] Due to UEFA regulations on stadium sponsors, during European matches the stadium is not officially referred to as Emirates Stadium, as Emirates are not an official sponsor of the Champions League competition; other stadia, such as the Allianz Arena in Munich, have fallen foul of this rule before.^[56] UEFA refer to the stadium as Arsenal Stadium, which was the official name of the stadium at Highbury.^[57]

Construction and opening

Actual construction of the stadium began in February 2004. Arsenal appointed Sir Robert McAlpine in January 2002 to carry out building work and the stadium was designed by HOK Sport, who were the architects for Stadium Australia and the redevelopment of Ascot Racecourse.^[58] Construction consultants Arcadis and engineering firm Buro Happold were also involved in the process.^{[59][60]}

The first phase of demolition was completed in March 2004 and two months later stand piling on the West, East and North stands had been concluded.^[61] Two bridges over the Northern City railway line connecting the stadium with Drayton Park were also built; these were completed in August 2004.^[61] The stadium topped out in August 2005

and external glazing, power and water tank installation was completed by December 2005.^[61] The first seat in the new stadium was ceremonially installed on 13 March 2006 by Arsenal midfielder Abou Diaby.^[62] Like Highbury, DD GrassMaster was selected as the pitch installer with Hewitt Sportsturf contracted to design and construct the playing field.^[63] Floodlights were successfully tested for the first time on 25 June 2006, and a day later the goalposts were erected.^[64]

In order to obtain the licences the stadium needed to open, the stadium hosted three non-full capacity events. The first 'ramp-up' event was a shareholder open day on 18 July 2006, the second an open training session for 20,000 selected club members held two days later.^{[65][66]} The third event on 22 July 2006 was striker Dennis Bergkamp's testimonial match against Ajax.^[67]

The Emirates Stadium was officially opened by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 26 October 2006; it had been intended that Queen Elizabeth II would open the stadium as well, but she suffered a back injury and was unable to attend on the day.^[68] Prince Philip quipped with the crowd: "Well, you may not have my wife, but you've got the *second*-most experienced plaque unveiler in the world."^[69] The royal visit echoed the attendance of the Queen's uncle, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) at the official opening of Highbury's West Stand in 1932.^[70] As a result of the change of plan, Queen Elizabeth extended to the club the honour of inviting the chairman, manager and first team to join her at Buckingham Palace for afternoon tea on 15 February 2007 – the first club to be invited to the palace for such an event.^[71]



'Arsenalisation'

In August 2009, Arsenal began a programme of 'Arsenalisation' of the Emirates Stadium after listening to feedback from supporters in a forum.^[72] The intention was to turn the stadium into a "visible stronghold of all things Arsenal through a variety of artistic and creative means", led by club CEO Ivan Gazidis.^[73]

Among the first changes were white seats installed in the pattern of the club's trademark cannon, located in the lower level stands opposite the entrance tunnel.^[73] "The Spirit of Highbury" – a shrine depicting every player to have played for Arsenal during its 93 year residence – was erected in late 2009 outside the stadium at the south end.^[74] Eight large murals on the exterior of the stadium were installed, each depicting four Arsenal legends linking arms, such that the effect of the completed design is 32 legends in a huddle embracing the stadium.^[75]

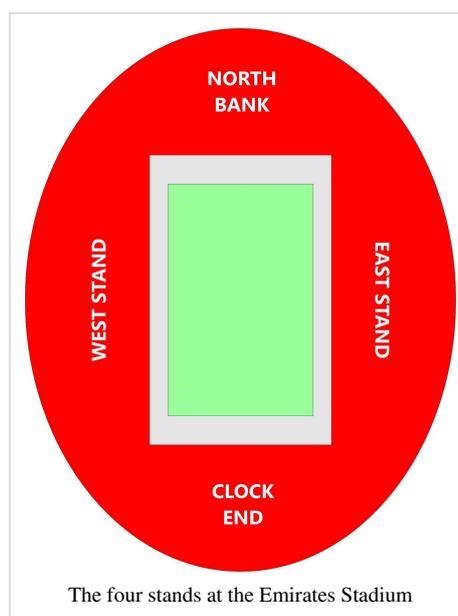


One of the murals installed on the stadium as a result of the Arsenalisation project.

Ian Wright	George Armstrong	David Jack	Martin Keown
Cliff Bastin	Tony Adams	Liam Brady	Thierry Henry
David Seaman	Ted Drake	David Rocastle	Alex James
Patrick Vieira	Reg Lewis	Lee Dixon	Joe Mercer
Dennis Bergkamp	Bob Wilson	Eddie Hapgood	Charlie George
Nigel Winterburn	David Danskin	Kenny Sansom	Jack Kelsey
Robert Pirès	John Radford	David O'Leary	George Male
Ray Parlour	Frank McLintock	Steve Bould	Pat Rice

Around the lower concourse of the stadium, further murals depicting 12 "greatest moments" in Arsenal history voted for by a poll on the club's website.^[73] Prior to the start of the 2010–11 season, Arsenal renamed the coloured seating quadrants of the ground as the East Stand, West Stand, North Bank, and Clock End.^[76] Akin to Highbury, this involved the installation of a clock above the newly renamed Clock End which was unveiled in a league match against Blackpool.^[77]

