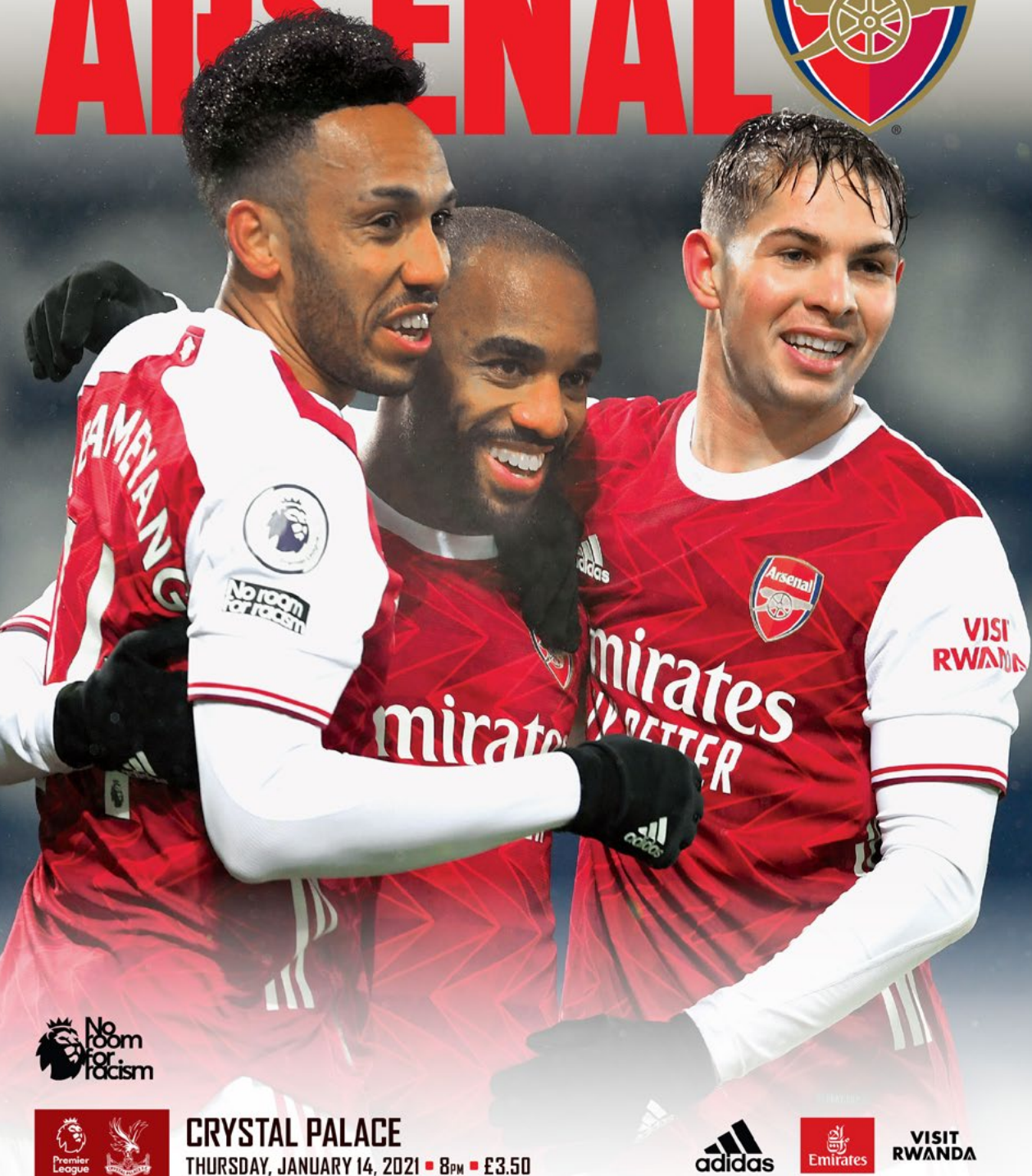


THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

ARSENAL



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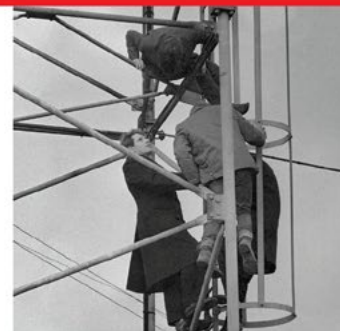
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COVER Auba, Laca and ESR savour our last Premier League win at West Brom



THIS IS FAMILY



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MIKEL ARTETA

We have got a lot of games coming up now – some important ones too – so we need to really establish our home form.

We've had some issues at the Emirates and now it's time to get some wins here. We've got two home games in a row in the next few days and home form is going to be key for the future of our season. Obviously, after four wins everything looks better and we're looking forward to the games more now.

We want to keep that consistency and carry on with the belief that we can go into every game feeling we are going to win it. The more games we can win, the better that feeling is going to be.

We have got another big challenge tonight in Crystal Palace. They are a really dangerous side and they've shown that against big teams. They are really compact and organised and so we know what to expect. They have players with a big individual talent that just need moments

to win games, to create actions that can unbalance the game, so we have to be very careful with that. Then, we have to play to be dominant again in the game. We have to go from the first minute to try to win the game, to attack them and be cautious as well of the strengths that they have and try to control them as much as possible.

They have very specific players in positions that reinforces their way of playing. Roy Hodgson always makes things difficult. They might have lost some games lately but for me that's not a real consequence of what they are as a team. Every game in the Premier League is tough. It doesn't matter what particular form any team might be in, every side in the Premier League has the quality to win at any time and I know they have a spirit in the dressing room and the willingness to put things ▶





right. So we have to be really, really ready to go and win again.

It's great to come up against Roy Hodgson again because if I could use one word to describe what he has done in the game it would be 'exceptional'. I would love to be able to manage for as long as he has. Also I have got so much admiration for the way he has done it as well.

His charisma, his personality, the way he approaches people, the way he is as a person and what he has achieved as a coach – it's just exceptional.

I have only been in this job for a short period, but I can only imagine doing it that long. It is an incredible achievement so my hat is off, because you need to have something really special and have really special people around you to achieve that.

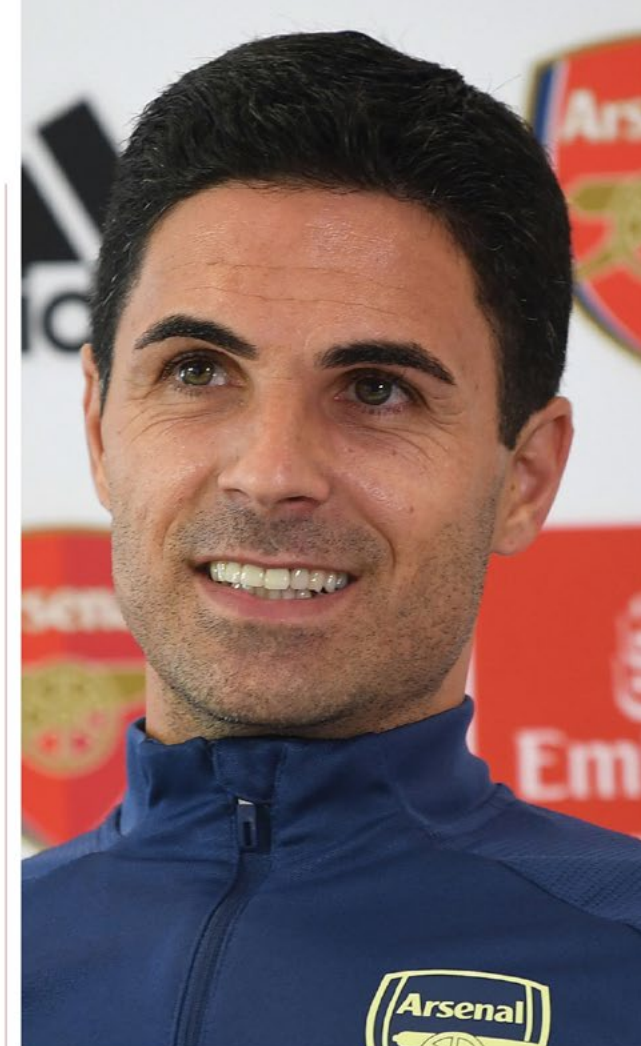
I heard a lot of coaches when they start say they are only going to do it for five or six years maximum, and then all of a sudden they have been there 15 or 20 years and they are still there! It's an addictive job.

Winning obviously helps and it was great to keep the momentum up on Saturday in the FA Cup.

"I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE CAPACITY EMILE'S SHOWN TO DO IT IN CONSECUTIVE GAMES"

We had to be patient against Newcastle. They defended well and made it difficult to play through them, but we had the chances. We had very big chances to score in fact, and as long as you don't get the first goal, the game stays open. When that happens you need your keeper in a key moment, and that's exactly what Bernd Leno did on the counter-attack in the last minute of the 90. It was magnificent and then we were able to score twice in extra-time which we deserved.

Emile Smith Rowe scored the first. I've been impressed with his performances since he came into the team, and also the capacity he's shown to do it in consecutive games. That is not that common with young players usually. Against Newcastle he came into the game when we needed a different energy and a threat in the box he did exactly what we expected. He scored too, which is something that we've been talking to him about.



I left Auba on for the full game too and his got his goal, and I think it was really important for him to do that. He played it nicely at the end and I'm delighted for him because he's been working so hard and he deserves it.

At the time of writing these notes we don't know what the results of the scan on Gabriel Martinelli's ankle are yet, but we have got good news about Thomas Partey. He was close to playing last Saturday, but we were a bit cautious with him, so he should be ready for today. Gabi in defence is also close so that's another positive.

It's great to have them available again as we go into these two crucial games over the next few days. This match and the one on Monday are vital to see the direction that we are taking and to reinforce all the things that we've improved on lately. Let's keep the run going.

Thanks for all your continued support. ■

PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

We played a good game on Saturday, the FA Cup is always really important for us and of course for me personally I was happy to score!

To be honest with you, the last few weeks have been tough for me. The whole year was about improving – it was a really, really hard year and I think we gave a lot as a team. We gave everything towards the end of last season to win the FA Cup and qualify for the Europa League because we were all aware just how important that is for the club and for ourselves too. Then from the beginning of this season I was struggling with my form a little bit. Actually maybe more than a little bit! But I think that's part of football. Sometimes you have ups and downs and you have to manage it as best you can. I tried my best and until now it was maybe not the best performance from me, but now I think I'm positive and I know I can turn it round.

That's what I'm trying to do, but the team is the most important thing and we have got back to winning games so we are all happier now.

As I've said before, I am someone who likes to lead by example, so sometimes it can be hard to manage your own form and the captaincy at the same time, but I know it's important to stay as positive as I can because the team needs me. So it's true that the last month or so was hard, but that doesn't stop me from trying to give my best. Not only during the games but also away from that – around the training ground and in the dressing room with the rest of the guys.

It can be hard to do that every day if you are maybe not

in the right mood, but you have to find something in you to change that and give positive vibes for the guys. That's what I tried to do. I do my best!

I'm always speaking with my team mates, but I usually do that in the dressing room, especially when it's one-on-one because I'm not the guy who likes to scream and stuff like that. I stay cool and calm and can be quite quiet, but I like to give my advice when we are training or in the dressing room.

For sure being in good form affects all areas of your life, away from football too. Things become easier when you are doing well!

During the tough times all you can do is work hard and show everyone that you are still here even if you are not ▶



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"WE ARE NOT SO FAR FROM THE TOP SIX, SO THIS IS OUR MOMENT TO GET BACK IN THE COMPETITION."

scoring. That's my aim, to be alongside my team-mates and with them all the time.

I appreciate their support too, and now we want to keep our run going in a good, positive way.

Crystal Palace are a tough team to play. They've got some really good players and we've had tough games against them in the past.

For us we want to be strong at home again, and follow the standards we have set here lately. If we can get a couple of wins in these next few days against Palace and Newcastle then the situation in the league can quickly start to improve.

We are not so far from the top six, so this is our moment to get back in the competition.

We've worked hard to win our last few games after a really tough spell for us, but we can't let that stop now. We improved our position because everyone was giving more than 100 per cent so that's the standard we have to follow.

Also you need a bit of luck to turn things round. We

played some games quite well in that period, but something like a red card can change the game.

We kept going, kept positive and we have found some good solutions to score more goals which is what's making the difference for us.

I'm really pleased for Emile too because he had an injury to his shoulder, but he stayed positive too and now he's back on top.

We're all happy for him because he's a humble guy, always works hard – he can be quiet and shy – but I've spoken to him a few times and like with all the young players, I always try to give them advice when they need it.

Laca played a big part in that first goal on Saturday too, he keeps doing it at the moment! Talking of being positive, he always is – he loves the game and we've become like brothers over the past three years. He really helped me settle in when I first joined the club, so maybe now I need to give him some more assists on the pitch! Hopefully this year I can do that for him.

We are continuing to grow our relationship on the pitch and I think it's getting stronger. We both support each other all the time – we are not rivals on the pitch – so I think it's going to get even stronger now.

On behalf of the whole team, thanks for your support and come on you Gunners! ■



VOICE OF ARSENAL

SOUTHAMPTON OR SHREWSBURY IN THE FA CUP

Following our win over Newcastle on Saturday in the third round of the Emirates FA Cup, supporters will have watched Monday night's fourth and fifth round draws with interest.

As we aim to retain the cup, our next challenge will be a trip to either Southampton or Shrewsbury Town, whose match at St Mary's at the weekend was postponed due to a Covid outbreak. No new date has been finalised for their fixture, however in theory it needs to be played before the FA Cup fourth round weekend on Saturday, January 23. Southampton are regular opponents for the Gunners, and we'll be hoping to take inspiration from our last FA Cup tie against them when we won 5-0 at St Mary's, on our way to the 2017 cup triumph.

Shrewsbury on the other hand are a very rare opponent. We entertained them at Emirates in 2011 in the League Cup (won 3-1) and our last trip to Shropshire was in the FA Cup in 1991, when we won 1-0. Our only previous games against the Shrews came in the 1967/68 FA Cup fourth round when Arsenal won 2-0 in a replay after a 1-1 draw in Shrewsbury.

Both games in 1968 and 1991 were played at Shrewsbury's famous old Gay Meadow stadium, if we were to play them in the next round we would see action at their new Montgomery Waters Meadow Stadium.

As mentioned the game is scheduled to be played

on the weekend of Saturday, January 23 but the congested situation with fixtures means this can't be confirmed currently.

If we are successful in the fourth round, we would be on our travels again, to the victors of the tie between Chorley and Wolves. Nuno Espirito Santo's team will be strong favourites, however Chorley have already excelled in the competition, beating York City, Wigan, Peterborough and most recently Championship club Derby County, to reach the fourth round and earn a home tie against Wolves.

