

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

# ARSENAL



**MANCHESTER UNITED**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021 ■ 5.30PM ■ £3.50



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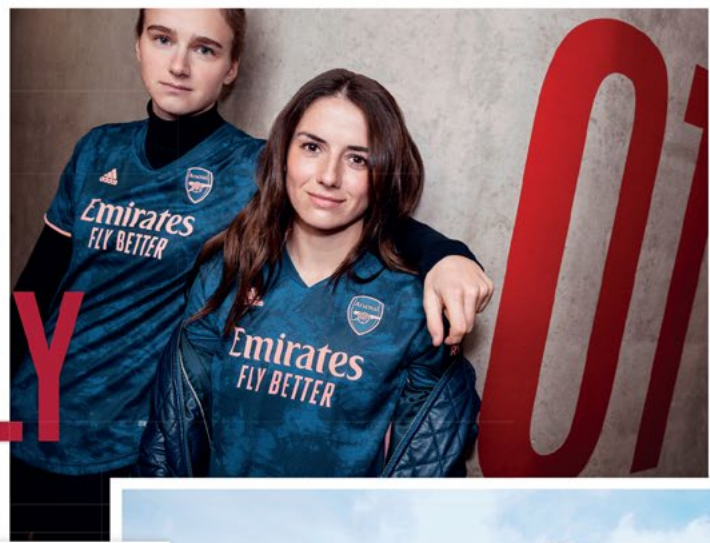
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COVER Nicolas Pepe celebrates his equaliser against Southampton on Tuesday





THIS IS FAMILY



ADIDAS.COM/ARSENAL

# MIKEL ARTETA

It was a really strong performance against a very good side on Tuesday at Southampton.

**W**e attacked well, our build-up play was good, our attacking display in the opponent's box was really good, we were really strong in the high press and we defended well when we were pushed deep. Overall if you want to beat a team like Southampton, you have to deliver in those departments. We had actually started the game strongly before they scored, creating a big chance for Laca one on one with the 'keeper.

Then we conceded from a set piece but we reacted really well. I think we show that character all the time though. We've been through very difficult moments but we have managed to maintain the spirit and the solidarity of the team, which is never easy when you lose football matches. That confidence is there and it's

growing. It's something that we are working on every day. Everyone is responsible for that, whether you are playing or on the bench or injured. It's the same with the staff. For me it's the only way, to have that strong foundation and slowly get better as a team, get better individually and keep competing the way we're doing.

We had some difficulties against the high press against them in the FA Cup that we resolved for the second game. We were much more efficient in breaking their pressing and that's how we got into much better positions. That was a big improvement. Defensively, we were really good on the high press and won the ball in really dangerous areas and got going from there.

We looked at how we could expose them, we had a game plan, and that's part of the reason for playing Bukayo ▶







on the right and Nico on the left.

Nico looks much more settled and convincing. He looked more confident so overall I'm delighted.

I thought he had a good game against them in the cup and was involved in our best attacking moments, also he deserves his chance for the way he's been playing.

On the other wing, Bukayo's doing really well too. He is always asking to train more and improve in areas that he can do better. One of those areas was producing the final action in the box to score or assist, and he's doing that much more often. He's able to do that with the work he's put in and the intelligence he's shown on the pitch, and with the capacity he has to understand the game from different positions. He's becoming a really complete player.

I think Bukayo's much better when he plays in the last line of our attack. But the truth is that sometimes we can also use him as a left-footed full back as well. It's good for his development though to play there. Last season he played a lot of games there and became a much better player. He's got that talent and he's always keen to play in different positions.

### ***"I WANT TO LOOK AT OURSELVES AND HOW WE CAN GET BETTER. WE HAVE TO GET THAT CONSISTENCY"***

He can be a leader on the pitch. He's really humble, respectful but at the same time he's got that character within him and on the pitch he can demand the ball. He can make actions and decisions that is not very usual at his age. That's great because we need that leadership. He's gaining that with his performances and attitude around the team.

Laca also got the goal he deserved and he's really found his form since the team dynamic has been better. He's having more consecutive games where he's starting and scoring. That's a really strong combination for any player, and in particular for a goalscorer like him. He needs to be on the scoresheet.