In April 2011, Arsenal renamed two bridges near the stadium in honour of club directors Ken Friar and Danny Fiszman.^[78] As part of the club's 125 anniversary celebrations in December 2011, Arsenal unveiled three statues of former captain Tony Adams, record goalscorer Thierry Henry and manager Herbert Chapman outside of the stadium.^[79]



Structure and facilities

The Emirates Stadium is a three-tiered bowl with translucent polycarbonate roofing over the stands but not over the pitch.^[80] The underside is clad with metallic panels and the roof is supported by four triangular trusses, made of welded tubular steel.^[80] Two trusses span 200 metres (660 ft) in a north–south direction while a further two span an east–west direction.^[80] The trusses are supported by the stadium's vertical concrete cores, eight of which connected to them by steel tripods. They in turn each house four stairways, a passenger lift as well as service access.^[80] Façades are either glazed or woven between the cores which allows visitors on the podium to see inside the stadium.^[80] The glass and steel construction was devised by HOK to give an impression that the stadium sparkles in sunlight and glows in the night.^[80]



An aerial view of the Emirates Stadium and surrounding area including Arsenal's former stadium Highbury, which has since been redeveloped into Highbury Square

The upper (26,646) and lower (24,425) parts of the stadium feature standard seating. The stadium has two levels below ground that house its support facilities such as commercial kitchens, changing rooms and press and education centres.^[80] The main middle tier, known as the "Club Level", is premium priced and also includes the director's box. There are 7,139 seats at this level, which are sold on licences lasting from one to four years. Immediately above the club tier there is a small circle consisting of 150 boxes of 10, 12 and 15 seats. The total number of spectators at this level is 2,222. The high demand for tickets, as well as the relative wealth of their London fans, means revenue from premium seating and corporate boxes is nearly as high as the revenue from the entire stadium at Highbury.^[81]



View of the Clock End Bridge with the ARSENAL statue lettering in the foreground and the Emirates Stadium in the background

The upper tier is contoured to leave open space in the corners of the ground, and the roof is significantly canted inwards. Both of these features are meant to provide as much airflow and sunlight to the pitch as possible.^[82] The stadium also gives an illusion that supporters in the upper tier on one side of the ground are unable to see supporters in the upper tier opposite.^[80] As part of a deal with Sony, the stadium was the first in the world to incorporate HDTV streaming.^[83] In the north-west and south-east corners of the stadium are two giant screens suspended from the roof.

The pitch is 105 by 68 metres (115 by 74 yd) in size and the total grass area at Emirates is 113 by 76 metres (124 by 83 yd).^[82] Like Highbury, it runs north–south, with the players' tunnel and the dugouts on the west side of the pitch underneath the main TV camera. The away fans are found in the south-east corner of the lower tier. The away supporter configuration can be expanded from 1,500 seats to 4,500 seats behind the south goal in the lower tier, and a further 4,500 seats can be made available also in the upper tier, bringing the total to 9,000 supporters (the regulation 15% required for domestic cup competitions such as the FA Cup and League Cup).^[84]

The Emirates Stadium pays tribute to Arsenal's former home, Highbury. The club's offices are officially called Highbury House, located north-east of Emirates Stadium, and house the bust of Herbert Chapman that used to reside at Highbury. Three other busts that used to reside at Highbury of Claude Ferrier (architect of Highbury's East stand), Denis Hill-Wood (Former Arsenal chairman and father of current chairman Peter Hill-Wood) and manager Arsène Wenger have also been moved to Emirates Stadium and are currently in display in the entrance of the Diamond Club.^[85] Additionally, the two bridges over the railway line to the east of the stadium, connecting the stadium to Drayton Park, are called the Clock End and North Bank bridges, after the stands at Highbury; the clock that gave its name to the old Clock End has been resited on the new clock end which features a newer, larger replica of the clock.

The Arsenal club museum, which was formerly held in the North Bank Stand, opened in October 2006 and is located to the north of the stadium, within the Northern Triangle building. It houses the marble statues that were once held in the marble halls of Highbury.^[86]



A panorama of players warming up from the East side

Other uses

As well as functioning as a football stadium, the Emirates Stadium also operates as a conference centre and music venue.^[87] On 27 March 2008, the Emirates Stadium played host to a summit between British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in part because the stadium was regarded as "a shining example of Anglo–French co-operation".^[88] Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band became the first act to play a concert at the stadium, on 30 May 2008 and played a second gig the following night.^[89] On 7 June 2009, the stadium held the inaugural Capital FM's Summertime Ball with artists including Lionel Richie, Leona Lewis and Blue.^[90] British band Coldplay played three concerts at the Emirates in the June 2012, having sold out the first two dates within 30 minutes of going on sale.^[91]

The Emirates had also been included in the English Football Association's unsuccessful bid to host the 2018 World Cup.^[92]

In September 2012 it was announced that the stadium would host American rock band Green Day for at least one night for their concert. It is expected for more dates to be announced in the forthcoming future.