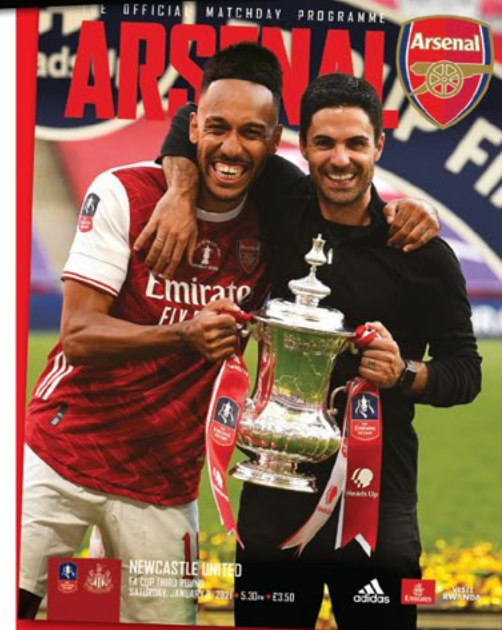
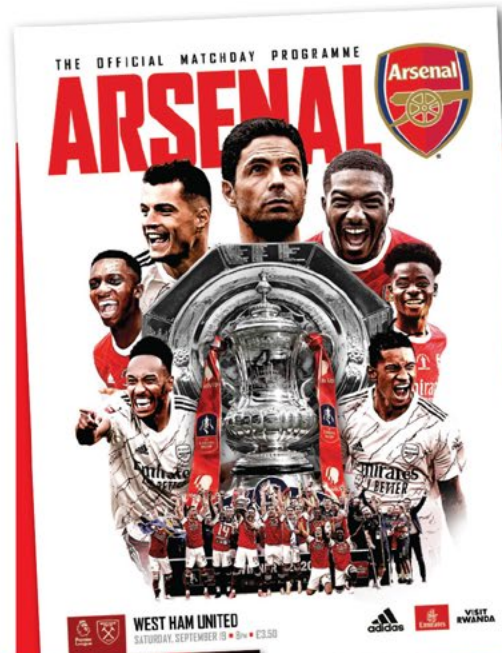
Fifth round matches are due to be played Tuesday/Wednesday, February 9/10. There are no replays. ■



A 'salt bae' celebration at St Mary's in 2017



Excited fans at Gay Meadow in 1968



PROGRAMME OF THE SEASON WINNERS!

Like all aspects of football, it's been a challenging time for the world of matchday programmes and the Arsenal programme team were delighted to receive some good news recently. The Northern Programme Club is a respected organisation in the football publishing industry and they recently voted our publication as Programme of the Season for 2020/21. Alan Hope, Chairman of the NPC commented:

"The Arsenal programme has always been of the highest standard, finishing in the top three in every one of our 13 annual competitions since the inaugural awards back in 2008. During this difficult season, Arsenal have again set the highest standards with its matchday publication. In an uncertain market, you and your team of contributors have produced another marvellous programme which has been the standout issue throughout the country. The content is first-rate, while maintaining the flavours and appearance of a traditional football programme – which is important! The front cover images used this season have been of the highest standard, providing the programme with a strong opening page steeped in Arsenal tradition. There are a number of impressive and informative features included throughout which bind together an excellent selection of both contemporary and historical themes, while not over-indulging in large empty spaces within its pagination."

Wolverhampton Wanderers came runners up to the Gunners with Tottenham Hotspur in third place.

The programme team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has continued to support the publication, by purchasing via Arsenal Direct, in the Armoury shops – and even, briefly, from programme sellers for the match against Burnley. We would also like to thank the many supporters who have contributed to the programme this season, for our My Arsenal feature, or by sending in their ideas and opinions concerning the programme – we always love to hear from you. ■



William proving his mettle against Metz



WELL DONE WILLIAM

Congratulations to William Saliba who was voted Man of the Match in only his second game of his loan spell with Nice. The central defender excelled in a 1-1 draw away to Metz as Nice try to push into the top half of the table. ■



Good luck with Hibernian, Matt!

MATT MACEY JOINS HIBERNIAN

Goalkeeper Matt Macey has joined Scottish Premiership side Hibernian.

The 26 year old joined us in October 2013 from Bristol Rovers, where he had been involved in their first-team squad at the age of 17.

During his career with us, Matt made two first team appearances, both in the 2017/18 season. The first was in a 2-1 win over Norwich City in the EFL Cup, the second came in a 0-0 home draw against Red Star Belgrade in the Europa League.

He enjoyed a number of loan spells, most recently a successful period with Plymouth Argyle for the 2018/19 season, during which time he was a regular for the Pilgrims in League One.

During the past two seasons, Matt has been a regular in the first team matchday squad. After last season's restart and following Bernd Leno's injury, he was on the bench for every Premier League and Emirates FA Cup match, collecting a winner's medal as part of the matchday squad for the final win over Chelsea at Wembley in August.

Matt made a good start to life north of the border, starting in Hibs' 1-1 draw against Celtic on Monday.

From everyone at Arsenal, we would like to thank Matt for his contribution to the club and wish him all the best for the next chapter in his career at Easter Road. ■

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What a goal!

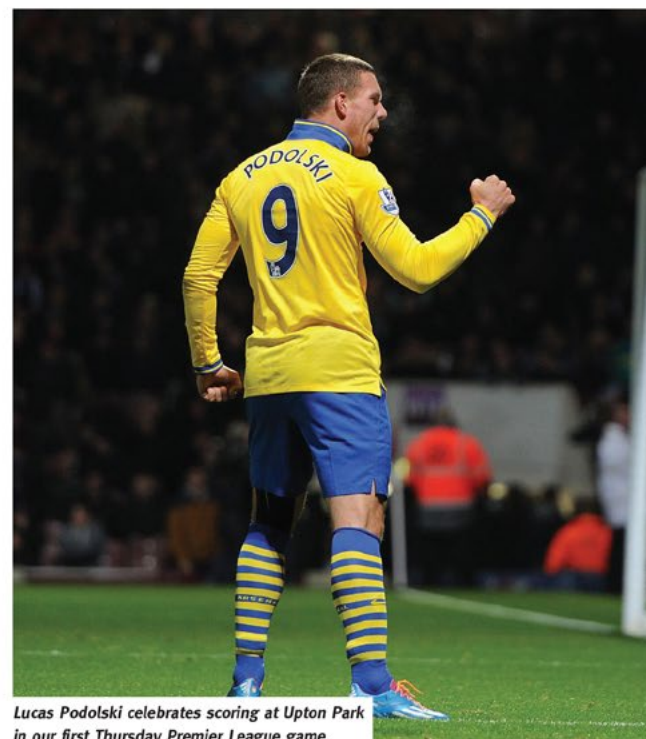
BUKAYO BLOCKBUSTER GOAL OF THE MONTH

Bukayo Saka's sensational strike against Chelsea was voted our December Goal of the Month, following a poll on Arsenal.com.

Our teenage forward received a pass from Emile Smith Rowe before driving into the box and firing into

the far top corner.

Mohamed Elneny's 30-yard thunderbolt against Dundalk finished in second place. Granit Xhaka's sublime free-kick against Chelsea was just edged out into third spot. ■



Lucas Podolski celebrates scoring at Upton Park in our first Thursday Premier League game

PROGRAMME ITK

Arsenal are **unbeaten against Crystal Palace in January**. The five previous games are as follows:

- Jan 27, 1934 Arsenal 7-0 Crystal Palace
- Jan 1, 1990 Arsenal 4-1 Crystal Palace
- Jan 1, 2017 Arsenal 2-0 Crystal Palace
- Jan 20, 2018 Arsenal 4-1 Crystal Palace
- Jan 11, 2020 Crystal Palace 1-1 Arsenal

Arsenal manager **Mikel Arteta** and Crystal Palace's **James McArthur** did battle in midfield when the Gunners beat Wigan Athletic in the 2014 FA Cup semi-final after a penalty shoot-out. Both Mikel and James **stepped up in the shoot-out** – and both scored!

When it comes to Arsenal playing **Premier League games on a Thursday**, at Emirates Stadium, the Gunners will be hoping to get back to winning ways. We've played four matches here on a Thursday in the PL, **winning 3-1 at West Ham** on Boxing Day, 2013 and beating West Brom 2-0 on April 21, 2016. On March 1, 2018 we lost 3-0 to Manchester City and last season we also succumbed, 2-1, to Brighton on December 5, 2019. ■



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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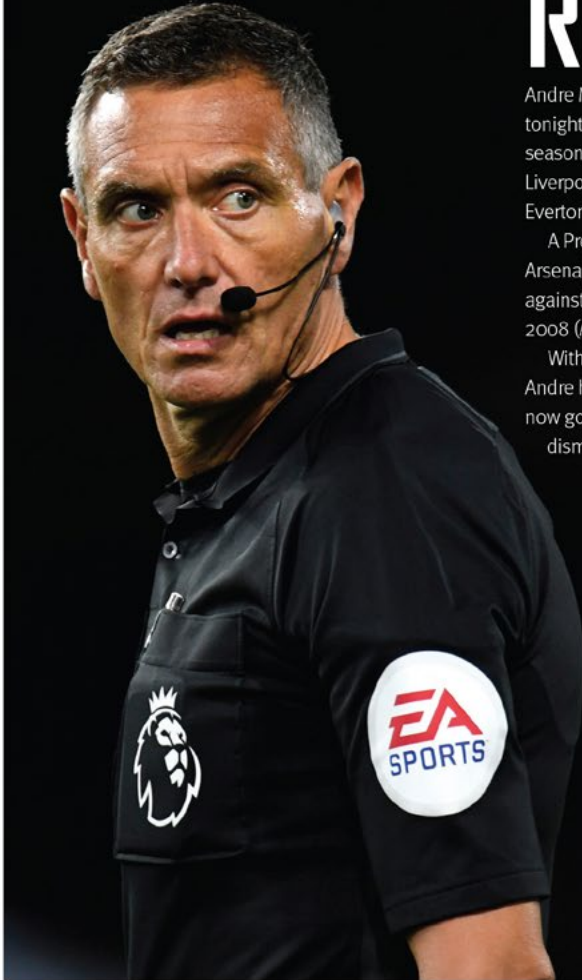
Mikel Arteta

REF WATCH

Andre Marriner from the West Midlands is our referee tonight. Andre has officiated two Gunners' games this season, the Community Shield shoot-out victory over Liverpool and the 2-1 defeat at Goodison Park against Everton in December.

A Premier League referee since 2004, Andre's first Arsenal appointment was a 3-1 win for the Gunners against Manchester City at the Etihad on February 2, 2008 (Adebayor 2, Eduardo).

With a tendency to keep his cards in his pocket, Andre has yet to issue a red card this season – he has now gone 26 games in the Premier League without a dismissal. ■



ASTON VILLA GAMES POSTPONED

The current Covid-19 crisis caused two fixtures to be postponed at the weekend against Aston Villa.

Arsenal Women's match in Walsall on Saturday was postponed due a number of our squad self-isolating following one positive test for Covid-19.

The Academy's Under-18 Premier League South team's match away to Aston Villa at their Bodymoor

Heath training ground on Saturday, was also postponed. This game could not be played due to Aston Villa requiring a large number of their squad for the FA Cup tie against Liverpool on the Friday night.

New dates have not been confirmed for either fixture, they will feature in a future programme as soon as we have details. ■

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1

Auba scored on his Premier League debut on February 3, 2018, in a 5-1 home win over Everton

57

Only Mohamed Salah (67) and Jamie Vardy (62) have scored more goals than Auba (57) since he made his Premier League debut

61

Auba is the 61st player to play 100 Premier League games for the club

AUBAMEYANG 100 PREMIER LEAGUE APPEARANCES



AUBA'S ARSENAL PLAYING RECORD



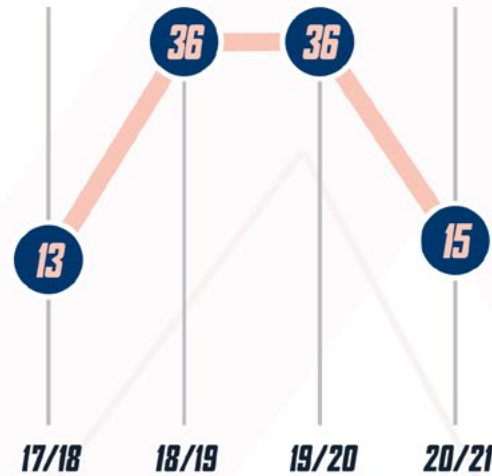
BY VENUE



STARTS / AS SUB



AUBA'S APPEARANCES BY SEASON



AUBA'S PREMIER LEAGUE STATS

MINUTES PLAYED	8,274
GOALS	57
SHOTS ON TARGET	115
HIT WOODWORK	8
MINUTES PER GOAL	145
ASSISTS	13
TOUCHES	3,442

PLAYERS WITH 100 PREMIER LEAGUE APPEARANCES FOR ARSENAL

Name	Total PL apps	100th PL app	Age at 100th
David Seaman	325	Feb 11, 1995	31 yrs, 5 m
Nigel Winterburn	270	Apr 17, 1995	31 yrs, 4 m
Lee Dixon	305	May 4, 1995	31 yrs, 2 m
Ian Wright	191	May 4, 1995	31 yrs, 6 m
Tony Adams	255	Aug 26, 1995	28 yrs, 11 m
Paul Merson	160	Oct 21, 1995	27 yrs, 7 m
Martin Keown	310	Jan 13, 1996	29 yrs, 8 m
Ray Parlour	333	May 5, 1996	23 yrs, 2 m
Steve Bould	175	Aug 17, 1996	33 yrs, 9 m
Dennis Bergkamp	315	Oct 25, 1998	29 yrs, 6 m
Patrick Vieira	279	Aug 10, 1999	23 yrs, 2 m
Marc Overmars	100	May 9, 2000	27 yrs, 2 m
Gilles Grimandi	114	Dec 15, 2001	31 yrs, 1 m
Thierry Henry	258	Aug 18, 2002	25 yrs
Kanu	119	Oct 6, 2002	26 yrs, 2 m
Freddie Ljungberg	216	Oct 19, 2002	25 yrs, 6 m
Sylvain Wiltord	106	Sep 26, 2003	29 yrs, 5 m
Robert Pires	189	Nov 30, 2003	30 yrs, 1 m
Ashley Cole	156	Feb 10, 2004	23 yrs, 2 m
Lauren	159	Apr 25, 2004	27 yrs, 3 m
Sol Campbell	146	Sept 25, 2004	30 yrs
Kolo Toure	225	Aug 21, 2005	24 yrs, 5 m
Gilberto	170	Feb 1, 2006	29 yrs, 4 m
Jens Lehmann	148	Apr 15, 2006	36 yrs, 5 m
Cesc Fabregas	212	Apr 9, 2007	19 yrs, 11 m
Mathieu Flamini	168	Mar 23, 2008	24 yrs, 1 m
Gael Clichy	187	Aug 16, 2008	23 yrs, 1 m
Robin van Persie	194	Dec 6, 2008	25 yrs, 4 m
Emmanuel Adebayor	104	Feb 8, 2009	25 yrs
Emmanuel Eboué	132	Sep 26, 2009	26 yrs, 4 m
William Gallas	101	Feb 7, 2010	32 yrs, 6 m
Manuel Almunia	109	Apr 3, 2010	32 yrs, 11 m
Bacary Sagna	213	Aug 15, 2010	27 yrs, 6 m
Abou Diaby	124	Dec 27, 2010	24 yrs, 8 m
Theo Walcott	225	Jan 15, 2011	21 yrs, 10 m
Alex Song	138	Apr 20, 2011	23 yrs, 8 m
Tomas Rosicky	170	Dec 31, 2011	31 yrs, 3 m
Andrey Arshavin	105	Oct 20, 2012	31 yrs, 5 m
Aaron Ramsey	262	Apr 20, 2013	22 yrs, 4 m
Nicklas Bendtner	108	Oct 6, 2013	25 yrs, 9 m
Laurent Koscielny	255	Nov 30, 2013	28 yrs, 2 m

