

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

# ARSENAL



**CHELSEA**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020 ■ 5.30PM ■ £3.50



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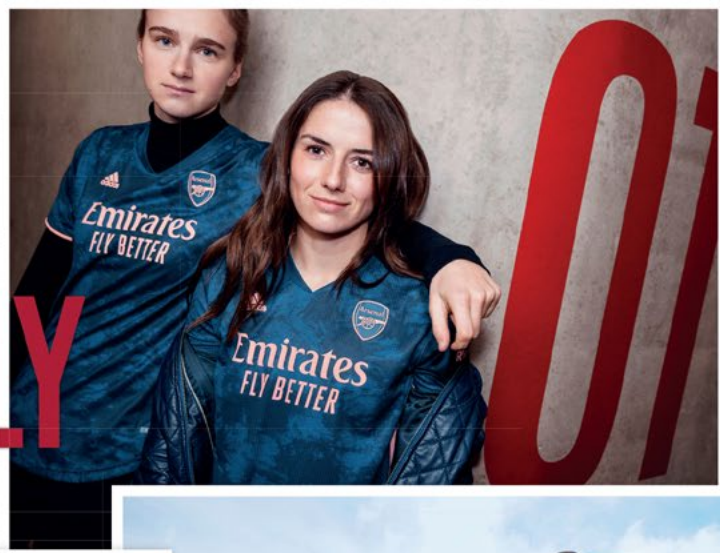
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**COVER** Sol Campbell scores in our last Boxing Day clash with Chelsea, in 2001/02 (full record on page 24)



THIS IS FAMILY



ADIDAS.COM/ARSENAL

# MIKEL ARTETA

We have a crucial week this week. We have to stand up and we have to pick up the points. Let's draw a line and move forward.

A lot of things happened in the game against Manchester City on Tuesday, and I really feel for the players at the moment, because we feel like it's just small margins that are going against us lately.

It's obviously a very frustrating time for us, for the players and the supporters, because something is happening in every game for different reasons and we just need a result now.

We conceded the first goal early on Tuesday against Man City and that obviously gave us the worst possible scenario, considering the situation we are in at the moment. It was a real test for us. But I have to say the team reacted really well and after that we kept going, and we scored a really good goal.

In fact we started to be on top of the game for 25 minutes after that. Then in the best moment of the game, we concede another soft goal. That was a turning point. After that we had a really good situation to go through on goal with Lacazette but we missed the pass and on the counter they scored a goal which we saw on the replays was offside. After it was 3-1, then it becomes very difficult to get back into the game.

It was a difficult moment for Alex Runarsson, but to be honest it was difficult for the whole team because we win together and we lose together. We will support Alex. We made the decision to play him because he's played other games and has played well. There's no question over that.

It was good to see Gabi Martinelli back on the pitch though, I was really happy with him. ▶





He has looked really sharp in training, and in the game he looked as he always does with his high energy and the passion. He was really good in that first half, but he picked up a really bad kick on his shin, and he had to come off because it wasn't comfortable to carry on playing.

I don't think it will be too serious but he will need a couple of days before we can see.

But let's move on from Tuesday's game, we have to focus on the Premier League, because that's the priority in the situation we're in now, and it would have been whatever happened on Tuesday.

We are trying to respond every week, and for different reasons we are not picking up results. It happened against Burnley, a game we should be winning, it happened against Southampton, it happened against Everton... we have to turn things around. Whether it's bad luck or these things that are affecting our results, they have to change dramatically. Those margins make it very difficult to win football matches in the Premier League. We have the opportunity on a very special day here at home against Chelsea, so let's do it.

## **"THIS IS A CRUCIAL MOMENT FOR US IN THE SEASON AND WE HAVE TO DO IT"**

The best medicine when you are in this situation is to win a football match. Every defeat is a painful moment, another moment of disappointment, another moment you have to lift yourself up and that's what we've got to do. I think the medicine for all of us would be to come here against Chelsea, beat them and then move on from there. It's exactly what we all need.

The next seven to eight days are going to be crucial to see where we're going to be heading to in the Premier League.

Playing Chelsea today will bring back memories of our FA Cup final win last season, and the team that we faced a few months ago was a top one as well. But at this moment, you're talking about a very strong squad in the Premier League. Frank is doing a really good job.

He's got a team full of belief and confidence, and even though they had some defeats, they got back to winning



against West Ham and it's a team that is going to be fighting for the top spot in the league for sure.

But it's down to us, we need to keep our positivity and keep our energy.

Keeping a strong team spirit can be harder at the moment because of Covid restrictions – to keep the team together, the team alive, and to be a team rather than a group of players, at the moment it takes a lot of energy.

When you are losing football matches you have to lift them up and you have to get them together. You have to get them to be positive to each other, to try to not start blaming any external factors or any individuals when things are not going well.

The best thing to do when things aren't going well is to be able to do things outside our site. Get the players together, change the environment, but at the moment we can't do that. We are not going to be able to do that for a while, so we have to find other ways.

But I have to say that the players are really putting in a lot of energy and enthusiasm not to lose what we are building. People are suffering, we are hurting and you have to get back, be the leader again, and try to push the players.

The players are responding and are ready to embrace the challenges ahead. That's happening, but the best medicine, as I said, is to win against Chelsea.

Things can turn around quickly in football and they have to. This is a crucial moment for us in the season and we have to do it this week. ■

# PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

This is our last home game of 2020 and it's certainly been a year that none of us will forget.

So much has happened in the past 12 months that it seems crazy when you look back over it all. We had the first lockdown, started playing games with no fans, then we won the FA Cup semi-final against Man City and then beat Chelsea in the final at Wembley. We started a new season, beat Liverpool in the Community Shield, but still with no fans at the games, and that still doesn't feel right, we need you back.

So I know everyone is going to remember this year – both the good and the bad bits – and to tell you the truth I think it's been a very strange time for all of us. But I'm a positive guy so I'm going to take the positive vibes of this year.

Winning the FA Cup and then the Community Shield was such a big thing for us. We had a very tough time last season, we changed managers and we were really proud of how we all turned it around under Mikel Arteta, and managed to turn that season into one with a trophy.

I will always remember that FA Cup final because it was a really, really good day for the club and the supporters, and of course it would have been better if there were fans in the stadium on the day. When you think back to it, you have those memories and those feelings again and it's time that we got back to those victories again as a club.

That's my ambition for 2021 – to do better than this year and to improve. I have that aim every year anyway. I always want to do better and I believe you can always

improve on the past year.

We have all set ourselves that target because we have to pick up our results again. You should always try to push yourself and develop, and speaking for myself, that's what I want to do.

But last season shows what can be done if you keep positive, keep working and stick together. We turned round a difficult position before and ended with the FA Cup that we really deserved.

We know we have the ability to do that, we have to get consistency and turn our form around – it's down to us.

Our priority is to improve our league form immediately. We have spoken about that as a team, we know exactly what is needed, but it's time to stop speaking about it ▶



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and do it on the pitch. That's the only solution now.

It starts today against Chelsea, and we only have to look back to August to know what it's like to play against them, and what we have to do.

They have got strong players all over the pitch, but if we can carry out our game plan then I'm confident we can get the win.

***“OUR PRIORITY IS TO IMPROVE OUR LEAGUE FORM IMMEDIATELY. WE HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THAT AS A TEAM”***

And we need it because with so many games coming up now, if you get on a good run at Christmas, your position can change so quickly.

That's a positive for us right now. We have got three big games coming up this week, we have to prepare well for them, recover in the right way between matches, and if we can get a win today that can give us some momentum for this busy schedule. I really hope I can be back to play in these matches. It's a calf issue I have, but I'm working hard with all the medical staff to get fit as soon as possible.

I obviously couldn't be involved on Tuesday night against Manchester City and it was a difficult night for us. I thought we showed good character to get back into the

game and had a strong spell before half-time and at the start of the second half, but then two quick goals killed us. Their second goal was a difficult moment for Alex Runarsson but we know he has quality and can come back stronger and be a good goalkeeper for us. We have belief in him. There were some good performances from our younger players in the game and at this time of year, it's more important than ever that our whole squad is ready to step up if they are called on.

It's a busy time for us on the pitch, and I know it's a busy time for so many people at the club off it as well.

I'm always proud of the work this club does in the community, especially at this time of year. It's always good to help people when we can, because as footballers we are lucky enough that we can do it.

We are lucky to have this job, to be able to play football and be in the position that we can give something back to people if they are in a bad situation.

I hope you all managed to have a good Christmas yesterday, and were able to be in touch with your family somehow!

From the whole squad, thanks for your support throughout 2020 – whether that was in the stadium, or across the world and on social media. Let's hope we can all be together in the stadium again as soon as possible in 2021. ■



# VOICE OF ARSENAL

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**W**e hope all supporters enjoyed a very merry Christmas yesterday and were able to make the best of what is a very difficult time for so many families.

The players, directors and staff would like to wish all fans a Happy New Year – hopefully 2021 will be a prosperous one for all of you and Arsenal Football Club. ■

## ARSENAL ITK

- We are unbeaten in our last 12 Boxing Day home games (W10 D2) since a 2-0 loss against Nottingham Forest in 1987. We have won each of our last nine such games in the Premier League.

- Chelsea lost 2-0 against Southampton on Boxing Day last season, ending a run of 14 games without defeat on December 26 (W9 D5). The Blues haven't lost consecutive Boxing Day matches since 1994/1995.

- Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has scored on both of his Boxing Day appearances in the Premier League – he could become the first Arsenal player to score on three consecutive Boxing Day games since Thierry Henry between 2002 and 2004.

- Chelsea haven't lost three consecutive Premier League away games since February 2019, a run which included a defeat at Arsenal. ■



Olivier Giroud scoring on Boxing Day 2016



TOP  
Sol Campbell celebrates his equaliser



LEFT AND INSET  
Sylvain Wiltord grabbed the winner just after coming off the bench



## TODAY'S COVER

We hope you enjoy our retro cover this evening. Many people will recognise Sol Campbell scoring the last time Arsenal played Chelsea on Boxing Day. The Gunners had gone into half-time 1-0 down, courtesy of Chelsea's Frank Lampard, but we started the second period in the best possible manner when Sol powered a header home from a Robert Pires corner on 48 minutes. Substitute Sylvain Wiltord then grabbed a winner on 71 minutes, just two minutes after coming on. The Frenchman swept home after Mario Melchiot had only partially cleared a Gio Van Bronckhorst free-kick.

The match – which featured a number of flashpoints involving Patrick Vieira and Graeme Le Saux – sent the

Gunners top of the table on their way to a famous 'double' – when they beat Chelsea in the final, and was their 13th consecutive home league game unbeaten to the Blues.

The picture was taken by the club's chief photographer Stuart MacFarlane, who tells us: "It was Sol's first season at the club and apart from being superb at the back, he also scored a few towering headers, like this one. We dominated Chelsea during this period and my strongest memory of this picture is actually printing it off at the end of the game so my son could give the picture to his Chelsea-supporting grandad for Christmas!" ■



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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'Babs' with Arsène in 2009/10 season

## BARBARA WINDSOR

Arsenal Football club were saddened to hear of the recent death of Dame Barbara Windsor, aged 83. The much loved actress grew up close to Highbury in Shoreditch and then Stoke Newington and was an Arsenal fan all of her life. She also helped in a number of charitable ventures involving the club over the years – the picture featured here shows her with Arsène Wenger at a 'Be A Gooner Be A Giver' event launching Great Ormond Street Hospital as our 'Charity of the Season' for 2009/10.

A true icon of stage and screen over the last 60 years, Barbara suffered with Alzheimer's in her later years and a Justgiving page has been set up by her husband Scott for Alzheimer's Research which has already raised over £100,000. You can donate here:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/damebarbara](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/damebarbara)



## GRANIT'S BACK

Following his sending off against Burnley, Granit Xhaka has served his three-match domestic suspension and is available for this evening's game. ■

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# FANS FORUM CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our Fans' Forum held its end-of-year virtual meeting on Tuesday evening.

Senior officials, including chief executive Vinai Venkatesham and technical director Edu, spent time discussing the club's ambitions, current form and the impacts of the pandemic on fans attending matches.

Other areas discussed included the club's approach to treating head injuries following the incident involving David Luiz and Raul Jimenez, the My Arsenal Rewards programme that is being developed and ways to get fans involved in fundraising for the Arsenal Foundation.

The full minutes of the meeting can be found on [Arsenal.com](https://www.arsenal.com)



## REF WATCH

Today's referee is Michael Oliver from Northumberland, who has been a Premier League referee since 2010. Michael has already officiated at Emirates twice this season, in our 2-1 win over West Ham and the 2-1 home defeat against Wolves at the end of November – the seven yellow cards he showed in that match was the most he has brandished all season.

Michael's last Premier League game was Sheffield United's 3-2 home defeat against Manchester United.

## ARSENAL REMEMBERS

**SANDRA WHITE** – An Islington girl and Arsenal fan. Loving mother to Josephine, Sandra, Tanya, Kayleigh, Christopher & Charlotte and loving partner to Chris. A true family woman. Forever in our hearts. Until we meet again. Rest in Peace

**KRISH KENT** – This tribute is to a very special Arsenal fan who passed away recently aged five. He was the son of Rajiv and Rakhi, and brother to Ishaan, who are all huge Arsenal fans. Rest in Peace Little Gunner

# ALWAYS TOGETHER

As we approach the end of an extraordinary year, we wanted to ensure the Arsenal family around the world still feel the presence of the club despite being unable to be together in the normal way.

We feel privileged to have been able to continue our commitment to the community in different ways this year when they've needed some extra support in difficult circumstances.



Mikel and Joe wave off the truck to north London...

