

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



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COVER MIKEL ARTETA – TRUST THE PROCESS

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MIKEL ARTETA

After three tough away games in a row, it's great to be back at Emirates Stadium this afternoon.

We've got a fantastic record here since the start of the year, and as everybody knows – strong home form is absolutely necessary in order to have a successful season. Sometimes that means winning games when we are not at our best, and that was what happened in our last match here, against West Ham.

I have to admit we were a little bit lucky in certain moments in that game, but we found a way in the end to win it and that's the mentality I want from the team, to always believe that we can do it until the last moment, even when we have difficult games where suffer and make it very difficult for ourselves in certain positions.

But in the end we won three points and that's what we

wanted from the game. We took some big notes from the 90 minutes because there was a lot to look at from the game, lots to work on and a lot of things to improve.

We didn't find the fluency. Every time we grew the structure in the right place we made bad choices. We played a bit with the handbrake at times after that because we gave a lot of balls away and we didn't have that fluency.

What pleased me though was the quality of the goals. They were both really, really good. We created some really good movements in some phases of the game, but we weren't consistent enough and I still think that's where we have a long way to go.





We faced a really difficult opponent. We knew that before the game, the way they play. I think we made it really difficult for ourselves in the first 15 minutes with the number of simple balls that we gave away. There is no structure in the world that can sustain that.

Then after the goal we had much better periods when we were able to sustain and control them better. But then there was a big transition moment with one minute to go in the first half when they equalised.

In the second half again we had 15, 20 minutes when we gave simple balls away, we didn't have the right organisation. We made some changes and after we improved in the last 20, we managed to score another beautiful goal, and then just man-managed the game for the last five or six minutes. The guys kept fighting and kept going and they finished the match exhausted, mentally as well.

Also you could see by the way they celebrated the winning goal – they are here for each other. I loved the way Lacazette went to celebrate with Eddie as well after the goal.

We carried that on in the next game at Leicester, when

“YOU COULD SEE BY THE WAY THEY CELEBRATED [AGAINST WEST HAM] THE WINNING GOAL – THEY ARE HERE FOR EACH OTHER”

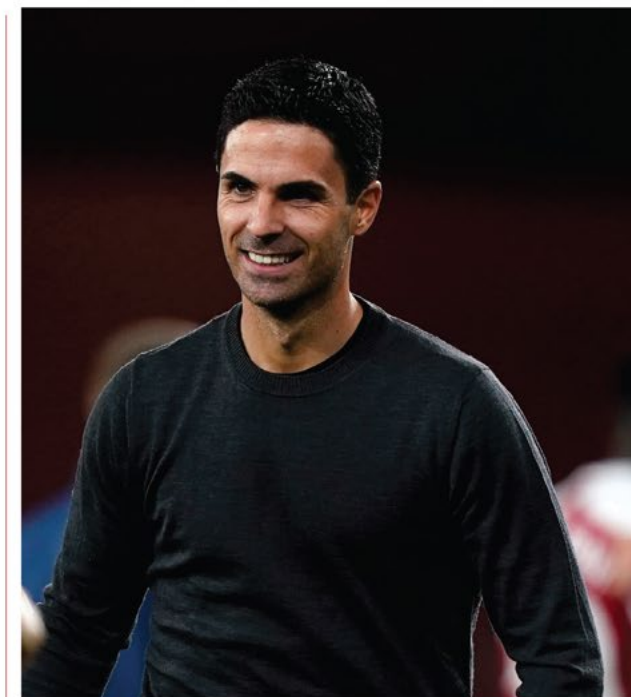
again we showed exactly the right attitude and approach to the game mentally. The senior players took the lead straight away and I could see that they turned up to be serious and win the game.

When you win, you have to keep trying to win because things change really quickly. That's what we demand from the players, to keep competing in every game and to show desire to win every game.

So we went to Anfield on Monday in a positive mood, and we fought hard there, we believed, and we tried, but in the end we were punished by their quality.

They put you under pressure on the first, second, third, fourth ball. They keep going, they have bodies, they have quality. You put them under pressure with a perfect high press and Van Dijk hits an 80-yard ball to Mo Salah's chest. This is quality, that's why they paid £80m for this guy, you know?

But we are on a different journey. They have been



together for five years, they were unable to do that after one, two, three seasons. They were unable to play at this level but they have really good coaches, they recruited really well, they have improved the players that they had and they have real belief in what they do, which goes back to my point of trusting the process.

I wanted my players to play with character and to play our way. We just have to accept that they were better and that they are better at the moment and that we have to improve.

I'm writing these notes before our Carabao Cup game against them on Thursday night, but it was the same message before that one too: This is the level that we have to reach.

But it's back to the Premier League this afternoon, we have worked hard this week and we all know what we want to achieve. It will be another tough match against opponents who caused us problems last season.

It's been a big run of games for us, a very busy start to the season, but we know a good result today will send us into the international break on a real high.

Thanks for your support. ■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

It seems like quite a long time since we played at Emirates, we've had three games since then

But in fact it was only two weeks ago – it's going to be like that this season, we know that and our squad are ready for it.

I thought we played well at times in the first half against West Ham and deserved to get our goal. I knew once I could see my cross was well placed, that Laca would score. He put it past Lukasz Fabianski really nicely. It's great to see him scoring regularly this season and I love being able to assist Laca as he has done the same

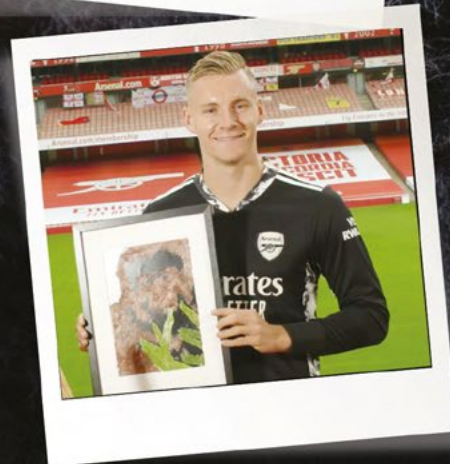
for me plenty of times. It was his 50th goal for us as well so it was great to celebrate that with him.

You have to give credit to West Ham though as they showed a lot of spirit to get back into the match and they got their equaliser right on half-time. I said in the notes for that match that they were dangerous – we saw it in February – so we shouldn't have been surprised by that.

The second half was pretty even. We didn't play our best to be honest and they had chances, but I loved our



WHAT DID AUBA, HECTOR AND LENO NAME THEIR BABY GORILLAS?



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winner. We kept going, kept pushing and found a way to take the points. And it had such quality, Bukayo's ball to Dani showed vision and technique then Dani's to Eddie might have looked simple, but when you see how close to the 'keeper he was, it had to be perfect. And Eddie was there of course, ready to answer the call!

At Leicester, I thought we saw two teams taking that competition really seriously but we had some great performances and deserved to win against a team who are now one of the toughest in the country. I liked Nico's persistence to get the assist for the own goal. I also liked Eddie's attitude in still telling him he wanted the ball – he's a striker, he sees goals. Always goals. It's how I'd want him to be with me in that situation. And Eddie got his goal with a finish that showed persistence and that desire to score that's hardwired into him.

Anfield in the league was tough – it always is. The first tie I ever played in European football was in the Europa League for Lille against Liverpool. We had a good side, with Eden Hazard and Yohan Cabaye, and beat them at home 1-0 – but then went to Anfield and lost 3-0. I came on for the last 20 minutes and got to see Fernando Torres get the third! Our 3-1 defeat on Monday saw us put under

"IT'S OUR JOB, ALL OF US, TO MAKE SURE WE LEARN FROM PLAYING A TEAM LIKE THAT"

a lot of pressure. It's obvious to everyone how good a team they are, how consistent, how well they all know each other's games but we could still take some big positives. Going ahead in the game of course and then having chances to get back into the match when we were 2-1 down. Laca was gutted he couldn't do better with the chance he had, but like I said, he's getting goals this season and we can all be thankful for that. The key for us was to show we could be brave and play the game we want to, show we could be dangerous when we had the opportunities – and I thought we did that at times. It's our job, all of us, to make sure we learn from playing a team like that. That's always the case, just as it was when that Lille team were beaten by Torres and Gerrard all those years ago. You just have to make sure you do learn, not just say you will.



I have to write these notes before we played at Anfield, again, in the League Cup – that's a game I can discuss in the next home notes.

We play Sheffield United today and we know that this is a tricky opponent. They've had a tough start to the season but I've seen some of their games and they've been very tight, they still look like a really well coached team with interesting attacking movement. We played really well when we played them towards the end of last season, but I think it's fair to say it helped us not to have their fans there, who I know are really passionate. And of course it's the same situation at Emirates for this game, we won't have you with us. And we really miss you, it was really difficult to know this game would have no supporters when only a few weeks ago we were looking forward to having some of you back.

But we will make our own motivation for the game and if we play as well as we know we can, we can be confident of putting Monday's result behind us and getting three points again. ■

VOICE OF ARSENAL



Alex puts pen to paper

RUNARSSON IS RED!

Goalkeeper Alex Runarsson has joined us on a four-year contract from French Ligue 1 club, Dijon.

The 25-year-old Iceland international (full name Runar Alex Runarsson) joined Dijon in July 2018 and made 13 appearances for the French club in all competitions last season.

Alex started his career with KR Reykjavik in his home country and went on to join FC Nordsjaelland in Denmark where he made 62 appearances during a three-year spell, before moving to Dijon.

Technical Director Edu said: "We're very pleased to welcome Alex to our squad. We have been monitoring him for some time and from the analysis he has strong attributes that we look for in a 'keeper and as a person."

Manager Mikel Arteta added: "We want to create healthy competition for places and we look forward to seeing Alex bring further depth to the goalkeeping position."

Alex will wear the number 13 shirt.

Welcome to Arsenal, Alex!

Read Alex's thoughts joining Arsenal on pages 22-26.

PROGRAMME ITK

The matchday programme team go to the depths of the databases to find the ultimate stats and facts...

- Alex Runarsson's first-team debut came on November 8, 2013 when he was 18 years old. He came on as a substitute for injured keeper Atli Sigurjonsson playing for KR Reykjavik against IBV in the Icelandic Premier Division. His opposite number in the IBV goal was a very familiar face – 43 year old David James.

- Alex was told 'do your best son' when he took to the pitch. Literally. KR's manager at the time was his father Runar Kristinsson. Runar, who remains manager at KR, is also Iceland's most capped player with 104 appearances – many played alongside ex-Gunner Sigi Jonsson.

- Arsenal's defeat against Liverpool on Monday was our first in the month of September in any competition since 2015 – 27 games unbeaten.



Proud father and current KR Reykjavik coach Runar Kristinsson

FANS FORUM

On Wednesday, September 16 the Arsenal Fans' Forum held its first virtual meeting of the season with Vinai Venkatesham and colleagues in attendance.

Vinai discussed a summer of change and our continued adaptation to the COVID-19 protocols. But confirmed there was great optimism at the club after a very successful end to last season.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included how Technical Director Edu and Manager Mikel Arteta are working together, our process for signing players and the make-up and role of the Arsenal board. There were also questions from members relating to Junior Gunners and Silver Memberships.

Forum members were also given information about the Arsenal Foundation's Coaching for Life programme and a sub-group will be created to see how fans can get involved in supporting this ground-breaking work.

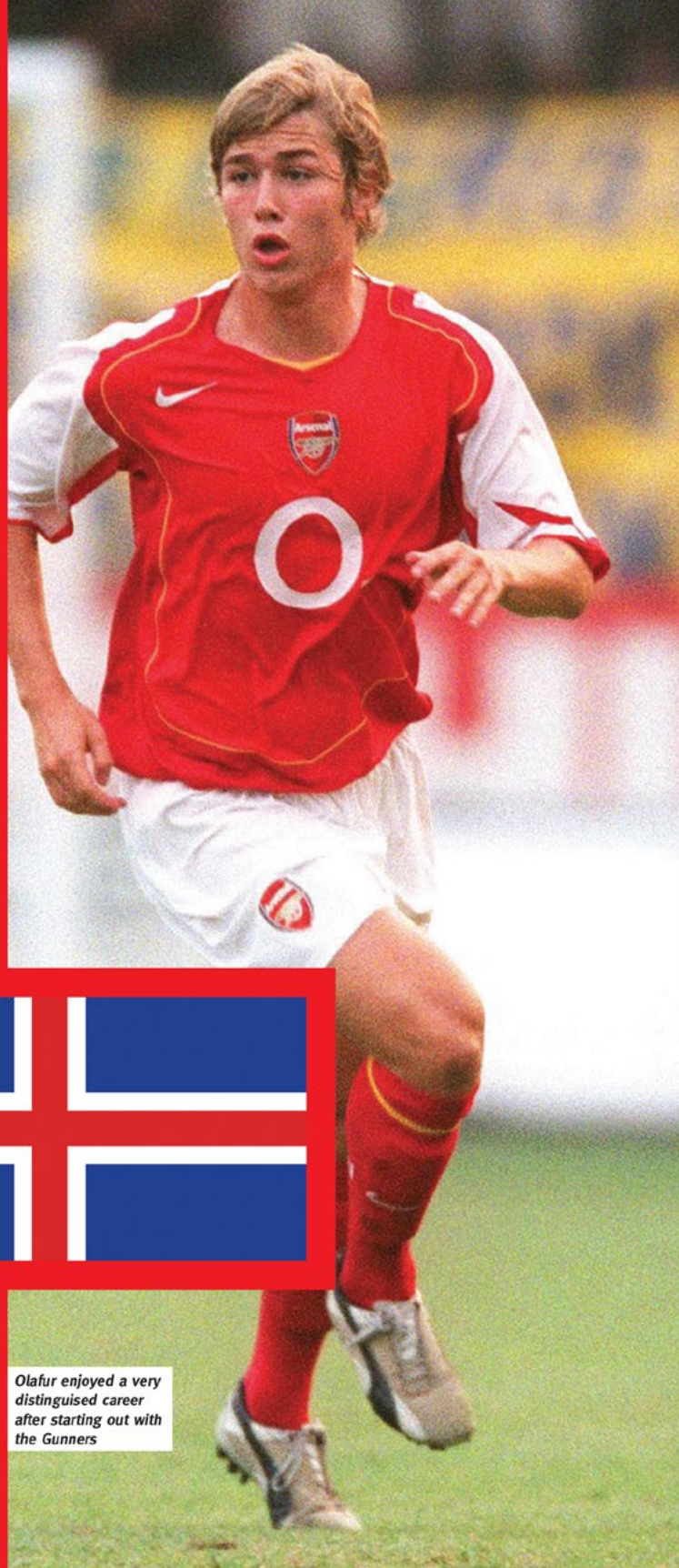
Our Forum members are listed here. Their details can be found on the Supporters Forum section of Arsenal.com.