Name	Total PL apps	100th PL app	Age at 100th
Thomas Vermaelen	110	Dec 14, 2013	28 yrs, 1 m
Wojciech Szczesny	132	Jan 18, 2014	23 yrs, 9 m
Mikel Arteta	109	Nov 1, 2014	32 yrs, 7 m
Per Mertesacker	143	Nov 9, 2014	30 yrs, 1 m
Kieran Gibbs	137	Dec 6, 2014	25 yrs, 2 m
Santi Cazorla	129	Apr 11, 2015	30 yrs, 4 m
Jack Wilshere	125	May 24, 2015	23 yrs, 5 m
Olivier Giroud	180	Aug 24, 2015	28 yrs, 11 m
Oxlade-Chamberlain	132	Feb 15, 2016	22 yrs, 6 m
Nacho Monreal	187	Aug 20, 2016	30 yrs, 6 m
Mesut Ozil	184	Dec 26, 2016	28 yrs, 2 m
Alexis	122	May 10, 2017	28 yrs, 5 m
Francis Coquelin	105	Sept 9, 2017	26 yrs, 3 m
Hector Bellerin	173	Nov 5, 2017	22 yrs, 7 m
Petr Cech	110	Apr 8, 2018	35 yrs, 11 m
Alex Iwobi	100	May 12, 2019	23 yrs
Granit Khaka	143	Aug 11, 2019	26 yrs, 10 m
Alexandre Lacazette	111	Sept 28, 2020	29 yrs, 4 m
Shkodran Mustafi	102	Oct 25, 2020	28 yrs, 6 m
P-E Aubameyang	100	Jan 2, 2021	31 yrs, 6 m



Since making his debut Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has played more league games than any other Arsenal player, missing just six matches in that time

WILLIAN

Willian has pretty much seen it all throughout his career to date.

So the Brazilian will be drawing on his huge experience over the second part of the season as he aims to recapture the form that made him one of the league's stand out players of the past few years.

The 32 year-old had a superb start to life at Arsenal, contributing two assists in a fine debut performance against Fulham on the opening day of the season. But he admits he has struggled to find his best form since then, as he continues to adapt to life with his new club.

The Brazil international winger has come through adversity before though, and is confident of doing so again. He was still a teenager when he first moved to Europe, to play for Shakhtar Donetsk, and although he endured a tough few months in Ukraine, it was a challenge he relished, and he went on to have six hugely successful seasons there before moving to the Premier League in 2013.

He says the help of his fellow Brazilian team-mates helped him back then, and he has a similar cohort of compatriots supporting him this time round.

The matchday programme caught up with Willian last week to reflect upon his first five months at the club.

First of all Willian, tell us how you've found your first few months with Arsenal?

Well it's never easy changing club, especially after being somewhere for so long. I was at Chelsea for seven years before coming to Arsenal and then you have a new club, new people, a new philosophy. Things are different so I'm still

adapting but I feel good, I have been learning a lot – a new footballing philosophy. Everyone is great here. I know I can improve a lot, and of course my performances on the pitch can be a lot better. ▶



BORN Ribeirao Pires, Brazil, August 9, 1988
JOINED ARSENAL from Chelsea on August 14, 2020

ARSENAL DEBUT v Fulham (a) Premier League, September 12, 2020 (won 3-0)

PREVIOUS CLUBS Corinthians, Shakhtar Donetsk, Anzhi Makhachkala, Chelsea

INTERNATIONAL Copa America winner 2019, 70 Brazil caps



Why do you think you haven't been able to produce your best form yet?

To be honest sometimes it can be difficult to explain. The first game was great for me, against Fulham, I felt I had a good performance and gave two assists. And then, I don't know. I'm always trying to do my best, sometimes things don't go the way you want. You have to say it's a part of football and a part of life. Sometimes you have good moments, other times you have bad moments, you have to learn from that. And right now, I know I'm far away from being at my best, but I'm determined to work hard and change this.

Have you spoken much with the manager about it?

Of course we talk about lots of things together, and I know I have his support. That's great for me, and to have the support of the club, so what I can do is always work hard, give my best in training to try to improve myself. This is the only way to get back to good performances.

"GABI HAS A LOT OF QUALITY, A GREAT BALANCE, AND THE EXPECTATION TO BECOME ONE OF THE BEST"

You have plenty of Brazilians around you at the club as well, have they been helping you settle in to life at Arsenal?

Yes, it's really great to have that. The two Gabis, who I have got to know very well here. But then also of course David, and we have been friends for a very long time. That's great and the relationship between us all is really good, and of course that really helps to have these people close with you every day at the club. But it's not just the Brazilian players, we have a very good spirit and there is a very good feeling within the whole squad.

You spoke a lot about Gabi Martinelli when you signed, now you've had the chance to train alongside him, what do you make of him?

Well first it's really great to see him back from injury. He's a player with a lot of quality, a great balance, and the expectation to become one of the best players at the club and in the Premier League as well.

He is still only 19, does it remind you of when you went to Shakhtar Donetsk at the same age?

Yes, I was 19 too, and it's true it can be difficult to be in a



new country, a different continent, when you don't speak the language as well. It is similar, because for me too I also had a lot of Brazilian players around me at the time. That helped me a lot, but the first few months were difficult and you have to get through that. The language, the weather – it was cold there in the winter, very cold – much, much colder than England! ▶

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This lockdown period must make it difficult to settle at a new club as well, how has it been for you and your family?

We are good, we are healthy which is the most important thing. It's a difficult moment for everybody in the country though. We have to take the positives and we are spending more time together as a family, having all of our meals together and being at home more. We are doing more things together, but I also have family in Brazil who of course I can't see. My dad is over there and that's difficult for us. But as I said there are some positives we have to take – usually as a footballer you spend a lot of time travelling and staying in hotels with the team, so now at least we are getting to have more time now with our families. But I never forget that I am privileged to be a footballer and never take this for granted. It's a difficult time for everyone in the world right now, and my thoughts continue to be those who have lost loved ones and those who are experiencing difficult circumstances in their lives.

"THERE'S NO DOUBT WE HAVE A SQUAD TO WIN THINGS. LET'S TAKE IT STEP BY STEP AND WE WILL GET THERE"

The team started the new year well in the league, what are your hopes now for the rest of the season?

We need to keep playing our football in the same way that we have recently. I think we have to continue on that way because we can improve every week, and still achieve our goals. We want to get back up to the top of the Premier League, it's still possible for us to win trophies this season so that's our aim. The Europa League starts again next month – there are still a lot of games left to play this season. I know that this squad is capable of winning more trophies. They showed it last season before I arrived in the FA Cup and I think we are getting stronger all the time. We have got very good players and there's no doubt we have a squad to win things. Let's take it step by step and we will get there. If you look at the league table, it's so close. We know we are low down the table, but in fact we are still only ten points off the top. Of course that's more than we want at this stage, but also it's not too much that we can't aim for it. If you can win three or four consecutive games, you can quickly be there, moving up. We have to go for it now in the second half of the season. ■



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Boas Festas Happy New Year 2021

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Arsenal and the rest of the Premier League will not tolerate racism, anywhere, and we are taking action to combat all forms of discrimination. But we can all do more.

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CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY

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

KOLO TOURE POWER IN ANY POSITION

At Kolo Toure's Arsenal trial session in February 2002, he gave a strong indication of his fierce commitment to the cause from the off. Midfielder Ray Parlour recounted how – during a period of 'pattern play' – Kolo removed both Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp from the equation with two fearsome tackles during a practice match, resulting in the Gunners' world-class forwards needing medical attention from physiotherapist Gary Lewin. Parlour recalled: "Arsène Wenger says 'Kolo, what are you doing? Don't tackle, don't tackle.' He just wanted him to stand there. Kolo said: 'Oh, sorry, sorry.'"

Then, while chasing a loose ball, Toure inadvertently crashed into Arsène Wenger, who was watching the training session from the middle of the pitch. Yet even as the Arsenal manager joined Henry and Bergkamp in requiring an ice pack on his ankle, Wenger informed Parlour that he'd sign the triallist 'tomorrow'. And so began the versatile Kolo Toure's eventful Arsenal career, all for the bargain basement fee of just £150,000.

Toure joined from Ivorian side ASEC Mimosas, which also produced talents including Kolo's brother Yaya, and future Arsenal players Gervinho and Emmanuel Eboué.

Toure made his Gunners debut during the 2002/03 campaign, and although not a permanent fixture in the side, he notched up 16 full appearances and two goals from midfield. Toure was also a regular substitute as Arsenal narrowly missed out on retaining their league title, but did retain the FA Cup.

"During that first season at Arsenal, I was so keen to prove myself that I sometimes lost focus and concentration." Wenger highlighted Toure's battling qualities, praising "his commitment and determination against any opponent." Wenger later explained "...how difficult it is for a young man (Toure was only 21) to acclimatise to a new level of intensity in a new country."

Wenger had been impressed with the timing, effectiveness and ferocity of Toure's tackles and, after veteran Martin Keown told Wenger of how open and ▶





adaptable Toure was to feedback, the Arsenal manager decided to move him into central defence for the 2003/04 campaign, to partner Sol Campbell.

In part, it was due to Keown's 'seasoned' status meaning that he would inevitably play fewer matches, but Wenger believed that with Toure's skill on the floor, he would complement the aerially dominant Campbell.

The partnership dovetailed perfectly from the off, as

"HE'S COME IN AND PROVED TO BE WORTH HIS WEIGHT IN GOLD"

Arsenal rampaged though the league campaign unbeaten. After seeing off Middlesbrough, Everton, Aston Villa and Manchester City in August, Campbell argued: "Kolo has been fantastic. He's come in and proved to be worth his weight in gold." It was quite incredible to see the rapid improvement in Toure's game. Using his pace and power on the deck, he was able to track back, bring the ball out of defence confidently and despatch a pass to team-mates with aplomb. Toure was modest about the improvements to his game, insisting: "Because Patrick Vieira and Gilberto are so strong in their game, they often

drop back to double up as central defenders when needed."

Vieira returned the compliment: "One of the successes of our season has been the way in which Sol and Kolo are willing to push forward and support the attack. It's hardly surprising, given that Sol was once a forward, and Kolo a midfielder. They are very strong in all areas of the pitch, not just defence." Toure only missed two league matches, and was similarly consistent in the 2004/05 campaign, as Arsenal again won the FA Cup.

Despite Sol Campbell's absence for much of the 2005/06 campaign, Toure's Champions League performances remained at a high level, and the Ivorian scored the crucial goal at Highbury as Arsenal nicked a 1-0 win in the semi-final against Villarreal, and then played a man-of-the-match role as the Gunners withstood a second half onslaught in the return leg in Spain to progress to the final. Toure's highly successful seven-year Arsenal career ended in 2009, with a move to Manchester City, and he admitted: "Playing in three different positions at Arsenal (he also turned out at right back on a few occasions) helped me understand more deeply the roles of players in other positions." ■



**JOHN RADFORD
STRIKER TO GOALKEEPER AND
BACK AGAIN**

When, with 22 minutes remaining, Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson fell to the turf in agony during a feisty 1972 FA Cup semi-final with Stoke City at Villa Park, there was no goalkeeping replacement on the bench. So the gloves were handed to imposing Gunners forward John Radford who, skipper Frank McLintock reflected: "likes to leap around in training." On the face of it, Radford's was a daunting assignment. Tony Waddington's side was keen to avenge their defeat in the previous year's semi-final but despite them throwing the kitchen sink at Arsenal in the dying minutes, the Gunners' new custodian between the sticks – and his defence – stood firm, holding out for a 1-1 draw. In the replay, with Geoff Barnett in goal, the Yorkshire born Radford was restored to his customary position up front and the striker-cum-goalkeeper-cum-striker had the last word, scoring Arsenal's winner. Stoke's persistent protests that Charlie George was offside in the build-up were ignored by linesman Bob Matthewson, who, as it turned out, had confused a white-coated programme seller on the touchline with a Stoke player, with the Potters playing in their all-white away kit. ■

FIRST PAGE
Kolo Toure celebrates the goal that fired us to the 2006 Champions League final

OPPOSITE PAGE
Showing off the 2004 Premier League trophy

TOP
John Radford the goalkeeper in the 1972 FA Cup semi final against Stoke City

ABOVE
Raddy in more familiar outfield colours in 1967

COMMUNITY

Take a look at part one of our 2020 review in pictures from the community department's twitter account throughout this unique & challenging year

1 JANUARY
Day 2 of the FA Level 1 course for parents and volunteers. The focus: a Holistic Approach to Coaching through Long-Term Player Development 🎯👍



2 JANUARY
Two of our Arsenal community coaching students spoke at today's #HolocaustMemorialDay event @IslingtonBC about their recent visit to the Auschwitz concentration camp with @HolocaustUK



3 FEBRUARY
Thanks to @Ains_7 and @Joewillock for visiting our group at New River College in #Islington earlier this week. Keep an eye on Football Focus on @BBCOne today to see what they got up to!
● #WeAreTheArsenal

4 FEBRUARY
Briefing time here at Market Road – the *other home of football in Islington – for the participating schools ● #PLPrimaryStars schools tournament



5 MARCH
Fleet Primary school Year 3 loved their World Book Day workshop with @AFCCCommunity and @Gunnernautus!



6 MARCH
🗨️ Out on the roads!
Proud of our Arsenal in the Community volunteers who are helping to transport NHS workers around north London
@AFCCCommunity 🤍@Cl_NHS



7 APRIL
📦📦 Tonnes
📍 Camden & Hackney
🤍@h15church
Another successful day delivering emergency supplies into our communities across London 🙌



8 APRIL
Something for the kids..
● We're delighted to launch Arsenal Home Learning 📖📖 Fun, educational materials for primary school children in Literacy, Numeracy, PE & more.