## HALF A MILLION MEALS!

On December 11, we saw the delivery of our 500,000th meal to vulnerable people in north London since the start of the pandemic.

Working with the charity His Church and local councils in Camden, Islington and Hackney, The Arsenal Foundation and Arsenal in the Community have delivered 521,428 meals to the local community since March.

Managers Mikel Arteta and Joe Montemurro sent the truck on its way to north London from the Arsenal Training Centre after welcoming Richard Humphrey from His Church. Richard then joined Vinai Venkatesham alongside Cllr Richard Watts from Islington Council and Arsenal in the Community participants Suzanna Garcia and Madison Alexander at Emirates Stadium to deliver the half a millionth meal together.

We are immensely proud to have played a part in supporting the community and we thank everyone who has played their part over the last few months. ■



...where it's greeted by Vinai, Cllr Watts, Suzanna and Madison



Emirates concourses have been used as a distribution centre

## PLAYING FOR THE NAME

Our match against Southampton saw us continue the tradition of dedicating a matchday to fundraise for the vital work of The Arsenal Foundation.

To bring our players closer to our work and the young people benefitting from our projects, the men's and women's team both took time to hear more about the work and the impact The Arsenal Foundation is having locally, and globally through our Coaching for Life project in partnership with Save the Children in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan and in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Players have once again pledged to continue the club tradition of donating a day's salary to support the ground-breaking Coaching for Life programme in Jordan. Our players were paired with a young person from Coaching for Life and played for them at their respective league fixtures.

The matchday programme had a different feel with 11 different covers printed to tell the stories of 11 different young people on our Coaching for Life programme. ■



Playing for the name on - and in - the shirt

Arsenal Women show their support



Against Southampton players played for a participant and learned about their lives too

## HOSPITAL VISITS

Although the players couldn't visit local hospitals this year, we had a very able deputy in Gunnersaurus to help spread the message of the Arsenal family always being together, even when we are apart.

Gunner visited the Homerton, Whittington and Barnet hospitals on Friday, December 11 and, with

his team of helpers, dropped off presents to children who may have to face this festive period in hospital.

The staff at Emirates Stadium also lent a hand in making sure all the sacks of presents were perfectly (and Covid safely) packed and ready for the children's wards. ■



Hello Whittington!



Staff get the goodie bags together



Helping hand at Homerton



Bringing joy to Barnet



With the super staff at the Whitt



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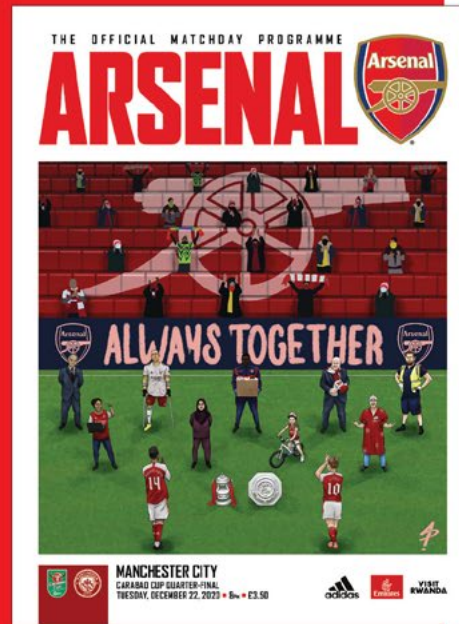


## HONOURING TEAM WORK

On Tuesday night, for our match against Manchester City, the club showed its appreciation for some of the Arsenal family around the world who have achieved something special in 2020.

We asked local artist Stazzy – a beacon of inspiration for young people in our community – to reimagine the iconic socially distanced first-team photo that was taken in November, this time featuring members of the Arsenal family who have inspired us this year. Our two captains, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Kim Little, represent the club in showing our appreciation for these special individuals and their achievements and also show their appreciation for the fans who were able to make a brief return to Emirates Stadium in December.

The story behind the nine individuals featured in our last programme against Manchester City – as did the cover of course – and can also be found on Arsenal.com. ■



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# BOXING DAY MATCHES

## BOXING DAY RECORD IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE

PLAYED 22



## PREMIER LEAGUE BOXING DAY GAMES - VENUES



## PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS (DEC 26 - JAN 3)

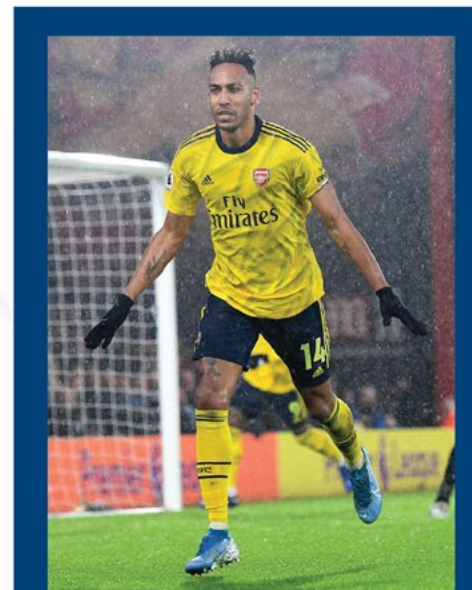
P79 W45 D21 L13 PPG2

Season	W	D	L	PPG
1992/93	1	1	0	0.5
1993/94	1	1	0	2.5
1994/95	1	1	0	1
1995/96	1	1	0	1
1996/97	1	1	0	1.6
1997/98	1	1	0	2
1998/99	1	1	0	3
1999/2000	1	1	0	1.3
2000/01	1	1	0	1.3
2001/02	1	1	0	3
2002/03	1	1	0	2.3
2003/04	1	1	0	3
2004/05	1	1	0	3
2005/06	1	1	0	2
2006/07	1	1	0	2
2007/08	1	1	0	2.3
2008/09	1	1	0	2
2009/10	1	1	0	3
2010/11	1	1	0	2.3
2011/12	1	1	0	1.3
2012/13	1	1	0	2
2013/14	1	1	0	3
2014/15	1	1	0	2
2015/16	1	1	0	2
2016/17	1	1	0	2.3
2017/18	1	1	0	1.6
2018/19	1	1	0	1.3
2019/20	1	1	0	1.3

Key: WON DRAWN LOST PPG = Points per game

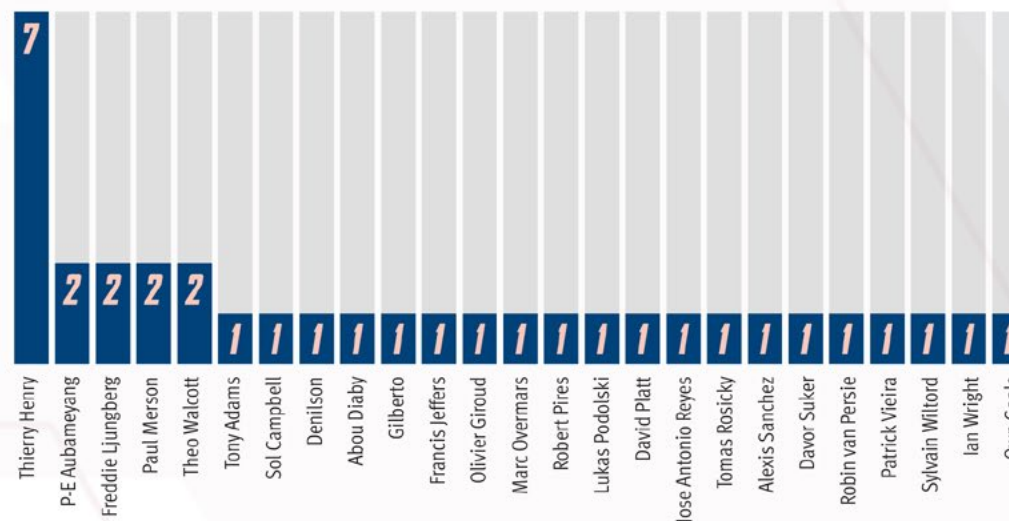
## BOXING DAY RECORD IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE

Date	Opposition	H/A	F-A	W/D/L
1992	Ipswich Town	H	0-0	D
1994	Aston Villa	H	0-0	D
1995	QPR	H	3-0	W
1996	Sheffield Wednesday	A	0-0	D
1997	Leicester City	H	2-1	W
1998	West Ham United	H	1-0	W
1999	Coventry City	A	2-3	L
2000	Leicester City	H	6-1	W
2001	Chelsea	H	2-1	W
2002	West Bromwich Albion	A	2-1	W
2003	Wolverhampton W.	H	3-0	W
2004	Fulham	H	2-0	W
2005	Charlton Athletic	A	1-0	W
2006	Watford	A	2-1	W
2007	Portsmouth	A	0-0	D
2008	Aston Villa	A	2-2	D
2013	West Ham United	A	3-1	W
2014	QPR	H	2-1	W
2015	Southampton	A	0-4	L
2016	West Bromwich Albion	H	1-0	W
2018	Brighton & HA	A	1-1	D
2019	Bournemouth	A	1-1	D



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has scored our last two Boxing Day goals

## ARSENAL'S PREMIER LEAGUE BOXING DAY GOALSCORERS



# EMILE

This Christmas is like no other before, but Emile Smith Rowe was doing his bit yesterday to help bring some happiness to others.

Emile spent a couple of hours of his Christmas Day celebrations yesterday in the company of care leavers from Islington – albeit via Zoom – as part of an Arsenal in the Community project.

As usual at this time of year, Arsenal in the Community worked together with Go Forward Youth and Islington Council to identify 50 young people from Islington Leaving Care Service, who each received a Christmas hamper and invite to the special Zoom call.

Emile, who took part in the event on Christmas Day in 2018 when it was held in the Hub, was on the call too for two hours of quizzes, games and connecting with other young people.

Here the midfield academy product tells us why the project is so special to him, in his own words.

**P**laying football is not the only job of a footballer. It goes much wider than that.

I've known that my whole time growing up, but when you get older and your profile increases, you soon realise that people look up to you as a role model. Most kids out there want to be doing what you are doing – they want to be a professional footballer themselves. They look up to you and I've seen for myself now what it means to people when they see you, when you can spend some time with them, and when you can interact with them.

That's why I like to get involved in community projects, give my time and hopefully give some happiness to people at Christmas especially.

Two years ago I went to the Arsenal Community Hub on Christmas Day to visit care leavers, hand out some presents and play some games.

The reaction from everyone there – just being able to put those smiles on people's faces – meant so much.

It was a surprise visit. I had training in the morning, then basically went home quickly to go straight to the Hub at the stadium. ▶



## ALL OF ARSENAL

U18s	32 apps, 15 goals
U21s	3 apps, 1 goal
U23s	30 apps, 9 goals
LC	3 apps, 1 goal
FAC	0 apps, 0 goals
UEL	10 apps, 3 goals
PL	2 apps, 0 goals
TOTAL	80 apps, 29 goals



I went in and it was all a bit crazy! There were loads of people coming up to me, asking for pictures and it was so nice for me to see that as well. You could really see how happy it made them. It made their day, and it left something with me. It made me want to carry on, and continue to put smiles on faces whenever I can.

Knowing you've given something back and helped someone's life even in a small way – there's no better feeling.

So that's why this year I wanted to get involved again. We have to do things differently this time of course. At Arsenal during this pandemic we've been saying that we're apart but we're always together, and you can see that we are still able to change people's lives, but in a different way.

So this year to do it via a Zoom call, and do quizzes and games with them, is great and another way of reaching our fans and the people who need our support.

Fortunately, as footballers we're in the position to be able to help other people, so whenever we are able to, we have to find a way to do it. It's always good to try.

And it made sense for me to get involved with Islington Council's Care Leavers Service, because my dad has been working for them for a while now.

He's involved there and arranges those campaigns, so he suggested it would be good for me for to go along as well. It's only when you see it yourself that you realise how important your presence there can be for people.

Me, a player from Arsenal FC, had come to see them and it meant a lot to them, and it had an effect on me too.

It's important to me, because there are a lot of kids and young adults out there who are not as fortunate as me to have their family around them at Christmas. By doing this it gives them an opportunity to enjoy their day, and to give them some presents. I'm still young myself, just 20, but I'm now at an age where I realise that I can afford to help people out.

I've grown up with this. We get taught about our responsibilities throughout our time at the academy.

When you start growing up you've got to start becoming more of a role model as well, and setting an example. That really educated me off the pitch. We would have meetings about it and discuss what our responsibilities are.