International football matches

The stadium has also been used for a number of international friendly matches all of which have featured the Brazil national football team. The first match was against Argentina on 3 September 2006 which ended in a 3–0 victory for Brazil.^[93]

3 September 2006	Brazil 	3–0	 Argentina	London
16:00 BST	Elano  3', 67'	Report ^[94]		Stadium: Emirates Stadium ^[93]
	Kaká  89'			Attendance: 59,032
				Referee: Steve Bennett (England)

5 February 2007	Brazil 	0–2	 Portugal	London
20:00 GMT		Report ^[95]	Simão  82'	Stadium: Emirates Stadium ^[96]
			Carvalho  90'	Attendance: 59,793
				Referee: Martin Atkinson (England)

26 March 2008 **Brazil** 🇧🇷 **1–0** 🇸🇪 **Sweden** London

19:45 GMT Pato ⚽ 72' Report ^[97]

Stadium: Emirates Stadium ^[98]

Attendance: 60,021

Referee: Mike Riley (England)

9 February 2009 **Brazil** 🇧🇷 **2–0** 🇮🇹 **Italy** London

19:45 GMT Elano ⚽ 13' Report ^[99]
Robinho ⚽ 27'

Stadium: Emirates Stadium ^[100]

Attendance: 60,077

Referee: Howard Webb (England)

2 March 2010 **Brazil** 🇧🇷 **2–0** 🇮🇪 **Republic of Ireland** London

20:05 GMT Andrews ⚽ 44' (o.g.) Report ^[101]
Robinho ⚽ 76'

Stadium: Emirates Stadium ^[102]

Attendance: 40,082

Referee: Mike Dean (England)

27 March 2011 **Brazil** 🇧🇷 **2–0** 🇸🇬 **Scotland** London

14:00 GMT Neymar ⚽ 42', 77' (pen.) Report ^[103]

Stadium: Emirates Stadium ^[104]

Attendance: 53,087

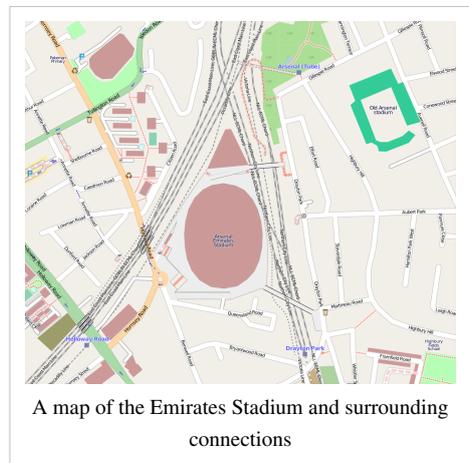
Referee: Howard Webb (England)

Records

The highest attendance for an Arsenal match at Emirates Stadium as of 2012 is 60,961, for a 2–2 draw with Manchester United on 3 November 2007.^[105] The average attendance for competitive first-team fixtures in the stadium's first season, 2006–07, was 59,837, with a Premier League average attendance of 60,045.^[106] The lowest attendance for an Arsenal match at Emirates Stadium as of 2012 is 46,539 against Shrewsbury Town in the Football League Cup third round on 20 September 2011, where Arsenal won 3–1.^[107]

Transport

The Emirates Stadium is served by a number of London Underground stations and bus routes. Arsenal tube station is the closest for the northern portion of the stadium, with Highbury & Islington tube station servicing the southern end.^[108] While Holloway Road tube station is the closest to the southern portion, it is entry-only before matches and exit-only afterwards to prevent overcrowding. Drayton Park station, adjacent to the Clock End Bridge is shut on matchdays as the rail services to this station do not operate at weekends nor after 10 pm.^[109] £7.6 million was set aside in the planning permission for upgrading Drayton Park and Holloway Road; however Transport for London decided not to upgrade either station, in favour of improvement works at the interchanges at Highbury & Islington and Finsbury Park, both of which are served by Underground and First Capital Connect services and are approximately a ten minute walk away.^[110]



Driving to the Emirates Stadium is strongly discouraged as there are strict matchday parking restrictions in operation around the stadium.^[108] An hour before kick-off to one hour after the final whistle there is a complete ban on vehicle movement on a number of the surrounding roads, except for Islington residents and businesses with a road closure access permit.^[111]

The stadium opens to ticket holders two hours before kick-off.^[112] The main club shop, named 'The Armoury', and ticket offices are located near the West Stand, with other an additional store at the base of the North Bank Bridge, named 'All Arsenal' and the 'Arsenal Store' next to Finsbury Park station.^[113] Arsenal operates an electronic ticketing system where members of 'The Arsenal' (the club's fan membership scheme) use their membership cards to enter the stadium, thus removing the need for turnstile operators. Non-members are issued with one-off paper tickets embedded with an RFID tag allowing them to enter the stadium.

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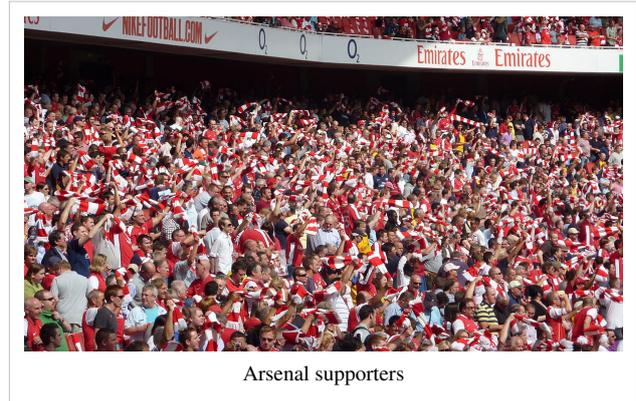
External links

- Official website (<http://www.arsenal.com/thestadium>)

Arsenal F.C. supporters

London based Arsenal Football Club have developed a strong following since their founding in 1886. Arsenal's fans are often referred to as **Gooners**, the name derived from the team's nickname, the "Gunners."