16-21 Year Old Representative	Zak Wagman
Arsenal Supporters' Club – Domestic	Jan Szabala
Arsenal Supporters' Club – Overseas	Peter Host
AISA Representative	Drew Gray
Disabled Supporters	Anne Hyde
Club Level	Fred Dowd
Family Enclosure	David Hurrell
Gold Member	Robert Kramer
Red Member	Ben Buckstone
Over 60 Year Old	John Thater
LGBT Supporters' Representative	Joe White
RedAction Member	Raymond Herlihy
Ethnic Minority Representative	Draco Wang
Away Scheme Member	Michael Anjos
AST Member	Akhil Vyas
Women's Representative	Suzanne Goodband
Silver Member	Jake Coare





After a brief Arsenal career, Albert became a very well-known figure in his homeland



GO FOURTH, ALEX

Alex Runarsson will hope to be the fourth Iclander to play first-team football for Arsenal.

On September 27, 1946 **Albert Gudmundsson** joined the Gunners – making him just our second overseas player (Dutch goalkeeper Gerry Keyser being the first). Iceland's first ever professional footballer, he played twice for the first team as well as number of representative games, including on our tour to Brazil in 1951, despite him leaving the club at the end of the 1946/47 season after being barred from playing in England and moving to AC Milan. A fascinating character, Albert was a Marine Engineer and successful businessman. He was also President of the Icelandic FA, became the Icelandic Finance Minister and even ran for President of Iceland. Albert, who died in 1994, is such a respected figure in his country that his statue stands outside the Iceland FA in Reykjavik.

Siggi Jonsson was signed by George Graham on July 28, 1989 from Sheffield Wednesday. Siggi played 10 games in total for the Gunners, scoring once in a 3-0 win over QPR in the First Division. Sadly, a back injury troubled Siggi throughout his time at Highbury and he was forced to give up his dream of starring for the Gunners in January 1992, though he later did manage to play again for Akranes back in Iceland and played 65 times for his country.

Our most recent Iclander was **Olafur Ingi Skulason**, who joined our academy in the summer of 2001 and played one first team game for the team, as a substitute in a 5-1 League Cup victory over Wolves on February 12, 2003. Olafur went on to have a long, distinguished career playing in Turkey for Genclerbirligi Ankara, Norway (Sonderjyske), Sweden (Helsingborgs IF) Iceland (Fylkir Reykjavik) and a long spell in Belgium at SV Zulte Waregem. Olafur played 36 times for Iceland (making his debut when a Gunner), scoring once, and was part of their squad at the 2018 World Cup. He retired from football last season.

Arsenal also had brothers Stefan and Valur Gislason on youth registrations in 1997, though neither made a first team appearance. ■

Mikel celebrates the goal – but who was it against?



WIN! WIN! WIN! A SIGNED PROGRAMME

Mikel Arteta is the cover star of the programme today – and we have one of our lockdown issues, versus Norwich, signed by the manager up for grabs to a programme reader if they can answer the following question...

MIKEL SCORED IN ONLY HIS SECOND PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH AS A PLAYER FOR ARSENAL. WHO WERE THE OPPOSITION?

A) Blackburn Rovers

B Swansea City

C) Stoke City

Answers to us via programme@arsenal.co.uk or @AFCprogramme on Twitter to us before the next home game please. ■

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to **David Millett**, from Leighton Buzzard who was chosen at random from the many entries we received for the competition in the West Ham issue to win a **signed shirt**. The answer to: 'Who was the last player in the 20th century to score on his debut?' was of course, **Freddie Ljungberg**.



Siggi was brought to the club from Sheffield Wednesday by George Graham



Olafur enjoyed a very distinguished career after starting out with the Gunners



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LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

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 WINNERS

1930, 1936, 1950, 1971, 1979,
1993, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2005,
2014, 2015, 2017, 2020

LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

1986/87, 1992/93

CHARITY/COMMUNITY SHIELD WINNERS

1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1938,
1948, 1953, 1991 (shared), 1998,
1999, 2002, 2004, 2014, 2015,
2017, 2020

FAIRS CUP WINNERS

1969/70

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP WINNERS

1993/94

FA YOUTH CUP WINNERS

1966, 1971, 1988, 1994, 2000,
2001, 2009

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Vinai Venkatesham

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Edu

MANAGER

Mikel Arteta



Ben Sheaf in Coventry's
last match against Barnsley

CURRENTLY ON LOAN

Since our last programme, Mark McGuinness has gone out on loan to Ipswich Town – read about Mark's move in the Strong Young Gunners section of the programme (41-52).

Mark became the tenth Gunner to be heard out on loan, the full list of players earning valuable first-team experience elsewhere is as follows:

Trae Coyle	Gillingham (League One)
Tyreese John-Jules	Doncaster Rovers (League One)
Mark McGuinness	Ipswich Town (League One)
Konstantinos Mavropanos	Stuttgart (Bundesliga)
Zech Medley	Gillingham (League One)
Joseph Olowu	Cork City (Irish Premier League)
Jordi Osei-Tutu	Cardiff City (Championship)
Ben Sheaf	Coventry City (Championship)
Matt Smith	Swindon Town (League One)
Zak Swanson	MVV Maastricht (Eerste Divisie – Dutch tier two)

Good luck for the season, Gunners. ■

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 40th Birthday ROSS McLOUGHLIN – Love all your family & friends xxx. ■

ARSENAL REMEMBERS

SIMON COX – Aged 55 of Mepal passed away peacefully on September 8, 2020. His love of Arsenal was a big part of his life and he would want to say thank you for the great football he witnessed over the years



ARSENAL'S MYSTERY MANAGER FINALLY UNMASKED!

Mikel Arteta's great influence at the club recently saw his official role changed from 'head coach' to 'manager'.

The 20th man at the helm of Arsenal Football Club, there has long since been mystery surrounding the man who was second in that sequence, a man until recently known as 'George' Elcoat.

ANDY KELLY and MARK ANDREWS from The Arsenal History have been on the trail of the enigmatic 'George' for a number of years, knowing there must be more information out there than the very limited details reproduced over the decades.

And they've made quite a find – we'll let them take up the story...

Arsenal had been in existence for 11 years before the directors finally succumbed and appointed the club's first manager in March 1897. That man was Thomas Mitchell, one of the biggest names in the game who had led Blackburn Rovers to FA Cup wins in 1890 and 1891 as well as being a leading light in the foundation of the Football League.

Mitchell's tenure only lasted a year before falling out with the directorate, and his successor remained something of a mystery man until a few years ago.

In the early histories of the club he was known simply as Mr. Elcoat, before he became G. Elcoat in the early 1950s Arsenal handbooks. Then in 1972 he was named as George Elcoat by Geoffrey Mowbray in an issue of the



And here he is, the second manager in Arsenal's history. William Robson Elcoat – 1898-1899

Arsenal Supporters' Club magazine, Gunflash, and that was pretty much all that was known of him until we managed to unearth more about his past and, to much surprise, his real name.

This has all been made possible by the digitisation of old newspapers by the British Newspaper Archive which are text-searchable as well as some old-fashioned sleuth work browsing through local newspapers at the Greenwich Heritage Centre and archived documents in the National Archives at Kew.

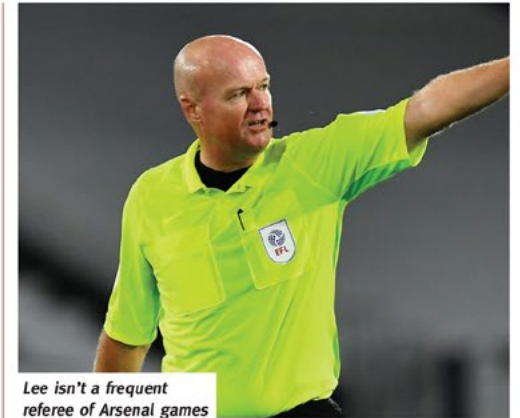
We found references to 'George' as W.R. Elcoat in reports of meetings of Woolwich Arsenal FC and even club documents signed by him as he was also the secretary of the Woolwich Arsenal Football And Athletic Company, Limited. With Elcoat being an unusual name, we deduced that he was actually William Robson Elcoat, born near Stockton in 1859. He had been secretary-manager of Stockton FC who were pretty much certain to be crowned Northern League champions for the 1897/98 season before being tempted south by Arsenal.

Like his predecessor he lasted about a year in Plumstead before he too fell out with his employers, and tendered his resignation. Following his departure, we know that he was considered for the vacant manager's job at Tottenham and then we lost all trace of him except for finding out that by 1911 he had returned to Stockton to work as an accountant and that he died the following year aged just 52.

Despite unearthing a considerable amount of information on him, we had yet to find a picture of William – the only Arsenal manager who has remained faceless. That is, until now.

A recent post on a website by Tim Carder offered some further information on Elcoat. Tim is chairman of the Brighton and Hove Albion Heritage Society, an organisation dedicated to preserving the history of The Seagulls to be found at this web address www.Bhaheritage.org. He mentioned that William had been Financial Secretary of Brighton between 1906 and 1909, and that he had a photograph of him! We wasted no time in contacting Tim and he confirmed that a 1907 postcard with the Brighton team and management on the front included Elcoat.

Tim has kindly provided us with an excellent reproduction of the photograph and, with some enhancements from Dave Lane of Legends Publishing, we are now able to reveal to Arsenal fans for the first time what William Elcoat looked like. ■



Lee isn't a frequent referee of Arsenal games

REF WATCH

Today's referee is Lee Mason from Bolton.

Lee has been a Premier League referee since season 2005/06. Rarely in charge of Gunners' games, he was the man in the middle just once last season – presiding over our 4-0 win over Newcastle on February 16, 2020. He didn't officiate an Arsenal match in season 2018/19, but in 2017/18 he was ref for four matches, a 2-1 home win over Swansea, the 3-1 defeat in the reverse fixture, a 1-0 win at Burnley and a home victory, 4-1, over West Ham. ■

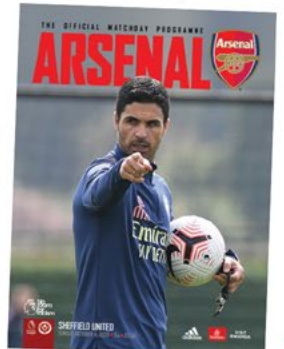
TODAY'S PROGRAMME

With supporters unable to attend games at Emirates, the club have decided to continue to offer programmes for matchday delivery.

We have therefore pulled our print deadlines forward and this issue went to press prior to our Carabao Cup game at Anfield on Thursday night.

It's most unusual for the previous matchday not to be documented in the matchday programme – sadly these are most unusual times.

We believe the in-depth content featured in the programme is still the ideal accompaniment for this afternoon's match. ■



52

Alexandre Lacazette is the 52nd player to reach a half-century for Arsenal

129

His 50 goals came from 129 appearances

94

His first goal came against Leicester City on August 11, 2017 - 94 seconds into his Premier League debut

LACA'S 50 GOALS



LACA GOALS - BY COMPETITION



LACA GOALS - BY MINUTE



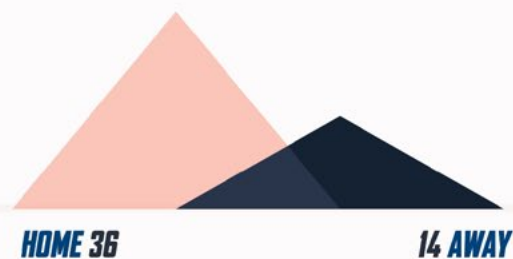
LACA GAMES/GOALS - BY SEASON



LACA GOALS - HOW SCORED



LACA GOALS - WHERE SCORED



LACA GOALS - BY OPPONENT



LACA GOALS - WHO ASSISTED



RUNARSSON

The Gunners' new goalkeeper discusses what type of shotstopper we can expect to see, how Inaki Cana has already been an important influence on his game – and how he can't wait to play in the Premier League

The position of goalkeeper has evolved so much in recent times, that keeping clean sheets is now regarded as just one of the many requirements of the job. Increasingly – and certainly at Arsenal – custodians are also obliged to be excellent footballers in their own right, building play from the back, and keeping a cool head when in possession. That's where our new signing Alex Runarsson comes in. The 25-year-old Iceland international stopper joined us from French top-flight side Lyon on September 21 to be reunited with former goalkeeping coach Inaki Cana. Alex lists his ability with the ball at his feet as one of his main attributes, but chiefly, he just can't wait to get the opportunity to show what other talents he has too.

Alex, welcome to Arsenal. Can you describe how you feel?

I'm just extremely happy, extremely proud, it is a big moment for me and my family. I can't wait to get started! I know it is going to be a lot of hard work, but I am ready to do everything I can to get the most amount of minutes as possible.

How did the move come about for you? When did you first hear that Arsenal were interested?

I first heard about it last week, when I got the phone call from my agent. I have been in some contact with Inaki because I know him from before, but I first heard about it one week ago and it has gone very quickly. Inaki being here is a really big factor. Our relationship, since we got to know each other four years ago, has been very good. We have always been in contact even though I was playing in France and he was coaching here in England.



FEATURE ALEX RUNARSSON

The fact that he is here, it is very important to me that I know somebody here and I know that he knows my qualities, and what I need to improve and what I can bring to the club. I think we will be a very good match, for the second time in my career.

Back in 2017, Inaki said about you: "He is a goalkeeper who will have a great future, he always wants to improve and demands the maximum in every training session and in every game." So how important do you think that mentality is for a goalkeeper?

Not only for a goalkeeper, but all players – but maybe especially for goalkeepers because we play a position where if we make a mistake, most of the time it will lead to a goal so you need to have a strong mindset. You need to have a mindset where you demand the best so you don't make those mistakes too often. That's why you need to work hard, you need to train hard to be able to perform in the matches.

"OUR RELATIONSHIP, [ALEX AND INAKI'S] SINCE WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER FOUR YEARS AGO, HAS BEEN VERY GOOD"

What was it about moving to Arsenal that appealed most to you?

First of all, it is one of the biggest clubs in the world – they've won the Premier League 13 times, the FA Cup 14 times, it is a huge club and obviously playing in the Premier League as well, it is a win-win situation.

How would you describe your goalkeeping style?

I would say I'm a modern goalkeeper. One of my best attributes is that I'm comfortable with my feet, I can play with my right and left foot, I am not afraid to play as a sweeper and I am good one against one.

You come into the squad fighting Bernd Leno for the

BORN Reykjavik, Iceland, February 18, 1995
JOINED ARSENAL from Dijon on September 21, 2020

OTHER CLUBS KR Reykjavik, FC Nordsjaelland, Dijon

INTERNATIONALS Iceland (5 caps), Iceland Under-21, Under-19 and Under-17 international

No. 1 shirt, how highly do you rate him?