As you grow up you realise all the other aspects of being a footballer. And for me, I've come from a family where my parents have taught me the same messages – 'you have got to help people who are not as fortunate as you.' ▶



**TOP**  
Emile with his parents. 'They have taught me to help people less fortunate'

**ABOVE**  
Visiting young fans in hospital at Easter 2018

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**BORN** Croydon, July 28, 2000

**JOINED ARSENAL**

As a full-time scholar in July 2016

**ARSENAL DEBUT**

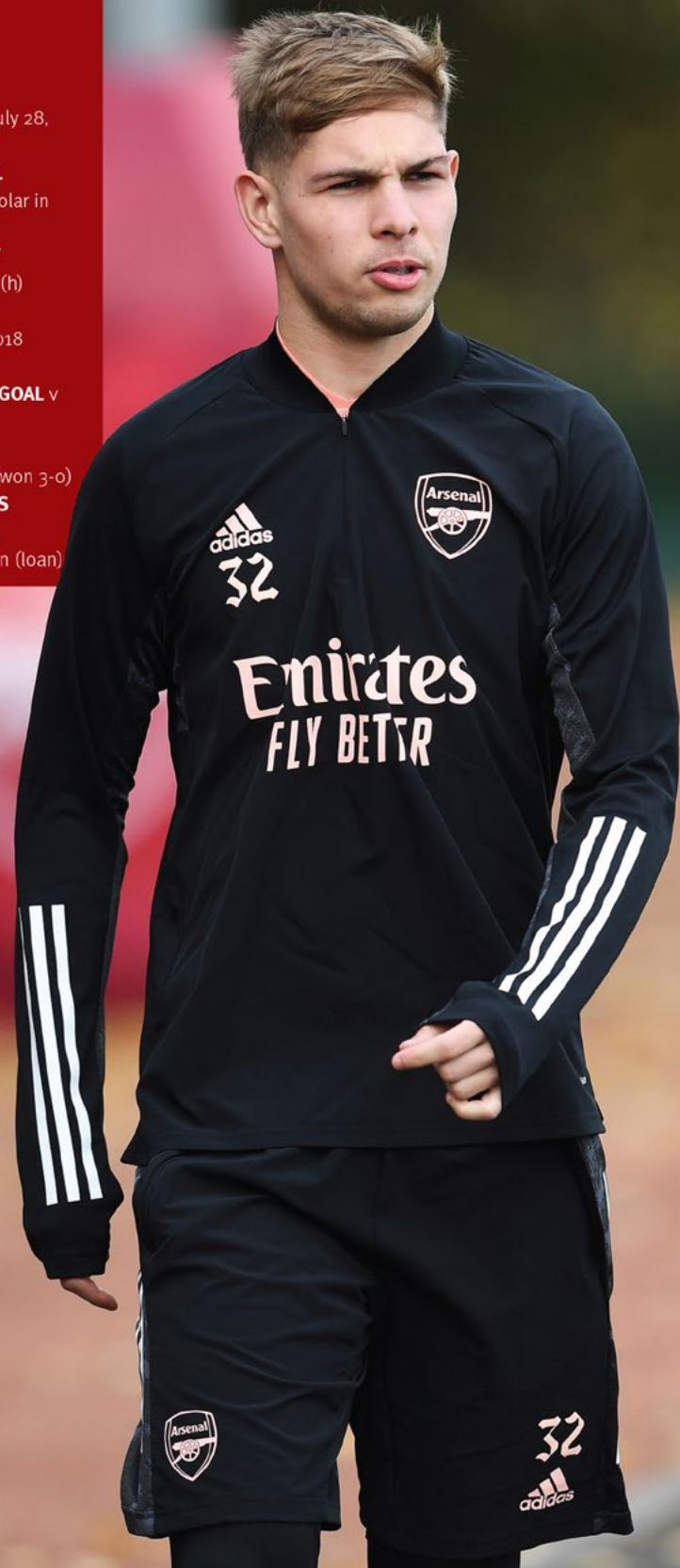
v Vorskla Poltava (h) Europa League, September 20, 2018 (won 4-2)

**FIRST ARSENAL GOAL** v

Qarabag (a) Europa League, October 4, 2018 (won 3-0)

**PREVIOUS CLUBS**

RB Leipzig (loan), Huddersfield Town (loan)



I've always tried to think about that.

As I said, my dad does this every Christmas so I'm used to not seeing him for half the day every Christmas.

My mum's a head teacher as well so they are both used to educating young people and working with people who might not have that family support.

So growing up I learnt a lot from both of them and now I can see it for myself.

As an Arsenal man my whole life, it makes me proud that the club are involved in projects like this, and look to give back to the community.

***"FORTUNATELY, AS FOOTBALLERS WE'RE IN THE POSITION TO BE ABLE HELP OTHERS, SO WHENEVER WE ARE ABLE TO, WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DO IT"***

I remember as a young player coming through, it's always good to see your idols in the first team setting an example and giving something back themselves. It was a powerful message.

I'm sure I speak for all of the young players, we always look up to the senior players and when you see them get involved in these things, it makes you want to be a part of it too.

I've been inspired by those before me and hopefully younger players coming through now will also look at what we are doing.

And for me that means getting involved at Christmas time. I want to do more of it in future.

Growing up, Christmas Day meant me and my brother waking up early, running downstairs trying to open our presents early. It was a tradition in our house though that we opened presents after our Christmas dinner – so we were made to wait!

But now I'm older and a professional footballer, it's very different. If we have a game on Boxing Day like this year, Christmas Day means training in the morning. It still gives me plenty of time to get involved with the community work though.

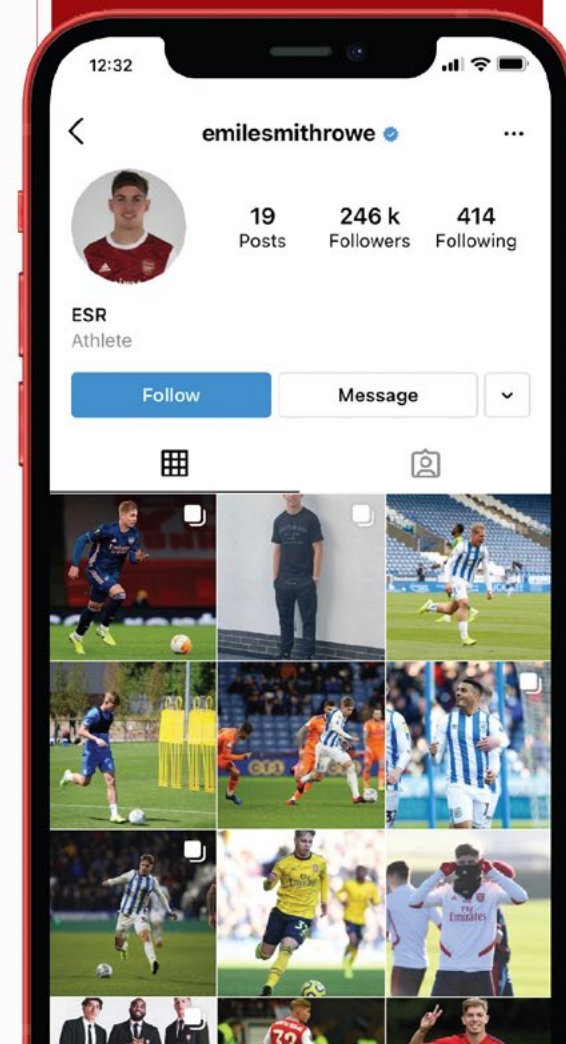
I want to keep helping when I can and keep taking these opportunities to help out. I want to keep getting involved.

As a professional footballer I know I've got the power to use my voice. I'm lucky. I'm in the position to help less fortunate people so I want to do that more in the coming years too. ■

You could really make the difference to a child's life by becoming a foster carer.

Islington need foster carers to look after local children and young people. So, if you have room in your heart and a room in your home, find out how rewarding fostering can be by calling for a chat on 020 7527 7933, email [fostering@islington.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@islington.gov.uk) or visit [islington.gov.uk/fostering](http://islington.gov.uk/fostering).

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Challenge it.  
Report it. Change it.



# CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY

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

## WM SPECIAL

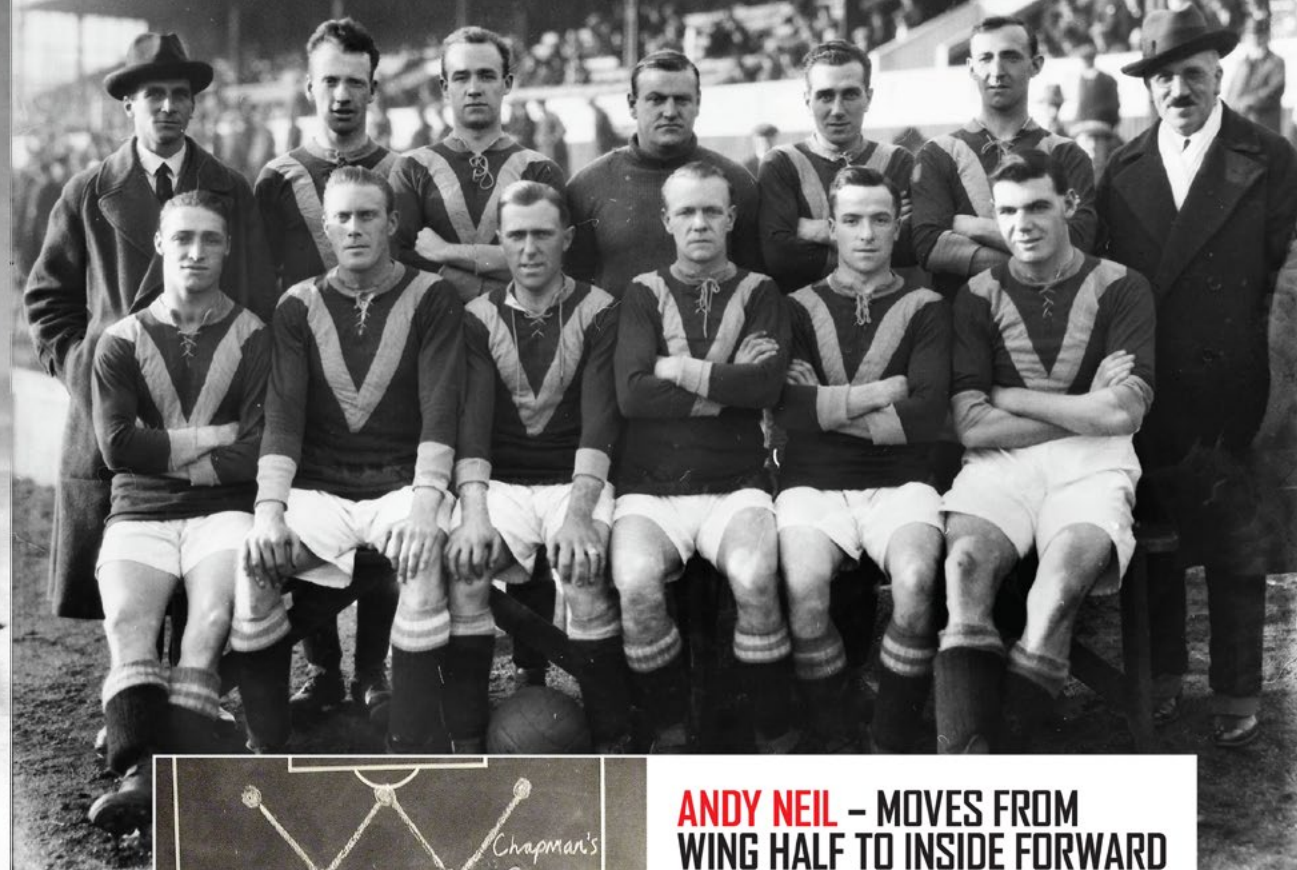
### JACK BUTLER MOVES FROM CENTRE HALF TO DEEP LYING CENTRE HALF (OR CENTRE BACK)

In late September 1925, with new manager Herbert Chapman at the helm, and iconic ex-Sunderland forward Charlie Buchan in the ranks, Arsenal suffered arguably their most epoch-defining defeat – a 7-0 reverse at Newcastle United. During the close-season the ruling changed so that only two defenders (it was previously three) needed to be between an attacker and the goal. At St James' Park, the Arsenal defence crumbled under wave upon wave of Newcastle attacks and the Gunners were 6-0 down at half-time. Newcastle centre-half Charlie Spencer remained in a very deep position and although he contributed little to the rhythm of his side's attacks, he repeatedly snuffed out Arsenal's attacks. Gunners winger Joe Hulme recalled: "Charlie Buchan rated Charlie Spencer as a great player, and often spoke of his unsung quality of reading the pace and direction of the game."

It was Spencer's display that afternoon which convinced Buchan and Chapman that the Gunners needed to radically alter their tactics if they were to survive in the late 1920s, let alone prosper. In his book *A Lifetime In Football*, Buchan claims: "New methods were required and Arsenal were the first to exploit them." One might suggest that Newcastle had clearly got their first with their use of Spencer as a deep-lying centre half, but Buchan, as events showed, was referring to tactics across the entire pitch.

Following the calamity in the north-east, Buchan informed Chapman that he would leave Arsenal and resign for Sunderland as he was 'clearly of no use to his new team-mates'. Yet Chapman calmed him down and asked him, at a team meeting at the Newcastle Hotel, to air his views. Buchan had been pressing for a change to the way Arsenal lined up since the beginning of the season. ▶





Now Chapman was ready and willing to listen to his ideas. One of Buchan's suggestions was that a deep lying centre half should be deployed to guard the edge of the penalty area. This in itself was hardly revolutionary. Chapman used Tom Wilson as a deep-lying centre half in the 1922 FA Cup final when his Huddersfield team beat Preston 1-0. Buchan himself wrote: "It has many times been said that the change in law brought into operation

**"BUCHAN SUGGESTED THE CENTRE HALF SHOULD BE 'A DOMINATING PERSONALITY'"**

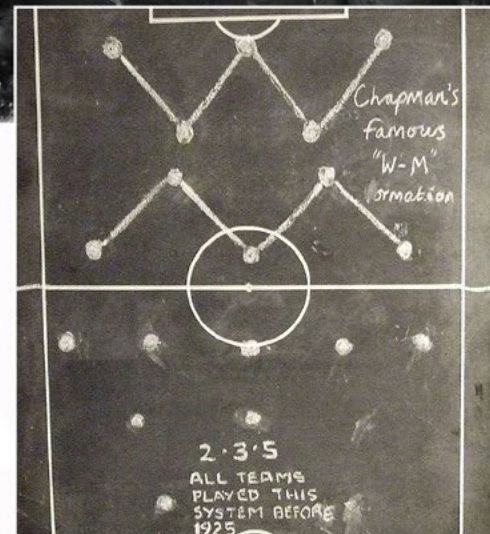
the 'stopper' centre half, but there were many such 'stoppers' long before that eventful day." At that time the centre half played a much more attacking role. Buchan argued that the club should now have a more defence-minded player in that position and that he, rather than the two full backs, should take responsibility for the offside trap. Buchan suggested that the centre half should be "a dominating personality around his own goal."