So we are building our confidence up but we know it's another huge game today against Manchester United.

We have a long way to catch up with the teams above us. We haven't done anything yet. We are improving as a team but we can still improve a lot in many areas. This is



what we're doing. Every day we build again, work hard, be better and let's see where we get.

I don't want to look at the table, I want to look at ourselves and how we can get better. We have to get that consistency that we've been lacking. We just want to try to improve as a team. Each match is a new game, so let's review our performances, train, improve in the many areas we need to get better and see how far we can go.

As far as team news goes, as I write these notes it's still too early to say whether Kieran Tierney will be available today. He wasn't available at Southampton in the FA Cup because he was experiencing discomfort in his leg, and it kept him out of Tuesday too. We will monitor his progress before making a decision for this game.

The same for Emile and Thomas Partey. Emile had some muscular discomfort on Tuesday while Thomas was also feeling some discomfort so we brought him off. Hopefully they can both recover and be fine for today's match. At the moment there is no update on Auba's availability either. But what I want to say on that is I love how the players support each other and how they protect each other. Auba is having a difficult time, but we are all behind him and our win on Tuesday was for him.

Finally, I want to welcome Martin Odegaard to the Arsenal family. He's a player we know very well and although he's still young, he's been playing at the top level for a while.

I'm sure he will provide quality offensive options and we're all excited to have him here and to integrate him into the squad until the end of the season.

Thanks for your continued support. ■



# HECTOR BELLERIN

Club captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was unavailable to prepare his usual programme notes this week for personal reasons, so ahead of today's match, we hear from vice-captain Hector Bellerin

**T**he first thing I want to say is that we are – as always – completely behind our captain and we are giving him 100 per cent support at the moment.

We are wishing the best for Auba, and our win on Tuesday night at Southampton was for him. We sent him a message before telling him that we were going to win the game for him, so I was delighted that we managed to do that. The support for him in the dressing room is amazing, and we want him to know that whatever the weather – we'll support him always. Hopefully you could see our love for him in our performance at St Mary's. That was a fantastic win, especially after going behind early.

That was something we actually spoke about in the pre-match preparation, that we had to be careful with set pieces. They are a smart team and score lots of goals from set pieces, so it was disappointing to start like that, and also we had a big chance just before that.

But the reaction of the whole squad was second to none, it was amazing. Not just after the goal we conceded, but taking it until the last whistle, everyone was pressing and there was no way out for them. I think that's the way we need to keep going.

The way the game went in the FA Cup, in the second half we had most of the control, we had most of the chances, so

we knew that if we played our game on Tuesday from the start then we could get on top of them.

It's just that belief that we have in the team. OK we were behind in the score but we still had 80 minutes to play and with the quality we have, we can make it happen. I think this is a behaviour that's instilled in the dressing room: we believe until the end and this time we took our chances. That's really important as well.

The forward players did really well – I didn't even need to overlap – it was better to leave them one v one! That's going to be more dangerous than me overlapping because the talent we have there is top. The young players, the experienced ones, everyone is adding their own thing and I think it's great when we play these kinds of games where everything goes our way. We put those threads of passes together and it's so enjoyable to play in an environment like this. It was a great game for us to be on the pitch.

Bukayo has played on the right lately, and I think our partnership is looking good there. Even though he's doing so well, he's got his feet on the ground and when we work on that right side, we have to communicate all the time. He's someone that listens, that wants to help the team 100 per cent. I think that's the most important thing. When a player wants to learn and wants to listen to their team-mates, help their team-mates and help the team, it's the most important thing. He's got a lot of that and I'm so happy for him for the way he's going.

So it was important to get that win on Tuesday. to ►





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**"THE WAY WE PLAYED AGAINST THEM AWAY WAS A GREAT TEAM PERFORMANCE"**

continue our run and slowly move back up the table. The key for us is to take it one game at a time. When you find yourself in a difficult position in the league, the worst thing you can do is check the table every week. Instead we have to focus on ourselves, focus on our game and the way we want to play. That's what we've been doing until now, it's been working and it's the reason we have been able to move up the table.