I think he's a fantastic goalkeeper, I have been watching him since he was playing for Bayer Levekusen so I know his qualities and I hope that I can learn from him as well as push him for the No 1 spot. But he's a fantastic goalkeeper and since Inaki came in, he has also improved a lot and I hope I can push him to become even better and I can become even better at the same time.

"EVERYBODY (IN ICELAND) IS A BIG FAN OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND I'M JUST EXTREMELY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE IT"

Arsenal have a really strong history of great goalkeepers, people like David Seaman and Jens Lehmann. How much did you admire people like that when you were growing up?

They are amazing. I remember watching Seaman play when I was a small kid, the same with Jens Lehmann. Big characters, big personalities but also great goalkeepers. It is not easy to follow those guys but someone has to do it! Football would be no fun without having this type of pressure so it will be a challenge but I'm up for it.

Who else did you look up to?

Growing up I always liked the modern style of goalkeepers, the ones who play in a similar style to how I do. I enjoyed watching Hugo Lloris when he came to the Premier League, playing high outside the box, I also enjoy watching Manuel Neuer because he's one of the best goalkeepers in the world. I am still young so I don't go back that long but the modern style of goalkeepers who can make saves, but also contribute to the team when they are attacking.

Iceland is a proud footballing nation. How excited are you to represent your country at Arsenal?

I couldn't be more excited growing up as a young kid in Iceland, you watch the Icelandic league and you watch the Premier League, there's not much else that we watch football-wise. Everybody is a big fan of the Premier League and I'm just extremely proud to be able to experience it.

In recent years Icelandic football keeps getting better >



ABOVE
On duty for Iceland in Euro qualifying last year

LEFT
Punch perfect for Dijon against Caen in Ligue1





and better, and with the history of Icelandic players in the Premier League, like Eidur Gudjohnsen and Gylfi Sigurdsson, there's quite a lot of strong Icelandic talent through the years...

Yeah, we're a small country but we've had some exceptional talents coming through from our youth systems, but I think it's also a question of our character and mental toughness that helped us to achieve these things because it's not the same growing up in Iceland where you can play football in good conditions maybe three months a year, so you need to have a little bit extra and I think that's why Iceland has had some good and great players in the Premier League.

"I THINK HE (ALEX'S DAD) WOULD HAVE LIKED TO PLAY FOR ARSENAL AS WELL, BUT HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE IT THROUGH ME!"

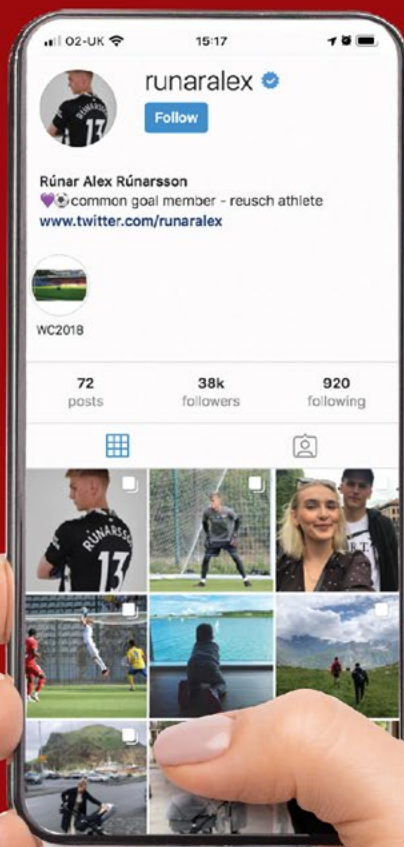
And we couldn't speak about Icelandic players without speaking about your father, Runar Kristinsson, who is Iceland's most capped player of all-time, so how does it feel to be following in his footsteps?

It's amazing. I'm extremely proud of him and what he achieved in his career and I want to make him proud. We've had a very good relationship from day one, obviously he's my father, but I feel we have a stronger connection than most father-son relationships are and I know he's extremely proud now. I think he would have liked to play for Arsenal as well, but he's going to have to live it through me! When I told him about it he said you must be joking! I had to tell him twice before he could believe me, but as for advice, it wasn't anything more than usual, just to be myself and everything will take care of itself. ■



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ANTONIO 45

2

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 2

8pm • Saturday, September 19 • Emirates Stadium

1

FIRST HALF

Angelo Ogbonna went close early on for the visitors in a cagey opening before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang just about beat the offside trap to stand up an inviting cross for the arriving Alexandre Lacazette to head home from six yards out. It was the Frenchman's second goal in two games and his 50th overall in an Arsenal shirt. Bukayo Saka nearly added a second just afterwards, but blazed over from inside the area. Just at the end of the half the Hammers hit back, springing a rapid counter-attack which ended with Michail Antonio sliding in from close range.

SECOND HALF

We needed to improve after the break, and although we continued to see plenty of the ball, the cutting edge was missing. Bernd Leno got down well to keep about Antonio's bundled effort on the line and Gabriel sliced a clearance just wide as West Ham increased the pressure. They continued to send in dangerous high crosses from the flanks and nearly got their reward when Antonio headed against the bar. We were living dangerously but finally went ahead when Dani Ceballos got free in the area and expertly cut the ball back for Eddie Nketiah – not long on the pitch as a sub – to convert from close range. Two games, two wins to kick off 2020/21, but this one was far from straightforward. ■

MATCH STATS

7	TOTAL SHOTS	14
3	SHOTS ON TARGET	3
7	CORNERS	5
5	OFFSIDES	2
11	FOULS	13
63	POSSESSION %	37

ARSENAL

- 1 Leno
- 2 Bellerin
- 16 Holding
- 6 Gabriel
- 31 Kolassinac
- 8 Ceballos
- 34 Xhaka
- 7 Saka (89)
- 9 Lacazette (77)
- 14 Aubameyang
- 12 Willian (64)

SUBSTITUTES

Pepe (64), Nketiah (77), David Luiz (89), Elneny, Willock, Maitland-Niles, Macey

WEST HAM UNITED

- 1 Fabianski
- 24 Fredericks
- 21 Ogbonna
- 23 Diop
- 3 Cresswell
- 28 Soucek
- 41 Rice
- 18 Fornals (88)
- 25 Masuaku (90)
- 20 Bowen (82)
- 30 Antonio

SUBSTITUTES

Randolph, Balbuena, Yarmolenko (82), Felipe Anderson (90), Lanzini, Haller (88), Johnson



Auba and Laca celebrate after the latter had opened the scoring

LEFT

The goal came when the skipper crossed for the Frenchman to plant home a header emphatically

MATCH ACTION

RIGHT

Dani's pass for the winner
had to be pinpoint...

BELOW

...and it put Eddie's goal on
the proverbial plate

BELOW LEFT

The architects of the
winning goal celebrate

BELOW RIGHT

The uncompromising
Gabriel barks orders



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CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY

Football historian **Jon Spurling** looks at the evolution of Arsenal players' positions – past and present

ALAN SUNDERLAND UP FOR THE CUP

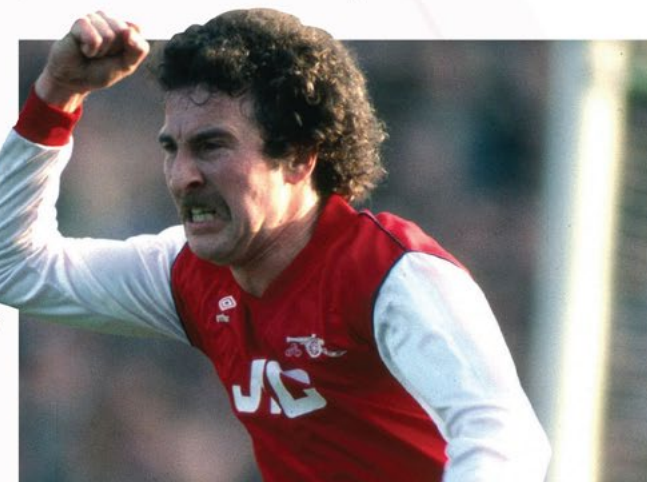
Following Arsenal's 1-0 FA Cup final defeat to Ipswich in 1978, manager Terry Neill (correctly) insisted: "We'll be back next year." Yet he admitted that he and Don Howe still believed the team was far too one dimensional from an attacking point of view. Four matches into the 1978/79 season, change was foisted upon them at a packed Millmoor in a third round League Cup match against Rotherham. Clean through on goal, the Gunners' swashbuckling centre forward Malcolm Macdonald's cartilage ripped to shreds as he prepared to pull the trigger. Next day's headlines may have been all about Arsenal's defeat to the Third Division side, but Neill and Howe realised that they'd have to find a way of coping with the long-term absence of their star goal getter.

Not for the first time in Arsenal's history, salvation lay within. Alan Sunderland, an attacking midfielder signed from Wolves the previous season for £220,000 was pushed up front alongside Frank Stapleton, and one of Arsenal's most popular partnerships was born. Known for his assured first touch and his phenomenal ability to deliver killer passes,

Sunderland brought a new deftness to Arsenal's attack. "I was a good foil for Frank and we had a great understanding. I also linked well with Liam Brady and Graham Rix and tried to bring them into play as much as possible. I still thought a lot like a midfielder, so I could anticipate what Liam and Graham might do before they actually did it. Liam and I occasionally rotated our positions just to keep defenders guessing."

He was not a prolific goalscorer, but possessed an uncanny ability to deliver on the big occasion. In '78/79, he netted eight league goals. Two of them came at Old Trafford in Arsenal's 2-0 smash and grab raid, and Sunderland plundered a hat trick in his team's famous 5-0 Christmas win at White Hart Lane. The plaudits went to ▶

"I STILL THOUGHT A LOT LIKE A MIDFIELDER"





Liam Brady for his iconic curled shot which arced past Mark Kendall, but Sunderland's goals, all delivered after quick bursts forward, also highlighted Arsenal's ability to break at speed away from home, and punish the opposition. The moustachioed forward sometimes stood accused of drifting in and out of matches, but Frank Stapleton argued: "Alan was very clever at dropping back to help out the defence when we were under the cosh. This was a vital skill in our cup runs of the era, when we were regularly put under huge pressure away from home."

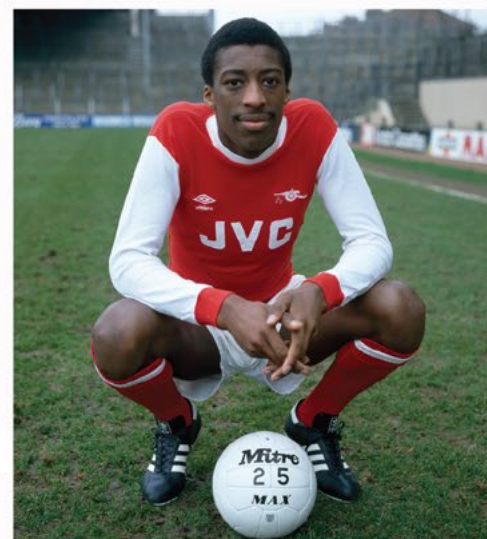
"ALAN WAS VERY CLEVER AT DROPPING BACK TO HELP OUT THE DEFENCE"

It was the Sunderland/Stapleton partnership which steered Arsenal through some testing FA Cup challenges. Sunderland's goal saved Arsenal in the opening round of their five game marathon against Jack Charlton's Sheffield Wednesday, and a brace from Stapleton saved Arsenal's blushes in a tempestuous 3-3 draw with the Owls at Filbert Street. It was the Irishman's first which saw Wednesday's resistance finally crumble in the fourth replay, and which helped his team ease to a 2-0 win. Two elegant

Sunderland strikes saw off Southampton in the quarter final and at Villa Park, Arsenal's strikers grabbed a goal apiece as the Gunners eased past Sunderland's former club Wolves. One of the things Sunderland possessed was his ability to arrive in the right place at the right time; a skill, he insisted that "I learnt as an attacking midfielder at Wolves. I scored a lot of goals at Molineux from cutbacks. If the strikers couldn't score themselves, they'd pull the ball back, and I'd run onto it and finish."

Watching a rerun of the 1979 FA Cup final shows Alan Sunderland at his best. Although the Gunners' first goal is credited to Brian Talbot, Sunderland demonstrated his superb timing and energy as he and Talbot moved to crash the ball home. For much of the rest of the game, he chased down Manchester United attacks, before, in the dying seconds of the match, summoning the energy to slip Graham Rix's cross past Gary Bailey for Arsenal's winner. In those dramatic 90 minutes, Sunderland showed his ability to fuse a wily midfielder's willingness to think outside the box, with a goal poacher's instinct.

Arsenal's thrilling 3-2 victory was due, in no small part, to the versatility of Alan Sunderland. ■



CHRIS WHYTE PART-TIME POACHER

It remains one of the stranger episodes in Arsenal history. Facing a drastic shortage of strikers at the start of the 1985/86 season (Paul Mariner was injured and Raphael Meade had been released), new coach John Cartwright convinced manager Don Howe that homegrown central defender Chris Whyte could do a job up front. Whyte – who hadn't figured for Arsenal in 18 months – showed potential in the position when he scored six goals in a 12-0 reserve team victory over Charlton: "I showed that I was quite useful as a striker simply because of my touch and I was quite mobile for a six foot plus player. So the staff felt that I was definitely worth giving the opportunity."

In early October, Howe threw Whyte into the mix for a home against Aston Villa at Highbury, and he partnered Tony Woodcock up front. A low crowd of 18,881 watched an end to end encounter, and Whyte even swivelled and scored to help give Arsenal a 3-2 victory (Woodcock and Viv Anderson also scored) on the day. His time up front at Highbury lasted only four matches, before he was left out of the starting line up once again, and departed to try his luck in Major League Soccer in the US. Whyte returned to England and won the title with Leeds United in 1992, by which time he was restored to central defence. ■

FIRST PAGE

Alan celebrates after a goal against Tottenham

OPPOSITE PAGE

Posing on the Highbury pitch after signing for Arsenal in November 1977

TOP

Chris in defence during a sunny pre-season match at Portsmouth in 1983

ABOVE

The young youth team product in 1981

COMMUNITY



YOUNG PEOPLE STILL GETTING THEIR KICKS!

Through our Premier League Kicks programme, we deliver free football sessions across Islington, Hackney, Camden and Westminster. These locations offer safe spaces for young people to play football with their peers supported by Arsenal in the Community staff, many of whom were former participants on the programme themselves.

Football sessions are at the centre of the programme, however we prioritise supporting the young people off the pitch through more of a youth work style approach.



ABOVE
Hard at work creating an outdoor therapy space



LEFT, FAR LEFT AND FACING PAGE
Volunteering at the local food banks during lockdown

We encourage the participants to take active roles within the sessions by helping staff with refereeing and supporting coaching drills and since the project began in 2006 we have had many examples of participants playing a positive role in their wider community.

Between the months of May and August this year, while the country was on lockdown, young people from the Kicks programme went above and beyond to help those most in need in our community.