Centre half Jack Butler – born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1894 – was asked to operate in the deep-lying centre half (which quickly became known as centre back)

position. Joe Hulme recalled: "Jack was a very disciplined player, who could read the game excellently. In an instant, he was able to decide whether to simply clear the ball or nudge the ball to a team mate."

After thrashing West Ham, the team embarked upon an excellent run of form in the league, eventually finishing as runners-up to Huddersfield, who completed a hat-trick of championship successes. But for a spate of injuries around Christmas time the new tactics could even have propelled the team to the title, but Chapman would have to wait a good few years to taste title success. Butler – a physically commanding defender – played in 41 games in 1925/26, and remained a first-team regular until Herbie Roberts, signed from Oswestry Town, ousted him from his centre back berth. Butler played in Arsenal's first FA Cup final – the 1927 loss to Cardiff City at Wembley – but sadly, despite contributing so much to the team, he missed out on an FA Cup winner's medal in 1930, when the Gunners defeated Huddersfield Town, and was sold to Torquay.

His pioneering role in the Gunners' new fangled WM formation shouldn't be overlooked, and he later injected his tactical acumen into the Belgium national team, whom he coached after World War Two. ■



**ANDY NEIL – MOVES FROM WING HALF TO INSIDE FORWARD**

**D**uring the team meeting at Newcastle, Charlie Buchan also argued that withdrawing the centre-half (Jack Butler) would leave Arsenal short of personnel in midfield, and suggested he (Buchan) should drop back from his inside-right position which would have left a loose and unbalanced 3-3-4. Buchan was overruled because Chapman needed Buchan to score goals. Instead he gave the role of withdrawn inside-forward to Scottish wing half Andy Neil, a third-team player, and described by Chapman as being "as slow as a funeral", and by Buchan as "slow as a post". Signed from Brighton for a fairly hefty sum of £3,000 in 1924, Neil's newly carved-out role speaks volumes for Chapman's eye for the tiniest detail, and his ability to recognise which skills were needed where in the team. Chapman's argument was emphatic: "He has ball control and can stand with his foot on the ball while making up his mind." Neil's influence at the club was fleeting. By season's end, he'd returned to Brighton, and Chapman quickly upgraded the quality of players in the centre of the park. But with the under rated Neil playing as an inside forward, and Jack Butler at centre back, the classic Arsenal Mark 1 WM model, later tweaked to perfection by Herbert Chapman, was born. ■

**FIRST PAGE**

*Jack Butler in action during the early days of WM*

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

*Butler (right) with team mates Billy Blyth and Arthur Hutchins (left) in 1922*

**TOP**

*Andy Neil (front row, fourth from the left) during his Brighton days*

**ABOVE**

*How the innovative WM formation looked on the tactics board*

# COMMUNITY



## ARSENAL IN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMME

### DECEMBER ACTIVITY CHALLENGE & THE DAILY MILE

You might have seen in previous matchday programmes that we have been working closely with Islington Council and London Marathon Events to encourage and offer support to local schools who take part in The Daily Mile. A fully inclusive initiative that aims to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children. The Daily Mile is a simple idea that involves a walk or run outside for 15 minutes, during the school day.

There is no equipment needed and no set up required. It's a social, non-competitive and fun way of encouraging children to be more active and aware of their health.

As part of our aim to encourage children to continue being active throughout December, along with other local partners, Arsenal in the Community have set a number of short, simple and fun challenges for the Islington Schools December Activity Challenge. Schools will be tasked with completing a physical activity challenge every day throughout the month. We hope that fun activities like this can help to inspire young people to enjoy exercise.

The Islington Primary Schools that have signed up for the challenge were lucky enough to receive a 'good luck'

message from Arsenal midfielder Joe Willock. Joe also set them his own challenge of seeing how many kick-ups they can do in one minute.

Joe said: "I like to keep myself fit so that I can perform my best on the pitch, but it's also important for us all to exercise and keep physically active so that we can look after our health. The December Challenge will be a good way for you to exercise whilst having fun with your friends. I'm asking you all to take part and try your best to be active every day".

A special mention to these schools for signing up and taking part in the December Activity Challenge

- Copenhagen
- St Mary's CoE
- Vittoria
- Rotherfield
- Morleland
- William Tyndale
- St Peter & St Paul
- St Joseph's
- Montem
- Yerbury
- Scared Heart
- Thornhill

For more information please contact Joe Chaffey  
[jchaffey@arsenal.co.uk](mailto:jchaffey@arsenal.co.uk)



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Arsenal in the Community's Twitter account @AFCCommunity highlight some of this month's community work...

**THANK YOU STEFANO FOR INSPIRING AND SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH ARSENAL**

**#PLPRIMARYSTARS  
 #PLCF10YEARAWARDS @PLCOMMUNITIES**



### OPPOSITE PAGE

Coaches from our Gap programme showing the school children how to do Joe's Kick-up challenge

### ABOVE LEFT

Joe Willock wishing Islington Schools good luck. Joe also had a message for the children

### LEFT

We hope to welcome schools back to Emirates Stadium to run their Daily Mile very soon



# FORWARD



## ROB HOLDING

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



### What are your plans for tonight?

I've got Yoga tonight, then after that I've got a gym session planned, for some upper body work, then a little bag session to get a sweat on, so it's a busy evening planned. Then after that I will put my feet up, do some cooking and then watch some TV.

### What are your plans for the end of the season?

I'm going to Vancouver for a little while, then I'll probably go to the west coast of America and spend some time near the beach. Maybe I'll try a bit of surfing.

### What are your plans for the end of your career?

To be on a beach somewhere on the coast of California! Literally my plan is play my last few years of my career in the MLS then retire, with my coaching badges. Then I want to get a coaching job where that isn't pressured like the Premier League, then I can just enjoy it and help kids get better and live in the Sunshine State where life is good.

### So you plan to go into coaching?

Yeah, but not at a high level where there's so much

pressure. I feel like you go through 15 years of pressure as a footballer, I don't want to have another 15 years being scrutinised as a manager. I'd rather enjoy it somewhere where I'm not judged and nobody has an opinion on me! Literally retire to a little beach house and not be seen again by anyone – perfect!

### Have you started your qualifications?

Just before I did my ACL I'd started on my B License. We got the practical lessons done and I did the philosophy and stuff, on my presentation. I just needed to do a test on that, but with Covid it's been hard to coach any groups of youngsters with all the rules, so hopefully I can pick that up again in the coming years. Then if I want to pursue the A License I can do that afterwards.

### Who are your coaching influences?

I think Pep Guardiola when he was at Barcelona – he had such a specific style of play. It was different to what everybody else was playing. That was so impressive. And being under Mikel, and how tactically aware he is and how he sees the game, I'm learning bits from that. When I was doing my coaching ▶

# ARSENAL

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

### MEAL

My dad making me a Sunday Roast, with beef and gravy. I love it.

### NEW CAR

I'm actually going to get a Tesla – good for the environment. But my dream car would probably be a 1979 Ford Mustang. Old school, convertible.

### THINGS YOU BUY

I'd love a private jet, I think that would be cool. No more booking seats!

### HOLIDAY DESTINATION

I love Thailand, it would be great to go back there. South Africa as well would be good too.



### TROPHY YOU WIN

The Champions League.

### NEW TEAM-MATE

I'll say Cristiano Ronaldo, I'd love to be hitting big diags out to him!



philosophy, I got sent a copy of his from his B License and I had a read of that and it helped me understand the game more.

#### What do you still want to achieve in your playing career?

I want to win trophies. There's nothing better than walking back into the changing room after winning a trophy and all the team being there. It's such a good feeling, having a reward after you have done all the hard work. Next time we can hopefully celebrate with the fans in the stadium.

#### **"IT'S NOT UNTIL WE LEAVE THE HOTEL THAT THE ANXIETY STARTS AND YOU LOOK TO CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS"**

#### What club would you never sign for?

Tottenham. Has to be them now doesn't it, I could never sign for them.

#### How far forward do you look at the fixture list?

When the fixtures are released I take a look then at what the opening games are, what games are around Christmas, because you always want to see whether you are at home on Boxing Day and New Year's Eve or will you be away those days. It dictates how you celebrate Christmas because you could be in a hotel somewhere, or at home with your family.

#### What do you do on the night before a big game?

Well I'm somebody who tries to not even think about the game on the night before. It's not until we leave the hotel that the anxiety starts and you look to control your emotions. It's about relaxing as much as possible. The worst moment for me is when you are waiting to go out before the warm up. As soon as that's done that's when all the nerves and anxiety disappears because you are in the moment then. I've got better at dealing with that over the years. I started having those anxious moments when I moved to Arsenal because there was so much pressure on every game, but you learn to control it.

#### Were you particularly anxious before either of the cup finals?

Looking back at the first one, in 2017, I don't think I



was aware of the magnitude of the situation. Then after the game the Ox came over to me and said 'you have no idea what you've just done.' He had his arm round me and told me it will sink in later. Looking back at the last one this year, I was more aware of the occasion and probably more nervous.

**Does not having fans there make a difference to your nerves?**

It makes it a bit less intense I think. It's good and bad. It's good because you can be more relaxed and not let the pressure get to you. But when the fans are there there's no better feeling than when your team scores a goal in a full stadium.

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

Skiing and snowboarding, I'm looking forward to that. I

**"SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT."**



probably want to do a sky dive as well. A few extreme sports basically. I think I will like to try and stay in shape, but I won't be as religious about what I eat and drink. If I fancy a beer on a Sunday night then I will do that!

**What country or city will you live in once you stop playing football?**

I think San Diego. I've been there before, it's so laid back, it's not overly massive like Los Angeles. It would be handy if they got their MLS team back too!

**What other countries would you like to see once you stop playing?**

I want to see Australia, I've got a few friends out there and they love it.

**How are you at planning birthdays for family members?**

I am awful at that! I'm so bad in terms of sorting that, I leave Christmas shopping until the last minute. My mum asked me for a pair of wellies because it snowed up in Manchester the other day, so I said 'OK, you order them and I'll send you the money!'

**Finally, you are told there's a spare seat on the next trip to the International Space Station – do you go? If there were two seats, who do you want with you – and who definitely not?**

Yeah, of course you go. Firstly because whenever are you going to get that opportunity again, and secondly how many people can say they've seen the Earth for outer space. It would be really cool to experience and zero gravity would be cool too. I'd probably take Calum with me, that would be quite fun. Who wouldn't I take? Anyone bigger than me, I feel space might be limited! ■



# FOURTEEN TIMES

## 14TH MANAGER

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

*Terry Neill rallies the troops in the 1980 European Cup Winners' Cup final*

### BELOW RIGHT

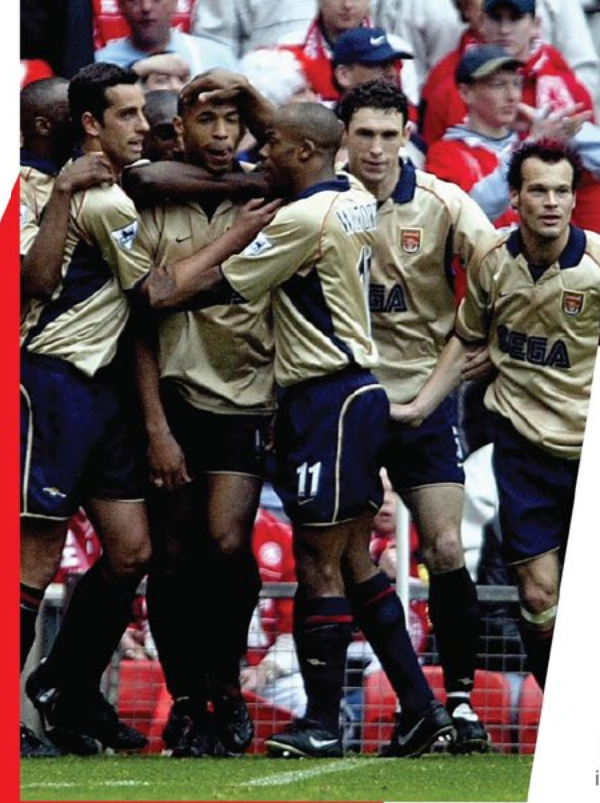
*Meeting Prince Charles before the 1979 FA Cup final*

### OPPOSITE PAGE BELOW

*An Arsenal man as player and boss*

### OPPOSITE PAGE ABOVE

*The Golden boys celebrate victory over Middlesbrough*



APRIL 2002

14

IT HAPPENED ON THE

14TH...

APRIL 14, 2002  
ARSENAL 1, MIDDLESBROUGH 0  
FA CUP SEMI-FINAL

For the fourth time since taking charge of the club, Arsène Wenger had guided the team to the semi-final of the FA Cup, and this time Steve McClaren's Middlesbrough were our opponents at Old Trafford.

It was by no means a classic. Double-chasing Arsenal were huge favourites for the game, but took a while to get going, and Richard Wright excelled in goal in the opening exchanges. It was perhaps fitting that the only goal of the game was a scrappy one. Boro had only just brought on Gianluca Festa to replace the injured Ugo Ehiogu, and the Italian defender put through his own net seven minutes before half-time when diverting Thierry Henry's corner beyond Mark Schwarzer. It was enough to book our place in the final, where we would beat Chelsea 2-0.

## TERRY NEILL

Terry Neill was the man charged with following in the steps of legendary boss Bertie Mee, who had guided the club to our first-ever European honour and then our maiden league and cup double the following year.