9 MAY
A big shout out to Luke Howard from @AFCCCommunity who has been so busy supporting our community during this time! Huge respect 🙌

10 MAY
@lanWrighto surprising John one of our indoor bowls participants, who attended his first @Arsenal game in 1968 and lives right next door to Highbury.



11 JUNE
📱📱 250 Laptops donated to local school children to support home learning
Keeping our community connected
@AFCCCommunity 🤍@Intel

12 JUNE
Robert Pires "Huge respect to Steve and the @AFCCCommunity team
🍽️ Over 150,000 meals delivered into our community during this crisis
@arsenal #ArsenalTogether 🙌



JUNIOR GUNNERS



ALWAYS AHEAD OF THE GAME

ON PARADE



Avary has been an Arsenal fan from birth!



Cillian's ready for the game!



Come on you Gunners!



Leo's in his first Arsenal kit



Sebastian says: 'ooh to, ooh to be, ooh to be a Gooner'

If you'd like to feature in JGs on Parade this season send your photos to JuniorGunners@Arsenal.co.uk or [@JuniorGunners](https://twitter.com/JuniorGunners)

GET INVOLVED!



WIN THE GOALKEEPER KIT!

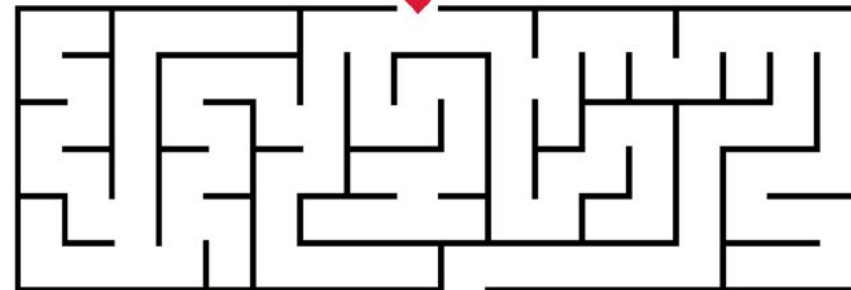
We're giving Junior Gunners the chance to look like Leno in our latest competition!

All you need to do to be in with a chance of winning is let us know which team we signed the German shot stopper from in 2018.

Head to arsenal.com/juniorgunners or download the JG app to find out more



BEAT THE MAZE



TODAY'S VIRTUAL MASCOT



Name: Finley
Age: 12
Message: I think we'll win 2-0 today, come on Arsenal!

Find out how you could be our next virtual mascot at arsenal.com/juniorgunners or download the JG app

WTOW WELCOME, AARON!

Aaron has been a Junior Gunner from day one. He is born to be a Gunner and can't wait to come to his first home game.

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!

Find out more at Arsenal.com/Membership

FORWARD



HECTOR BELLERIN

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.



How good are you at planning your week in advance? Do you give yourself a schedule?

Something I started doing last year during the first quarantine is planning my next day on the evening before. I've got into the habit of making sure that I've done everything I needed to do during the day. Because during the first lockdown, when we obviously had a less of a schedule and there was no football, I really struggled at times. So I have started going to bed earlier and getting up earlier the following day. Before I just used to get up about an hour before training and then go straight to the training ground. But now I get up between 6.30am and 7am and I get to do all the things I need to do before setting off. So whether that's just reading, or journaling or any of the other work I'm doing off the pitch. But generally before I go to bed I always try to plan the next day out. Obviously we also have a team schedule as well, but usually we know that two weeks in advance, so it means I can start planning around that.

How are you finding your new routine? Is it a struggle to get up early?

No, it's really good. At the beginning it was a bit of a struggle but one of the secrets to making it work is to include something that you really like doing as part of that early morning routine. So what I like to do is take a coffee and write down in my journal for half an hour. That could be something I did the day before, what I dreamed about that night, or anything else that's in my mind really. I really enjoy that process so when I wake up I look forward to doing that over my coffee. That makes it easier to wake up early. Also at this time of year, when there is way less day light, I prefer to go to bed earlier and get up earlier because then you feel like you have seen more daytime. If it's a nice day as well it gives me time to go for a walk before training, see some nature, so I'm really enjoying it.

How far forward do you tend to look and plan your time?

I think generally if I know that we have got a day off or a free afternoon coming up, I like to plan for that. It all depends on our training and playing schedule of course, which can also get changed late as well. Sometimes we train in the afternoon, sometimes in the ▶

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ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB



morning, so everything is around that. It means you can't really plan more than a week in advance, so that's what I do. Though I can plan a bit for summer when I know I will have some time off. I tend to just focus weekly, and not look too far ahead. I always remember when I went on loan to Watford, it was only on the Friday that Terry Burton came to me and said, "Watford want you on loan, do you want to go?" And then the next day I was in the squad for them. So everything can change overnight, in football especially.

Do you have anything in your schedule that you are particularly looking forward to?

What I'm looking forward to most at the moment is hopefully seeing my family, if they can come from Spain at some point. I haven't been able to see them for six or

seven months. I have a little nephew and I haven't been able to enjoy any time with him so that would great – because he's growing so quickly. Away from football there are a few projects that I'm working on and I'm really excited about when they come out, but unfortunately I can't talk too much about them just yet. I know a lot of players go through life looking forward to the summer when they can do something away from football, but I'm not like that, I like to have other interests through the season too. I feel so lucky that I get to do what I love doing every day, so I enjoy every day.

Looking ahead to the end of your career, what do you want to do when you stop playing?

I've thought about that many, many times. It feels like the end of your career can come quickly. I've spoken to players that are on the verge of retiring or have just stopped and they've been like "wow, I need to think about my future now!" So it's always been something that's in my mind, and I'm also someone who likes to explore different things and new activities. I have to say ▶

"NOW I GET UP BETWEEN 6.30AM AND 7AM AND I GET TO DO ALL THE THINGS I NEED TO DO BEFORE SETTING OFF"

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

MEAL

In a dream world, I'd love to have chicken wings that are not made from chicken! There are a few different options out there that are really good, but my mum used to make nice chicken wings and I miss that.

NEW CAR

I saw this company recently that take classic cars and make them electric, so maybe something like a cool BMW M30 would be great as an electric car.

HOLIDAY DESTINATION

I'd go back to Cuba again, I love it in Havana.

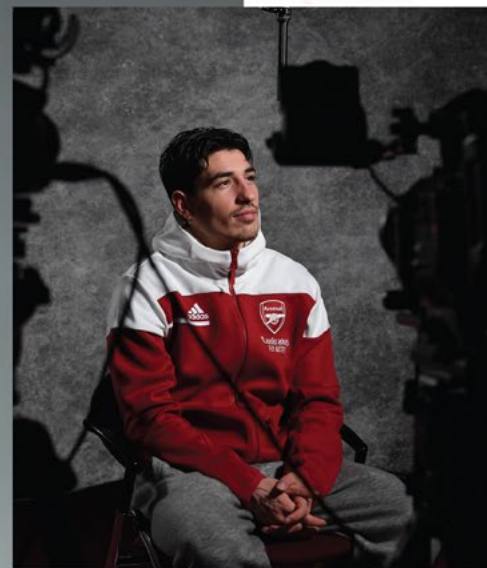


TROPHY YOU WIN

Well I'm sure people will say the World Cup or Champions League, but for me it's all about the Premier League, that's what I want. I would love to win that for Arsenal.

NEW TEAM-MATE

Oh man that's hard. In a dream world right? So I'm allowed to choose peak Xavi in his heyday?



I've got lots of hobbies and different interests, but right now I'm not too sure what I'd like to do in the future. What is clear in my mind though is I'm not going to be just somebody who retires to sit around at home and enjoy their life. I will want to be doing something. I feel like I want to keep working. I'm sure I will find something meaningful to do, and that could either be in football still or away from football – I haven't decided yet. In a way I'm looking forward to that part of my life as well.

So if you did stay in football, would it be in coaching?

Yeah it could be. Me and Dani always talk about that. Maybe one day he wants to be a head coach so I will be his assistant manager. So to be honest that is already in our head. To be honest I think we're ready now because we have talked about it a lot! So if he ever becomes a head coach, I'll be the one next to him.

"IF DANI CEBALLOS EVER BECOMES A HEAD COACH, I'LL BE THE ONE NEXT TO HIM"

When you do finish playing, what's the first thing you want to do that you can't do as a footballer?

I think travelling. Travelling is something that I really, really enjoy. I feel like I want to go to one place and spend a long time there and get to know it. I travel a lot with the club, but all you see is an airport, a hotel and a stadium. You never get to experience any of those places fully, so maybe I'd like to take a long trip to really see somewhere. I don't have anywhere specific in mind to tell the truth, it would just be nice to stay somewhere for a month or two. It depends on my circumstances when I finish my career, I might have kids for example so that will change where we go. Definitely I'll go for a long holiday though.

Do you have an ambition of something you want to achieve in your life, away from football?

Not really something specific. What I would like achieve though, and it's something I do by myself anyway, is to try to change the stereotypical view of footballers. I want to help change that view a little bit, that a footballer can only play football and that's it. I feel like there's so much more to all of us away from the pitch. We have so much more that we can offer and give to society. We've always been restricted by ideals and ▶

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FORWARD ARSENAL HECTOR BELLERIN

stereotypes, so being able to achieve a little bit of change – not just myself but all other footballers – is something that would be very meaningful and great to do.

Are you generally good at planning in everyday life and remembering birthdays and things like that?

Oh no I'm the worst. My mum does all that for me! You know like Facebook reminders, well I don't have Facebook so my mum has to do it. She'll call and be like 'remember you have to say happy birthday to this person'. Even my close friends, she reminds me beforehand because she knows them all, so I'm very lucky like that. In general I'm very bad with dates and stuff because I'm pretty forgetful. I guess I need to work on that!

"I WANT TO HELP CHANGE THAT VIEW A LITTLE BIT, THAT A FOOTBALLER CAN ONLY PLAY FOOTBALL AND THAT'S IT"

What invention do you think the world needs most?

Oh wow! That would be so interesting. I think I could have a five-hour conversation about this. But if there was something I could choose, it would be some sort of chain, that meant that everything in the world was zero-waste. A completely self-sufficient lifestyle on the planet. So we could get to a point that the waste from our food, from our clothes and the stuff that we buy can be fully recycled. And the energy that we use in homes can be completely natural and self-sustaining. There are so many different layers to it in terms of different industries and food chains, clothing, transport – so many things, but if we could get there somehow, it would be incredible. If you are asking about a dream scenario, where you could wave a magic wand to invent something, then this is what I would use it for.

What country do you think you will end up living in after your playing days?

Yeah, I've thought about this as well before. People have ▶





“WE COULD GET TO A POINT THAT THE WASTE FROM OUR FOOD, FROM OUR CLOTHES AND THE STUFF THAT WE BUY CAN BE FULLY RECYCLED”

asked me this question but I have to say I don't really know. I feel like I will probably end up living between two places. I think I will definitely have a house in Spain, but also I will always come back here. Even if I end up in my career somewhere else, which I doubt, but even then I'd always come back. But I don't really know where I'll live because for example I do miss a lot of things about Spain, but also when I do get to go back, I get to appreciate it a lot. I realise how lucky I was to grow up there – the food and the sun and everything about it. So since not living there I enjoy the fact that I truly, truly appreciate it whenever I do go back, and enjoy it more than when I did live there. So to answer the question – I don't really know!



Finally, you are told there's a spare seat on the next trip to the International Space Station – do you go?

Oh hell yeah! I read something about when astronauts go into space, and they get to see just how small the planet is in relation, it gives them a huge realisation about how small we really are. We feel like the world turns around for us but in reality we are just a small part of the whole universe. We're just a really small planet in comparison to everything else that's out there, so to be able to see that yourself would be just amazing. ■



FOURTEEN TIMES

14TH TOP SCORER

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.

BELOW LEFT

Jack Lambert (back row, second left) with the 1930 FA Cup winning squad

BOTTOM RIGHT

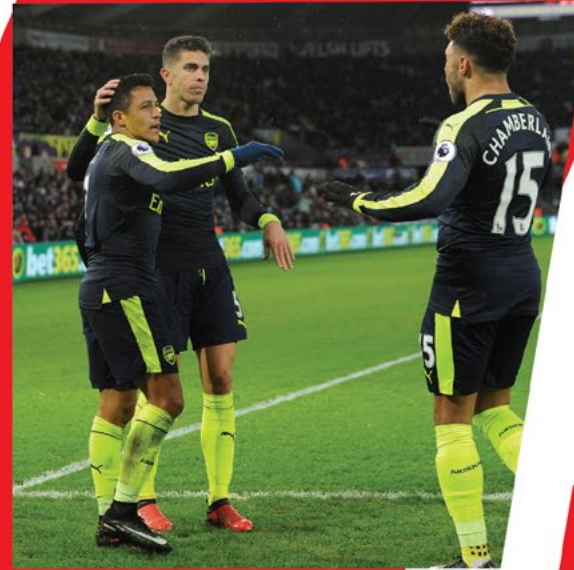
Jack Lambert pictured shortly before the 1932 FA Cup final

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM

Jack Lambert (right) in action against Liverpool in 1931

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

Alexis, Gabriel and the Ox celebrate a convincing win in Wales



JAN 2017

14

IT HAPPENED ON THE 14TH...

SWANSEA CITY 0-4 ARSENAL
JANUARY 14, 2017, PREMIER LEAGUE

We moved back into the top four with a convincing win over a Swansea side who had previously proved something of a bogey side. We had taken just one point from our previous three away games, but the result was never in doubt here, ever since Olivier Giroud opened the scoring with a powerful header on 37 minutes. Own goals from Jack Cork and Kyle Naughton in the second half and Alexis Sanchez rounded off the scoring to inflict a heavy defeat on what was Paul Clement's first league game in charge of the Swans.

JACK LAMBERT

When Jack Lambert retired in 1933 he did so as the third top scorer in Arsenal's history. He has since been overtaken by several club legends in the past 90 years, but he remains the 14th top scorer ever for us.

One of Herbert Chapman's first signings in June 1926 from Doncaster Rovers, his goal return was modest at first, scoring just 12 times from his 45 appearances in his first three seasons. But then he exploded into form, netting 82 in 101 matches, and was our leading scorer three years in a row. He scored the second and clinching goal in the 1930 FA Cup final win over Huddersfield Town to earn the club its first major silverware. The following campaign he claimed a then club record 38 goals from 34 league outings, sweeping Chapman's Gunners to our first ever league title.