Many fanzines, blogs, podcasts and fans websites have been dedicated to the club and the fans have long-standing rivalries with several other clubs; the most notable of these is with neighbours Tottenham Hotspur, with whom they regularly contest the North London derby.



Arsenal supporters

The club and the fans have regularly featured in portrayals of football in British culture. Gunners come from far and wide, a 2005 report estimated Arsenal's global fanbase at 27 million, the third largest in the world.^[1] A new report, from September 2011, shows that Arsenal's estimated fanbase has reached 100 million supporters worldwide; still making them the third largest team regarding supporters.^[2]

Demographics

Arsenal's home matches have resulted in Arsenal having the second-highest average League attendance for an English club in 2007–08 (60,070, which was 99.5% of available capacity),^[3] and as of 2006, the fourth-highest all-time average attendance.^[4] Arsenal have the highest proportion (7.7%) of non-white attending supporters of any club in English football, according to a 2002 report.^[5]

There are supporters' clubs worldwide. A 2005 report by Granada Ventures, which at the time owned a 9.9% stake in the club, estimated Arsenal's global fanbase at 27 million, the third largest in the world.^[1]

Songs

In addition to the usual English football chants, Arsenal's supporters sing "One-Nil to the Arsenal" (to the tune of "Go West") and also regularly sing "Who's that team they call the Arsenal", "Good old Arsenal" (to the tune of "Rule Britannia") and "We're the North Bank/Clock End Highbury". The fans also chant "Boring, Boring Arsenal" in relation to Arsenal's sturdy defence and low-scoring wins (akin to "One-Nil to the Arsenal") that go back to the early 1970s.^[6]

Rivalries

Arsenal's longest-running and deepest rivalry is with their nearest major neighbours, Tottenham Hotspur, with matches between the two being referred to as North London derbies.

Matches against other London sides, such as Chelsea and West Ham United are also derbies, but the rivalry is not as intense as that between Arsenal and Tottenham. In addition, Arsenal and Manchester United have had a strong on-pitch rivalry since the late 1980s, which has intensified in recent years when both clubs have been competing for the Premier League title.^[7]

A 2003 online survey found that Arsenal supporters most dislike Tottenham Hotspur, followed by Manchester United and Chelsea, although both Chelsea and Spurs fans see Arsenal as their main rival.^[8]

Traditions

St. Totteringham's Day

Saint Totteringham's Day (sometimes also known as **Saint Totteridge's Day**) is a concept created by Arsenal fans, first published in 2002 on arseweb.com.^{[9][10]} It is held on the day when Arsenal have gathered enough points to be mathematically assured to finish ahead of Tottenham in the league table. In 2007 the concept was first mentioned (as St. Totteridge) in a 2008 Arsenal-Aston Villa official match programme^[11] although there are suggestions that it has existed since 2005.^[12] St. Totteringham's day 2010 was the first time the celebration was acknowledged by mainstream media, with mentions from the Sun, Mirror, Mail, Guardian and the BBC.^{[13][14][15][16][17]}

Season	Date	No. of games	Host Ground
1970–71	17 April 1971	37/(42)	
1971–72	8 May 1972	41/(42)	
1972–73	7 April 1973	37/(42)	
1973–74	11 May 1974	42/(42)	
1974/1975	26 April 1975	41/(42)	White Hart Lane
1975/1976	—	—	—
1976/1977	23 April 1977	37/(42)	
1977/1978	—	—	—
1978/1979	21 April 1979	38/(42)	
1979/1980	12 April 1980	36/(42)	
1980/1981	20 April 1981	40/(42)	
1981/1982	—	—	—
1982/1983	—	—	—
1983/1984	12 May 1984	40/(42)	
1984/1985	—	—	—

1985/1986	29 April 1986	40/(42)	
1986/1987	—	—	—
1987/1988	3 April 1988	33/(40)	
1988/1989	8 April 1989	32/(38)	
1989/1990	—	—	—
1990/1991	3 April 1991	31/(38)	
1991/1992	11 April 1992	38/(42)	
1992–93	—	—	—
1993–94	26 March 1994	34/(42)	
1994–95	—	—	—
1995–96	5 May 1996	38/(38)	
1996–97	5 April 1997	33/(38)	
1997–98	28 March 1998	29/(38)	
1998–99	6 April 1999	32/(38)	
1999–2000	16 April 2000	32/(38)	
2000–01	17 April 2001	33/(38)	
2001–02	18 March 2002	30/(38)	
2002–03	24 March 2003	31/(38)	Reebok Stadium
2003–04	13 March 2004	28/(38)	Ewood Park
2004–05	2 April 2005	31/(38)	Riverside Stadium
2005–06	7 May 2006	38/(38)	Highbury
2006–07	21 April 2007	35/(38)	White Hart Lane
2007–08	9 March 2008	29/(38)	JJB Stadium
2008–09	11 April 2009	32/(38)	JJB Stadium
2009–10	9 May 2010	38/(38)	Emirates Stadium
2010–11	7 May 2011	35/(38)	Britannia Stadium
2011–12	13 May 2012	38/(38)	The Hawthorns