Northern Irishman Neill had played 275 times for the Gunners between 1960 and 1970 but was employed at rivals Tottenham before becoming our 14th full-time boss on July 9, 1976.

He was only 34 years old when he took the job, tasked with rejuvenating a side that had finished 17th in 1975/76.

With Don Howe alongside him as coach, Neill soon brought silverware back to the club, winning the 1979 FA Cup, either side of two other appearances in the final. He also guided the side to the 1980 European Cup Winners' Cup final, though we were denied in a penalty shoot out to Valencia.

Neill left the club in 1983, having led Arsenal to four cup finals and four top-six finishes from his seven years in charge. His final record was P416 W187 D17 L112 F601 A446, he never managed again after leaving, and later worked for the club's media department. ■





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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 helped to fund Teens Unite, a charity that supports youngsters who are battling cancer, and their week-long Activity Stay. Hiral Deugi, 23 and from Southall, tells us how they helped her during her darkest times

**M**y career was in childcare, and I was preparing to go to university when I was diagnosed with cancer in July 2018. I had felt really proud of myself as my hard work was paying off and I was on track for a better future when I discovered I had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL). I was completely shocked and felt what I'd just been told wasn't true. It all felt real when my family found out about it and were devastated by the news. No one had a clue what to do.

Chemotherapy started straight away and they told me it would take around two and a half years to cure this illness. In my head I couldn't even comprehend the timescale they'd given me. My main thought was, "How will I pull through?"

I discovered Teens Unite when they came to the Macmillan Cancer Centre to do an arts and crafts workshop – they encouraged me to join in and meet others the same age as me, and that reassured me that I wasn't alone. They listened to me and made me feel confident.

In April 2019 I went on their Activity Stay, where a group of us went to Mill Hill Boarding School for a week. Every day was jam-packed with activities, from Junk Percussion to martial arts and many more. My



**ABOVE**  
Hiral rings the bell to sound the end of her treatment



**LEFT**  
Hiral with a furry visitor at Teen Unite

favourites were the Herts Young Mariners Base, where I confronted my phobia of the water and walked around the edge of the boat, and The Apprentice Challenge, where we had to design T-shirts for Teens Unite in groups. I enjoyed it because we worked well as a team to get our ideas across in a professional manner – and we won! I felt like a completely new person.

The trip made me appreciate life. I learned to be more confident and believe in my abilities, and I made friends who all truly understand what it's like to have cancer and still try to live your life.

I became poorly straight after that and I didn't think I was going to make it, but Teens Unite stood by my side until I recovered and got me back on track. They frequently checked up on me and constantly reassured me. To cut a long story short I finished my treatment on November 12, 2020 and I'm officially cancer-free.

Teens Unite has played a vital role in my journey by making me realise there are no limits and that cancer shouldn't take away your ambitions. I'm currently at college on an Access to Nursing course and plan to go to university to study Adult Nursing – and be the voice for many cancer patients who need hope and motivation.

For more info visit [teensunite.org](https://teensunite.org)

PS4

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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG

GUNNERS

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Results and fixtures



@ArsenalAcademy



# YOUNG GUN

# JAMES SWEET

TALKING TO Aidan Small

#### BORN

London, 06/09/2003

#### HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

5ft 11ins, 74kg

#### SCHOOL

Whitgift

#### SIGNED FOR ARSENAL

At under-8s

#### POSITION

Central midfield



I started playing football when I was just four years old. My dad used to take me down to our local park whenever he could and we'd just have a kick about together, but then one day we met this football coach who invited me along to a training session. That's where it all started.

I kept playing for my local team and after three years, I was eventually scouted by Arsenal as a seven-year-old. Less than 12 months later, I was in the academy and heading to Hale End for my first day. A fair few of our current under-18s team were there too! Looking back at those old squad pictures, it's crazy to think that we've been playing together for this long already. We know each other's game inside out and we've always been so supportive of each other – and I think we always will be! You can see it in the first team, the under-23s, the under-18s, etc... all the boys from the academy look out for each other.

As a central midfielder, I'd like to think I'm a really energetic and hard-working player. I've been told by my coaches and teammates that I have a very good

engine and that's what I try to use to my advantage as a box-to-box midfielder.

I like to get up and down the pitch, so I like having a midfield partner who is always available for a pass and intelligent in their positioning. For example, I like to go forwards and I like to join up with our attack, so if I do that, I need my partner to position themselves behind me and cover my run. They need to be alert for counter-attacks, and it's the exact same if my partner makes a forward run too. The more you play together, the faster you can react and prepare for these moments.

**"I JUST LOVE MAKING THOSE LATE RUNS INTO THE BOX. IT'S HOW SO MANY MIDFIELDERS GET THEIR GOALS"**

I just love making those late runs into the box. It's how so many midfielders get their goals and I just want to get better and better at timing those runs. It's all about timing. I actually got some joy from that exact run only two weeks ago against Leicester – and I was

pretty happy with my finish too! The thing to remember about this run, or any run really, is that it's not always going to work. Sometimes you'll make that run 10 times in a game and get absolutely nothing from it, but it's important to keep going because you need to be ready for that one time you do.

I've been an Arsenal fan my whole life, but growing up, I used to really like Frank Lampard and the way he played. As a midfielder, he had an amazing career and he scored so many goals from outside the box and with those late runs. He also had that engine to go from box to box.

I've always loved Ronaldinho too. The things he could do with a ball were amazing and as a kid, I just dreamed of having that skillset. I'm not sure anyone will get close to that style!

As for my season so far, I had a really difficult start with injury, but I'm so happy to be back out there and playing again now. I picked up an ankle injury right at the end of pre-season and that was obviously

frustrating because I wanted to get right into the action, but with every setback, there's an advantage and I've just been working hard to get myself back up to full speed.

This is my first season with the under-18s, and you can definitely feel that the games are more intense, and you really have to be on your toes on the pitch. You always have to know where your next pass or move is going, and I'm really enjoying it.

One of my favourite moments of the season so far was scoring that goal against Leicester, and I'm buzzing we got through in the FA Youth Cup too, but the one thing I realised whilst I was injured is just how much I love being out on the pitch. I love that feeling of having the ball at my feet, scoring goals and expressing myself. Not being able to do that was quite hard for me, but now I'm back, I just want to keep working hard and keep putting in good performances for the under-18s. I just want to help the team out and see what opportunities come next. ■



## RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	78
SHOOTING	84
DRIBBLING	85
STRENGTH	80
PASSING	87
DEFENDING	77

# JAMES SWEET

## LOWDOWN

**Earliest memory of football** Kicking a ball about with my dad in the park near our house.

**Got me into football** My dad.

**First footballer I looked up to** Ronaldinho.

**Favourite football shirt owned** My England debut shirt.

**Best friend in football** Henry Jeffcott.

**Team supported as a child** Arsenal.

**Best goal of all time** Zlatan Ibrahimovic against England, 2012.

**Best goal I've scored** Chipped the keeper from just in front of the halfway line.

**Best player I've faced** Jamal Musiala (ex Chelsea, now at Bayern Munich).

**Best game I've had** The final in a tournament in Singapore.

**Best piece of skill I've done in a game is** Flip flap nutmeg.

**Best moment of my career so far** My England debut.

**One stadium I'd like to score in** Wembley.

**One type of goal I'd like to score** Bicycle kick.

**A player to score a one-on-one to save my life** Lionel Messi.

**Best training ground tip** Never be late to any session or meeting.

**Another sport I'm good at** Rugby.

**Favourite training drill** Possession drills.

**Ambitions for this season away from the pitch** To focus on my A levels.

**Important non-playing attributes for young footballers** A healthy diet and always staying motivated.

**Biggest lesson learnt off the pitch at Arsenal** The importance of punctuality.

**Favourite footballer of all time** Cristiano Ronaldo.

**Most played Spotify artist** Gunna.

**Favourite musician right now** M1llionz.

**Favourite trainers of all time** OVO Jordan 125-White.

**Favourite pre match song** First day out – Tee Grizzley.



Ronaldinho



**One thing I need on an away day** My Beats headphones.

**One thing I want to do in my football career** Win the Champions League or World Cup.

**If I wasn't a footballer** I would be a rugby player.

**The first team player I look up to most** Mesut Ozil.

**Player who shaped my game the most** Frank Lampard.

**The best thing about being at Arsenal** The atmosphere around the club.

**Something not many people know about me** I used to play cricket for Surrey.

**Best passing range** Charlie Patino

**Best touch** Omari

**Most double footed** Kido Taylor-Hart

**Best manager** Taylor Foran

**Most committed** Brooke Norton-Cuffy

**Strongest** Mazeed Ogungbo

**Captain material** Taylor

**Funniest** Henry Jeffcott

**Most confident** Brooke

**Better than they think they are** Remy Mitchell

**Best singer** Henry

**Got a hidden talent** Taylor – Taekwondo

## TEAM-MATES

**Will definitely make it** Marcelo Flores

**Most skills in their locker** Omari Hutchinson



2

CHAMBERS 16 BALOGUN 76



1

O'CONNOR 43

Premier League 2  
Friday, December 18  
Meadow Park

**ARSENAL U23** Okonkwo, Norton-Cuffy, Chambers, Saliba, Mari, Alebiosu, Akinola, Azeez, Cottrell, Moller, Balogun

**SUBS NOT USED:** Ejeheri, Dinzeyi, Kirk, Cirjan, Taylor-Hart

**O**ur under-23s signed off 2020 in style with a valuable 2-1 win over Leicester City. Calum Chambers found the back of the net as he continues to build up match fitness, while the in-form Folarin Balogun sealed all three points with his fourth league goal of the season.

16-year-old full back Brooke Norton-Cuffy was also trusted to make his fifth appearance for Steve Bould's side, marking a successful end to 2020 for the youngster.

Leicester named former Gunner Vontae Daley-Campbell in their starting XI, while first-team stars Demarai Gray and Islam Slimani lined-up in attack.

Coming into this fixture off the bench of three consecutive victories, we were full of confidence and opened the scoring after just 16 minutes.

Balogun saw his instinctive effort saved, but Chambers was lurking inside the area to fire home the rebound.

Balogun then fizzed the ball just wide of the far post from the edge of the area, before Miguel Azeez's powerful effort was blocked.

**"CHAMBERS WAS LURKING INSIDE THE AREA TO FIRE HOME THE REBOUND"**

We were looking sharp, but on the stroke of half-time, the visitors drew level as Demarai Gray's free-kick was converted at the back post by Darragh O'Connor.

Following the restart, we returned to our free-flowing attacking football and came close to a second when Nikolaj Moller finished from close range, but Azeez, who created the chance, was deemed offside in the build-up.

We didn't lose focus, though, and with 15 minutes remaining, we were rewarded for our patience.

Ben Cottrell dispossessed Thakgalo Leshabela and picked out Azeez, who let the ball run through his legs and into the path of Ryan Alebiosu. Our left back then crossed for Balogun and he coolly fired into the bottom right corner.

Leicester continued to search for a second equaliser, but the experienced Gray and Slimani were unable to find a way through.

After making a slow start to the PL2 season, failing to win any of our opening seven fixtures, we've since bounced back and find ourselves in fine form, winning each of our last four outings.

We've finished 2020 in 10th place on 14 points after 11 games, eight points adrift of league-leaders Chelsea.

Up next, we will face Southampton in the PL2 on January 17. The game will take place at St Mary's Stadium with kick-off at 2.30pm. ■



Ben Cottrell - involved in the winner...



...as was Ryan Alebiosu



Calum Chambers was among the goals as he continued his comeback against Leicester for the under-23s



Folarin Balogun with one of his two European goals so far this season



# ACADEMY NEWS

## IN FULL FLO

It's safe to say that Folarin Balogun has had a year to remember.

Not only did the 19 year old have the privilege of making his debut for the first-team against Dundalk in the Europa League, but less than two weeks later, he scored his first goal for the club in a 3-1 win over Molde.

The youngster wasn't done there, though, and went on to score and assist Joe Willock in just 28 minutes as a sub.

This will come as no surprise to those who have

watched and enjoyed Balogun's development with our youth teams over recent years.

He's more than just a goalscorer too. As a key member of our under-23s over the last past two years, Balogun has recently been trusted with the captain's armband, scoring four and assisting once in six appearances in his new role.

To date, Balogun has scored 17 and assisted six in 41 appearances for our under-23s. His goal record for our under-18s is quite something too, with 38 goals and eight assists in the same number of appearances. Keep up the hard work, Folarin! ■

## EDUCATED RIGHT FOOT!

Like all the subjects of our Young Gun feature, James Sweet will be hoping to become a household name in the sporting arena in the not too distant future.

If he does, he'll be following in a long line of students from his former school, Whitgift School in South Croydon. Famous for its sporting prowess, current England cricketers Jason Roy, Dominic Sibley and Rory Burns are all Whitgift alumni, as are England rugby union stars Marlon Yarde, Danny Cipriani and Elliot Daly. As for football, a link up with the Chelsea Academy meant that Victor Moses, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Bertrand Traore are also former pupils.

If James' future one day lies away from football, perhaps he could take inspiration from other former pupils like world famous illusionist Derren Brown or the current Director General of the BBC Tim Davie! ■



Jason Roy



Danny Cipriani

## ROVERS RETURN IN FA YOUTH CUP

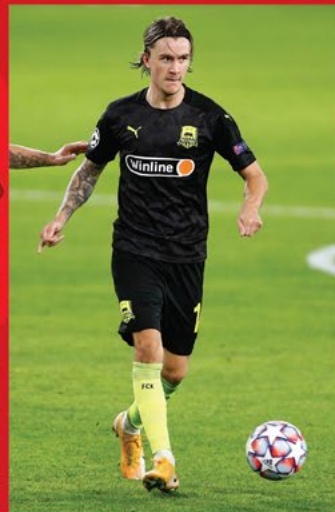
The draw for the FA Youth Cup fourth round proper was made last Friday, and we will face Blackburn Rovers – the team that knocked us out last season.