Together with Jimmy Brain he holds the club record of 12 hat-tricks, and finished with 109 goals from 161 games. He left for Fulham in 1933 and died seven years later, in a car accident at the age of just 38. ■



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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 helps to fund and support North London United, a football club for young people with Down Syndrome that holds sessions at The Arsenal Hub. Founder Harold Bennett, 48 and from Tottenham, tells us about it

North London United came about when I was approached by a mother whose son also has Downs and was asked to start a football project for young people with the chromosomal condition. I did that for a year, and then Arsenal in the Community approached me to work in partnership. The rest is history...

North London United deliver weekly one-hour football sessions to young people aged anywhere between five and 25. Sessions involve a warm-up, technical and skills-based drills that develop agility, balance, speed and coordination, and then we finish with a match or game-related activity. We also play friendly matches and compete in the annual national Down Syndrome football tournament with more than 20 other teams. But as well as play football, we help our members to develop new friendships, gain confidence and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

I'm also head coach so my role is to oversee the project, plan and deliver sessions, and also engage with the parents and carers to discuss how their children are developing through the project. My daughter plays too, but she also really enjoys supporting others who might be finding it a bit difficult. She likes to spend time talking with the other parents and carers and asking them how their day has been. She too has made new friends and grown in confidence.



ABOVE
David Luiz finds out about the project



LEFT
Leah Williamson meets North London United

For me, I thank God for the platform and opportunity I have to impact the lives of other people and their families. As a father of a child with Down Syndrome this project has helped me to become a better coach, parent and person, as I see the world through a different and clearer lens.

Through Arsenal in the Community, the participants, parents/carers and coaches have had the wonderful opportunity of attending matches, watching from the Directors' Box, meeting players, taking part in campaigns that Arsenal support, walking out on matchday at the Emirates, training on the Emirates pitch and attending the annual Community Awards ceremony. We have been given the opportunity to raise awareness of Down Syndrome in the wider community.

Arsenal in the Community has provided a platform of inclusion for people with Down Syndrome to be recognised as part of their football family, and long may it continue.

Samir and Luke at Arsenal have been a massive support. Like everything, football has two sides, and we choose to uphold the side that supports community, opportunity and hope. Meeting Samir and Luke has been a real blessing, as it has enabled North London United to build the platform we now have. But as always the real success of the project lies within everyone who desires and benefits from North London United's existence. ■



0



4

TIERNEY 23, SAKA 28,
LACAZETTE 60, 64

PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 17

8pm • Saturday, January 2 • The Hawthorns

FIRST HALF

Riding high on confidence after back-to-back victories against Chelsea and Brighton, we made a bright start – and never let up throughout in a thrilling performance. With the snow pouring down on The Hawthorns, we were making all the running, but were indebted to Bernd Leno for a key save to deny Matt Phillips. It proved a crucial moment as, less than two minutes later, we took the lead as the excellent Kieran Tierney raced past Darnell Furlong, before checking back and curling a pinpoint right-footed shot into the top corner. If the first was all of Tierney's own making, the second was more of a team effort as Bukayo Saka combined brilliantly with Alexandre Lacazette and the influential Emile Smith Rowe around the box, before converting the latter's low cross.

SECOND HALF

West Brom had the ball in our net minutes after the restart, but it was disallowed for offside. Lacazette, enjoying a fine evening's work, then came close again when played through by Dani Ceballos but saw his shot cleared off the line. But the France international did not have long to wait for his goal, when he converted smartly in the box after more good work from Saka. Moments later he had his second of the night as a quick counter ended in Tierney picking out Lacazette to fire into the roof of the net from close range. ■

MATCH STATS	
7	TOTAL SHOTS 21
3	SHOTS ON TARGET 12
3	CORNERS 5
3	OFFSIDES 2
7	FOULS 4
38	POSSESSION % 62

WEST BROM

- 1 JOHNSTONE
- 2 FURLONG
- 6 AJAYI
- 20 IVANOVIC (66)
- 27 O'SHEA
- 10 PHILLIPS (81)
- 19 SAWYERS
- 18 GALLAGHER
- 11 DIANGANA (46)
- 12 PEREIRA
- 7 ROBINSON

SUBSTITUTES

AUSTIN (46), BARTLEY (66), HARPER (81), GIBBS, GROSDICKI, KROVINOVIC, PELTIER, BUTTON, DIABY

ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 2 BELLERIN (54)
- 16 HOLDING
- 22 PABLO MARI
- 3 TIERNEY
- 8 CEBALLOS
- 34 KHAKA
- 7 SAKA (71)
- 32 SMITH ROWE (77)
- 14 AUBAMEYANG
- 9 LACAZETTE

SUBSTITUTES

MATTLAND-NILES (54), WILLIAN (71), WILLOCK (77), RUNARSSON, DAVID LUIZ, NKETIAH, ELNENY, PEPE, MARTINELLI



WEST BROM REPORT

MATCH ACTION

FIRST PAGE

Kieran Tierney flies forward

PREVIOUS PAGE

Our left back celebrates his cracking opener

RIGHT

Alex Lacazette is mobbed

BELOW LEFT

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in possession

BELOW RIGHT

Emile Smith Rowe starred

BOTTOM LEFT

KT's shot is destined for the corner

BOTTOM RIGHT

Laca makes no mistake

FACING PAGE

Hector Bellerin in the snow



PS4

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FIFA 21



FA
AG
ER
AG



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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG GUNNERS

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Chris Willock

63 STATS
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@ArsenalAcademy



YOUNG GUN

JONATHAN DINZEYI

TALKING TO Aidan Small

BORN

The Whittington,
Islington

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

6ft 4ins and 83kg

BOOTS

Adidas predators vz

SIGNED FOR ARSENAL

August 2020

POSITION

Centre back

SCHOOL

Enfield Grammar
School, Enfield

Growing up in a house full of Gooners, it was always a dream of mine to play for The Arsenal. I've got so many memories of watching Arsenal games with my dad as a kid, but I've got to give a shout out to my sister, because she's the biggest fan out of everyone in the family! We're Arsenal through and through, so this makes my path to the red side of north London a little interesting.

The reason? I was scouted by Tottenham as a kid and went on to spend a total of 12 years there, so it's quite a rare journey – especially for a Gooner! Everyone in the academy at Tottenham was great to me and I've got some brilliant memories there, but when I left in the summer and heard Arsenal were interested, I couldn't believe it.

Before making my decision to come here, I had interest from a few places, so I needed to weigh up my options. I went on trial at QPR and played a few games, and I also had interest from Crystal Palace, but when I heard that Arsenal wanted me, that was it. I couldn't believe it. I was just so shocked.

I'll never forget that feeling when I first arrived at

London Colney. I was starstruck. When we pulled into the entrance and I saw the 'Welcome to Arsenal Training Centre' sign, I genuinely felt like a kid again. In that moment I was just thinking about how many top players have come through here, and how fortunate I am to be in this position.

Joining during a pandemic was a weird experience, though. It was quite sad too because when I came to sign my contract, my parents weren't allowed in the building. I know there's so many worse things going on with Covid right now, but it was a shame to not be able to share that

"WE'RE ARSENAL THROUGH AND THROUGH, SO THIS MAKES MY PATH TO THE RED SIDE OF NORTH LONDON A LITTLE INTERESTING"

moment with them – especially after all the time and effort they've put in to get me here.

But overall, I've had an amazing time since arriving here. Thankfully, I knew a fair few of the boys before arriving, so I knew I'd settle in quick. I used to play



against Reiss back in the day and obviously we've played together with England too. I've also played with Eddie and Emile at England, and I've heard so much about Flo over the years. The guy just doesn't stop scoring. When I received my first call-up to the England team, I remember Tolaji talked to me and made me feel so welcome in the group, so I've always remembered that.

I knew most of them already, to be honest, and since then I feel like I've become good mates with everyone. I like building good relationships because as a centre back, when I'm telling them something, I want them to

trust me, and if we've got a good bond, they'll be more likely to do it. It's the same with my coaches too, because I always want to be on the same page as a team. It makes everyone's jobs easier on the pitch.

Looking back on my time at the club so far, I can honestly say that I'm so happy to be here. I work hard, give everything 100 per cent, listen to the coaches and encourage the boys, even when I'm not starting. I just love being around this place. I'm learning every single day and I really feel like I'm developing as a player and as a person, and that's the most important thing. ■



JONATHAN DINZEYI

LOWDOWN

Earliest memory of football

Watching the invincible season on TV with my Arsenal supporting dad

Got me into playing football

My sister used to take me to the park as a toddler

First footballer looked up to

Thierry Henry

Favourite football shirt owned

My shirt from my first game for England

Favourite boots

Adidas F50's

Best friend in football

They are all my brothers

Best goal I've scored

I scored a hat-trick against Chelsea U-14s during my time as a winger

Best player I've faced

Phil Foden

RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	73
SHOOTING	68
DRIBBLING	70
STRENGTH	73
PASSING	75
DEFENDING	78

Best piece of skill I've done in a game

An outside flip flap

Best moment of career so far

Signing for Arsenal

One stadium I'd like to score in

The Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

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

Robert Lewandowski

If I could change position

Central attacking midfield

Best training ground tip I've had

Work hard and stay dedicated

My football memorabilia

I collect things connected to all my achievements

Another sport I'm good at

Basketball

Favourite training drill

Attack v

defence



Ambitions for this season away from the pitch

To become more flexible at yoga and read more books

The important non-playing attributes for young footballers

Stay humble. Be resilient. Work hard

Biggest lesson I've learnt off the pitch

I'm able to adapt in any situation

ME

Favourite footballer of all-time

Ronaldo

If I could be any footballer – past or present

Sergio Ramos (bellow left)

Favourite follow on Instagram

Floyd Mayweather

Most played Spotify artist

Gunna

Favourite pre-match song

WizKid – No Stress

Best football attribute

Being able to lead

One thing I need on an away day

Headphones

One thing I want to do win my career

The World Cup

If I wasn't a footballer

I'd be an entrepreneur

First-team player I look up to most

David Luiz

Players who shaped my game most

Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic

Best thing about being at Arsenal

The players, staff and fans

Something not many people know about

I'm the middle child of five and the only boy (I have four sisters)

AROUND THE ACADEMY

Will definitely make it

Miguel Azeez

Most skills in their locker

Catalin Cirjan

Best touch

Miguel

Most two-footed

Kido Taylor-Hart

Most committed

Tim Akinola

Captain material

Joseph Olowu

Funniest?

Kido

Most confident

Flo Balogun





SOUTHAMPTON (A) VENUE CHANGE

We can confirm that there has been a venue change for our under-23s upcoming away clash with Southampton. The fixture was originally due to be played at St Mary's, but will now be hosted at Snows Stadium, the home of AFC Totton.

Steve Bould's side will head into this fixture on Sunday, January 17, full of confidence, having won each of their last four Premier League 2 fixtures.

The game is set to kick-off at 2.30pm, but will, of course, be played behind closed doors. ■



BALLARD REWARDED WITH LOAN EXTENSION

Daniel Ballard is set to spend the remainder of the 2020/21 season out on loan with Blackpool.

The 21-year-old defender has been in fine form since joining the Seasiders back in October, and he's since been rewarded with a loan extension.

At the time of writing, the Republic of Ireland international has made eight appearances across all competitions, helping the League One outfit to keep four clean sheets.

Keep up the hard work, Dan! ■

ACADEMY

NEWS

WELCOME, OMAR REKIK!

Omar Rekik has signed a professional contract with us and joins our under-23s squad.

The 19 year old has joined us from Bundesliga side Hertha Berlin. A ball playing centre half, Omar is comfortable on both sides and is our first academy signing of the January transfer window

He was born in the Netherlands and has played internationally at youth level for Tunisia and the Netherlands. Throughout his youth career he also spent time at Feyenoord, Manchester City, PSV Eindhoven and Marseille.

On joining the club, Omar told us how thrilled he is to be starting a new footballing adventure in north London: "It feels great to be here after a long time of

"I'M A WINNER. I ALWAYS WANT TO WIN"

hard work," said Omar. "I moved in three weeks ago and I've been in quarantine, so I can't wait to get started now.

"Why did I choose Arsenal? The warmth of the people and the interest that they showed in me, and of course, when a club like Arsenal is interested, I don't think anyone needs to think twice. As a young player, you need to play somewhere where they're not afraid to give you a chance and you can see a lot of youth players have broken through here, and I want to be the next one.

"My style of play? I'm a central defender and I like to play with the ball, I like to play out from the back, and I think this is also the structure of the club. It fits perfectly.

I'm a winner. I always want to win, and that's with everything, not only football, ever since I was a kid. With Mikel Arteta, if you watch the games, he's not a coach who thinks quickly to play a long ball. Of course, when needed, you have to do it, but I think the style of play fits.

"At Hertha I had a lot of experiences, good and bad, but I'm happy for even the bad ones because it makes you into the person and character that you are. I've experienced a lot there. I had three good seasons there and I'm very happy. But I'm here now and I have to work harder and show them what I can do and what I'm capable of. When I do this, my qualities will show on the pitch and then hopefully I can get a chance."

Everyone at Arsenal welcomes Omar to the club and we look forward to supporting his ongoing development. ■



ABOVE
Chris with little brother Joe during his Arsenal days

LEFT
The winger is now enjoying a strong season at Loftus Road

ACADEMY ALUMNI

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

CHRIS WILLOCK

Chris Willock will be a name known to most Arsenal supporters – and it's great to see him doing well in west London at Queens Park Rangers. Older brother of current Gunner Joe Willock, Chris joined the Arsenal Academy when he was just five and the

silky left-winger shone at every level, ultimately playing twice for the Arsenal first team in the 2016/17 League Cup and playing for numerous England representative teams.

He also played 40 games for Arsenal's U23s, scoring nine goals and making nine assists and in the Europa Youth League he scored twice and assisted four times in 14 matches.

It was perhaps in this latter competition that his talents alerted Portuguese giants Benfica, who took Chris to Lisbon on July 1, 2017. He excelled for Benfica's B team, playing 64 games, scoring 14 and assisting nine but couldn't break into their first team and went on loan to West Brom, then Huddersfield in the Championship before securing a permanent move to QPR last summer.