Police and community relations

Arsenal supporters enjoy good relations with police forces around the country and especially the Metropolitan Police. The club and authorities work closely together to police fans, with both using their available powers where necessary.^[18]

However, Arsenal fans have had confrontations with the police, the most recent being over homophobic chants and materials directed at ex-Arsenal left-back Ashley Cole.^[19]

Notable supporters

Below is a list of people who are known Arsenal supporters:

British Royal Family

- Queen Elizabeth II ^{[20][21]} a
- Prince Harry ^[20]

Entertainment

Actors and actresses

- Saffron Burrows ^[22]
- Robert Pattinson ^{[23][24]}
- John Challis ^[25]
- Kevin Costner ^[26]
- Matt Damon ^[27]
- Rosario Dawson ^[28]
- Zac Efron ^[29]
- Idris Elba ^[30]
- Tom Ellis ^[31]
- Matthew Fox ^[32]
- Andrew Garfield ^[33]
- Martin Kemp ^[34]
- Gary Kemp ^[35]
- Skandar Keynes ^[36]
- Demi Moore ^[37]
- Alan Parker ^[38]
- Anna Popplewell ^[36]
- Freddie Prinze Jr. ^[39]
- Keanu Reeves ^[40]
- David Schwimmer ^[40]
- Barbara Windsor ^[41]
- Andy Serkis ^[42]
- Verne Troyer ^[43]

Music

- Natalie Appleton ^[40]
 - Nicole Appleton ^[40]
 - Bernard Butler ^[44]
 - Sean Combs ^[45]
 - Roger Daltrey ^[46]
 - Ray Davies ^[47]
 - Dave Davies ^[47]
 - Dido ^[48]
 - Steve Earle ^[49]
 - Tony Hadley ^[50]
 - Mick Jagger ^[51]
 - John Keeble ^[50]
-

- Rizzle Kicks^[52]
- John Lydon^[53]
- Chris Lowe^[54]
- Nerina Pallot^[44]
- Rachel Stevens^[40]
- Roger Waters^[55]
- Tim Wheeler^[56]
- Jay-Z^{[57][58]}

Television & radio personalities

- Robert Peston^[59]
- Dermot O'Leary^[60]
- Reggie Yates^[61]
- Dermot Murnaghan^[62]
- Piers Morgan^[63]
- Robert Winston^[64]
- Melvyn Bragg^[65]
- Pete Tong^[66]
- Greg James^[67]
- Judge Jules^[68]
- Aled Jones^[69]
- Jian Ghomeshi^[70]
- Dale Winton^[36]
- Bruce Forsyth^[71]
- Jeremy Beadle^[36]

Directors

- Michael Moore^[72]
- Spike Lee^[73]

Comedians

- Clive Anderson^[74]
 - Alan Davies^[75]
 - Paul Kaye^[76]
 - Matt Lucas^[77]
 - Rory McGrath^[78]
 - Dara Ó Briain^[79]
 - Ian Stone^[80]
 - Jack Whitehall^[81]
-

Athletes and sports

- Gareth Bale^[82]
 - Darren Bent^[83]
 - Sir Henry Cooper^[50]
 - Frankie Dettori^[84]
 - Luol Deng^[85]
 - Rahul Dravid^[86]
 - Mo Farah^[87]
 - Allyson Felix^[88]
 - Lewis Hamilton^[89]
 - Audley Harrison^[36]
 - Thierry Henry^[90]
 - Tobin Heath^[91]
 - Andy Impey^[92]
 - Anne Keothavong^[93]
 - Tony McCoy^[94]
 - Rafael Nadal^[95]
 - Casey Nogueira^[91]
 - Chad Ochocinco^[96]
 - Ronnie O'Sullivan^[97]
 - Ian Poulter^[98]
 - Ferenc Puskas^[99]
 - Mark Ramprakash^[100]
 - Nile Ranger^[101]
 - Harry Redknapp^[102]
 - Peter Svidler^[103]
 - Warren Tredrea^[104]
 - Phil Tufnell^[105]
 - Ashley Young^[106]
 - Frank Warren^[107]
 - Andy Murray^[108]
 - Ndamukong Suh^[109]
 - Alecko Eskandarian^[110]
-

Other

- Karren Brady^[111]
- Kia Joorabchian^[112]

<p>Politicians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Miliband^[113]• Paul Kagame^[36]• Aleksander Kwaśniewski^[114] <p>Academics</p> <p>Economists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Niall Ferguson^[115] <p>Other academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Patten^[116]• George Carey^[117]• David Pannick QC^[118] <p>Other individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ronnie Biggs^[119]• Osama bin Laden^[120] <p>Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note a: Other sources cite her as being a fan of West Ham United.^[121] <p>References</p> <p>External links</p>

Arsenal F.C. Academy

Arsenal Academy

Full name	Arsenal Football Club Academy
Nickname(s)	The Gunners
Founded	1954
Ground	Arsenal FC Training Centre, Shenley (capacity: N/A)
Chairman	Peter Hill-Wood
Head Coach	Steve Gattling
League	FA Premier Academy League
2011–12	FAPAL Group A, 3rd
Home colours Away colours Third colours	

Arsenal Football Club Academy are the youth team of Arsenal Football Club. They currently play in the FA Premier Academy League, the highest level of youth football in England. The club enter Under-18 and Under-16 teams in the League, but they operate the academy for boys from the age of nine upwards.