We got this season's campaign up and running with a 2-1 victory over Rotherham in the third round and now the under-18s will travel to Blackburn Rovers in the fourth round.

Rovers defeated us 4-1 last term at the quarter final stage, so Ken Gillard's team will be out for revenge.

No date has been confirmed for the game yet, but all fourth round fixtures are to be played by Saturday, January 30, 2021. ■





**ABOVE**  
Now in action for Russian side Krasnodar

**LEFT**  
Kris during his youth days at Arsenal

# ACADEMY ALUMNI

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

## KRIS OLSSON

Swedish midfielder Kris Olsson joined the Arsenal Academy as a 16 year old in 2011, part of the same intake as Hector Bellerin, Serge Gnabry and Isaac Hayden. He signed pro terms the following summer and in 2013 he made his first-team debut, aged 18, in a League Cup tie away to West Brom. The teenager even

marked his debut with a goal – albeit in the successful penalty shoot-out at the end of the match.

He had already represented the first team in various pre-season friendlies (and scored against the Indonesia national team during the Asia Tour of 2013) but that outing against West Brom remained his only competitive, senior appearance for the club.

He joined FC Midtjylland in Denmark on loan and impressed so much that they made the deal permanent halfway through the agreement. After a further two years in Denmark, during which time he won the league title, he moved back to his home country to sign for AIK. By now a full Sweden international, he won the Swedish league title in 2018 and the following year he was on the move again, this time to Krasnodar of the Russian Premier League. He is now a mainstay of their midfield and played in the Champions League this season. However, they finished third in the group, meaning they have joined Arsenal for the second half of this season's Europa League. ■

# 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
<b>Arsenal</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
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 FIXTURES

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
<b>Arsenal</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>
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

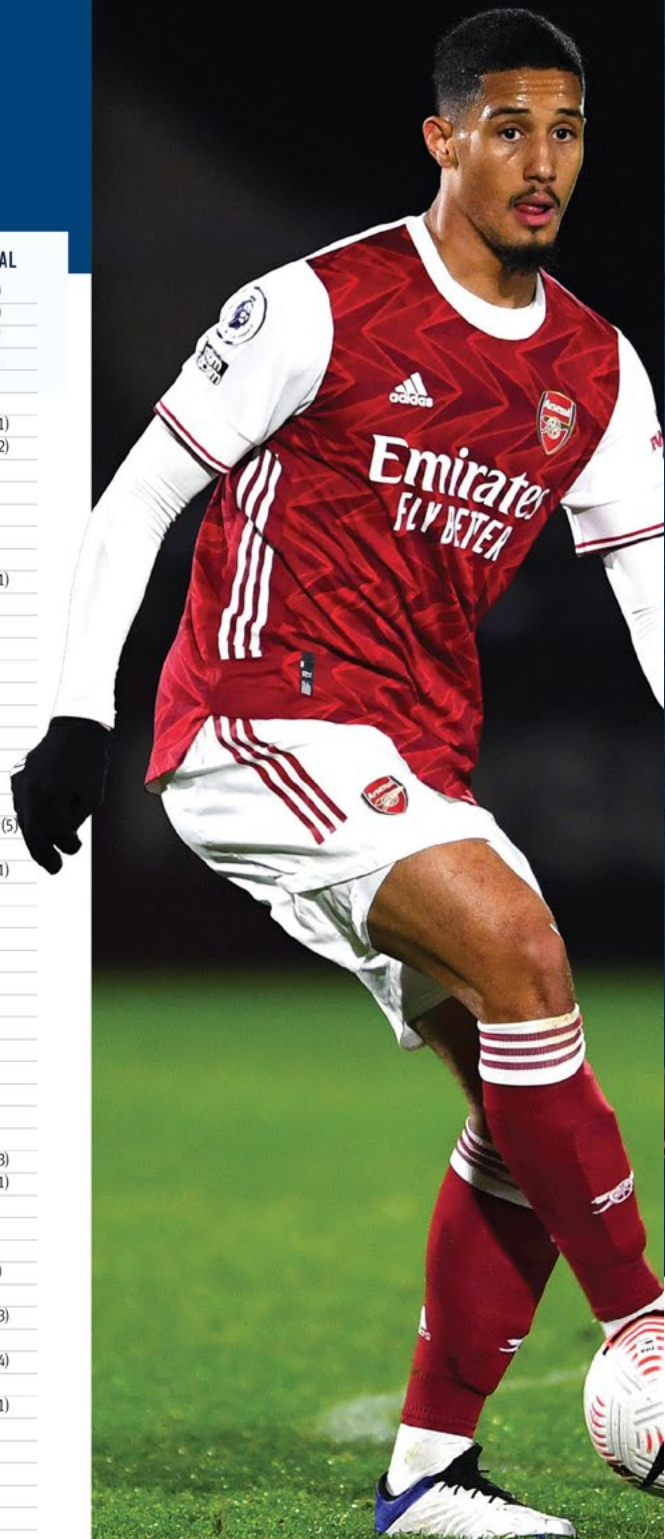
### FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	2-1
TBA	Blackburn Rovers	A	R4

# THE BREAKDOWN

## YOUTH APPEARANCES

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	U18	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-Eddine 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-Oyediji	-	-	1+2	1	-	2+2
Jack Henry-Francis	-	-	1+2	-	-	1+2
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Billy Vigar	-	-	+3	-	-	+3
Jason Sraha	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Own goals	(1)	-	(2)	-	-	(3)



# LAVAZZA

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TORINO, ITALIA, 1895



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# ARSENAL WOMEN

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



NOBBS 4, FOORD 10, BEATTIE 61, MEAD 63

4

**WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 MEADOW PARK**

**ARSENAL**

Williams, Evans, Williamson, Beattie, McCabe (Maier 80), Little, Gut (Walti 62), Roord (Van de Donk 72), Mead, Foord (Miedema 72), Nobbs  
**SUBS NOT USED**  
Zinsberger, Stenson

**W**e returned to winning ways in the Women's Super League on Sunday as we secured a comfortable 4-0 victory over Everton.

There was big news when our starting XI was announced with Vivianne Miedema on the bench, but that didn't stop us from delivering a complete performance with goals from all over the pitch.

Caitlin Foord was trusted to lead the line, while Jordan Nobbs returned on the left wing – and it was the latter who opened the scoring inside four minutes.

Beth Mead picked up the ball on the right wing and fizzed the ball across the face of goal, leaving Nobbs the simple task of firing into an open goal.

It was just the start we needed following defeat at Manchester City last week, and five minutes later we found ourselves two goals to the good.

With a searching pass from Leah Williamson over Everton's defence, Jill Roord broke free down the right and squared the ball to Foord at the back post, who made no mistake.

The Australia international has now scored eight goals across all competitions this season.

We weren't done there, though, and following the restart, Jen Beattie made it three with a routine header at the back post, latching on to Katie McCabe's inviting corner.

But our fourth and final goal of the afternoon was undoubtedly the pick of the bunch. Racing on to Nobbs' long ball in behind, Mead cut back inside on to her weaker left foot, losing her marker before curling the ball into the top corner.

It was a stunning effort to round off our final appearance of 2020. ■



LEFT Caitlin Foord doubles our lead

MAIN PIC Celebrating a goal for Jen Beattie was extra special for the team

INSET Jordan Nobbs got the ball rolling early on



**2020/21 FIXTURES**

SEPT 6	READING	6-1
SEPT 12	WEST HAM UNITED	9-1
SEPT 26	TOTTENHAM (FA CUP 1F)	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 9	ASTON VILLA	A
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

**WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT DEC 21)**

	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

\*Arsenal won on penalties

# COMMUNITY



**ABOVE**  
The indoor bowls team try their hand at the outdoor version

**LEFT**  
A socially distanced walk in the park, in lieu of indoor bowls during lockdown

## INDOOR BOWLS

With the announcement of the first national lockdown in March, we knew the bowls project would be hit hard. Nearly all of our bowlers are in the 60 to 80 year age bracket and therefore in a high risk category.

The club had no choice but to suspend all indoor activity. So all seven of our weekly bowls sessions, in local community centres and in our very own Hub, were suspended until further notice. One of the most important aspects of the bowls project is to get older people out of isolation and into new friendship networks. In the lockdown this would all but disappear. So we knew it would be

important to maintain some sort of regular contact with the group. On a daily basis, we began to have telephone conversations with our bowlers, especially those who had to shield for long periods.

Arsenal had arranged a video call from Ian Wright to one of our bowlers who had made a great contribution to the local community. This was followed by a telephone call from Pat Rice to another bowler who has been with us for over 20 years. This really helped the morale of the bowling group.

When the first lockdown ended, we then had the opportunity to meet in small groups twice a week for a short

walk. One walk was based in Finsbury Park and the other was at Highbury Fields. This proved very popular but challenging logistically given COVID restrictions.

One bonus in the summer came when some of our bowlers were able to play outside at Finsbury Park Bowls Club (again with limited numbers). The Arsenal Foundation had provided funding for the club by paying for preparation and maintenance of the green, which helped its survival. ■

**"WE WERE ABLE TO MEET FOR SHORT WALKS ON A ONE TO ONE BASIS AND I WAS ALSO ABLE TO DO A LITTLE SHOPPING FOR THEM WHEN NEEDED. IT WAS ONLY LAST YEAR THAT WE ENTERTAINED BARNET SHORT MAT BOWLS TEAM IN THE Highbury LOUNGE AT THE EMIRATES. IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO AND ALL OUR BOWLERS CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK INTO THE STADIUM"**

**MARK ANTONIEWICZ, ARSENAL IN THE COMMUNITY**



Back in action



Aiming to return to this in 2021



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Arsenal in the Community's Twitter account @AFCCommunity highlight some of this month's community work...

**CONGRATULATIONS TYREL FOR THE POSITIVE ACTION AND CHANGE YOU HAVE MADE IN YOUR COMMUNITY: ENGAGING IN EMPLOYABILITY ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND SUCCESSFULLY FINDING WORK**

**#PLINSPIRES #PLCF10YEARAWARDS @PLCOMMUNITIES**

Olivier Giroud celebrates against Wolves last week



## CHELSEA

By: Mike Hammond

**FORMED**  
1905

**NICKNAME**  
The Blues, The Pensioners

**STADIUM**  
Stamford Bridge (40,834)

**HONOURS**  
First Division / Premier League winners **1954/55, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2014/15, 2016/17**  
Second Division **1983/84, 1988/89**  
FA Cup winners **1969/70, 1996/97, 1999/2000, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2017/18**  
League Cup winners **1964/65, 1997/98, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2014/15**  
FA Charity Shield/FA Community Shield winners **1955, 2000, 2005, 2009**  
UEFA Champions League winners **2011/12**  
Europa League winners **2012/13, 2018/19**  
UEFA Cup Winners' Cup winners **1970/71, 1997/98**  
UEFA Super Cup winners **1998**

**OWNER**  
Roman Abramovich

**CHAIRMAN**  
Bruce Buck

**SOCIAL FOLLOWERS**  
Twitter **15.6m**  
Instagram **24.6M**  
Facebook **48.5M**

## VISITORS CHELSEA

A busy summer in the transfer market has seen a new-look Chelsea go into battle in the 2020/21 Premier League, and up until recently things were going pretty much to plan for the west Londoners in their bid to reclaim a title they last won in 2016/17 under Antonio Conte. With six wins and four draws in their first 11 league games, Frank Lampard's side were motoring along nicely, but then came surprise back-to-back defeats at Everton (1-0) and Wolves (2-1) in the space of three days. However, a 3-0 home win over West Ham last Monday pushed them back above Tottenham into a credible fifth place in the Premier League table.

Defeated 2-1 by Arsenal in last season's FA Cup final at the end of Lampard's first campaign in charge, the Blues are looking to atone for their first trophyless season since 2015/16. They won the FA Cup – also under Conte – in 2017/18, beating Manchester United 1-0 in the final, before getting the better of Arsenal in Baku in the 2018/19 UEFA Europa League decider, a couple of Eden Hazard goals on his farewell performance – in what was also manager Maurizio Sarri's final game of his one and only season – helping Chelsea to a 4-1 victory and a second success in the competition.

Although no silverware was lifted in 2019/20, Chelsea did manage to finish in the top four and book a return ticket to the Champions League, from which they exited at the round of 16 last season, going down 7-1 on aggregate to eventual winners Bayern Munich. This term the Blues are back in the knockout phase, having impressively topped a group containing Sevilla, Krasnodar and Rennes thanks to four wins and two draws. They have been given a tough draw in the next round, however – against Atletico Madrid.

Given their pre-season spending spree, Chelsea will be expected not only to go deep in the Champions League but also maintain a challenge on the domestic front. Eliminated by Spurs on penalties from the Carabao Cup, they should have little problem getting through their opening FA Cup tie at home to League Two side Morecambe. Before then they have two big games at Stamford Bridge in the Premier League – against Aston Villa in two days' time and Man City a week tomorrow.

The Blues shelled out around £250m on new recruits in the summer. Over half of that went on German international duo Kai Havertz (£80m from Bayer Leverkusen) and Timo Werner (£53m from Leipzig), with England left-back Ben Chilwell arriving for £50m from Leicester, Moroccan winger Hakim Ziyech for £40m from Ajax and goalkeeper Edouard Mendy for £24m from Rennes. Experienced Brazilian defender Thiago Silva also arrived on a free transfer. With several homegrown youngsters such as Mason Mount, Reece James, Callum Hudson-Odoi and Tammy Abraham continuing to develop, the potential of this Chelsea side is huge. But their immediate task as they take on Arsenal this Boxing Day evening is to avoid a third successive Premier League away defeat.