Chris has settled well at Loftus Road and the 22 year old has been a regular in the team, playing 16 times already this season for Mark Warburton's side. With Chris now back in London, only oldest brother Matty Willock is now outside of the capital – playing for Gillingham in League One. ■

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	0-3
Fri Oct 16	Manchester United	H	3-3
Sat Oct 24	Manchester City	A	1-4
Fri Oct 30	Liverpool	H	0-1
Fri Nov 6	Blackburn Rovers	A	6-0
Fri Nov 20	Everton	H	1-0
Fri Nov 27	Derby County	H	3-1
Fri Dec 18	Leicester City	H	2-1
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
Fri May 7	West Ham United	A	7pm

PREMIER LEAGUE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea	11	7	1	3	25	16	9	22
Manchester City	10	5	3	2	29	19	10	18
Blackburn Rovers	10	5	3	2	16	15	1	18
Derby County	10	5	2	3	20	20	0	17
Tottenham Hotspur	11	5	2	4	20	21	-1	17
Liverpool	11	5	1	5	21	22	-1	16
Brighton & Hove Albion	12	4	4	4	17	21	-4	16
Everton	11	4	3	4	16	11	5	15
Manchester United	11	4	3	4	25	28	-3	15
Arsenal	11	4	2	5	19	18	1	14
Leicester City	11	4	0	7	18	24	-6	12
Southampton	11	3	2	6	18	21	-3	11
West Ham United	10	1	2	7	12	20	-8	5

UNDER-18 FIXTURES

* = won on penalties

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	2-3
Sat Oct 17	Brighton & HA	H	0-5
Sat Oct 24	West Bromwich Albion	A	3-1
Sat Oct 31	Norwich City	H	5-1
Sat Nov 21	Fulham	H	0-0
Sat Dec 5	Leicester City	H	2-1
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
TBA	Reading	A	TBA
TBA	Chelsea	H	TBA

EFL TROPHY RESULTS

Tue Sept 8	Ipswich Town	A	2-1
Tue Oct 13	Crawley Town	A	2-1
Tue Nov 10	Gillingham	A	1-1*
Tue Dec 8	AFC Wimbledon	A	0-3

UNDER-18 PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Fulham	9	7	1	1	21	8	13	22
Aston Villa	9	7	1	1	19	12	7	22
Tottenham Hotspur	10	6	3	1	29	10	19	21
Brighton & Hove Albion	10	5	3	2	25	13	12	18
Crystal Palace	9	6	0	3	14	14	0	18
Arsenal	9	5	1	3	19	17	2	16
Chelsea	9	4	2	3	26	16	10	14
Norwich City	11	4	1	6	23	25	-2	13
West Ham United	9	3	1	5	14	22	-8	10
West Bromwich Albion	9	2	2	5	16	23	-7	8
Reading	10	2	2	6	22	30	-8	8
Southampton	10	1	2	7	17	28	-11	5
Leicester City	10	0	1	9	12	39	-27	1

FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	2-1
Wed Jan 27	Blackburn Rovers	A	R4

THE BREAKDOWN

YOUTH APPEARANCES

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	UI8	FAYC	PLIC	TOTAL
Ben Cottrell	10(3)	4	-	-	-	14(3)
Folarin Balogun	10(3)	2(1)	-	-	-	12(4)
Tim Akinola	9+1	3+1	-	-	-	12+2
Ryan Alebiosu	7+1	3	-	-	-	10+1
Nicolaj Moller	6(4)	1	-	-	-	7(4)
William Saliba	6	2	-	-	-	8
Miguel Azeez	5+4	2+1(1)	-	-	-	7+5(1)
Catalin Cirjan	5+1(1)	2+1(1)	1	-	-	8+2(2)
Karl Hein	5	1	-	-	-	6
Joel Lopez	4+1	3	-	-	-	7+1
Jonathan Dinzei	4+1	1	-	-	-	5+1
James Olayinka	4(1)	2	-	-	-	6(1)
George Lewis	4	1(1)	-	-	-	5(1)
Jordan McEnuff	3+3	2(1)	-	-	-	5+3(1)
Daniel Oyegoke	3+1	1	-	-	-	4+1
Brooke Norton-Cuffy	3+1	+1	5	1	-	9+2
Emile Smith Rowe	3(3)	1	-	-	-	4(3)
Calum Chambers	3(1)	1	-	-	-	4(1)
Tolaji Bola	3	1	-	-	-	4
Harry Clarke	2	1	-	-	-	3
Matt Macey	2	1	-	-	-	3
Arthur Okonkwo	2	1	-	-	-	3
Daniel Ballard	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pablo Mari	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kido Taylor-Hart	1+1(1)	1+1	7(4)	1	-	10+2(5)
Salah-Edidine Oulad M'hand	1+1	1	-	-	-	2+1
Alex Kirk	1+1	+1	6(1)	1	-	8+2(1)
Joel Ideho	1+1	+1	1	-	-	2+2
Reiss Nelson	1(1)	-	-	-	-	1(1)
Mark McGuinness	1	1	-	-	-	2
Sokratis Papastathopoulos	1	1	-	-	-	2
Levi Laing	1	+2	6+1	-	-	7+3
Zach Awe	1	-	6+3	-	-	7+3
Hubert Graczyk	1	-	6	-	-	7
James Hillson	1	-	-	-	-	1
Joseph Olowu	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cedric Soares	1	-	-	-	-	1
Joe Willock	1	-	-	-	-	1
Zane Monlouis	+1	1	4+1	1	-	6+2
Khayon Edwards	+1	-	5+3(3)	-	-	5+4(3)
Mazeed Ogungbo	+1	-	4	1(1)	-	5+1(1)
Taylor Foran	+1	-	3+2	-	-	3+3
Gabriel Martinelli	-	1	-	-	-	1
Matt Smith	-	1	-	-	-	1
Omari Giraud-Hutchinson	-	-	9(1)	1	-	10(1)
Charlie Patino	-	-	8	1(1)	-	9(1)
Marcelo Flores	-	-	7+2(3)	1	-	8+2(3)
Mauro Bandeira	-	-	7+1	-	-	7+1
Luke Plange	-	-	6+2(4)	-	-	6+2(4)
Ovie Ejeheri	-	-	3	1	-	4
James Sweet	-	-	2+1(1)	1	-	3+1(1)
Nathan Butler-Oyedeji	-	-	1+2	1	-	2+2
Jack Henry-Francis	-	-	1+2	-	-	1+2
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Billy Vigar	-	-	+3	-	-	+3
Jeson Sraha	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Own goals	(1)	-	(2)	-	-	(3)



Joel Lopez

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ARSENAL WOMEN

ANNA'S BACK

Anna Patten has returned to the club after four years playing and studying in America. Anna first joined the club aged 12, where she developed through our academy ranks, making her first-team debut in 2016, where she played every game for us in the 2016 Spring Series that season.

The defender then spent two years at the University of South Carolina and a further two years at Florida State University, where she played football alongside obtaining a degree. After two years in Florida, the defender's education took her some 500 miles north to Columbia, where she linked up with the South Carolina Gamecocks, where she excelled, winning numerous individual awards.

"It's such an amazing feeling" said the 21 year old. "Obviously I've been at the club since I was 12, so to be back and be able to fully sign for the team really is like a dream come true.

"It's a funny thing because ever since I've left really, I've been coming back and joining the team in training whenever I could," she smiles. "When I'd come home for Christmas or the odd summer, I was able to join the team for training sessions. I feel like I've always been attached to the Arsenal family.

"When I was back during lockdown, it was then that I heard about the interest to re-sign me and obviously I was so excited about that. Then I went back to America, finished off my degree, finished off my season, and from there the conversations kept going. I was so excited to hear they were still interested in signing me.

"It was quite an easy decision, to return home back to Arsenal if I'm honest," says Anna, who won the Boilermaker Challenge Cup Defensive MVP award when with the Gamecocks. "The team is full of quality and I couldn't wait to be back. For me, my time had to come to leave America. I'd graduated so it felt right to come back and most of all to come back to Arsenal. To be back and be able to sign for the team really is like a dream come true."

Manager Joe Montemurro is thrilled with his new signing. "I'll always look for signings from within and if we can promote players, that's what our academy is there for," said Joe. "But also, to be able to be creative with the signings and so on – we think that Anna suits the Arsenal

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



FACING PAGE Anna will soon be back in the red and white of Arsenal

LEFT Coming back home

BELOW Anna is already back in training

2020/21 FIXTURES

SEPT 6	READING	6-1
SEPT 12	WEST HAM UNITED	9-1
SEPT 26	TOTTENHAM (FA CUP QF)	4-0
OCT 1	MAN CITY (FA CUP SEMI-FINAL)	1-2
OCT 4	BRISTOL CITY	3-1
OCT 7	CHELSEA (CC)	1-4
OCT 11	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	5-0
OCT 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	6-1
NOV 4	LONDON CITY LIONESSES (CC)	4-0
NOV 8	MANCHESTER UNITED	0-1
NOV 15	CHELSEA	1-1
NOV 18	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (CC)	2-2*
DEC 6	BIRMINGHAM CITY	3-0
DEC 13	MANCHESTER CITY	1-2
DEC 20	EVERTON	4-0
JAN 17	READING	A
JAN 24	WEST HAM UNITED	H
FEB 7	MANCHESTER CITY	H
FEB 10	CHELSEA	A
MAR 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
TBA	ASTON VILLA	A

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT JAN 8)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MANCHESTER UNITED	10	8	2	0	27	9	18	26
ARSENAL	10	7	1	2	38	8	30	22
CHELSEA	8	6	2	0	23	5	18	20
MANCHESTER CITY	9	5	3	1	23	9	14	18
EVERTON	9	4	2	2	17	15	2	14
READING	10	3	4	3	13	15	-2	13
BIRMINGHAM CITY	8	3	0	5	9	13	-4	9
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	9	2	3	4	12	18	-6	9
BRIGHTON & HA	10	2	2	6	7	19	-12	8
WEST HAM UNITED	9	2	1	6	13	23	-10	7
ASTON VILLA	8	2	0	6	8	17	-9	6
BRISTOL CITY	10	0	2	8	6	45	-39	2

mentality, the style of play we want and the beauty of it is that we can work to improve her. It's not as if she's a ready-made player, there's still room for improvement so it's exciting going forward for all of us."

Everyone at Arsenal welcomes Anna back to the club and looks forward to seeing her development. ■

*Arsenal won on penalties

@ArsenalWFC





Christian Benteke



CRYSTAL PALACE

By: Mike Hammond

FORMED

1905

NICKNAME

The Eagles

STADIUM

Selhurst Park (25,486)

HONOURS

First Division/Premier League
highest position: Third (1990/91)
Second Division/Championship
winners: 1978/79, 1993/94
Third Division/League One winners
1920/21
FA Cup Runners Up: 1990, 2016
Full Members Cup winners: 1991

OWNERS

Steve Parish
Joshua Harris
David S Blitzer

CHAIRMAN

Steve Parish

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

Twitter 1M
Instagram 1.1M
Facebook 1.3M

Premier League mainstays following their promotion via the Championship play-offs in 2012/13, Crystal Palace have not finished higher than tenth or lower than 15th since then, and the way the first half of the 2020/21 season has unfolded there is every chance that they will end up in the same familiar territory come May. They were 14th at the start of this week, three places but just one point behind Arsenal, having ended a five-match winless run in the league with a 2-0 home success against Sheffield United last time out.

It has been a season of highs and lows for Roy Hodgson's side. Having ended the 2019/20 campaign poorly, with just four points from the nine post-lockdown fixtures in June and July, there was understandable concern about the team's prospects for the new season. In the event, the south Londoners could hardly have got off to a better start. They kicked off with a 1-0 home win against Southampton and followed it up with a magnificent 3-1 victory at Man United. Unfortunately, though, Palace lost their next two games and have not been able to string two victories together since that opening double whammy.

There have been a couple of memorable performances in the interim – a 4-1 win at home to Leeds in early November and a 5-1 rout of West Brom at The Hawthorns a month later – but those have been counterbalanced by some deflating defeats, not least the two in succession just before and after Christmas, when Liverpool blitzed them 7-0 at Selhurst Park and a ten-man Aston Villa won 3-0 in Birmingham.

Interestingly Palace's last six Premier League defeats have all come in games in which they have failed to score. That statistic also applies to 12 of their last 14 league losses. Furthermore, they have not had a goalless draw in the competition since December 2019, away at Watford. So, the message to opponents is that if you stop Palace scoring, there is every likelihood that victory will follow, but if they do find the net there is a good chance they will come away with at least a draw.

While the south London side's priority this term, as ever, is to avoid relegation, another objective must be to improve on their best ever Premier League placing of tenth, which they achieved in 2014/15. Given the congested nature of the mid-section of the table, the south Londoners can feel entitled to look up as well as down as the halfway point of the season approaches. There are enough classy individuals in Hodgson's squad to put a decent run of form together, not to mention poach a surprise victory, but with their next four Premier League fixtures, including tonight's, all against teams currently above them – they go to Manchester City on Sunday before home games against West Ham and FA Cup third round conquerors Wolves – they will have their work cut out to improve their position in advance of a seemingly gentler run of fixtures in February.



MUTUAL ADMIRATION

Kenny Sansom is a genuine club legend at both Crystal Palace and Arsenal. Part of Terry Venables' 'Team of the Eighties' who won the Second Division in 1979 and briefly led the top division the following season before falling away – partly due to Sansom joining Arsenal on August 13, 1980 after playing 197 games and scoring four goals at Palace. The best left back of his generation, who earned 86 England caps, proved a superb acquisition by Terry Neill and provided consistent excellence over the next eight years, with his crowning moment captaining the team to League Cup glory in 1987. Kenny played 394 times for Arsenal, scoring six goals.



BORN Torrent, Spain, 10/1/87

PREVIOUSLY Valencia, Recreativo (loan), Getafe

There is no shortage of goalkeeping quality at Crystal Palace, with internationals Wayne Hennessey and Jack Butland also on the playing staff. But the man who has been Roy Hodgson's first choice over the past two seasons is 34-year-old Spaniard Vicente, signed in July 2018 on a free transfer from Getafe. Vicente made exactly 100 appearances in La Liga for the Madrid club that he joined from Valencia. He was outstanding last month in the 1-1 home draw against Spurs.



BORN Kragujevac, Serbia, 7/4/91

PREVIOUSLY Radnicki Kragujevac, Rad, Red Star Belgrade, Anderlecht, Olympiacos

Signed in January 2017, Luka soon earned a reputation as one of the Premier League's deadliest penalty takers, scoring 10 spot kicks in 2018/19 (including a double against Arsenal in a 2-2 draw at Selhurst Park), but strangely none since the one at Emirates Stadium in October 2019 on Palace's last visit (also 2-2). A national champion once with Anderlecht and three times with Olympiacos, he played for Serbia at the 2018 World Cup and now has 38 caps.



BORN Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 10/11/92

PREVIOUSLY Crystal Palace, Man United, Crystal Palace (loan), Cardiff (loan)

A Palace academy graduate, Wilfried has blossomed into one of the country's most watchable talents, prompting many England fans to rue his decision to play international football for the Ivory Coast. His pace and trickery persuaded Manchester United to buy him in 2013/14 but he barely played for David Moyes' side and returned to Selhurst Park, where he has re-established himself as a firm fan favourite. He is the Eagles' top Premier League scorer this term with eight goals.



BORN Hamburg, Germany, 23/12/92

PREVIOUSLY Leicester, Brentford (loan)

Born in Germany to Ghanaian parents but brought up in England, Jeffrey is a graduate of the Leicester City academy and went on to help the club win the Premier League, making 24 appearances in their triumphant 2015/16 campaign. He fell out of favour the following season and joined Palace in mid-campaign for a reported £12m. The pacey, powerful 28 year old left-footer has predominantly played on the wing for the Eagles though he can also operate at left back.