Now we have some tough games coming up – the key is going to be resting well, preparing well, and be ready for them. The first of those games is against Manchester United at home today, and they are clearly doing really well at the moment. It looks like they've clicked. Last season and even the start of this one, you could see they weren't gelling yet, but they have switched it around and that tells you a lot about football. You can be on a bad run, but then all of a sudden if it clicks you can go on a run and they went all the way to the top. We can do the same. The way we played against them away this season was a great team performance and we should build from there.

We know we can beat them, we have that confidence,

and our run of results lately shows that too.

We have beat them the last two times we met and to be honest you can look at anything like that if it will help you.

We know the way they play and we know what we have to do to beat them. Maybe for them, mentally knowing they haven't beaten us for a while, is something they will have in their heads as well. For us though it's about our game, and how we play that matters – not thinking about the opposition. If we keep our spirit right, keep working hard, keep on with the process then good things will happen.

I've captained the side for the last couple of games and of course it will be an honour to do that again today if Auba isn't available. I've always said it though – our dressing room is full of leaders, whoever wears the armband. Auba is the captain but we have so many experienced players that everybody wants to help, everybody wants to take responsibility and step forward when needed. That's what's really good about this team. Obviously we miss Auba though, he's a top player and we have to do it for him.

For me it's always an honour to walk the team out. I've been here for a long time now and it makes me happy and proud that all that work is paying off and I can represent the team like this, but for me the most important thing is that we can welcome Auba back soon. ■





# VOICE OF ARSENAL



## WELCOME MARTIN

**N**orway international Martin Odegaard has joined us from Real Madrid on loan for the remainder of the season.

The attacking midfielder started his career in Norway with Stromsgodset, where he made his debut as a 15 year old in April 2014, becoming the youngest-ever player to feature in the top division. After featuring regularly in the Stromsgodset team in his first season, he was signed by Real Madrid in January 2015 and subsequently became their youngest player in May 2015.

In the three seasons from 2017/18, Martin spent loan spells with Heerenveen and Vitesse Arnhem in Holland and then last season back in Spain with Real Sociedad, where he helped the club reach the final of the Copa Del Rey and also qualify for the Europa League.

Now 22, he has also made 25 appearances for Norway, making his debut in August 2014 when he became the youngest debutant for his country's senior national team at the age of just 15 years and 253 days.

Technical director Edu was thrilled that the talented midfielder had opted to head to north London: "We are delighted to welcome Martin to the club until the end of the season," said Edu. "I would like to thank everyone at Real Madrid and Martin's representatives for their collaboration in making this loan move happen. Martin is an exceptional talent and we are strengthening our squad by introducing an exciting offensive player to the club for the remaining months of this season."

If Martin makes a first team appearance for the Gunners, he will become only the second Norwegian to play for the club after Pal Lydersen in 1992/93. One of Martin's international team mates, Havard Nordtveit, was on the Gunners' books between 2007 and 2011 but he didn't make a first-team appearance.

Martin will wear the number 11 shirt. ■

*Martin on the attack for Real Madrid against Shakhtar Donetsk this season*





## MESUT OZIL JOINS FENERBAHCE

After seven-and-a-half-years at the club, Mesut Ozil has joined Turkish Super Lig side Fenerbahce.

Mesut became our record signing when he joined us at the end of the 2013 transfer window from Real Madrid. He soon made an impact, claiming his first assist on his debut and ended his first season with the dramatic FA Cup final win over Hull City. Two more FA Cups followed in the next three seasons and Mesut was also named Arsenal Player of the Season in 2015/16.