A group of 11 people, made up of both former and current participants aged 18 to 28, volunteered almost 200 hours of their time to Islington Council, local food



CUP WINNER!

When the hero of our 1971 FA Cup win Charlie presented Qalid with the cup, he asked him how he came to volunteer.

"There was no uni, no work everything had just shut down," said Qalid, all smiles as he clutched the cup, "and that's when my coach presented me with the idea of volunteering and I said yes, without hesitation. I ended up working at five different centres." ■



banks and community centres. They carried out tasks including helping create parcels containing food and hygiene products for vulnerable residents, delivered art supplies to the elderly who were self-isolating so they could take part in online art classes and helped create an outdoor therapy space at a local well-being centre.

One of the volunteers, Qalid, was treated to a visit at his

home by Arsenal legend, Charlie George with the FA Cup as a thank you for his efforts during this period (above).

The club would like to thank all of those involved in giving up their time to support those most in need during such a challenging time.

Huge thanks to: Qalid, Ben, Abdirashid, Josh, Kenny, Shawdon, Dillon, Stazzy, Assil, Isaac and Jordan. ■



ON PARADE



ALWAYS
AHEAD
OF THE
GAME



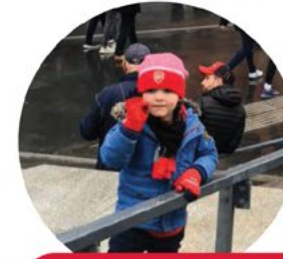
Miles only has two sets of clothes, school uniform and Arsenal kits!



Mike, Nicola, Joshua Luke & Jack, with Indi, from North London, living in Basingstoke.



Jack and Noah are missing the Emirates but have been cheering the team on at home!



Here's Henry enjoying his first ever game



Ernie and Libbie loved going on the stadium tour



WTOW WELCOME, HARRISON!

Born in February 2020, here's Harrison at just eight days old with his older brother Oakley!

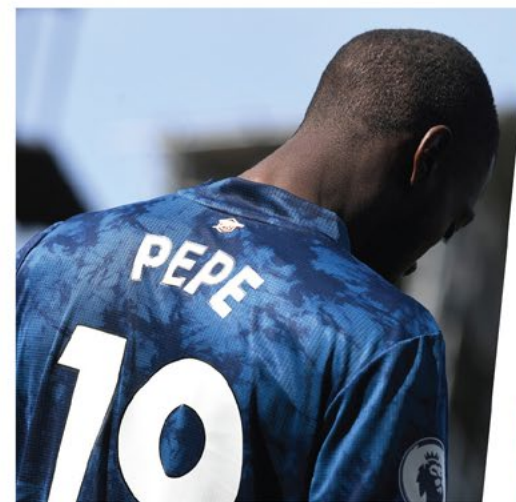
Would you like to welcome someone to our world? Send a photo to JuniorGunners@Arsenal.co.uk and let us know all about them



WTOW membership is for our youngest fans aged 0-3 years. As a WTOW member your little one gets access to fun competitions, special events and loads of other benefits including Gunners' Membership pack!

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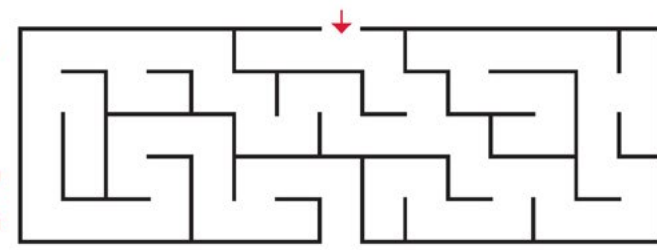
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JGS CALLING EDDIE NKETIAH

Join us for the final episode of JGs Calling, where Junior Gunners member Harvey goes behind the scenes to interview his favourite Arsenal players.

This time, breakout star Eddie Nketiah tells us about the origins of his iconic phonecall celebration, working with Mikel Arteta and which Arsenal youngsters to look out for in the future.

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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG GUNS

IN THIS ISSUE...

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Charlie Patino
- 45** **MATCH REPORTS**
Mixed results against the Saints
- 49** **NEWS**
McGuinness on the move
- 51** **REMEMBER**
Stephen Bradley
- 52** **STATS**
Results and fixtures



YOUNG GUN

CHARLIE PATINO

Talking to: Aidan Small



BORN
Watford, October 17, 2003

JOINED ARSENAL
Under-12s (2015)

HEIGHT & WEIGHT
6ft and 73 KG

POSITION
Centre midfield (8)

SCHOOL
Aldenham School, Elstree



My first ever football club was St Albans City. I actually grew up living in London Colney and I was really close to the Arsenal training ground even as a kid, but St Albans City were my first club and I've got some great memories of playing there. We used to just turn up on a Saturday and play a game, it was as simple as that. There was no training or anything overly structured, you were basically just free to do whatever you want and play, as you should be as a kid.

I knew that scouts were watching our team at the time, but you often don't know where, when or who, so you just have to keep performing when you have the chance. Looking back, though, I reckon I was so young that I didn't even understand what a scout is or what they do. I was just focused on playing football! But I remember my dad explaining all of it to me and telling me that I should take every opportunity I ever get.

Anyway, one day one of the scouts from Luton

contacted my dad after watching me play and we thought it was a great opportunity for my development. That's when things started to become serious because it was no longer solely about the fun of playing, it was about improving and bettering myself on a weekly basis and testing myself against some of the best youth teams in the country.

Five years down the line I had five of the big Premier League clubs wanting to sign me and that was really exciting. Going to Luton from St Albans was a big step for me but going from Luton to Arsenal was even bigger. I remember my dad explaining to me that not every boy has the opportunity to do that and we really took the time out to make sure that we chose the right club. I'll never forget my first trip to Colney. As soon as I arrived, I told my dad that this is the place I want to be, not only for the amazing facilities, but for the opportunities this club gives to young players too.

I was 11 when I joined the club and obviously because of that I didn't have the greatest idea of what's happening, but you still have a little bit of understanding and that's when you've got your parents and family to help you and guide you with it. I still remember them explaining to me what's happening, why it's happening

"GROWING UP I ADORED SANTI CAZORLA AS A PLAYER... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT SANTI AND THE QUALITIES THAT HE HAD – HE WAS SOMETHING ELSE"

and what could be the best option for me, and I'll forever be grateful for their guidance.

Five years on and it's no surprise I have a massive soft spot for Arsenal, but I've got to be completely honest and say that my heart is with Luton Town! I spent five years there as well and the development they gave me was massive and I'll always appreciate that. My dad and I

were season ticket holders too and we'd literally watch every home game after I'd been playing in the morning, so they've played a massive part in my life. My dad also supports another team called Deportivo La Coruna because he grew up Spain. Maybe one day I could play for them too!

I've always had an appreciation for that Spanish style of play. Growing up I adored Santi Cazorla as a player, and Cesc Fabregas and Mikel Arteta were some of my favourites too. But there's something about Santi for me and the qualities that he had – he was something else. As a midfield player there's so much I can learn from him, but from an attitude and professionalism perspective, and something a little closer to home, another player I really look up to is Bukayo Saka. He's two years older than me and I'm working my hardest to try and follow in his footsteps. That's the pathway I want to take at Arsenal. ■



CHARLIE PATINO LOWDOWN

Earliest memory of football Getting scouted for Luton

First footballer I looked up to Andres Iniesta

Favourite football shirt I've owned Spanish one with David Villa on the back

Favourite pair of old boots Adidas F50

Best friend in football Ben Weyman

Best ever goal Overhead kick v Barnet (for Luton)

Best player I've ever faced Carlos Alvarez (Sevilla)

Best game ever England vs Spain U17 when captain

Best moment of my career Training with the first team

The stadium I'd like to score in Nou Camp

Player to score a one on one to save my life Messi

Best training ground tip I've been given 'Treat every training session like it's your last' Mikel Arteta

My memorabilia Luton Town home tickets

RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	70
SHOOTING	83
DRIBBLING	89
PASSING	93
DEFENDING	81

Another sport I'm good at Swimming, tennis

Favourite training drills Possession/rondos

Ambition this season away from the pitch Start driving

Most important non-playing attributes for young footballers Being polite, treat everyone with respect,

ABOUT ME

Favourite footballer of all-time Andres Iniesta

Favourite Instagram follow @ad3yanju

Most played Spotify artist Lil Durk, Headie One

Favourite musician Lil Tjay

Pre-match song Watch yo homie - Lil Durk

Best football attribute Passing, creativity

On an away day I need iPad with Netflix

One thing I want to achieve Represent my country

If I wasn't a footballer I'd be a pundit

First-team player I look up to most Dani Ceballos



Celebrations after Ben Cottrell (centre) had put us ahead

MATCH REPORTS



COTTRELL 11



SIMS 48
CHAUKE 64

1

**Premier League 2
Friday, September 11
Arsenal Training Centre**

ARSENAL U23s Macey, Alebiouso (63), Oyegoke (77), McGuinness, Bola, Azeez, Olayinka, Cottrell, Cirjan (58), Balogun, Lewis
SUBS Hillson, Ogunbo (77), Akinola (63), Oulad M'hand (58), McEneff

2

We slipped to a 2-1 defeat against Southampton in our opening Premier League 2 fixture.

Eight players remained in our starting XI from our Leasing.com Trophy victory over Ipswich Town just a few days earlier – but we were unable to match that

same attacking intensity against the Saints.

Matt Macey, Miguel Azeez and Catalin Cirjan were handed their first competitive starts of the season, replacing Tom Smith, Jordan McEneff and Salah-Eddine Oulad M'hand.

The visitors started as the stronger side, yet it was Ben Cottrell who opened the scoring at the second time of asking, finishing from inside the area with his left foot.

Southampton continued to dominate play, though, pressing high up the pitch, and they came close to an equaliser before the break through Kayne Ramsey, who could only fire wide.

It was more of the same in the second half and Saints grabbed their reward through Josh Sims, only for Ramsey to be dismissed for a second yellow card offence.

We should have kicked on and made our advantage count, but shortly after Kgagelo Chauke reacted first inside the area to give the visitors the lead for the first time.

Substitute Oulad M'hand carved out a late chance to salvage a share of the spoils, but Harry Lewis was on hand to produce a fine diving save. ■

"BEN COTTRELL OPENED THE SCORING, FINISHING FROM INSIDE THE AREA WITH HIS LEFT FOOT"



4

PLANGE 19
FINNIGAN 25 (OG)
FLORES 36
EDWARDS 90+8



2

BABIC 80 (PEN)
SMITH 90+2

U-18 Premier League South
Arsenal Training Centre
Saturday, September 12

ARSENAL U18s Graczyk, Laing, Ogungbo, Kirk, Awe (72), Patino, Flores, Bandeira, Plange (78), Hutchinson, Taylor-Hart (71) **SUBS** Ejeheri, Foran (72), Edwards (71), Francis, Vigar (78)

Our under-18s kicked off their 2020/21 season with an impressive 4-2 win over Southampton.

Prior to this, Ken Gillard's side hadn't played a competitive fixture since early March – but there were no signs of rust as they delivered a complete team performance from start to finish.

With plenty of new faces for a new season, the back four comprised of Levi Laing, Zach Awe, Alex Kirk and Mazeed Ogungbo, with Charlie Patino and Mauro Bandeira at the base of midfield, and Marcelo Flores further forward as a No 10. Wingers Omari Hutchinson and Kido Taylor-Hart supported Luke Plange, who started through the middle.

Latching onto a through ball from Taylor-Hart, Plange opened the scoring with an impressive finish from a tight angle, before Ryan Finnigan inadvertently headed the ball into his own goal from a set-piece.

We were all over the Saints and Flores made it three before the break, racing on to Hutchinson's through ball and rifling into the far corner.

Goran Babic and Jayden Smith pulled two back for the visitors late on, but with one last counter-attack, Khayon Edwards fired home from close range and guaranteed all three points. ■

ABOVE

Khayon Edwards put paid to the Saints comeback

RIGHT

Centre forward Luke Plange got the ball rolling

OPPOSITE PAGE

William Saliba was a dominant presence for the under-23s



2

JENKS 34 (PEN)
CASHMAN 73



2

COTTRELL 45+2
OLAYINKA 55

Premier League 2
AMEX Elite Football
Performance Centre
Friday, September 18

ARSENAL-U23s Hillson, Alebiuous (80), Saliba, Ballard, Bola, Akinola, Cottrell, Olayinka, Oulad M'hand, Lewis (83), Balogun **SUBS** Ejeheri, Oyegoke (80), McEneff (83), Cirjan, Azeez

William Saliba starred for our under-23s as we secured a 2-2 draw with Brighton & Hove Albion on the road.

Ben Cottrell and James Olayinka were the names on the scoresheet – but it was new defender Saliba who impressed most, showing great composure and quality to dominate play from deep.

We started strongly and came close to an opener through Folarin Balogun, who struck the post after regaining possession high up the field.

George Lewis then went on to sting the gloves of Carl Rushworth with a dipping effort, before Salah-Eddine Oulad M'hand and Balogun combined neatly on the edge of the area, only for the latter to be denied by a stunning save.

The hosts then went on to take the lead against the run of play, with Teddy Jenks converting coolly from the spot.

But on the stroke of half-time, Lewis skipped past his marker on the edge of the area with some fine footwork, before playing an inch-perfect pass for Cottrell to finish into the far corner.

The England Under-18 international has now scored in each of our PL2 fixtures this season.

We continued to push forward after the restart and were duly handed our reward, with Saliba playing a key role in the goal.

The France youth international skipped forward out of defence and played a probing pass into the attack, where Olayinka was able to turn and finish into the bottom corner.

We went on to create a number of other promising opportunities, but in the end, we were made to pay for our missed chances, as Danny Cashman headed home at the far post for a share of the spoils. ■



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ACADEMY NEWS

TIME TO MAKE HIS MARK

Mark McGuinness has joined League One side Ipswich Town on loan until the end of the season.

The 19-year-old defender has been with us since he was ten years old and has progressed through our Hale End Academy, signing his first professional contract in April 2019.

Mark has been a regular in our youth sides during his development in recent years, featuring prominently in our under-18s and last season making his debut for the under-23s.

The Republic of Ireland youth international trained regularly with the first team squad this pre-season and made an impact in the friendly match at Milton Keynes Dons in August, scoring in a 4-1 win.

He then went on to deliver an outstanding performance against Ipswich Town in the Leasing.com Trophy, guiding our under-21s to a hard-fought 2-1 victory.

Everyone at Arsenal wishes Mark all the best for his season with Ipswich Town. ■



Mark is Portman Road-bound

NEW DATE FOR U23s

We have received confirmation that our Premier League 2 fixture against Chelsea has been rearranged.

The game will now take place today (Sunday, October 4), having originally been scheduled for Saturday, October 3.

The game will take place at Kingsmeadow Stadium at 12pm, see the next programme for a match report.