BORN Dakar, Senegal, 21/12/89

PREVIOUSLY RWDM, Anderlecht, Kortrijk (loan), West Ham

An all-purpose midfielder for most of his career, Senegal international Cheikhou has been withdrawn into central defence this season and has started all 17 of Palace's Premier League games, 16 of them in his new position, where he has been preferred to specialist centre backs such as Scott Dann, Gary Cahill and Mamadou Sakho. A four-time Belgian champion with Anderlecht in his younger days, he spent four seasons with West Ham, scoring the club's first goal at the London Stadium.



BORN Glasgow, 7/10/87

PREVIOUSLY Hamilton, Wigan

James' name has virtually been engraved on the Palace team sheet since Roy Hodgson's arrival, the 33 year old missing only a handful of games during that time and racking up more than 200 Premier League appearances for the club. The combative midfielder won 32 caps for Scotland before announcing his international retirement in 2017. He has been a Palace player since joining from Wigan in September 2014, and scored the winner in the Eagles' 3-2 win at Emirates Stadium two years ago.



BORN Greenwich, 29/6/98

PREVIOUSLY QPR, Wycombe (loan)

Signed in August for £17m following a brilliant 2019/20 season for QPR, 22-year-old Eberechi has been signposted as one of English football's finest up-and-coming talents – a reputation recently reaffirmed by a wondrous solo goal against Sheffield United. He scored 14 league goals for QPR last term to earn a place in the PFA's Championship Team of the Season and could be a key man alongside Eddie Nketiah in England's hunt for European Under-21 glory this year.



BORN Leytonstone, 16/7/91

PREVIOUSLY Tottenham, Yeovil (loan), Leyton Orient (loan), MK

Dons (loan), Ipswich (loan), Watford (loan), Millwall (loan), Leeds (loan), Birmingham (loan), QPR (loan), Newcastle
A handful for any full back with his jinking runs and ability to whip in accurate crosses from either flank, Andros also possesses a mean left-foot shot, which has brought him several spectacular goals, though he has managed just one this season – in the 3-1 win at Manchester United. He won 13 caps for England, all under Roy Hodgson, from 2013-16.

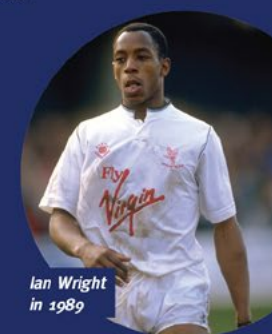


BORN Croydon, August 9, 1947

PREVIOUSLY Halmstad (1976-80), Bristol City (1982), Orebro (1983-84), Malmo (1985-89), Neuchatel Xamax (1990-92), Switzerland (1992-95), Internazionale (1995-97 & 99), Blackburn (1997-98), Grasshoppers (1999-2000), FC Copenhagen (2000-01), Udinese (2001), United Arab Emirates (2002-04), Viking (2004-05), Finland (2006-07), Fulham (2007-10), Liverpool (2010-11), West Brom (2011-12), England (2012-16)
At 73, Roy is the oldest manager in the Premier League. His managerial history has featured many spells abroad and peaked when he took charge of England in 2012. Crystal Palace became the fourth English club in September 2017.

REMEMBER KIT WELL

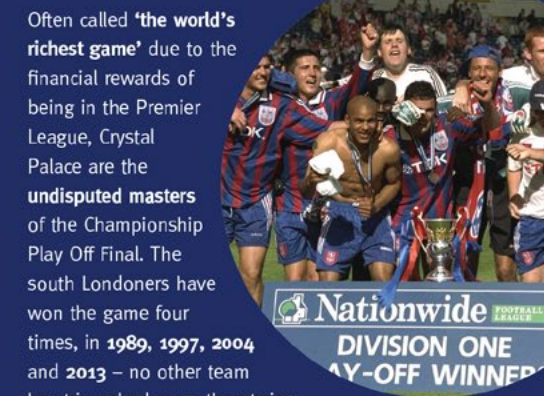
1983-84 – RED ROSE
1985-86 – TOP SCORE
1986-87 – AVR
1987-88 – ANDREW COPELAND
1988-91 – VIRGIN
1991-1993 – TULIP
1994-99 – TDK
2000-06 – CHURCHILL
2006-14 – GAC LOGISTICS
2014-15 – NETELLER
2015-17 – MANSION
2017-20 – MANBETX
2020-21 – W88



Ian Wright in 1989

REALLY?!

Eberechi Eze is a true product of the capital. Having been at Arsenal's Academy as a very young boy, he went on to join Fulham. After a stint at Reading, he headed to Millwall before finally getting his big break at QPR – from where Crystal Palace bought him in the summer.



Often called 'the world's richest game' due to the financial rewards of being in the Premier League, Crystal Palace are the undisputed masters of the Championship Play Off Final. The south Londoners have won the game four times, in 1989, 1997, 2004 and 2013 – no other team has triumphed more than twice.

Only in 1996 did the steely-nerved south-Londoners reach the final and fail to progress, losing to Leicester.

Palace's manager prior to Roy Hodgson, Frank De Boer, was at the club for just 77 days and in charge of just five games (W1, L4).

FIRST IMPRESSION

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

The first picture we have from a competitive game between today's two teams comes from November 14, 1970 and features a sprawling Palace keeper John Jackson seemingly just getting a hand to the ball ahead of Arsenal striker Ray Kennedy. The Highbury penalty area is already showing signs of early winter wear and tear and the match proved a bit of a sticky one for Bertie Mee's team, drawing 1-1 with both goals coming in the first half – John Radford scoring for the Gunners, Alan Birchenall for Palace.

The troublesome pitch wasn't helped by a game the previous Monday between the two teams in the League Cup, which ended in a 2-0 win for Palace – their first ever victory over the Gunners in their fifth match against us and the only game Arsenal lost at home all season.

1970/71 would though ultimately end in glory for the Gunners, winning both the FA Cup and the League – helped by a 2-0 win at Selhurst in the reverse fixture on March 13, 1971. Crystal Palace finished the season in 18th, in what was only their second season in England's top division.



PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS

13

DRAWS

6

CPFC WINS

3

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 59

ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS

28

DRAWS

14

CPFC WINS

5

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE 60

3

There have been three red cards shown in this fixture in the Premier League, two for Arsenal (Aubameyang and Arteta) and one for Palace (Puncheon). We have received 36 yellow cards to Palace's 28.

100

Ian Wright scored his 100th Arsenal goal against former club Palace, in a 2-1 home defeat in 1994. It was the first time we had lost a league match at home to Palace.

TOP

Jeffrey Schlupp celebrates with Christian Benteke and James McArthur after scoring against Sheffield United

BOTTOM

Jordan Ayew in action



SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

Roy Hodgson rarely springs a tactical surprise, and while there have been experiments with a 4-3-3 and 4-2-3-1 this season, including Jeffrey Schlupp briefly featuring in an unconventional No 10 position, Crystal Palace generally play in Hodgson's tried-and-tested 4-4-2.

There is, however, arguably more attacking threat than in previous seasons. Christian Benteke, a misfiring target man for the past couple of seasons and a Plan B in the opening months of this season, has scored three goals since the start of December and offers a completely different threat to Palace's other attackers.

Hodgson, though, may elect to play a purely counter-attacking game at the Emirates, which could mean a more

mobile combination of Andre Ayew and Wilfried Zaha, although it's worth pointing out that the last time he used that forward partnership, Palace lost 7-0 at home to Liverpool, with Ayew twice guilty of trying to square to Zaha when he might have shot. Ayew has been struggling for goals this season, although his hold-up play and defensive work is always useful, while Zaha has been in excellent form – he's managed eight goals, only two short of his best-ever Premier League return.

Zaha can play either up front in a 4-4-2 or wider in a variation of 4-5-1, which is partly why Hodgson likes Schlupp, who can play wide on the left or tuck inside into a three-man central midfield accordingly. He's often competing with newcomer Eberachi Eze, who has been in and out of the side in his debut Premier League campaign, but offers tremendous dribbling skills, and his delicious calm sidefooted finish from outside the box in a 2-0 victory over Sheffield United recently demonstrated that he can score goals too.

In central midfield, Hodgson usually elects for a combination of sturdy holding midfielder Luka Milivojevic, who largely stays in position and breaks up play, and the more energetic James McArthur, surely among the Premier League's most underrated operators. Jairo Riedewald is another option – he arrived from Ajax in the brief Frank De Boer era as a defender but has largely been used in central midfield by the more cautious Hodgson.

Cheikhou Kouyate, oddly, has done the reverse – known as a defensive midfielder in his time with West Ham, he increasingly deputised in defence last season. Now, it's his permanent position – he hasn't missed a game, and has only stepped forward once into his old midfield role. Gary Cahill, Scott Dann and James Tomkins have all featured alongside him in recent weeks.

Nathaniel Clyne has returned to his first club to battle with the reliable Joel Ward on the right flank, while youngster Tyrick Mitchell has come into the side in recent weeks after Patrick van Aanholt's defensive lapses started to overshadow his fine work on the overlap.

Palace have a reputation for being good on the break away at big clubs – they're the last side to win at both Anfield and Old Trafford, and haven't lost to Arsenal in their last four league meetings. ■



THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD

TIERNEY TURNS UP THE HEAT

One goal, one assist and one incredible performance from Kieran Tierney. Our entire squad stepped up to fire four past West Brom last week, but our No 3 was in particularly fine form at The Hawthorns.

With an abundance of energy and confidence on the ball, Tierney grabbed the game by the scruff of its neck and gave us the lead after just 23 minutes. His sudden burst of acceleration and sharp turn was impressive, but his stunning weak foot effort was even better.

He then went on to assist our fourth goal of the evening, whipping in an inch-perfect delivery for Alexandre Lacazette to finish, but this wasn't an isolated incident. Tierney was outstanding all night long down the left flank, constantly asking questions of West Brom's defence, before tracking back with no hesitation to cover his teammates.

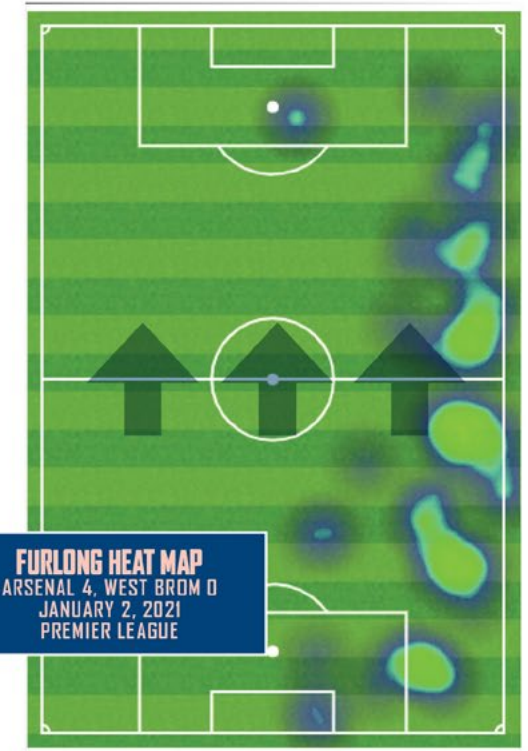
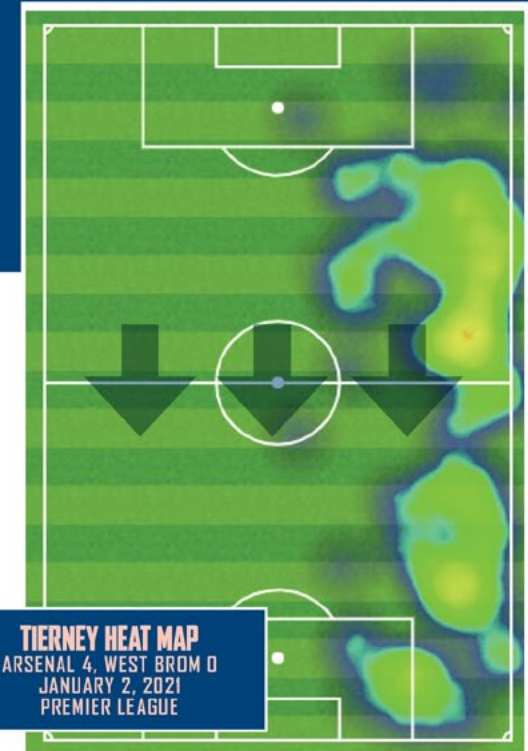
No other player touched the ball more than Tierney (96) at The Hawthorns, with only our midfield duo and Pablo Mari attempting more passes (68).

Our left back also registered six open play crosses, three more than any other player, in addition to making four key passes, again, more than any other player on the pitch.

When you take a moment to compare Tierney's heat map to Darnell Furlong, who was playing at right back for the Baggies, it's clear to see his influence at both ends of the field.

Not only did Tierney's surging runs create danger and uncertainty in the final third, but they also forced the opposition to retreat, and it put fear in their minds on the counter.