Some of the senior members of the U18 team also play for Arsenal Reserves. The current head coach is Steve Gattling replacing Pat Holland who was in charge less than two months after the promotion of former Arsenal defender Steve Bould. The younger teams are coached by Roy Massey and Kwame Ampadu while former Arsenal midfielder and Republic of Ireland international Liam Brady oversees the overall youth development setup at the club with his assistant David Court.

History

Arsenal Youth (1954–1998)

Arsenal have occasionally operated a youth team as far back as 1893–94, and there had been an established third team (known as Arsenal 'A') for young players from 1929 to 1969.

In 1954, Arsenal started their own formal youth team. They entered the South Eastern Counties League (renamed the South East Counties League the following season) and the associated South East Counties League Cup from 1954–55 to 1997–98 (excluding 1967–68 and 1968–69). Arsenal Youth also played in the London Minor FA Challenge Cup (from 1954–55 to 1955–56 and 1959–60 to 1966–67) and the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup (from 1955–56 to 1971–72 and 1974–75 to 1998–99). The club have played in the FA Youth Cup since 1954–55.

During this time, Arsenal were one of the most successful youth teams in the country, winning seven South East Counties League titles, six South East Counties League Cups (including three "doubles") and four FA Youth Cups.

Arsenal Academy (1998–present)

The youth team became founder members of the FA Premier Youth League in 1997–98. The league was initially a single division and Arsenal won the inaugural title. The following season this was renamed the Premier Academy League and split into Under-19 and Under-17 sections, with the new FA Academy system formally changing Arsenal's youth team to Academy status. Arsenal entered teams in both sections, winning the U17 title in 1999–00 and the U19 title in 2001–02 as well as two more FA Youth Cups.

Since 2004–05, the FA Premier Academy League has consisted of only a single section for Under-18s, although an Under-16 section is played with no league table being recorded. Arsenal U18s have won their division group (Group A) three times, in 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10. They went on to win the academy play-off semi-final and final in 2008–09 and 2009–10 to become FA Premier Academy League champions. In 2009 they completed their first double by also winning the 2008–09 FA Youth Cup, having beaten Liverpool 6–2 on aggregate in the final.

Current squad

U18 League

The following players are eligible for the U18 Academy League in the current 2012–13 season.

Note: Flags indicate national team as has been defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.	Position	Player
	GK	Dejan Iliev
	GK	Joshua Vickers
	DF	Hector Bellerin
	DF	Isaac Hayden (<i>captain</i>)
	DF	Zachari Fagan
	DF	Leander Siemann
	DF	Tom Dallison
	DF	Brandon Ormonde-Ottewill
	DF	Arinse Uade
	MF	Glen Kamara

No.	Position	Player
	MF	Jon Toral
	MF	Kristoffer Olsson
	MF	Jack Jebb
	MF	Serge Gnabry
	MF	Alfred Mugabo
	FW	Anthony Jeffrey
	FW	Chuba Akpom
	FW	Austin Lipman
	FW	Tarum Dawkins
	FW	Alex Iwobi

Over-age players

The following over-age players are eligible for the U18 Academy League in the current 2012–13 season.

Note: Flags indicate national team as has been defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.	Position	Player	No.	Position	Player
	GK	Reice Charles-Cook		MF	Josh Rees
	DF	Martin Angha		MF	Kyle Ebecilio
	DF	Elton Monteiro		FW	Zak Ansah
	DF	Samir Bihmoutine		FW	Nigel Neita
	MF	Jordan Wynter		FW	Philip Roberts

Schoolboys

Note: Flags indicate national team as has been defined under FIFA eligibility rules. Players may hold more than one non-FIFA nationality.

No.	Position	Player	No.	Position	Player
	GK	Ryan Huddart		MF	Ainsley Maitland-Niles
	GK	Ethan Ross		MF	Denzeil Boadu
	DF	Elliot Wright		FW	Jordan Brown
	MF	Gedion Zelalem		FW	Christopher Regis

Honours

- **FA Premier Academy League (Record)**

Winners (5): 1997–98 (U18), 1999–00 (U17), 2001–02 (U19), 2008–09 (U18), 2009–10 (U18)

- **FA Youth Cup**

Winners (7): 1965–66, 1970–71, 1987–88, 1993–94, 1999–00, 2000–01, 2008–09

- **South East Counties League**

Winners (4): 1955–56, 1964–65, 1971–72, 1990–91

- **South East Counties League Cup**

Winners (6): 1959–60, 1960–61, 1961–62, 1963–64, 1970–71, 1979–80

- **Southern Junior Floodlit Cup**

Winners (5): 1962–63, 1965–66, 1984–85, 1990–91, 1997–98

- **London Minor FA Cup**

Winners (1): 1966–67

International academy graduates

This is a list of former Arsenal F.C. academy or Arsenal 'A' graduates who have gone on to represent their country at full international level since the Second World War.