FINAL CHECKATRADE FIXTURE CONFIRMED

We have received confirmed fixture details for our final group-stage outing in the EFL Trophy against Gillingham.

Steve Bould's side will travel to Priestfield Stadium on Tuesday, November 10, with kick-off taking place at 5.30pm.

Our under-21s will be aiming to progress to the knockout stages of the competition after securing a 2-1 win over Ipswich in early September. George Lewis and Folarin Balogun were the names on the scoresheet. ■



Jordan McEneff in action against Ipswich in the EFL trophy

Trae Coyle in action for Gillingham



LOAN STARS ON TARGET IN LEAGUE ONE

Young Gunners forward Trae Coyle scored what proved to be the winning goal for Gillingham as they beat Wigan 3-2 at the DW Stadium on September 19.

Coyle bagged his first League One goal of the season in the break in the 62nd minute. Scott Robertson laid the ball off on the edge of the box and our on-loan youngster bent the ball beyond Jamie Jones for the crucial third goal.

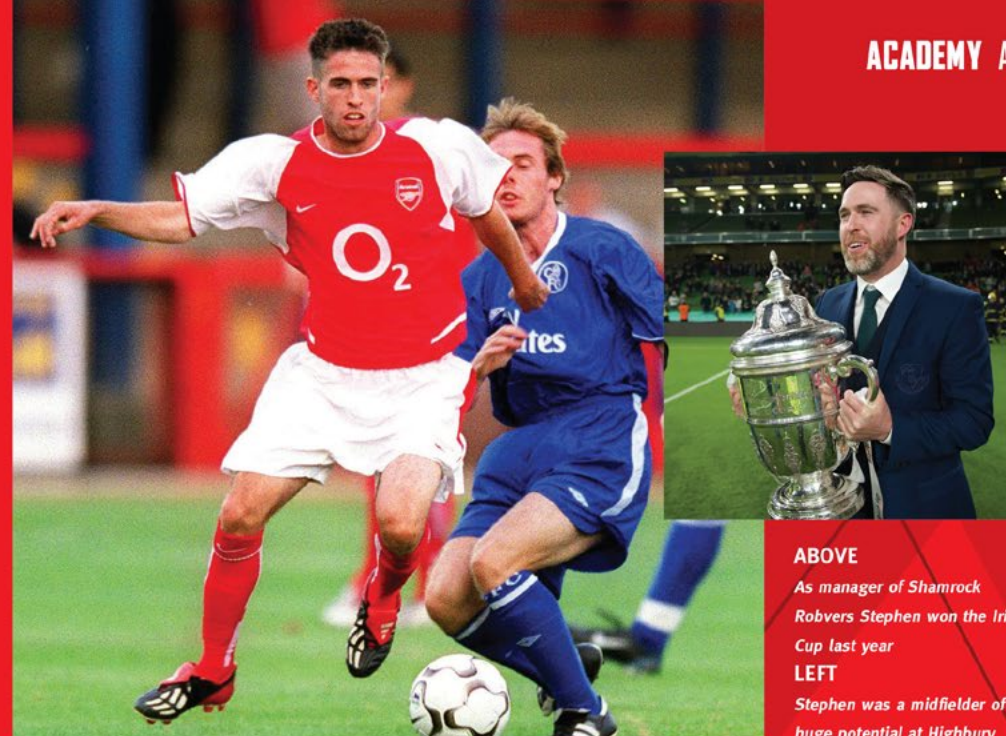
In that match, fellow on loan Gunners youngster Zech Medley was an unused sub, but he played the full 90

Tyreece celebrates his goal against Charlton with his team-mates



minutes last weekend as Gillingham beat Blackpool 2-0 to send the Kent club seventh in the league.

Our young striker Tyreece John-Jules was also on the scoresheet for his loan club Doncaster Rovers, as they beat Charlton 3-1 at The Valley on September 19. He scored a superb individual goal, picking the ball up on the corner of the box, beating two men and firing into the roof of the net. The following week Doncaster beat Bristol Rovers 4-1, lifting them to fourth in the League One table, and though Tyreece didn't get on the scoresheet, he did assist Rovers' final goal for Jon Taylor and his performance so impressed the 'Donny' supporters, he was voted their man of the match. ■



ABOVE

As manager of Shamrock Rovers Stephen won the Irish Cup last year

LEFT

Stephen was a midfielder of huge potential at Highbury

ACADEMY ALUMNI

Catching up with former Arsenal Academy players as they continue their pro careers away from Emirates

STEPHEN BRADLEY

When Shamrock Rovers entertained AC Milan and Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the Europa League last month, keen students of the Arsenal Academy will have noticed a familiar face on the sidelines, barking orders to his impressive underdogs.

Stephen Bradley has been head coach at Rovers since 2016, appointed aged just 31, and guided Rovers to the Europa League via a second place in the Irish League.

But it all started at Arsenal, when 16-year-old Stephen joined our academy as a scholar at the start of the 2001/02 season, in a cohort that included Justin Hoyte,

Seb Larsson and current under-14s academy coach Adam Birchall. A star of Republic of Ireland junior sides, Stephen was a highly skilled attacking midfielder of whom there were high hopes and he signed a three-year professional contract two years after arriving at the club.

Unfortunately things didn't quite pan out for the Dubliner, who later admitted it was 'too much too soon' and with his motivation waning and world-class options ahead of him in the first-team (including the recently arrived Cesc Fabregas), after a loan spell at Dunfermline in Scotland, he headed back to Ireland in 2005.

The Republic of Ireland U21 international enjoyed a successful career in the League of Ireland, playing for Drogheda, Shamrock Rovers, St Patricks Athletic and Limerick. Voted into the FAI Team of the Year in 2012, he retired from playing two years later, and took up a coaching role at Shamrock Rovers before being appointed as caretaker manager, then manager and proving a great success at the helm of the Hoops, winning the 2019 Irish Cup and qualifying for the Europa League.

Interestingly, Rovers' team against AC Milan included Aaron McEneff, brother of current Arsenal academy player Jordan McEneff. Playing for Milan was Ismael Bennacer, who was with our academy between 2015 and 2017. ■

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH STATS

UNDER-23 FIXTURES

Fri Sept 11	Southampton	H	1-2
Fri Sept 18	Brighton & HA	A	2-2
Sat Sept 26	Tottenham Hotspur	H	0-1
Sun Oct 4	Chelsea	A	12pm
Fri Oct 16	Manchester United	H	1pm
Sat Oct 24	Manchester City	A	1pm
Fri Oct 30	Liverpool	H	7pm
Fri Nov 6	Blackburn Rovers	A	7pm
Fri Nov 20	Everton	H	7pm
Fri Nov 27	Derby County	H	7pm
Fri Dec 18	Leicester City	H	7pm
Fri Jan 8	West Ham United	A	7pm
Sun Jan 17	Southampton	A	2.30pm
Fri Jan 22	Brighton & HA	H	7pm
Fri Jan 29	Tottenham Hotspur	A	12pm
Fri Feb 5	Chelsea	H	7pm
Fri Feb 12	Manchester United	A	7pm
Fri Feb 19	Manchester City	H	7pm
Fri Feb 26	Liverpool	A	7pm
Fri Mar 12	Blackburn Rovers	H	7pm
Sun Mar 21	Everton	A	1pm
Mon Apr 12	Derby County	A	7pm
Mon Apr 26	Leicester City	A	7pm
Fri Apr 30	West Ham United	H	7pm

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Tottenham Hotspur	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Liverpool	3	2	0	1	7	5	2	6
Chelsea	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Brighton & HA	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	5
Derby County	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
Southampton	3	1	1	1	5	7	-2	4
Everton	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	3
Blackburn Rovers	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Leicester City	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
Manchester City	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
Arsenal	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1
West Ham United	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
Manchester United	2	0	0	2	3	7	-4	0

UNDER-18 FIXTURES

Sat Sept 12	Southampton	H	4-2
Sat Sept 19	Tottenham Hotspur	A	0-2
Sat Sept 26	Crystal Palace	H	3-2
Sat Oct 3	West Ham United	A	11am
Sat Oct 17	Brighton & HA	H	11am
Sat Oct 24	West Bromwich Albion	A	12pm
Sat Oct 31	Norwich City	H	11am
Sat Nov 7	Reading	A	11am
Sat Nov 21	Fulham	H	11am
Sat Dec 12	Leicester City	H	11am
Sat Dec 19	Chelsea	H	11am
Sat Jan 9	Aston Villa	A	11am
Sat Jan 16	Southampton	A	11.30am
Sat Jan 23	Tottenham Hotspur	H	11am
Sat Jan 30	Crystal Palace	A	11am
Sat Feb 13	West Ham United	H	11am
Sat Feb 20	Brighton & HA	A	11am
Sat Feb 27	West Bromwich Albion	H	12pm
Sat Mar 13	Norwich City	A	11am
Sat Mar 20	Reading	H	11am
Sat Apr 10	Fulham	A	12pm
Sat Apr 24	Leicester City	A	11am
Sat May 1	Chelsea	A	11am
Sat May 8	Aston Villa	H	11am

LEASING.COM TROPHY FIXTURES

Tue Sept 8	Ipswich Town	A	2-1
Mon Oct 12	Crawley Town	A	7.45pm
TBA	Gillingham	A	TBA

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Aston Villa	3	3	0	0	6	2	4	9
Tottenham Hotspur	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
Norwich City	3	2	0	1	9	4	5	6
Fulham	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
Arsenal	3	2	0	1	7	6	1	6
Chelsea	3	1	2	0	6	3	3	5
Crystal Palace	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
Brighton & Hove Albion	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2
Reading	2	0	1	1	4	6	-2	1
Southampton	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1
West Bromwich Albion	2	0	1	1	4	8	-4	1
Leicester City	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0
West Ham United	3	0	0	3	3	10	-7	0

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FOURTEEN TIMES

14TH PREMIER LEAGUE GAME

In August we lifted the FA Cup for a record-extending 14th time. But it's not just our rich, illustrious history in football's oldest knock-out competition that is synonymous with the number 14.



Half-time entertainment at Selhurst Park for our 14th game was Sky Sports' Sumo wrestlers!

AUGUST '93

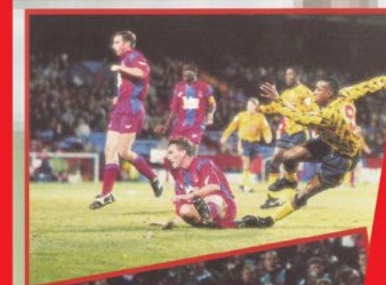
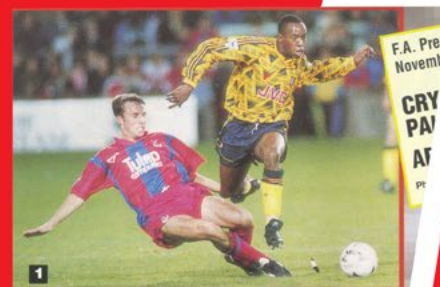
14

IT HAPPENED ON THE 14TH...

ARSENAL 0-3 COVENTRY CITY



It was the first game in front of the newly-built North Bank stand, but this wouldn't turn out to be an occasion that any of the Arsenal fans among the 26,397 inside Highbury that Saturday afternoon will want to remember. For this game – nearly 30 years ago – remains the last time a visiting player scored a hat-trick against us. The man to claim the matchball was Coventry striker Mick Quinn (pictured, celebrating with John Williams), who made sure our 1993/94 Premiership season got off to the worst possible start with goals in the 34th, 61st and 64th minutes. It was the first hat-trick scored by an opposition player in the league at Highbury for 75 years and turned out to be the last ever – in any competition. And no visiting player has yet departed from Emirates Stadium with the matchball, meaning Quinn's feat has gone unmatched in our past 748 home games. ■



14th Premier League Game November 2, 1992

Crystal Palace 1, Arsenal 2

Known as the Premiership when it was launched in 1992, we kicked off the brave new world of English football with a surprise 4-2 defeat to Norwich at Highbury. That was followed three days later by a 1-0 reverse at Blackburn, but things soon picked up for George Graham's side, and three wins on the spin – including one at Anfield – moved us up the table. So we were up in fourth position after 13 games, and the 14th was against lowly Crystal Palace in a rare Monday night fixture at Selhurst Park. Paul Merson fired us ahead after just five minutes but Eddie McGoldrick – set up by Gareth Southgate – brought the hosts level with 20 minutes remaining. McGoldrick must have impressed Graham throughout the game, as the Republic of Ireland international signed for the Gunners at the end of the season. But he would be on the losing side this time, with Ian Wright predictably netting the winner against his former team, just four minutes later. It was his ninth goal of the season (he would go on to get 30 in all competitions) and moved us up to third place, just a point behind early leaders Blackburn. This season would be all about the cups for the Gunners though, as we became the first side ever to win both the League Cup and FA Cup in the same season. ■

FORWARD



JOE WILLOCK

Arsenal Football Club prides itself on always looking forward, so we're asking our players to gaze into the future to see what's on the horizon.



What type of training do you most look forward to?

I love small-sided games. I just love competing to be honest, so whenever it's about keeping possession or something that we can compete against another team with, I love it. I really enjoy learning too and that's something that's increased since Mikel's been at the club. He's really tactical and it's already helped me to improve my game.

How far forward do you look at the fixture list?

Honestly, as players, I think the fixture list isn't quite as big of a thing. We just try to take each game as it comes, and we try our best not to get carried away with 'difficult' periods or anything like that. We just try our best to control what we can control.

What's your perfect night before a matchday?

I'll have a nice dinner with my brothers, then I'll speak to them about whether I'm starting or on the bench and how I can impact the game from that position. I try to write down in my journal what I want to achieve in the game too, whether that's scoring or dropping a big performance off the bench. It just helps me to visualise ▶

ARSENAL

**IN A DREAM WORLD,
WHAT WOULD BE
YOUR NEXT...**

MEAL

My mum's curry goat

NEW CAR

Lamborghini Urus



TROPHY YOU WIN

World Cup

THING YOU BUY

A grassroots football team



NEW TEAM-MATE

My brother, Chris



it happening and makes me feel confident going into the game. Then I'll always try and get to sleep at a reasonable time and wake up, have breakfast and stay in a strong mindset.

If you had to work in coaching, media or something non-football after your playing career, which would you choose?

Right now, I'd want to get involved in coaching or management. I love to help other people learn and I feel like I could be quite relatable to a lot of younger kids who want to go all the way. I've only had a really short career so far, but I've already been through a lot of things that people don't know about, so I'd love to help people who are going through those same things to come out the other side and be the best that they can be, whether that's on a football pitch or in something off it. I'd love to help people from all backgrounds. I started my coaches badges in school because it was compulsory at the time, so I think I've got my level two, but I'm not too sure! I really want to continue with it when I'm more settled in my career.