As we all know, leaving space in behind for Tierney and Auba to attack is risky business. Keep up the good work, KT! ■



Green = 1st sub
Gold = 2nd sub
Blue = 3rd sub
Purple = 4th sub
Pink = 5th sub

● = Win
● = Draw
● = Loss
+ = Won on pens

■ = Premier League
■ = UEFA Europa League
■ = Carabao Cup
■ = Emirates FA Cup
■ = Community Shield

Bold fixture = Scorer
Bold player = Goal scored
● = Goal
● = Penalty

* = Own Goal
CAPS = Captain
■ = Yellow card
■ = Red card
= Played at Wembley Stadium

	DATE	OPPOSITION	F-A	POS /RND	ATT/KO	STARTING XI	SUBSTITUTES										REFEREE
SEPTEMBER	Sat 29	Liverpool	1-1+	CS	BCD #	Martinez Bellerin Holding David Luiz Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	Saka Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	Cedric(59) Nelson(82) Willock(82) Kolasinac(83) Saliba	Smith Rowe John-Jules Olayinka Leno	A. Marriner							
	Sat 12	Fulham	3-0	1	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(75) Ceballos(78) Nketiah(87) Saka Willock Kolasinac Macey	C. Kavanagh								
	Sat 19	West Ham United	2-1	2	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Ceballos Xhaka	William 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								
OCTOBER	Mon 28	Liverpool	1-3	5	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding David Luiz Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60) Pepe(68) Nketiah(74) Gabriel Saka Kolasinac Runarsson	C. Pawson								
	Thur 1	Liverpool	0-0+	CC4	BCD	Leno Cedric Holding Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Willock XHAKA	Ceballos Pepe Nketiah	Elneny(68) Lacazette(82) M-Niles(86) Tierney David Luiz Nelson Runarsson	K. Friend								
	Sun 4	Sheffield United	2-1	4	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos	William Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(58) Xhaka(81) M-Niles(87) Willock Holding Lacazette Runarsson	L. Mason								
	Sat 17	Manchester City	0-1	5	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos Xhaka	Pepe William AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(69) Nketiah(83) Partey(83) Elneny M-Niles Runarsson	C. Kavanagh								
NOVEMBER	Thur 22	Rapid Vienna	2-1	MD1	3,000	Leno Cedric David Luiz Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Elneny Partey	Pepe LACAZETTE Nketiah	Aubameyang(61) Bellerin(61) Tierney(84) Willock(84) Nelson(90) Mustafi M-Niles Xhaka Runarsson Macey	P. Kralovec								
	Sun 25	Leicester City	0-1	10	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos Partey	Xhaka Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Mustafi(49) Pepe(65) Nketiah(81) Elneny M-Niles Willock Runarsson	C. Pawson								
	Thur 29	Dundalk	3-0	MD2	BCD	Runarsson Cedric XHAKA Mustafi Kolasinac M-Niles Elneny Willock	Nelson Pepe Nketiah	Ceballos(61) William(62) Tierney(74) Balogun(74) Gabriel Saka Partey Aubameyang Bellerin Lacazette Leno Hein	F. Glova								
	Sun 1	Manchester United	1-0	8	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Partey	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Nketiah(76) M-Niles(86) Mustafi(87) Xhaka Pepe Ceballos Runarsson	M. Dean								
DECEMBER	Thur 5	Molde	4-1*	MD3	BCD	Leno M-Niles David Luiz Mustafi Kolasinac Willock Ceballos XHAKA	William Pepe Nketiah	Cedric(64) Saka(64) Elneny(80) Tierney(80) Lacazette Gabriel Bellerin Aubameyang Partey Holding Runarsson Macey	H. Meler								
	Sun 8	Aston Villa	0-3	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Partey	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(46) Pepe(65) Nketiah(65) M-Niles David Luiz Xhaka Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Sun 22	Leeds United	0-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Willock	Pepe William AUBAMEYANG	Nelson(46) Saka(57) M-Niles(90) Lacazette Mustafi Nketiah Runarsson	A. Taylor								
	Thur 26	Molde	3-0	MD4	600	Runarsson Cedric David Luiz Mustafi M-Niles Xhaka Willock Nelson	Pepe Nketiah LACAZETTE	Holding(46) Ceballos(62) Tierney(75) Smith Rowe(75) Balogun(82) Cottrell Azeez Bellerin Macey Hein	I. Peljto								
JANUARY	Sun 29	Wolves	1-2	14	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Willock	William Saka AUBAMEYANG	Holding(46) Nelson(65) Lacazette(80) Cedric Nketiah Elneny Runarsson	M. Oliver								
	Thur 3	Rapid Vienna	4-1	MD5	2,000	Runarsson Cedric Mari Mustafi Kolasinac M-Niles Elneny Nelson	Saka Nketiah LACAZETTE	Smith Rowe(63) Ceballos(63) Willbar(63) Chambers(70) Balogun(81) Tierney Saka Holding Willock Azeez Macey Leno	R. Petrescu								
	Sun 6	Tottenham Hotspur	0-2	15	2,000	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Partey Saka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(45) Nketiah(75) Mustafi Elneny Willock M-Niles Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Thur 10	Dundalk	4-2	MD6	BCD	Runarsson Cedric Mari Chambers Mustafi M-Niles Elneny Willock	Smith Rowe Pepe Nketiah	Ceballos(62) Balogun(62) Cottrell(77) Azeez(83) Holding Saka Hein Macey	I. Bebek								
FEBRUARY	Sun 13	Burnley	0-1	15	2,000	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(60) M-Niles(74) Nketiah(77) Willock Smith Rowe Mustafi Runarsson	G. Scott								
	Wed 16	Southampton	1-1	15	BCD	Leno M-Niles Holding Gabriel Tierney Ceballos Elneny Saka	Pepe Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	David Luiz(65) Willock(67) Cedric(85) William Lacazette Mustafi Runarsson	P. Tierney								
	Sat 19	Everton	1-2	15	2,000	Leno M-Niles HOLDING David Luiz Tierney Ceballos Elneny Saka	Pepe William Nketiah	Willock(64) Martinelli(71) Lacazette(76) Cedric Bellerin Smith Rowe Kolasinac Mustafi Runarsson	A. Marriner								
	Tue 22	Manchester City	1-4	QF	BCD	Runarsson Cedric Mustafi Gabriel Kolasinac Ceballos Elneny M-Niles	Willock Martineili LACAZETTE	Pepe(49) Smith Rowe(66) Balogun(77) Mari Tierney Nketiah Leno	S. Attwell								
MARCH	Sat 26	Chelsea	3-1	14	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	Smith Rowe Martineili LACAZETTE	Willock(65) Pepe(71) Mustafi(90) Ceballos Aubameyang Cedric Nketiah M-Niles Runarsson	M. Oliver								
	Tue 29	Brighton & HA	1-0	13	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	Smith Rowe Martineili AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(63) Ceballos(81) M-Niles(89) Willock Cedric Mustafi Pepe Nketiah Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Sat 2	West Brom	4-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	M-Niles(54) William(71) Willock(77) Pepe David Luiz Elneny Martinelli Nketiah Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Sat 9	Newcastle United	2-0	R3	BCD	Leno Cedric David Luiz Mari Tierney Willock Elneny Nelson	William Pepe AUBAMEYANG	Smith Rowe(56) Xhaka(66) Saka(66) Lacazette(105) Balogun(120) Chambers Nketiah Runarsson	C. Kavanagh								
APRIL	Thur 14	Crystal Palace			8pm												
	Mon 18	Newcastle United			8pm												
	Sat 23	FA Cup R4			4												
	Tue 26	Southampton			8.15pm												
MAY	Sat 30	Manchester United			5.30pm												
	Tue 2	Wolverhampton Wanderers															
	Sat 6	Aston Villa															
	Tue 9/10	FA Cup R5			5												

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Bernd Leno	17	2	1	2	-	22
Kieran Tierney	16(1)	+4	1	-	1	18+4(1)
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	15(3)	+1(1)	1(1)	-	1(1)	17+1(6)
Hector Bellerin	15	+1	-	+1	1	16+2
Bukayo Saka	14+1(2)	1+1	+1	2	1	18+3(2)
Rob Holding	13+1	+1	-	2	1	16+2
Granit Xhaka	12+1(1)	3	+1	1	1	17+2(1)
William	12+1	1+2	1	+1	-	14+4
Gabriel	12(2)	1	-	2	-	15(2)
Mohamed Elneny	11	4+1(1)	1	2+1	1	19+2(1)
Alexandre Lacazette	10+4(7)	3(1)	+1	1+1(1)	-	14+6(9)
Dani Ceballos	9+6	1+4	-	2+1	-	12+11
David Luiz	6+2	3(1)	1	1	1	12+2(1)
Nicolas Pepe	4+7(2)	6(3)	1	2+1	-	13+8(5)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	4+6	5	+1	2+1	1	12+8
Thomas Partey	4+1	1	-	-	-	5+1
Eddie Nketiah	3+9(1)	6(3)	-	2(1)	1	12+9(5)
Pablo Mari	3	2(1)	1	-	-	6(1)
Emile Smith Rowe	3	+3(1)	+1(1)	+1	-	3+5(2)
Joe Willock	2+4	4+1(3)	1	3	+1	10+6(3)
Gabriel Martinelli	2+1	-	-	1	-	3+1
Sead Kolasinac	1	4	-	3	+1	8+1
Shkodran Mustafi	+3	5	-	1	-	6+3
Reiss Nelson	+2	3+1(1)	1	1	+1	5+4(1)
Cedric Soares	+1	5+1	1	2	+1	8+3
Alex Runarsson	-	4	-	1	-	5
Calum Chambers	-	1+1	-	-	-	1+1
Folarin Balogun	-	+4(2)	-	+1	-	+5(2)
Miguel Azeez	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Ben Cottrell	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Own goals	-	(2)	-	(1)	-	(3)

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Liverpool	17	9	6	2	16	33
2. Manchester Utd	16	10	3	3	9	33
3. Leicester City	17	10	2	5	10	32
4. Tottenham	16	8	5	3	14	29
5. Manchester City	15	8	5	2	11	29
6. Southampton	17	8	5	4	7	29
7. Everton	16	9	2	5	6	29
8. Aston Villa	15	8	2	5	13	26
9. Chelsea	17	7	5	5	11	26
10. West Ham United	17	7	5	5	3	26
11. Arsenal	17	7	2	8	1	23
12. Leeds United	17	7	2	8	-3	23
13. Wolves	17	6	4	7	-6	22
14. Crystal Palace	17	6	4	7	-7	22
15. Newcastle United	16	5	4	7	-8	19
16. Burnley	15	4	4	7	-11	16
17. Brighton & HA	17	2	8	7	-7	14
18. Fulham	15	2	5	8	-10	11
19. West Brom	17	1	5	11	-28	8
20. Sheffield Utd	17	0	2	15	-21	2

As at Monday, January 11



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MY ARSENAL

Name Ryan Zimmerman
Age 48
Live in Tonbridge, Kent
Type of Membership Gold

Why are you an Arsenal fan?

Following in my father's footsteps. He was a season ticket holder during the season I was born. Incidentally, on the day I was born we won 2-1 at White Hart Lane.

First Arsenal game?

May 15, 1982: Arsenal 4-1 Southampton. Paul Davis scored twice and we share a birthday. I remember sitting next to the brass band and going to the club shop to spend dad's programme vouchers.

Favourite Arsenal game?

WHL 2004 domestically, but I love a European trip, and Copenhagen 1994 tops them all.

Favourite hang out before a game?

We'd always head to The Woodbine on the Blackstock Road when we were at Highbury, but more often than not, me and dad just enjoy a drink in Tonbridge or Leicester Square these days. Occasionally frequent the Highbury Library or the Compton Arms.

Do you collect Arsenal memorabilia?

We have a wonderful collection of programmes dating back to the 60s, and signed photos that I was lucky to obtain personally at Kanu's Heart Foundation parties.

What's the furthest you've travelled to watch Arsenal?

Azerbaijan. A ridiculously crazy week in Asia to watch us get hammered by another London side in a European cup final.

If you could erase one Arsenal moment from history?

Bergkamp's penalty miss at Villa Park in '99. Can we just stick that one in the net please?



On a stadium tour in September. Ryan, his mum and dad, and sister Erin with her baby, Buddy



Ryan with his first and favourite shirt

Favourite away ground?

Always enjoyed the London derbies in the small grounds in the 90s. Cracking atmospheres at Loftus Road, Upton Park, and WHL.

Favourite ever Arsenal shirt?

Probably my first shirt. I remember being the happiest little Gooner in the world when I received that for my birthday.

Your Arsenal 'cult' hero?

Should probably say Perry Groves, but Lukas Podolski just edges out Andrey Arshavin. Disappointing that he didn't get a proper run of games up top.

Best Arsenal goal you've ever seen live?

I'm privileged to have seen many great goals live, but it has to be Henry skipping past four defenders and slipping the ball beyond Casillas in the Bernabeu, in a famous one nil to the Arsenal against a Real Madrid team featuring Zidane, Ronaldo, Carlos, and Beckham. Whilst watching the game, a £53M heist took place in my home town of Tonbridge! ■



ARSENAL

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

P S SD

00		1	BERNO LENO (GK) (17)
00		2	HECTOR BELLERIN (15)
00		3	KIERAN TIERNEY (16/1)
00		5	SOKRATIS PAPASTATHOPOULOS
00		6	GABRIEL (12/2)
00		7	BUKAYO SAKA (14+1/2)
00		8	DANI CEBALLOS (9+6)
00		9	ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE (10+4/7)
00		10	MESUT OZIL
00		12	WILLIAN (12+1)
00		13	ALEX RUNARSSON (GK)
00		14	PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (15/3)
00		15	AINSLEY MAITLAND-NILES (4+6)
00		16	ROB HOLDING (13+1)
00		17	CEDRIC SOARES (0+1)
00		18	THOMAS PARTEY (4+1)
00		19	NICOLAS PEPE (4+7/2)
00		20	SHKODRAN MUSTAFI (0+3)
00		21	CALUM CHAMBERS
00		22	PABLO MARI (3)
00		23	DAVID LUIZ (6+2)
00		24	REISS NELSON (0+2)
00		25	MOHAMED ELNENY (11)
00		28	JOE WILLOCK (2+4)
00		30	EDDIE NKETIAH (3+9/1)
00		32	EMILE SMITH ROWE (3)
00		34	GRANIT XHAKA (12+1/1)
00		35	GABRIEL MARTINELLI (2-1)
00		38	FOLARIN BALOGUN
00		41	BEN COTTRELL
00		66	MIGUEL AZEEZ



CRYSTAL PALACE

MANAGER ROY HODGSON
BLACK SHIRTS WITH RED AND BLUE TRIM,
BLACK SHORTS AND SOCKS

P S SD

00		1	JACK BUTLAND (GK)
00		2	JOEL WARD (8)
00		3	PATRICK VAN AANHOLT (9+1)
00		4	LUKA MILIVOJEVIC (9+4)
00		5	JAMES TOMKINS (2+1)
00		6	SCOTT DANN (8/1)
00		7	MAX MEYER
00		8	CHEIKHOU KOUYATE (17/1)
00		9	JORDAN AYEW (8+5/1)
00		10	ANDROS TOWNSEND (13+2/1)
00		11	WILFRIED ZAHA (15/8)
00		12	MAMADOU SAKHO (3+1)
00		13	WAYNE HENNESSEY (GK)
00		15	JEFFREY SCHLUPP (12+3/2)
00		17	NATHANIEL CLYNE (9)
00		18	JAMES MCARTHUR (14+1)
00		19	STEPHEN HENDERSON (GK)
00		20	CHRISTIAN BENTEKE (6+6/3)
00		21	CONNOR WICKHAM
00		22	JAMES MCCARTHY (4+1)
00		23	MICHY BATSHUAYI (4+6)
00		24	GARY CAHILL (5)
00		25	EBERECHI EZE (10+5/2)
00		27	TYRICK MITCHELL (8)
00		31	VICENTE GUAITA (GK) (17)
00		34	MARTIN KELLY
00		35	SAM WOODS
00		36	NATHAN FERGUSON
00		40	BRANDON PIERRICK
00		44	JAIRO RIEDEWALD (6+8/1)

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Andre Marriner

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Scott Ledger

Simon Long

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Simon Hooper

VAR OFFICIAL

Graham Scott

ADDITIONAL VAR OFFICIAL

Timothy Wood

(Numbers in brackets = Premier League appearances/goals 2020/21)



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