As of 29 February 2012.

•  Anton Blackwood	•  David Rocastle	•  Colin Hill
•  Neil Kilkenny	•  Len Shackleton	•  Steve Morrow
•  Georgios Efrem	•  Lionel Smith	•  Terry Neill
•  Peggy Lokando	•  Peter Storey	•  Sammy Nelson
•  Nicklas Bendtner	•  Michael Thomas	•  Pat Rice
•  Tony Adams	•  Jack Wilshere	•  Dean Shiels
•  David Bentley	•  Ingi Højsted	•  Wojciech Szczęsny
•  Jay Bothroyd	•  Quincy Owusu-Abeyie	•  Paul Dickov
•  Danny Clapton	•  Stefán Gíslason	•  Alex Forsyth
•  Andy Cole	•  Graham Barrett	•  Richard Hughes
•  Ashley Cole	•  Liam Brady	•  Armand Traoré
•  Leslie Compton	•  John Devine	•  Cesc Fàbregas
•  Charlie George	•  Keith Fahey	•  Sebastian Larsson
•  Kieran Gibbs	•  David O'Leary	•  Johan Djourou
•  Ray Kennedy	•  Frank O'Neill	•  Frank Simek
•  Martin Keown	•  Niall Quinn	•  Ray Daniel
•  Paul Merson	•  Pat Scully	•  Mal Griffiths
•  Arthur Milton	•  Frank Stapleton	•  Andy Marriott
•  Ray Parlour	•  Anthony Stokes	•  Tom Walley
•  John Radford	•  Narada Bernard	•  Rhys Weston
•  Graham Rix		

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External links

- Arsenal FC Academy homepage (<http://www.arsenal.com/reserves-youth/arsenal-academy>) on Arsenal.com

Arsenal Supporters' Trust

Arsenal Supporters' Trust	
Formation	2003
Type	Supporters' trust
Legal status	Industrial and Provident Society
Purpose/focus	Football fans' advocacy
Membership	Over 750
Main organ	Board of directors
Affiliations	Supporters Direct
Website	arsenaltrust.org ^[1]

The **Arsenal Supporters' Trust** is the official supporters' trust of Arsenal Football Club, as recognised by Supporters Direct. The group, like other supporters' trusts, seeks to strengthen the influence of supporters over the destiny of their clubs through democratic supporter ownership.

History and constitution

The group was founded in 2003 as The Arsenal Supporters' Trust and is registered as an Industrial and Provident Society, which means the Trust is owned equally by all of its members. Each member has one vote in the Trust's elections. Though it is recognised by Supporters Direct as the official Supporters Trust for Arsenal FC, and holds regular dialogue with the club, the Arsenal Supporters' Trust is wholly independent and is not owned or financially dependent on the club or its owners.

With a membership of approximately 1,000,^[2] it is one of the smaller supporters' trusts in the United Kingdom, but has a close working relationship with the club. AST's members include small shareholders as well as supporters and the Trust itself owns three of the 62,217 shares in the club,^[2] including the so-called 'orphan share', donated by the club in 2007.^{[3][4]}

2007-09 takeover role

The Trust has played a role in the ongoing takeover bids for the club by rivals Stan Kroenke and Alisher Usmanov. Regarding Usmanov's bid as hostile, in November 2007 the Trust joined the Arsenal board's lockdown agreement to prevent a full takeover.^[5] In May 2008 the Arsenal Supporters' Trust came down in favour of Stan Kroenke as a more likely long term, supportive, investor in Arsenal FC and published a summary of their point of view, following a visit to some of the sports franchise and TV interests of Kroenke in the United States.^[6] The Trust went on to work as bridgebuilder between Kroenke and the Arsenal board.^[7]

2011 takeover role

The Trust did not support their shareholder members selling shares to Stan Kroenke in May 2011 when his Company bought the shares of two major shareholders Danny Fiszman and Lady Nina Bracewell. The Offer of £11,750 per share came about due to the death of Danny Fiszman with his Estate selling his shares, obliging Kroenke to launch a full take-over bid as he had exceeded the 30 percent threshold. Kroenke through Kroenke Sports Enterprises (KSE) had acceptances from shareholders at the end of the Offer on Friday 10 June 2011 amounting to 66.64% of the issued share capital of Arsenal Holdings PLC.^[8]

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.arsenaltrust.org/>)

Stan Kroenke

E. Stanley Kroenke	
Born	Enos Stanley Kroenke July 29, 1947 Columbia, Missouri, U.S.
Other names	Stan Kroenke
Education	B.A. University of Missouri, 1969 B.S. University of Missouri MBA. University of Missouri
Occupation	St. Louis Rams Majority owner/Chairman, entrepreneur head and owner of Kroenke Sports Enterprises Founder, Kroenke Group, Columbia, MO Owner, Pepsi Center arena in Denver, Colorado Part Owner, Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City
Net worth	\$US 3.2 billion by Forbes in 2011
Spouse(s)	Ann Walton Kroenke, 1973-present
Children	2, son Josh Kroenke and daughter Whitney Ann