"I TRY TO WRITE DOWN IN MY JOURNAL WHAT I WANT TO ACHIEVE IN THE GAME, WHETHER THAT'S SCORING OR DROPPING A BIG PERFORMANCE OFF THE BENCH"

What managers or coaches would influence your management style?

Mikel Arteta and I'm not just saying it because he's our current manager. The level of detail that he goes into for even the smallest of things is incredible and that's something I'd love to do if I was a manager as well. He blew us away when he first arrived. He treats everyone at the club the exact same too, from the canteen ladies to the cleaners and us players, and I really like that. He's a great reminder that wherever you go and whoever you meet, you're representing The Arsenal.

Freddie Ljungberg taught me a lot too. He was brilliant to work with in the under-23s and he really helped me to find my feet with the first team. Thierry Henry is another coach that I admire, he was brilliant for my development when he was here. They're all legends, so hopefully I can emulate what they've done at this club.

What club would you never sign for?

Easy, Tottenham.

TOP

Celebrating after scoring against Southampton

ABOVE

Driving forward in the Community Shield



What other profession would you love to try after you leave football?

Outside of football, I'd love to go abroad and work with charities to help underprivileged children. Hopefully if I've had a successful career then I won't have to work after football, and I can put myself in the position to help others through charity and foundations. There are loads of kids out there who have never been given the chances and opportunities that I've been given, so I'd like to do everything I can to help them.

What are you looking forward to doing once you retire that you can't do now?

I'd just like to travel around the world really. There are so many things that I've never seen and experienced, and as I'm getting older, I'm realising the importance of seeing those things and it's something I really want to do. I'd love to just set off with my family one day and know that we have all the time we want to just share and enjoy those experiences. That would be cool.

What other places would you like to see once you stop playing?

I'd love to go back to where my family are from, a small island in the Caribbean called Montserrat. I'd love to go there for a few months of the year and then do a tour of all the Caribbean islands, I like the sound of that. I'd also love to just go and see things like the pyramids. Those are the kinds of things you don't get the time to do as a player.

What do you want to achieve away from football?

I'd love to leave behind a legacy. Not only for my family, but for other kids that can say 'Joe Willock made it and he helped us.' I'd want them to remember

"I'D LOVE TO GO BACK TO WHERE MY FAMILY ARE FROM, A SMALL ISLAND CALLED MONTSERRAT"

my name for the right reasons, for giving other people the opportunities and belief to succeed and do what they want to do in life. I want to help other people really and if they can help someone else because of it, I'm happy.

Who do you think is the next big thing?

There's a lot of crazy talent out there right now. I'm seeing loads of videos on Instagram and Twitter of kids at youth level just killing it, and I love seeing that, but one player who I really rate is Miguel Azeez. He plays for our under-23s right now and he's really talented.

Who will win the next World Cup?

England.

Do you plan your meals over the week?

This is something that I've really been focusing on this year. It wasn't something I paid great attention to last season, but I'm wanting to bulk up right now and if you want to do that, you need to put plans in place.

Do you have a project you are working on at the moment away from football?

I've got a few things I'm working on right now, but I'll save that for another day. I'm keeping it hush!

What invention does the world need most in your opinion?

Time travel.

Finally, you are told there's a spare seat on the next trip to the International Space Station – do you go? Why? And if there were two seats, who do you want with you?

Yes, of course I'm going! And I'm bringing Reiss with me for the jokes! The one person I wouldn't bring? My girlfriend, that would be a headache!■



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MY STORY



The work of The Arsenal Foundation and the partners and initiatives it supports have touched the lives of a great number of people in a variety of ways

The Arsenal Foundation has helped to fund expeditions for the Volunteer Police Cadets, which offers young people the opportunity to learn new skills via the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime. Shazia Asif, 16, tells us what they get up to

I've been at Cadets for just over a year and now I am Head Cadet. I also like to play football so I train at the Arsenal Hub on Saturdays and coach four to six-year-olds at Tufnell Park Football School. I grew up in Luton, then moved around a lot but now live in Finsbury Park with my mum and younger sister.

I started going to the Cadets because one of my friends who went would always tell me about all the fun and exciting things they got up to. I went along with her and I loved it. I was nervous but the staff were so welcoming and everyone went out of their way to include me, even though I didn't have a clue what was happening! Now, as Head Cadet I try to attend every session, which take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term time, and I sign up for every event possible.

My first Duke of Edinburgh expedition was my Bronze Award in Epping Forest. We arrived at Loughton Station with our bags and were given a map and a compass. It took four hours to reach our destination, despite losing our point on the map. The expedition was two days and a lot of fun, despite the rain. Thankfully we had our red waterproofs.

I never cook at home – I just about make toast for myself – and we had to cook our own food. No one wanted the pressure of cooking for everyone so I



Shazia is now Head Cadet

volunteered and I loved it. I managed to make instant noodles and pasta, and no one got sick! It was only noodles but we all start somewhere and I started to cook in the woods of Epping Forest.

We definitely built closer bonds as a team, looking after and helping each other, whether that was carrying bags, putting up tents or just motivating each other.

My ambition is to go into criminology. I'm fascinated by the events in someone's life that could change them in that way. At Cadets we sometimes play games where we have to figure out who the killer is, and these kinds of activities motivate me into pursuing that career path even more.

I think it's great that The Arsenal Foundation have helped to fund our expeditions. As a teenager, I can honestly say we like practical things. We like doing stuff, camping out, going to places, and we learn more by doing the things we love. We learn so much and experience so much, too. This is why funding, and all the help we can get, is so important. ■

For more info visit www.vpc.police.uk



Building closer bonds



0



2

FUCHS 57 (06)
NKETIAH 90

MATCH STATS	
5 TOTAL SHOTS	13
2 SHOTS ON TARGET	8
2 CORNERS	3
2 OFFSIDES	1
12 FOULS	12
46 POSSESSION %	54

ARSENAL

1 Leno
15 Maitland-Niles
16 Holding
23 David Luiz
31 Kolassinac
25 Elneny
28 Willock (77)
7 Saka (87)
30 Nketiah
19 Pepe
24 Nelson (71)

SUBSTITUTES

Runarsson, Bellerin (87), Saliba, Ceballos (77), Xhaka, William (70), Lacazette

LEICESTER CITY

12 Ward
5 Morgan
18 Amartey
28 Fuchs
33 Thomas
7 Gray
10 Maddison (72)
11 Albrighton
14 Iheanacho
20 Choudhury
32 Dewsbury-Hall (76)

SUBSTITUTES

Jakupovic, Justin, Knight, Tielemans, Barnes, Praet (72), Perez (76)

CARABAO CUP ROUND 3

7.45pm • Wednesday, September 23 • King Power Stadium

FIRST HALF

Kelechi Iheanacho blasted a shot wide in the opening 60 seconds for the hosts, before Reiss Nelson sent an effort towards the top corner – only for Danny Ward to tip over. Leno then saved well from Iheanacho after he'd been put through by Marc Albrighton but we began to assert control, pinning the hosts back as we prodded and probed. The lively Bukayo Saka sent a fine ball right across the face of goal and then went down under a tackle by Daniel Amartey in the area but the referee waved play on. Nelson had a golden chance just after the half-hour mark but he prodded his shot wide before the half closed with James Maddison curling an effort onto the inside of the post and back into Leno's hands.

SECOND HALF

The second half got off to a quieter start than the first, but 10 minutes in we took the lead as Nicolas Pepe's shot deflected off the post, onto the legs of Christian Fuchs and in. We continued to press and came close to doubling our lead when Eddie Nketiah lobbed Ward, only to see Wes Morgan race back and head off the line. Leicester pushed for an equaliser in the closing stages, and nearly had one but Ayoze Perez headed wide from close range, before Nketiah made sure of our place in the fourth round in injury time after poking in from close range. ■



A wry smile from Nicolas Pepe after his run had prompted the own goal that left Leicester on their knees

LEFT

2-o! Eddie Nketiah shows his determination to get the ball over the line



John Fleck scored at Emirates last season



SHEFFIELD UNITED

FORMED
1889

NICKNAME
The Blades

STADIUM
Bramall Lane (32,125)

HONOURS
First Division/Premier League winners **1897/98**
Second Division/Championship winners **1952/53**
Third Division/League One winners **2016/17**
Fourth Division/League Two winners **1981/82**
FA Cup Winners **1899, 1902, 1915, 1925**
Charity Shield **1898**

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Sheffield United know that they will have their work cut out to make the 2020/21 season as productive and successful as 2019/20 – the club's first in the Premier League for 13 years. The Blades surprised all and sundry by challenging throughout last season for a European place, only to come unstuck with defeats in their last three matches and end up in what was ultimately, given what had gone before, a disappointing ninth place.

Nevertheless, with fellow newly promoted sides Norwich City and Aston Villa both fighting relegation all season – the former in vain, the latter with success – it was a stirring effort from manager Chris Wilder and his side to finish where they did. Very few pundits had the 2018/19 Championship runners-up down to survive the drop, let alone claim a final placing in the top half of the table. With 14 wins, 12 draws, 12 defeats, 39 goals for and the same number against, it was a thoroughly satisfactory return to the elite and by far the best of the club's four Premier League campaigns.

Now the task for the South Yorkshire club is to prove that last season was not just a one-off and that they have the spirit, resolve and wherewithal to consolidate their current status and make 2020/21 another season to remember. Unfortunately, they have not made the best of starts, stretching their run of Premier League defeats to six in a row with three losses out of three last month – 2-0 at home to Wolves, 1-0 away at Aston Villa and, particularly painfully 1-0 last weekend at Bramall Lane in the local derby against newly promoted Leeds United.

The Blades visit Emirates Stadium knowing that they had the better of their two league fixtures with Arsenal last season, winning the first game 1-0 at Bramall Lane last October – with a Lys Mousset strike – before holding the Gunners 1-1 in the Emirates return thanks to a John Fleck equaliser that, despite coming late in the game, was certainly deserved after a very impressive performance from Wilder's team. Arsenal did, however, knock Wilder's men out of the FA Cup in late June, winning the quarter-final 2-1 at Bramall Lane courtesy of Dani Ceballos's stoppage-time winner shortly after David McGoldrick had equalised Nicolas Pepe's first-half penalty.

United have already experienced further cup disappointment this term, going out of the EFL Cup in the second round on penalties after a 1-1 draw against Burnley at Turf Moor, with Oli McBurnie missing the only one of the ten spot kicks in the shoot-out. From now until January the club therefore have only the Premier League to concern themselves with. Their first game after the forthcoming international break is at home to Fulham, but after that they face successive games against Liverpool (away) and Manchester City (home). It promises to be a testing October for Wilder and his players.

VISITORS SHEFFIELD UNITED



Tragic Bob was a Blade... then a Gunner

MUTUAL ADMIRATION

BOB BENSON made 283 league appearances for Sheffield United after signing from Southampton in May 1905. Famous for scoring penalties – he notched 20 of them in eight years with The Blades – the full back earned one England cap before heading to Arsenal at their new Highbury home in November 1913. He played two seasons before the First World War broke out, operating as a centre forward on occasions and scored seven goals in 54 appearances for the Gunners.

But Bob is most famous for his tragic death. Working for the Royal Arsenal Ordnance Factory during the war, he attended a wartime match at Highbury and persuaded a team-mate to let him play in his place. After an hour, he left the pitch complaining of 'stiffness in his legs'. He collapsed in the dressing rooms and died of a burst blood vessel – he was just 33. Buried wearing his Arsenal shirt, the club played a benefit match the following year with all money going to his family.



1 IN GOAL AARON RAMSDALE GOALKEEPER

BORN Chesterton, 14/5/98

PREVIOUSLY Sheffield United, Bournemouth, Chesterfield (I), Wimbledon (I)

Aaron returned to the club that developed him when he left Bournemouth for Sheffield United in a £18.5m four-year contract in August. The England Under-21 international was the Cherries' first-choice goalkeeper last season, having made his Premier League debut against Sheffield United following an impressive loan spell at AFC Wimbledon. The 22 year old has a tough act to follow, replacing Dean Henderson, who returned to his parent club Man United this summer.



6 AT THE BACK CHRIS BASHAM DEFENDER

BORN Hebburn, 30/5/88

PREVIOUSLY Bolton, Stafford Rangers (I), Rochdale (I), Blackpool

A Sheffield United player since 2014, when he joined from Blackpool, Chris has racked up 285 appearances in all competitions for the Blades, winning two promotions, and has started all 41 of their Premier League matches since the club's return to the elite last year, forming a rock-solid alliance with fellow centre backs John Egan and Jack O'Connell. The 32 year old central defender also played briefly in the top flight earlier in his career for Bolton and Blackpool.



2 ON THE RIGHT GEORGE BALDOCK MIDFIELDER

BORN Buckingham, 9/3/93

PREVIOUSLY MK Dons, Northampton (I), Tamworth (I), IBV (I), Oxford United (I)

George took a long and circuitous route to the Premier League, his CV even including a loan spell in Iceland with IBV of the Vestmanna Islands in 2012. Having re-established himself back at first club MK Dons in League One in 2016/17, he moved to Sheffield United, where he has made the right wing back slot his own. He was a Premier League ever-present last term, scoring two goals – away to Tottenham (1-1) and the winner at Norwich (2-1).



3 ON THE LEFT ENDA STEVENS MIDFIELDER

BORN Dublin, Rep Ireland, 9/7/90

PREVIOUSLY UCD, St Patrick's, Shamrock Rovers, Aston Villa, Notts County (I), Doncaster (I), Northampton (I), Portsmouth
The native Dubliner began his career in the League of Ireland before joining Aston Villa in January 2012. He made just seven Premier League appearances for Villa before a number of loan spells led to a permanent move to Portsmouth in 2015. Two years later Enda signed for the Blades and has been on the left flank ever since, starting all 38 Premier League matches last term. He is a current Republic of Ireland international with 16 caps.



16 IN THE MIDDLE OLIVER NORWOOD MIDFIELDER

Born Burnley, 12/4/91

Previously Man United, Carlisle (I), Scunthorpe (I), Coventry (I), Huddersfield, Reading, Brighton, Fulham (I)

Oliver made it three promotions to the Premier League in as many seasons when he helped the Blades go up in 2018/19 after previous successes with Brighton and Fulham. He initially moved to United on loan before signing a permanent deal in January 2019. He enjoyed an outstanding debut campaign in the Premier League, starting 37 of the 38 matches and serving as the team's principal playmaker. His international career with Northern Ireland ended last year with 57 caps.



4 THE SWEET LEFT FOOT JOHN FLECK MIDFIELDER

BORN Glasgow, 24/8/91

PREVIOUSLY Rangers, Blackpool (I), Coventry

Once of Rangers, Scottish midfielder John spent four seasons as a regular League One starter for Coventry before joining United in 2016 and immediately helping them win promotion to the Championship. The diminutive left-footer was equally instrumental in getting the Blades back into the Premier League and has shone at the highest level, scoring five goals last term, the last of them to gain a draw at Arsenal, and becoming a full Scotland international in the process.