## MUTUAL ADMIRATION

**JOHN HOLLINS** began his career as a youth player for Chelsea, and went on to make just shy of 600 appearances for the team, and was also club captain. A hardworking midfielder, Hollins spent more than ten years at the club between 1963 and 1975, during which time he won the League Cup, FA Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and Division Two title, as well as his only England cap in 1967. He then moved on to QPR where he played nearly 200 times across four seasons before joining the Gunners in 1979, aged 33. By now often used as a defender, he played 172 times for us over four years, winning our Player of the Year award in 1982. He finished his career back at Chelsea before taking over as manager at Stamford Bridge.



### 18 THE EX-GUNNER OLIVIER GIROUD ATTACKER

**BORN** Chambéry, France, 30/9/86

**PREVIOUSLY** Grenoble, Istres (loan), Tours, Montpellier, Tours (loan), Arsenal

After five and a half seasons with Arsenal, during which he scored 105 goals in 253 appearances and won three FA Cups, Olivier left for Chelsea in January 2018 and has continued to prosper in his thirties for both club and country. Top scorer in the 2018/19 Europa League, the 34 year old hit all four of Chelsea's goals in this season's Champions League win at Sevilla and has now moved on to 44 goals for France – second only to Thierry Henry.



### 7 THE MIDFIELD DYNAMO N'GOLDO KANTE MIDFIELDER

**BORN** Paris, France, 29/3/91

**PREVIOUSLY** Boulogne, Caen, Leicester

A winner of the Premier League in each of his first two seasons in England – firstly with Leicester in 2015/16, then with Chelsea – the diminutive, all-action 29 year old is widely regarded as one of the best all-purpose midfielders on the planet and was a World Cup winner with France in 2018. His relentless ability to turn defence into attack with tackles, interceptions and sudden acceleration makes him a huge asset, and he has once again been a consistent performer this term.



### 19 THE SCHEMER MASON MOUNT MIDFIELDER

**BORN** Portsmouth, 10/1/99

**PREVIOUSLY** Vitesse (loan), Derby (loan)

Mason has been on Chelsea's books since the age of six, although he had to wait until last season before representing the club at senior level. A loan spell with Vitesse helped his development before he prospered on loan at Derby County under Frank Lampard. Handed a regular starting berth at Chelsea in 2019/20, the young playmaker ended the campaign making over 50 appearances. He was also fast-tracked into the England side and has now collected 13 caps, scoring three goals.



### 6 THE VETERAN THIAGO SILVA DEFENDER

**BORN** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 22/9/84

**PREVIOUSLY** RS Futebol, Juventude, Porto B, Dinamo

**Moscow (loan), Fluminense, AC Milan, Paris Saint-Germain**  
Recruited in August, five days after captaining PSG in their Champions League final defeat to Bayern Munich, Thiago Silva adds experience and leadership to a generally youthful team and has already skippered the side on. He won 18 major domestic trophies during his eight years in the French capital and also led Brazil to victories in the 2013 Confederations Cup and 2019 Copa America. Opened the scoring in Blues last match against West Ham with a bullet header.



### 11 THE PACE TIMO WERNER ATTACKER

**BORN** Stuttgart, Germany, 6/3/96

**PREVIOUSLY** VfB Stuttgart, RB Leipzig

A summer signing from Leipzig, for whom he scored 95 goals in 159 matches, including a career-best 28 in last season's Bundesliga, Timo is one of the speediest strikers in the game. He made a strong start in Chelsea blue but, like compatriot Kai Havertz, has recently looked out of sorts. The 24 year old can either play as a central striker or out wide, from where he likes to run at defenders. A Germany international, he has scored 15 goals in 35 appearances.



### 16 THE NEW KEEPER EDOUARD MENDY GOALKEEPER

**BORN** Montvilliers, France, 1/3/92

**PREVIOUSLY** Cherbourg, Marseille B, Reims, Rennes

Brought to Stamford Bridge in September from Rennes on the advice of Petr Cech, who also once played for the Brittany club, Edouard made a wonderful start to life in the Premier League, keeping clean sheets in five of his first six matches as well as in four of his first five games in the Champions League. The 28-year-old Senegal international spent just the one season with Rennes having impressed in the previous campaign – his first in Ligue 1 – with Reims.



### 24 THE RIGHT BACK REECE JAMES DEFENDER

**BORN** Redbridge, 8/12/99

**PREVIOUSLY** Wigan (loan)

After a breakthrough 2019/20 campaign in which he became Chelsea's youngest ever Champions League scorer – in a 4-4 draw v Ajax – Reece has nailed down the right-back berth in Frank Lampard's first-choice XI, ousting club captain Cesar Azpilicueta in the process. Fast, dynamic and a useful free-kick taker, the recently-turned 21 year old scored his first Premier League goal on the opening weekend of the season in a 3-1 win at Brighton and has won four caps for England.



### 15 THE SET-PIECE THREAT KURT ZOUMA DEFENDER

**BORN** Lyon, France, 27/10/94

**PREVIOUSLY** Saint-Etienne, Stoke City (loan), Everton (loan)

After arriving at Stamford Bridge from St Etienne in 2014, the central defender played three seasons for the Blues before Premier League loans to Stoke City and Everton. Returning 'home' at the start of last season, he featured regularly for new manager Frank Lampard and has cemented his place at the heart of the defence this term. The France international – with seven caps – is also having a record season at the other end of the pitch, with four goals to his name so far.



### FRANK LAMPARD HEAD COACH

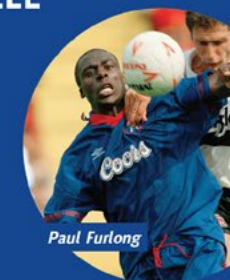
**BORN** June 20, 1978 in Romford

**PREVIOUSLY** Derby (2018-19)

One season in charge of Derby in the Championship, in 2018/19, was all it needed to persuade Chelsea to bring Frank back to Stamford Bridge as their manager, the 42 year old club legend becoming the first Englishman to manage the club in 23 years. During a 13-year playing career in west London, the ex-West Ham midfielder played 648 games for the club – the fourth highest of all time – and also became Chelsea's record scorer with 211 goals, despite playing every game in midfield. He also scored 29 goals in 106 appearances for England, representing his country at Euro 2004 and three World Cups.

## REMEMBER KIT WELL

1984–1986: Simod  
1987–1993: Commodore  
1993–1994: Amiga  
1994–1997: Coors  
1997–2001: Autoglass  
2001–2005: Fly Emirates  
2005–2015: Samsung  
2015–2020: Yokohama Tyres  
2020–: Three



Paul Furlong

## REALLY?!

### WE WON THE LEAGUE AT STAMFORD BRIDGE

Arsenal clinched the league title at Stamford Bridge in two consecutive seasons in the 1930s. On April 22, 1933 Herbert Chapman's Gunners won 3-1 at Chelsea (Cliff Bastin 2, David Jack) to win the league with one game to spare. We repeated the trick the following season, Alex James and Cliff Bastin scoring in a 2-2 draw on April 28, 1934.

### MANAGERS WHO HAVE HAD LINKS WITH BOTH CLUBS

- Leslie Knighton**  
(Arsenal manager, Chelsea manager)
- Ted Drake**  
(Arsenal player, Chelsea manager)
- Tommy Docherty**  
(Arsenal player, Chelsea manager)
- Dave Sexton**  
(Arsenal coach, Chelsea manager)
- George Graham**  
(Chelsea player, Arsenal manager)
- Bobby Gould**  
(Arsenal player, Chelsea manager)
- John Hollins**  
(Arsenal player, Chelsea manager)
- Graham Rix**  
(Arsenal player, Chelsea manager)
- Stewart Houston**  
(Chelsea player, Arsenal manager)

Back row (left to right): Herbert Smith (Reading), Ben Warren (Chelsea), James Ashcroft (Arsenal), Walter Bull (Tottenham Hotspur), Alf Common (Middlesbrough), Bert Gosnell (Newcastle United), Kelly Houlker (Blackburn Rovers), Bob Crompton (Blackburn Rovers). Seated: Colin Veitch (Newcastle United), Sam Day, Stanley Shute Harris (Corinthians), Arthur Brown (Sheffield United), Dicky Bond (Preston North End)



## FIRST IMPRESSION

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

We are going way back to February 17, 1906.

Pictured is the England national team, in Northern Ireland with Divis and the Black Mountain as a stunning backdrop. England won the game in Belfast 5-0. Both Arsenal and Chelsea are represented in this team group. Second from left on the back row is Ben Warren – a defender who began his career at Derby County before moving to Chelsea. He died of tuberculosis while an inmate of an asylum in 1917, aged just 37. His son Harry Warren later went on to manage Southend.

On his left is James Ashcroft – Arsenal's first-ever England international. Goalkeeper Ashcroft was incredibly consistent, missing only nine games in all competitions in eight years at the club. He was the first player to reach the 300-game landmark for us and was integral to our promotion from Division Two in 1904. He also played in the FA Cup semi-final in 1906 and 1907.

His tally of 108 clean sheets for us remains the fourth most for any keeper in the club's history.

## SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

## PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS      DRAWS      CFC WINS

20

17

19

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE **36**

## ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS      DRAWS      CFC WINS

77

59

65

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE **38**

3

This is Mikel Arteta's fourth meeting with Chelsea as Arsenal boss, in just his 52nd game in charge. He has so far mustered one defeat, one draw and one victory.

17

The longest unbeaten run in this fixture is 17 games, between January 1999 and March 2004 inclusive, when Arsène Wenger's side avoided defeat in 17 consecutive matches against Chelsea in all competitions. The run included knocking Chelsea out of the FA Cup in four successive seasons.

6

There have been six penalties awarded in this fixture in the Premier League era, five for Chelsea and one for Arsenal – all six have been converted

BELOW  
Reece James in last season's FA Cup final

BOTTOM  
Tammy Abraham wraps up the goascore in Chelsea's 3-0 win over West Ham on Monday



After a major summer of recruitment, the main question for Frank Lampard this season was about how he intended to fit so many talented attackers into his starting XI. In recent weeks, it has often seemed like he's still searching for the right balance.

Defensively, Lampard seems fairly certain of his best combination. In goal, Edouard Mendy has arrived from Rennes to succeed the beleaguered Kepa Arrizabalaga, and appears a much more reliable shotstopper. However, Mendy has sometimes looked unconvincing when sweeping, being rounded easily for Patrick Bamford's opener for Leeds at Stamford Bridge earlier this month, and clumsily conceding a penalty against Everton.

Sweeping is a major part of Mendy's game at Chelsea, because Lampard likes deploying a high line but Thiago Silva,

now 36, sometimes doesn't look comfortable covering the space behind him. Kurt Zouma tends to provide the pace, and his exceptional leap has also brought him four league goals already this season.

Reece James offers great crossing quality from right back, although he struggled against the movement of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in Arsenal's 2-1 victory over Chelsea in the FA Cup final. On the left, Ben Chilwell has made a good impact since joining from Leicester – his sudden bursts down the left flank are often hugely effective, as he showed in the build-up to an unfortunate Hector Bellerin own goal on this ground a couple of years ago.

N'Golo Kante remains one of the most effective ball-winners in the Premier League, while Jorginho – whose introduction transformed this fixture last season – still plays a reserved role based around reliable distribution. Mateo Kovacic was Chelsea's most consistent performer last season, but hasn't always started this time around.

Lampard can deploy either a 4-2-3-1 or a 4-3-3 formation; the former gets more attackers into the side, but Chelsea often look better in the latter. Mason Mount remains one of Lampard's favourites, in part because he looks equally comfortable in either system, while newcomer Kai Havertz is still trying to adjust to life in the Premier League.

Going forward, Hakim Ziyech is capable of sensational deliveries having cut inside from the right flank onto his stronger left foot, and he also combines well with the overlapping James. On the left, Christian Pulisic opened the scoring in the FA Cup final before limping off injured, which summarises the sporadically sensational but also frustrating first 18 months of his Chelsea career. Instead, German forward Timo Werner has often been fielded from the left flank – he prefers a centre-forward role, but as a pure speedster, sometimes Lampard has shifted him wide to accommodate a proper striker, with Werner trying to make runs off him, and in behind the opposition.

Tammy Abraham was excellent last season – and bagged a brace in Chelsea's 3-0 win over West Ham on Monday – but, as Arsenal fans know, Olivier Giroud often forces his way back into the side. His four-goal haul away at Sevilla recently earned him his first Premier League starts of the campaign, although, as ever, the Frenchman often looks best as a Plan B. ■



# 2

HOLDING 22 (OG)  
MINA 45



# 1

PEPE 35 PEN

## PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 14

5.30pm • Saturday, December 19 • Goodison Park

### FIRST HALF

Everton, with 2,000 fans inside the stadium behind them, started well and were seeing plenty of the ball early on. Midway through the half we fell behind. Alex Iwobi's cross into the box found Dominic Calvert-Lewin, and his effort glanced off Holding and into his own net. It was an unfortunate moment for Holding, captaining the side for the first time in the Premier League. We had a chance to draw level almost instantly, when Kieran Tierney set up Eddie Nketiah inside the box. The striker elected to take his shot early and saw the effort screw wide. We got back on terms from the penalty spot. Ainsley Maitland-Niles drew a foul from Tom Davies inside the box, and Pepe stroked home the spot kick. We were slowly getting on top but just before half-time we fell behind again when Yerry Mina headed home a corner at the near post. It was the hosts' first attempt on target of the game.