Enos Stanley "Stan" Kroenke (/ˈkrɒnki/; born July 29, 1947 in Columbia, Missouri) is an American business entrepreneur. He is named after St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famers Enos "Country" Slaughter and Stan "The Man" Musial. His wife, Ann Walton Kroenke, is the daughter of Wal-Mart cofounder Bud Walton. Kroenke is also the owner of Kroenke Sports Enterprises, which includes the Denver Nuggets of the NBA, Colorado Rapids of Major League Soccer, Colorado Avalanche of the NHL, Colorado Mammoth of the National Lacrosse League and St. Louis Rams of the NFL (the Colorado sports properties are in the name of Josh Kroenke, one of his children, to satisfy NFL ownership restrictions that forbid a team owner from owning teams in other markets). Kroenke is also the majority shareholder of English football club Arsenal. He currently lives in Columbia, Missouri.^[1] Kroenke was estimated to be worth \$US 3.2 billion by Forbes in 2011.^[2]

Business career

Real estate

Kroenke obtained a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Missouri. He founded the Kroenke Group in 1983, a real estate development firm that has constructed numerous shopping centers and apartment buildings. Since his marriage to Walton, he has been in the special position to develop many of the plazas near Wal-Mart stores. He is also the chairman of THF Realty, an independent real estate development company that specializes in suburban development. He founded this corporation in St. Louis in 1991.

Kroenke was already a wealthy man in his own right, but became even more so in 1995, when he and Ann inherited a stake in Wal-Mart upon the death of Bud Walton. That stake is now worth over \$6 billion.

Kroenke Sports Enterprises

Kroenke is a well-known sports mogul. As the head and owner of Kroenke Sports Enterprises, he bought a 40 percent stake in the National Football League's St. Louis Rams after their relocation to Missouri in 1995. In 2000, he became full owner of both the National Basketball Association's Denver Nuggets and the National Hockey League's Colorado Avalanche, purchasing the team from Charlie Lyons' *Ascent Entertainment Group*. In 2002, he partnered with Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen and former Bronco quarterback John Elway to become part-owner of the Arena Football League's Colorado Crush. He continued to grow his sports empire in 2004, when he purchased the National Lacrosse League's Colorado Mammoth and Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids from Phil Anschutz.

In 2010, Kroenke exercised his right of first refusal to buy the remaining interest in the St. Louis Rams from the estate of late owner Georgia Frontiere.^[3] On August 25, 2010, he became full owner of the Rams by unanimous consent of the NFL. To gain approval from NFL owners, Kroenke agreed to turn over control of the Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche to his son, Josh, by the end of 2010, and he must give up his majority stake in both teams by December 2014. The NFL does not allow its owners to hold majority control of major league teams in other NFL markets.^[4]

Kroenke Sports Enterprise also owns Pepsi Center in Denver, home of the Nuggets and Avalanche, and co-owns Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, home of the Rapids. Both venues were built by his development company. In 2004, Kroenke launched his own competitor to FSN Rocky Mountain (now known as Root Sports Rocky Mountain), Altitude, a new regional sports network which became the official broadcaster for both of Kroenke's teams on launch. Kroenke also established TicketHorse, a ticket company that provides in-house sales for all of his teams.

Kroenke is a somewhat reclusive man who stays out of the limelight. He is popularly known as "Silent Stan" because he almost never gives interviews to the press.^[4] He rarely interferes in his teams' day-to-day operations.

Kroenke is the largest shareholder of Premier League football club Arsenal. Arsenal already had a technical link-up with Kroenke's Colorado Rapids when in April 2007 Granada Ventures, a subsidiary of ITV plc, had sold their 9.9% stake in Arsenal Holdings plc to Kroenke's KSE UK inc.^[5] Kroenke went on to buy further shares in the club, taking his total stake up to 12.19%.^[6] The club's board initially expressed skepticism that a bid would be in its best interests,^[7] but gradually warmed to him as part of counteracting Alisher Usmanov's rival bid for the club.

By June 2008 the board had prepared to let Kroenke take over the club,^[8] and on 19 September 2008 it was officially announced that Kroenke had joined the Arsenal board of directors.^[9] Kroenke has a beneficial interest in, and controls voting rights over, 18,594 Shares, representing 29.9% of the issued Shares meaning he is nearing the 29.99% threshold, beyond which he would be forced to make an offer for all the remaining shares.^[10]

On 10th April 2011, it was reported that Kroenke was in advanced talks to complete the takeover of Arsenal.^{[11][12]} The following day, it was announced that he increased his shareholding in Arsenal to 62.89% by purchasing the stakes of Danny Fiszman and Lady Nina Bracewell-Smith, and agreed to make an offer for the rest of the club at £11,750 per share, valuing the club at £731M.^{[13][14]}

Other businesses

In 2006, Kroenke, in partnership with the money manager Charles Banks, acquired the Napa Valley winery Screaming Eagle. (In April 2009, Banks stated he was no longer involved with Screaming Eagle).^[15]

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External links

- Entry in Forbes' List of Richest People (<http://www.forbes.com/lists/2005/54/H6A2.html>)
- Reference to Malibu Times denoting Stan's purchase of the Malibu Colony Shopping Center, which is only 1 of 2 shopping centers in affluent Malibu, CA (<http://www.malibutimes.com/articles/2005/07/25/news/news3.txt>)
- Stan Kroenke Speaks about Vincent Jackson (<http://www.ramsondemand.com/blog/2010/09/silent-stan-speaks/>)

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