8 THE JANUARY BUY SANDER BERGE MIDFIELDER

BORN Baerum, Norway, 14/2/98

PREVIOUSLY Asker, Valerenga, Genk

A Norway international who won his 21st cap in the recent Nations League opener against Austria, Sander became the Blades' record signing when he signed a four-and-a-half-year contract in January. His first goal came in a memorable 3-1 home win against Spurs in early July. A defensive midfielder, he had four seasons in Belgium with Genk, helping the club to the league title and the Europa League in 2018/19.



10 THE LOCAL HERO BILLY SHARP MIDFIELDER

BORN Sheffield, 5/2/86

PREVIOUSLY Sheffield Utd, Rushden (I), Scunthorpe, Sheffield Utd, Doncaster, Southampton, Nott'm Forest (I), Reading (I), Doncaster (I), Leeds

A living Bramall Lane legend, Billy's third spell at his hometown club has taken him past 100 goals for the Blades – though just three came in last season's Premier League, two against Bournemouth and one against Norwich. The 34 year old striker and club captain was the Blades' top scorer in 2018/19, scoring 23 goals in the Championship, but was in and out of the starting XI last term.



THE BOSS CHRIS WILDER

BORN September 23, 1967, Stocksbridge, Sheffield

PREVIOUSLY Alfreton (2001-02), Halifax (2002-08), Oxford United (2008-14), Northampton (2014-16)

A former right back, Chris played for Sheffield United, from 1986-92, and returned to Bramall Lane as manager in 2016, replacing Nigel Adkins, having just led Northampton to the League Two title. The 53 year old has enjoyed enormous success at his boyhood club, winning League One in his debut season, finishing runners-up in the 2018/19 Championship and then steering the club to its highest top-flight placing in 28 years. He has been voted Manager of the Year in all three divisions of the Football League and was not far off completing the set last season.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

Sheffield United's kit sponsors

1979-81 – CAXTONS

1981-82 – BENTLEYS

1982-83 – RENAULT

1983-85 – SIMONDS

1985-88 – ARNOLD LAVER

1988-95 – LAVER

1995-99 – WARDS

1999-00 – BLADES

2000-2002 – MIDAS GAMES

2004-2006 – HFS LOANS

2006-08 – CAPITAL ONE

2008-2011 – VISIT MALTA

2011-2013 – WESTFIELD HEALTH

2013-14 – SPORTSGAMES.COM

2014-16 – JOHN HOLLAND SALES

2016-17 – ALPHAROOMS

2017-18 – TELETXT HOLIDAYS

2018-19 – RAMSDENS CURRENCY

2019-21 – USG



REALLY?!

United midfielder John Fleck will probably be involved in Arsenal's 1,079th Premier League game today. His **UNCLE ROBERT** played in just the Gunners' 11th game in the competition on October 3, 1992. His Chelsea side losing 2-1

When United chairman Kevin McCabe bought Hungarian giants Ferencváros in 2008, ex Arsenal winger Paul Shaw – who had recently played for Sheffield United – **HEADED TO BUDAPEST** and played two successful seasons there

On December 30, 2006 United beat Arsenal 1-0 at Bramall Lane courtesy of a Christian Nade goal. An **UNFORGETTABLE MATCH FOR PHIL JAGIELKA**, the defender – now back with the Blades – went in goal on the 61st minute following an injury to Paddy Kenny and successfully kept out an Arsenal attack spearheaded by Robin van Persie.



FIRST IMPRESSION

Reproducing the oldest picture in our archives featuring today's opponents.

It's April 12, 1930 and Jack Lambert is pictured scoring against Sheffield United in a Division One fixture at Highbury.

Technology dictated that getting pictures of goals being scored was quite rare in pre-war photography, but the photographer had plenty of opportunities this afternoon as the Gunners went goal crazy in an 8-1 win. Lambert registered a hat-trick, Scottish forward Bill Johnstone bagged a brace and legends Joe Hulme, Cliff Bastin and Alex James also notched.

Arsenal ended the season 14th but Herbert Chapman's team went on to win the cup that season, their first major trophy. The Blades finished 20th, just one place above the relegation zone.

PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS

2

DRAWS

4

SUFC WINS

2

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 25

ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS

49

DRAWS

28

SUFC WINS

40

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 42

3-0

Our first ever victory at Emirates Stadium was against Sheffield United in the Premier League on September 23, 2006. It finished 3-0, with all three scorers (William Gallas, Thierry Henry and a Phil Jagielka own goal) sharing a birthday



ABOVE
Aaron Ramsdale was brought in from Bournemouth during the summer

RIGHT
Midfielder Sander Berge was another summer arrival



SCOUTING REPORT

After three meetings with Sheffield United last season – a 1-0 defeat and a 1-1 draw in the league, and a 2-1 victory in the FA Cup – Arsenal should know what to expect from the Blades. But working out how Chris Wilder's side play is a very different task from stopping them, and his unique approach continues to cause opponents problems.

Wilder's use of overlapping centre backs is well-known, although in reality this is only part of the plan. Chris Basham and Jack O'Connell certainly do scamper forward into positions you wouldn't expect of defenders, but this is simply one part of a wider strategy aimed to overload opponents in wide areas.

The central midfielders often pop up close to the touchlines to create overloads, as does David McGoldrick, nominally a centre forward. From there, Sheffield United often play one more pass than you would expect, rotating players down the flanks to work the ball into a position to play a cross or a cut-back.

The major change from last season is in goal, where Dean Henderson has returned to Manchester United, with Aaron Ramsdale rejoining the club after three years at Bournemouth. In front of him, the three centre backs are unchanged, with Basham and O'Connell playing either side of John Egan, who should return today after suspension. O'Connell however will miss out, and could be ruled out for the rest of the season with a knee injury.

Wilder's general approach in midfield last season featured Oliver Norwood sitting deep and spraying passes to the flanks, with John Fleck pushing forward to the left and John Lundstram charging forward into the right channel, often popping up in goalscoring positions. Record signing Sander Berge is likely to start more often this season, however, and seems most at home in Lundstram's role.

Out wide, the work of Enda Stevens and George Baldock often goes unnoticed – both are capable of fine deliveries into the box from wide, and both are also capable of popping up in narrow positions when a centre back charges past them on the outside.

Going forward, Wilder has five decent options. McGoldrick understands the system very well, and no-one else can play his deep-lying, drifting role so effectively. Oliver McBurnie is more of a target man and a target for crosses, while Billy Sharp is a veteran goal-poacher often used from the bench. Lys Mousset is good at running into the channels and scored the winner against Arsenal at Bramall Lane last year, while newcomer Oliver Burke was previously considered a wide player, but demonstrated intelligent running and link play in the defeat to Aston Villa, when Egan's early red card meant he was forced to play up front alone.

Sheffield United also do the scrappy things well – their last-ditch defending is impressive and they offer a threat from set-pieces. Wilder is a canny tactician, too – in last season's 1-0 win over Arsenal he switched from a back five, to a back four, and then returned to a back five to see out the victory. ■

ARSENAL WOMEN

News and reports from England's most successful women's football team



NOBBS 72
EVANS 74, 84, 90



4

FA Cup quarter-final
Meadow Park
Saturday, September 26

ARSENAL

Zinsberger, Maritz (Maier 82, Williamson, Schnaderbeck (Wubben-Moy 82), McCabe, Little (Mace 88), Van de Donk, Nobbs (Mead 77), Evans, Miedema (Gut 77), Foord **SUB NOT USED** Stenson

0

Lisa Evans hit a 16-minute hat-trick in the north London derby to book a place in the semi-finals of the Vitality Women's FA Cup.

Jordan Nobbs was also on the scoresheet, while Lotte Wubben-Moy featured on her return to the club and Ruby Mace made her debut.

We started strongly and came close to an opener through Caitlin Foord, who saw her looping header bounce back off the bar from a stunning Leah Williamson delivery.

But the remainder of the first half proved to be a tightly-contested affair, as Tottenham committed fouls high up the pitch to stifle our build-up play and restrict space in the final third.

We continued to push on, though, and after missing a number of golden opportunities, Nobbs pounced on a defensive error to brilliantly curl the ball into the top corner from 30 yards.

Evans went on to double our lead with a cool finish,



TOP
Lisa Evans is all smiles after claiming the matchball

ABOVE
Jordan Nobbs with a stunning chip to open the scoring

converting Vivianne Miedema's defence-splitting pass, before scoring her second of the evening with an instinctive left-footed effort.

But our No 17 wasn't done there. In search of a late comeback, Tottenham pushed high up the pitch and left themselves exposed on the break, allowing Beth Mead to break free down the right and tee up Evans for her hat-trick.■



NORTH LONDON IS RED

Arsenal Women have won every single match they've played against Tottenham – ever! Indeed, the last four fixtures have seen an aggregate score of 22-0 with the last four results reading 10-0, 2-0, 6-0 and 4-0. Long may the run continue!■

WOMEN HIT SEVEN FIGURES

The level of support for Arsenal Women was highlighted this week when their official Instagram account hit one million followers. The first women's football team – in fact female team in any sport – to hit that mark. Truly incredible support. Thanks to everyone who follows the Gunners.■



MADE IN THE PACK

Congratulations to Ruby Mace who made her first team debut in the victory over Tottenham. Ruby, from Havering in east London, is a product of the Arsenal Women's academy and only celebrated her 17th birthday on September 5 but didn't look out of place when she came on for captain Kim Little towards the end of the match. Here's to many more, Ruby!■



2020/21 FIXTURES

SEPT 6	READING	G-I
SEPT 12	WEST HAM UNITED	9-1
SEPT 26	SPURS (FA CUP QF) 5.15PM	4-0
OCT 1	MAN CITY (FA CUP SEMI-FINAL)	A
OCT 4	BRISTOL CITY	H
OCT 7	CHELSEA (CC)	A
OCT 11	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	A
OCT 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	H
OCT 31	FA CUP FINAL (WEMBLEY)	
NOV 7/8	MANCHESTER UNITED	A
NOV 14/15	CHELSEA	H
DEC 5/6	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H
DEC 12/13	MANCHESTER CITY	A
DEC 19/20	EVERTON	H
JAN 9/10	ASTON VILLA	A
JAN 16/17	READING	A
JAN 23/24	WEST HAM UNITED	H
FEB 6/7	MANCHESTER CITY	H
FEB 10/11/12	CHELSEA	A
MAR 6/7	BIRMINGHAM CITY	A
MAR 17/18	MANCHESTER UNITED	H
MAR 27/28	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	A
APR 3/4	BRISTOL CITY	A
APR 24/25	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	H
MAY 1/2	EVERTON	A
MAY 8/9	ASTON VILLA	H

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT SEPT 28)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ARSENAL	2	2	0	0	15	2	13	6
EVERTON	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
CHELSEA	2	1	1	0	10	1	9	4
MAN UNITED	2	1	1	0	6	3	3	4
BRIGHTON & HA	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	4
MAN CITY	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	4
READING	2	1	0	1	4	7	-3	3
TOTTENHAM	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
WEST HAM	2	0	1	1	2	10	-8	1
ASTON VILLA	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
BIRMINGHAM CITY	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0
BRISTOL CITY	2	0	0	2	0	13	-13	0





MANE 28
ROBERTSON 34 / JOTA 88



LACAZETTE 25

3

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 3

8pm • Monday, September 28, 2020 • Anfield

FIRST HALF

We matched Jurgen Klopp's team during a feisty start to the game. Sadio Mane clattered Hector Bellerin in the opening seconds and then earned a yellow card for striking Kieran Tierney in the face. The champions slowly got on top. Rob Holding, David Luiz and Granit Xhaka made vital interventions. Bernd Leno saved from Mane and then Trent Alexander-Arnold's effort deflected off Bellerin and hit the crossbar. Then, against the run of play, we struck in strange fashion. Ainsley Maitland-Niles' cross was miscued by Andy Robertson and the ball dropped for Alexander Lacazette. He scuffed his shot into the ground but the ball bounced in over Allison. Our joy was short-lived however. Mane tucked home after Bernd Leno had saved from Mo Salah and then Robertson ghosted into the box and flicked home to give Liverpool the lead.

SECOND HALF

We regrouped and competed better after the break. Holding impressed with a number of vital blocks, and at the other end substitute Dani Ceballos slid a perfect ball through to Lacazette, only for Allison to charge out and block the shot. But Liverpool had plenty of chances too, substitute Diogo Jota missing the best of them on his debut before striking with just two minutes to play to settle the contest.

MATCH STATS	
21 TOTAL SHOTS	8
4 SHOTS ON TARGET	3
7 CORNERS	3
0 OFFSIDES	5
11 FOULS	7
66 POSSESSION %	34

LIVERPOOL

- 13 Alisson
- 66 Alexander-Arnold
- 12 Gomez
- 4 Van Dijk
- 26 Robertson
- 5 Wijnaldum
- 3 Fabinho
- 8 Keita (80)
- 11 Salah
- 9 Firmino (90)
- 10 Mane (80)

SUBSTITUTES

Adrian, Williams, Milner (80), Minamino (80), Jota (80), Jones, Origi

ARSENAL

- 1 Leno
- 2 Bellerin
- 16 Holding
- 23 David Luiz
- 3 Tierney
- 25 Elneny
- 34 Xhaka (60)
- 15 Maitland-Niles
- 9 Lacazette (73)
- 14 Aubameyang
- 12 Willian (68)

SUBSTITUTES

Runarsson, Gabriel, Kolasinac, Ceballos (80), Saka, Pepe (68), Nketiah (73)



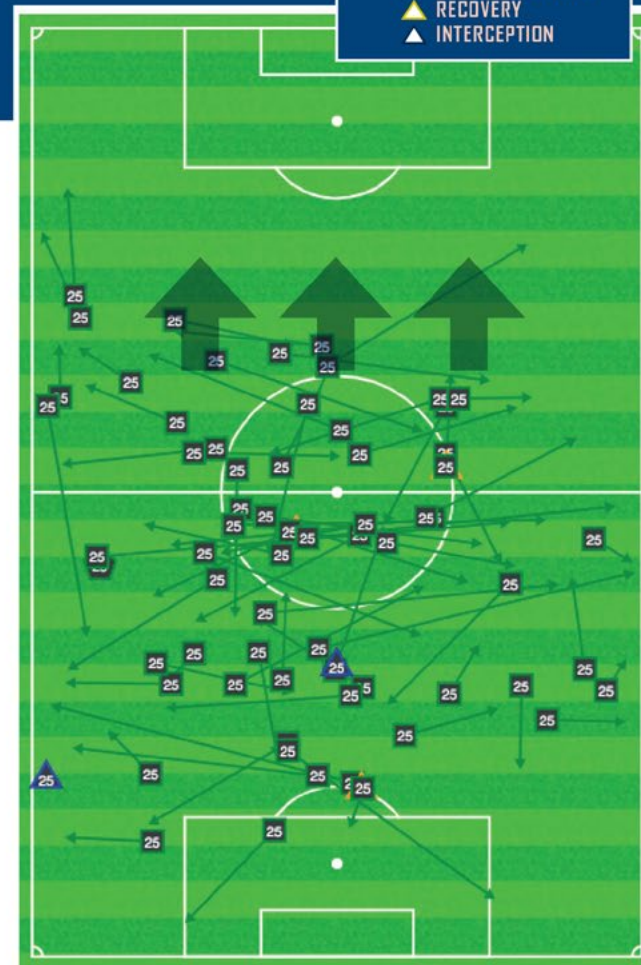
Substitute Eddie Nketiah making a nuisance of himself in the Liverpool penalty area

THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD

Sportsbet.io

MOHAMED ELNENY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020
CARABAO CUP
LEICESTER CITY 0-2 ARSENAL

- SUCCESSFUL PASS
- ▲ RECOVERY
- ▲ INTERCEPTION



MO IN THE MIDDLE

Another game, another dependable performance from Mohammed Elneny.