### SECOND HALF

We were within inches of pulling level again when David Luiz's deflected shot hit the bar. As we continued to press and look for openings in and around the Everton box, Mikel Arteta introduced Gabriel Martinelli for his first appearance of the season after his knee injury. But even though we saw plenty of the ball in the final 20 minutes, Joe Willock's header wide and Saka's late low shot were the closest we came to taking a point on another frustrating Premier League afternoon. ■

Kieran tierney leaves mason holgate in his wake



MATCH STATS	
9	TOTAL SHOTS 13
2	SHOTS ON TARGET 2
4	CORNERS 3
1	OFFSIDES 0
9	FOULS 9
42	POSSESSION % 58

#### EVERTON

- 1 PICKFORD
- 4 HOLGATE
- 13 MINA
- 5 KEANE
- 22 GODFREY
- 16 DOUCOURE
- 26 DAVIES
- 17 IWObI (83)
- 10 SIGURDSSON
- 7 RICHARLISON (90)
- 9 CALVERT-LEWIN (90) ■

#### SUBSTITUTES

COLEMAN (83), KENNY (90), TOSUN (90), NKOUNKOU, BERNARD, GORDON, BRANTHWAITE, OLSEN, LOSSL

#### ARSENAL

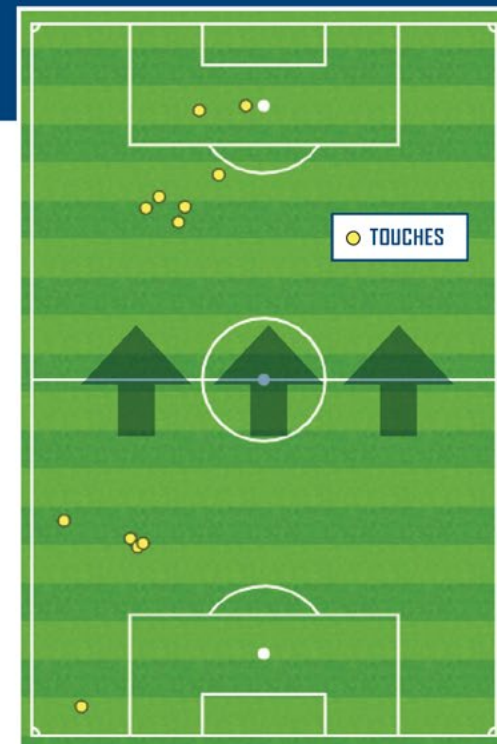
- 1 LENO
- 15 MAITLAND-NILES
- 16 HOLDING
- 23 DAVID LUIZ
- 3 TIERNEY ■
- 25 ELNENY (64) ■
- 8 CEBALLOS
- 7 SAKA
- 9 NKETIAH (76)
- 19 PEPE (71)
- 12 WILLIAN

#### SUBSTITUTES

WILLOCK (64) ■, MARTINELLI (71), LACAZETTE (76), MUSTAFI, BELLERIN, CEDRIC, KOLASINAC, SMITH ROWE, RUNARSSON

## THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD

MARTINELLI TOUCHMAP  
EVERTON 2-1 ARSENAL  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020



## GABI'S BACK

**W**e suffered a disappointing 2-1 defeat at the hands of Everton last week, but there was one positive take away from Goodison Park... the return of Gabriel Martinelli.

The 19 year old came off the bench in the 71st minute, and while he was unable to inspire a comeback, he looked his usual lively self both in and out of possession – the latter being a key feature of the youngster's game.

On his return to the first team, Martinelli completed four of his five passes, won both of his duels and registered one interception. Nothing stand out from such a short appearance off the bench, but when you take a look at his touch map, it's exactly what you'd expect – and want – to see!

A hard-working inside forward, Martinelli typically operates off the left wing, where he can cut inside onto his right foot and combine with the centre forward or go it alone. The youngster managed to receive the ball twice inside the box, in addition to a further five touches on the edge of the area.

Perhaps one of Martinelli's most endearing traits, though, is his desire to track back and support his teammates defensively, whatever the situation, whatever the minute. Five touches deep in his own half while trailing the game 2-1 proves exactly that.

With less than 90 minutes under his belt across our under-21s and first-team, it's important to remain patient and allow Martinelli to build up match fitness, but the early signs are certainly encouraging. ■



The welcome sight of Gabi back in action

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/KD	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 LUJZ 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 Elneny 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) Parney(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 Parthey	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 Parthey	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 Parthey Aubameyang Bellerin Lacazette Leno Hein	F. Glova
	Sun 1	Manchester United	1-0	8	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Parthey	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 Parthey Holding Runarsson Macey	H. Meler
	Sun 8	Aston Villa	0-3	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Parthey	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	William Lacazette 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) William(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 Parthey 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	Nketiah Pepe Smith Rowe	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 Martinelli LACAZETTE	Pepe(49) Smith Rowe(66) Balogun(77) Mari Tierney Nketiah Leno	S. Attwell
MARCH	Sat 26	Chelsea			5.30pm				
	Tue 29	Brighton & HA			6pm				
	Sat 2	West Bromwich Albion			8pm				
	Sat 9	Newcastle United		R3	5.30pm				
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				
	T/W 2/3	Wolverhampton Wanderers							
	Sat 6	Aston Villa							
	T/W 9/10	FA Cup R5		5					
MAY	Sat 13	Leeds United							
	Thur 18	Benfica		R32	8pm				
	S/S 20/21	Manchester City							
	Thur 25	Benfica		R32	5.55pm				
MAY	S/S 27/28	Leicester City							
	Sat 6	Burnley							
	Thur 10	UEL R16 L1		R16					
	S/S 13/14	Tottenham Hotspur							
MAY	Thur 17	UEL R16 L2		R16					
	S/S 20/21	West Ham United		FAC 6					
	Sat 3	Liverpool							
	Thur 8	UEL QF L1		QF					
MAY	S/S 10/11	Sheffield United							
	Thur 15	UEL QF L2		QF					
	S/S 17/18	Fulham		FACSF					
	Sat 24	Everton							
MAY	Thur 29	UEL SF L1		SF					
	S/S 1/2	Newcastle United							
	Thur 6	UEL SF L2		SF					
	S/S 8/9	West Bromwich Albion							
MAY	T/W 11/12	Chelsea							
	Sat 15	Crystal Palace/FA Cup Final							
	Sun 23	Brighton & HA							
MAY	Wed 26	UEFA Europa League Final							



As at Tuesday, December 22

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Liverpool	14	9	4	1	17	31
2. Leicester City	14	9	0	5	9	27
3. Manchester Utd	13	8	2	3	7	26
4. Everton	14	8	2	4	6	26
5. Chelsea	14	7	4	3	15	25
6. Tottenham	14	7	4	3	11	25
7. Southampton	14	7	3	4	6	24
8. Manchester City	13	6	5	2	7	23
9. Aston Villa	12	7	1	4	11	22
10. West Ham United	14	6	3	5	2	21
11. Wolves	14	6	2	6	-5	20
12. Newcastle United	13	5	3	5	-5	18
13. Crystal Palace	14	5	3	6	-6	18
14. Leeds United	14	5	2	7	-6	17
15. Arsenal	14	4	2	8	-6	14
16. Burnley	13	3	4	6	-11	13
17. Brighton & HA	14	2	6	6	-6	12
18. Fulham	14	2	4	8	-10	10
19. West Brom	14	1	4	8	-19	7
20. Sheffield Utd	14	0	2	12	-17	2

FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

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



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## MY ARSENAL

**Name** Jamie Bramwell  
**Age** 35  
**Live in** Raynes Park  
**Occupation** Teacher  
**Type of Membership** Gold

**Why are you an Arsenal fan?** My best friends at school were all Arsenal supporters so I just followed suit – they certainly helped me make the right decision!

**First Arsenal game?** Arsenal vs Leeds United, April 6, 1996 at Highbury. Arsenal won 2-1 and Ian Wright scored a last minute winner at the Clock End right in front of me. That special feeling has never left me!

**Favourite Arsenal game?** Arsenal vs Man Utd in November 1997 – I was lucky enough to be sat in the North Bank that day. We won 3-2, scoring three brilliant goals and we suddenly felt like serious contenders for the league.

**Favourite away ground and why?** Fratton Park. The stadium is very dated but the atmosphere and the 'old school' character made it a brilliant experience.

**Favourite piece of Arsenal memorabilia?** I have a match worn shirt from 1986 which was signed by the whole squad, legends like Charlie Nicholas, John Lukic, Niall Quinn and Rocky. Very special!

**Do you collect any Arsenal-related memorabilia?** Yes! I have around 200 Arsenal shirts, including match-worn ones from players such as Lee Dixon, Per Mertesacker, Dennis Bergkamp, Robert Pires and Cesc Fabregas.

**Most obscure piece of Arsenal memorabilia you own?** On a tour of Highbury in 1997, the guide gave me a piece of mud from the bottom of Dennis Bergkamp's boot – it's still in my mum's attic!



Jamie and the next generation of Arsenal fan

**All-time favourite player and why?** Dennis Bergkamp. His arrival kicked off the evolution of Arsenal being a 'boring' team in the mid nineties to one of the most exciting footballing teams in the world over the next 10 years.

**Do you have an Arsenal cult hero?** Ray Parlour. Everything about him was summed up in Tim Lovejoy's "it's only Ray Parlour..." line in the 2002 FA Cup final.

**Best Arsenal goal you've seen live?** Jack Wilshere's goal against Norwich in 2013 from a technical standpoint, Thierry Henry's against Leeds in the 2012 FA Cup for the pure joy it brought!

**Have you ever met any Arsenal players?** Alan Smith and Ray Parlour at their book signings. Both lovely guys. I met Alan shortly after the birth of my son and he spent a few moments congratulating me and giving me tips on being a father, even though there were still hundreds in the queue behind me!

**Current player you'd like to go for dinner with?** Hector Bellerin. He'd be great company and I'm sure he'd know some cool restaurants in London. I'd need to think about what I'd wear though, as I wouldn't want to embarrass him!

**You can be present at any Arsenal match in history...** Anfield '89, without doubt. Never again will there be a more dramatic finish to a league season. And witnessing it live – how could you ever beat that experience?! ■



## ARSENAL

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

P	S	SO
00		1 BERND LENO (GK) (14)
00		2 HECTOR BELLERIN (12)
00		3 KIERAN TIERNEY (13)
00		4 WILLIAM SALIBA
00		5 SOKRATIS PAPASTATHOPOULOS
00		6 GABRIEL (12/2)
00		7 BUKAYO SAKA (11+1/1)
00		8 DANI CEBALLOS (8+5)
00		9 ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE (8+3/3)
00		10 MESUT OZIL
00		12 WILLIAN (12)
00		13 ALEX RUNARSSON (GK)
00		14 PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (13/3)
00		15 AINSLEY MAITLAND-NILES (4+4)
00		16 ROB HOLDING (10+1)
00		17 CEDRIC SOARES (0+1)
00		18 THOMAS PARTEY (4+1)
00		19 NICOLAS PEPE (4+6/2)
00		20 SHKODRAN MUSTAFI (0+2)
00		21 CALUM CHAMBERS
00		22 PABLO MARI
00		23 DAVID LUIZ (6+2)
00		24 REISS NELSON (0+1)
00		25 MOHAMED ELNENY (8)
00		28 JOE WILLOCK (2+2)
00		30 EDDIE NKETIAH (3+9/1)
00		31 SEAD KOLASINAC (1)
00		32 EMILE SMITH ROWE
00		33 MATT MACEY (GK)
00		34 GRANIT XHAKA (9+1)
00		35 GABRIEL MARTINELLI (0+1)
00		38 FOLARIN BALOGUN
00		41 BEN COTTRELL
00		66 MIGUEL AZEEZ

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



## CHELSEA

MANAGER FRANK LAMPARD  
BLUE SHIRT, SHORTS AND SOCKS

P	S	SO
00		1 KEPA ARRIZABALAGA (GK) (3)
00		2 ANTONIO RUDIGER (1)
00		3 MARCOS ALONSO (3)
00		4 ANDREAS CHRISTENSEN (4)
00		5 JORGINHO (6+2/3)
00		6 THIAGO SILVA (10/2)
00		7 N'GOLO KANTE (14)
00		9 TAMMY ABRAHAM (7+6/5)
00		10 CHRISTIAN PULISIC (4+3/1)
00		11 TIMO WERNER (14/4)
00		13 WILLY CABALLERO (GK) (1)
00		14 FIKAYO TOMORI (0+1)
00		15 KURT ZOUMA (13/4)
00		16 EDDUARD MENDY (GK) (10)
00		17 MATEO KOVACIC (6+4)
00		18 OLIVIER GIROUD (3+5/2)
00		19 MASON MOUNT (12+1/1)
00		20 CALLUM HUDSON-ODDI (1+4/1)
00		21 BEN CHILWELL (11/2)
00		22 HAKIM ZIYECH (5+2/1)
00		23 BILLY GILMOUR (0+1)
00		24 REECE JAMES (11+1/1)
00		28 CESAR AZPILICUETA (4+2)
00		29 KAI HAVERTZ (10+2/1)
00		33 EMERSON PALMIERI (0+2)

## MATCH OFFICIALS

### REFEREE

Michael Oliver

### ASSISTANT REFEREES

Stuart Burt

Simon Bennett

### FOURTH OFFICIAL

Stuart Attwell

### VAR OFFICIAL

Paul Tierney

### ADDITIONAL VAR OFFICIAL

Constantine Hatzidakis

## TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Leicester City v  
Manchester United  
(12.30pm)

Fulham v  
Southampton (3pm)

Aston Villa v Crystal  
Palace (3pm)

Sheffield United v  
Everton (8pm)

Manchester City v  
Newcastle United  
(8pm)

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