When the Egyptian returned to our starting XI for the first time since May 2019 in the Community Shield, many questioned whether he could rise to the challenge and provide some much-needed stability to our midfield.

But under the guidance of Mikel Arteta, Elneny has delivered a number of outstanding performances, including in our 2-0 win over Leicester City in the Carabao Cup third round. A reliable midfielder with an exceptional attitude, Elneny rarely turns to tricks, flicks and take-ons in the middle of the park – instead opting to screen our backline and recycle play to his more adventurous teammates. As our results suggest, it's proven to be extremely effective. Against the Foxes, Elneny registered the most touches (82), most successful passes (66), three recoveries, joint-most interceptions (2) and joint-most fouls won (1) on the pitch.

His performance didn't go unnoticed by the fans either, with our No 25 receiving a host of praise on social media.

He played the full 90 minutes of our last league game at Anfield last Monday as well, where again he led the way in terms of possessions gained (7) and interceptions (2) for us.

Mo has slotted back into life at Arsenal after a year on loan



	DATE	OPPOSITION	F-A	POS /RND	ATT/KD	STARTING XI										SUBSTITUTES										REFEREE	
SEPTEMBER A	Sat 29	Liverpool	1-1+	CS	1	BCD #	Martinez	Bellerin	Holding	David Luiz	Tierney	M-Niles	Elneny	Xhaka	Saka	Nketiah	AUBAMEYANG	Cedric(59)	Nelson(82)	Willock(87)	Kolasinac(83)	Saliba	Smith Rowe	Iohn-Jules	Olayinka	Leno	A. Marriner
	Sat 12	Fulham	3-0	●	1	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Gabriel	Tierney	M-Niles	Elneny	Xhaka	Willian	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(75)	Ceballos(78)	Nketiah(77)	Saka	Willock	Kolasinac	Macey	C. Kavanagh		
	Sun 20	West Ham United	2-1	●	2	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	Gabriel	Kolasinac	Saka	Ceballos	Xhaka	Willian	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(64)	Nketiah(77)	David Luiz(89)	M-Niles	Elneny	Willock	Macey	M. Oliver		
	Wed 23	Leicester City	2-0*	●	CC3	BCD	Leno	M-Niles	Holding	DAVID LUIZ	Kolasinac	Saka	Elneny	Willock	Pepe	Nelson	Nketiah	William(72)	Ceballos(78)	Bellerin(87)	Saliba	Lacazette	Xhaka	Runarsson	P. Bankes		
	Mon 28	Liverpool	1-3	●	5	BCD	Leno	Bellerin	Holding	David Luiz	Tierney	M-Niles	Elneny	Xhaka	Willian	Lacazette	AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60)	Pepe(68)	Nketiah(74)	Gabriel	Saka	Kolasinac	Runarsson	C. Pawson		
OCTOBER	Thur 1	Liverpool			CC4	7.45pm																					
	Sun 4	Sheffield United			2pm																						
	Sat 17	Manchester City																									
	Thurs 22	UEL Group MD1			MD1																						
	Sun 25	Leicester City																									
NOVEMBER	Thurs 29	UEL Group MD2			MD2																						
	Sun 1	Manchester United																									
	Thurs 5	UEL Group MD3			MD3																						
	Sun 8	Aston Villa																									
	Sat 21	Leeds United																									
DECEMBER	Thurs 26	UEL Group MD4			MD4																						
	Sun 29	Wolverhampton Wanderers																									
	Thurs 3	UEL Group MD5			MD5																						
	Sun 6	Tottenham Hotspur																									
	Thurs 10	UEL Group MD6			MD6																						
JANUARY	Sun 13	Burnley																									
	Wed 16	Southampton																									
	Sat 19	Everton																									
	T/W 22/23	Carabao Cup QF			QF																						
	Sat 26	Chelsea																									
FEBRUARY	Mon 28	Brighton & HA																									
	Sat 2	West Bromwich Albion																									
	T/W 5/6	Carabao Cup SF			SF																						
	Sat 9	FA Cup R3			3																						
	T/W 12/13	Crystal Palace																									
MARCH	Sat 16	Newcastle United																									
	Sat 23	FA Cup R4			4																						
	T/W 26/27	Southampton																									
	Sat 30	Manchester United																									
	T/W 2/3	Wolverhampton Wanderers																									
APRIL	Sat 6	Aston Villa																									
	T/W 9/10	FA Cup R5			5																						
	Sat 13	Leeds United																									
	Thurs 18	UEL R32 L1			R32																						
	S/S 20/21	Manchester City																									
MAY	Thurs 25	UEL R32 L2			R32																						
	S/S 27/28	Leicester City/CC Final																									
	Sat 6	Burnley																									
	Thurs 10	UEL R16 L1			R16																						
	S/S 13/14	Tottenham Hotspur																									
	Thurs 17	UEL R16 L2			R16																						
	S/S 20/21	West Ham United			FAC 6																						
	Sat 3	Liverpool																									
	Thurs 8	UEL QF L1			QF																						
	S/S 10/11	Sheffield United																									
	Thurs 15	UEL QF L2			QF																						
	S/S 17/18	Fulham			FACSF																						
	Sat 24	Everton																									
	Thurs 29	UEL SFL1			SF																						
	S/S 1/2	Newcastle United																									
	Thurs 6	UEL SFL2			SF																						
	S/S 8/9	West Bromwich Albion																									
	T/W 11/12	Chelsea																									
	Sat 15	Crystal Palace/FA Cup Final																									
	Sun 23	Brighton & HA																									
	Wed 26	UEFA Europa League Final																									

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Leicester City	3	3	0	0	8	9
2. Liverpool	3	3	0	0	5	9
3. Everton	3	3	0	0	5	9
4. Aston Villa	2	2	0	0	4	6
5. Arsenal	3	2	0	1	2	6
6. Crystal Palace	3	2	0	1	2	6
7. Leeds United	3	2	0	1	1	6
8. Tottenham Hotspur	3	1	1	1	2	4
9. Chelsea	3	1	1	1	0	4
10. Newcastle United	3	1	1	1	-1	4
11. West Ham United	3	1	0	2	1	3
12. Brighton & HA	3	1	0	2	0	3
13. Manchester City	2	1	0	1	-1	3
14. Manchester Utd	2	1	0	1	-1	3
15. Southampton	3	1	0	2	-3	3
16. Wolves	3	1	0	2	-4	3
17. West Brom	3	0	1	2	-6	1
18. Burnley	2	0	0	2	-3	0
19. Sheffield United	3	0	0	3	-4	0
20. Fulham	3	0	0	3	-7	0

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Alexandre Lacazette	3(3)	-	-	-	-	3(3)
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	3(1)	-	-	-	1(1)	4(2)
Rob Holding	3	-	-	1	1	5
Bernd Leno	3	-	-	1	-	4
Hector Bellerin	3	-	-	+1	1	4+1
Willian	3	-	-	+1	-	3+1
Granit Xhaka	3	-	-	-	1	4
Gabriel	2(1)	-	-	-	-	2(1)
Mohamed Elneny	2	-	-	1	1	4
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	2	-	-	1	1	4
Kieran Tierney	2	-	-	-	1	3
Dani Ceballos	1+2	-	-	+1	-	1+3
David Luiz	1+1	-	-	1	1	3+1
Bukayo Saka	1	-	-	1	1	3
Sead Kolasinac	1	-	-	1	+1	2+1
Eddie Nketiah	+3(1)	-	-	1(1)	1	2+3(2)
Nicolas Pepe	+3	-	-	1	-	1+3
Reiss Nelson	-	-	-	1	+1	1+1
Joe Willock	-	-	-	1	+1	1+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cedric Soares	-	-	-	-	+1	+1



sky sports

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NEW 20/21 THIRD KIT
ON SALE IN-STORE & ONLINE

MY ARSENAL

Name Anna Chapman

Age 18

Live in Aylesford, Kent

Occupation Student

Type of Membership Cannon

Why are you an Arsenal fan? My dad is a lifelong fan, so it's a family affair! I love football and Arsenal through him.

First Arsenal game? Arsenal v Fulham on New Year's Day 2019. It was a great start as we won 4-1!

Favourite Arsenal game attended? Arsenal 3-2 Aston Villa, September 22, 2019. It was amazing – from being 1-0 down with 10 men to end up winning the game 3-2.

Matchday routine? If it's a midday kick off I head straight to the stadium. But kick offs 3pm or later, I like to fit in a bit of sightseeing – it's always great to explore London!

Favourite place to eat before a game? The Titanic Cafe on Holloway Road – their food is amazing!

Favourite place to hang out before kick-off? In or around the stadium – it's so fun to see everyone hyped up before a match and the atmosphere is incredible!

How do you feel when you approach the ground? Excited but also nervous because I obviously want us to win.

Best place in the stadium to watch a game from? I prefer upper tier as I get a better view of the whole pitch. Most of the time I sit in the Clock End – everyone's always singing there and the atmosphere is so good.

Favourite ever Arsenal shirt? The original bruised banana kit from the 90s – I'd love to have one!

Do you collect Arsenal-related memorabilia?

I usually try to buy every season's home shirt at least and I also collect programmes for every match I go to.



What do you wear to games? My 2019/20 home shirt or my 2017/18 home Aubameyang shirt. Every match I've been to wearing these shirts we've won!

Whose name and number do you have on your shirt? I have a 2017/18 Aubameyang home shirt but I'd really love to get a Thierry Henry 2003/04 home shirt.

Who is your all-time favourite player? Thierry Henry, 100 per cent. When anyone thinks of Arsenal, he's probably one of the first players that springs to mind because of how amazing he was. A true Arsenal legend.

What's the best Arsenal goal you've ever seen live? Aubameyang's free-kick in the game against Aston Villa last season. The stadium went absolutely crazy.

Which player would you most like to go for dinner with? Aubameyang – he's my favourite player.

If you could be present at any Arsenal match in history, which would it be? The final game of the Invincibles season in 2003/04. It sealed us the golden trophy and it's a great day in Premier League history. ■

FIVE...

Favourite players

- 1 Thierry Henry
- 2 Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang
- 3 Dennis Bergkamp
- 4 Tony Adams
- 5 Aaron Ramsey



ARSENAL

MANAGER MIKEL ARTETA
RED SHIRTS WITH WHITE SLEEVES,
WHITE SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SO	
OO		1	BERND LENO (GK) (3)
OO		2	HECTOR BELLERIN (3)
OO		3	KIERAN TIERNEY (2)
OO		4	WILLIAM SALIBA
OO		5	SOKRATIS PAPASTATHOPOULOS
OO		6	GABRIEL (2/1)
OO		7	BUKAYO SAKA (1)
OO		8	DANI CEBALLOS (1+2)
OO		9	ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE (3/3)
OO		10	MESUT OZIL
OO		11	LUCAS TORREIRA
OO		12	WILLIAN (3)
OO		13	ALEX RUNARSSON (GK)
OO		14	PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (3/1)
OO		15	AINSLEY MAITLAND-NILES (2)
OO		16	ROB HOLDING (3)
OO		17	CEDRIC SOARES
OO		19	NICOLAS PEPE (0+3)
OO		20	SHKODRAN MUSTAFI
OO		21	CALUM CHAMBERS
OO		22	PABLO MARI
OO		23	DAVID LUIZ (1+1)
OO		24	REISS NELSON
OO		25	MOHAMED ELNENY (2)
OO		28	JOE WILLOCK
OO		29	MATTEO GUENDOUZI
OO		30	EDDIE NKETIAH (0+3/1)
OO		31	SEAD KOLASINAC (1)
OO		32	EMILE SMITH ROWE
OO		33	MATT MACEY (GK)
OO		34	GRANIT XHAKA (3)
OO		35	GABRIEL MARTINELLI



SHEFFIELD UNITED

MANAGER CHRIS WILDER
PINK SHIRTS, GREY SHORTS AND PINK SOCKS

P	S	SO	
OO		1	AARON RAMSDALE (GK) (3)
OO		2	GEORGE BALDOCK (3)
OO		3	ENDA STEVENS (3)
OO		4	JOHN FLECK (2)
OO		5	JACK O'CONNELL (2)
OO		6	CHRIS BASHAM (3)
OO		7	JOHN LUNDSTRAM (3)
OO		8	SANDER BERGE (2+1)
OO		9	OLI MCBURNIE (1+2)
OO		10	BILLY SHARP (1+1)
OO		11	LYS MOUSSET
OO		12	JOHN EGAN (2)
OO		13	MAX LOWE
OO		14	OLIVER BURKE (2)
OO		15	PHIL JAGIELKA
OO		16	OLIVER NORWOOD (1+1)
OO		17	DAVID MCGOLDRICK (2+1)
OO		18	WES FODDERINGHAM
OO		19	JACK ROBINSON (1)
OO		20	JAYDEN BOGLE
OO		21	MICHAEL VERRIPS (GK)
OO		22	ETHAN AMPADU (1+1)
OO		23	BEN OSBORN (1+1)
OO		25	SIMON MOORE (GK)
OO		26	JACK RODWELL
OO		28	REGAN SLATER
OO		29	KEAN BRYAN
OO		42	ZAK BRUNT

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Lee Mason

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Mark Scholes
Timothy Wood

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Robert Jones

VAR OFFICIAL

Andre Marriner

ADDITIONAL VAR OFFICIAL

Peter Kirkup

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Southampton v
West Bromwich
Albion(12pm)

Leicester City v West
Ham United (12pm)

Wolverhampton
Wanderers v Fulham
(2pm)

Manchester United v
Tottenham Hotspur
(4.30pm)

Aston Villa v Liverpool
(7.15pm)



Helping young people fulfil
their potential through
education and sport