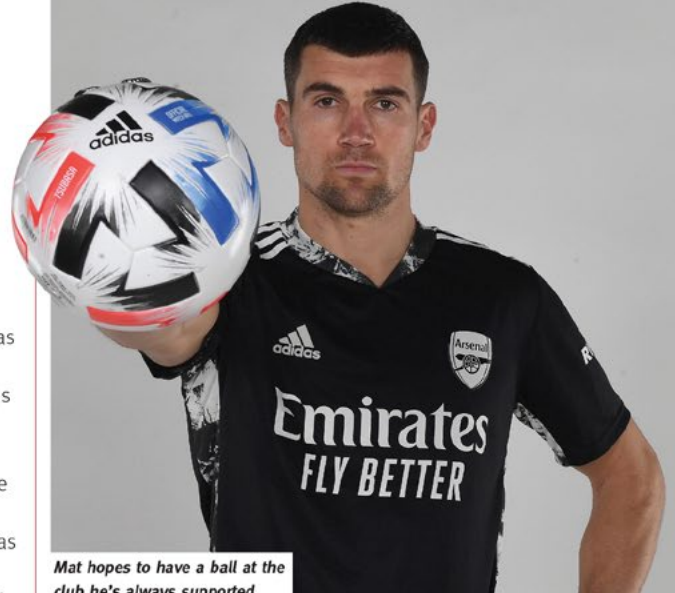
During his time with us Mesut made 254 appearances in all competitions, scoring 44 goals and making 71 assists.

Mikel Arteta said: "Mesut's achievements at Arsenal are undisputed. It was a privilege to play alongside him and, more recently, coach him. His creativity and vision led to many goals during his time in the Arsenal shirt. Mesut was at the heart of many great moments for this club over the years, including those three FA Cup final wins. These successes will always be part of our history. We thank Mesut and wish him all the best with Fenerbahce."

On leaving the club, Mesut said: "I'd like to thank the club for this amazing journey over the past seven-and-a-half years. The support I have felt from the team and fans during my time here has been truly incredible and something I will always be grateful for. Together we won trophies for the first time in years and created memories that will last a lifetime. The Arsenal fans will forever remain in my heart. I'd like to thank Edu Gaspar for helping bring about a professional and dignified solution in the past few days, and I wish everyone at the club the best in their attempt to continue to bring Arsenal back to the top, where we belong."

Everyone at Arsenal wish Mesut all the best for the future. ■

A magic Mesut moment against Ludogorets



Mat hopes to have a ball at the club he's always supported

## MAT'S A GUNNER!

Australian goalkeeper Mat Ryan has joined Arsenal for the remainder of the season from fellow Premier League outfit Brighton & Hove Albion.

The 28-year-old international has made 124 appearances since signing for the south-coast side in 2017.

Technical director Edu said: "Mat is an experienced goalkeeper, a proven talent in the Premier League and has also played many internationals for Australia. Mat will further strengthen our squad with his experience and knowledge of playing at the highest level."

"Following Matt Macey's recent move to Hibernian, Mat will provide very good competition and positive support to all our goalkeepers and we are looking forward to him integrating quickly into the set-up here at Arsenal."

Born in Sydney, Mat played for Blacktown City and Central Coast Mariners in Australia between 2009 and 2013, before moving to Europe where he made more than 100 appearances for Club Brugge in Belgium. In 2015 he joined Valencia in Spain, where he spent two seasons, including a loan spell back in Belgium with Genk.

Mat has won 59 caps for the Australia national team, playing in the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups, as well as the 2015 and 2019 Asian Cups. He won the Best Goalkeeper award at the 2015 tournament which was played in Australia.

Mat, who is a lifelong Arsenal fan, will wear the number 33 shirt. ■



## THANK YOU MARCUS

Congratulations to Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford on the Special Award he received for his tireless work raising awareness of child poverty in the UK at the BBC Sports Personality of the show before Christmas.

On behalf of Arsenal Football Club we would also like to recognise Marcus's remarkable campaigning, which has ensured thousands of young people have not gone hungry during the pandemic. You have been an inspiration to all football fans Marcus, irrespective of their allegiance. Thank you. ■



Sokratis played in five games during our triumphant FA Cup run last season

## SOKRATIS LEAVES ARSENAL

After close discussions with Sokratis and his team, Arsenal recently decided to cancel the Greek central defenders contract by mutual consent. 'Papa' has subsequently joined Olympiacos.

The Greece international defender joined the Gunners from Borussia Dortmund in July 2018 and made 69 appearances for us, scoring six goals. He was part of the FA Cup-winning squad in August and played 12 matches during our run to the Europa League

final in 2019.

Technical director Edu said: "On behalf of Mikel, our coaches, players and everyone at the club, I would like to thank Papa for his contribution to the club."

"He has been an important part of our group and has been a model professional throughout. The negotiations to end his contract have been collaborative and we wish Papa and his family well for the future." ■





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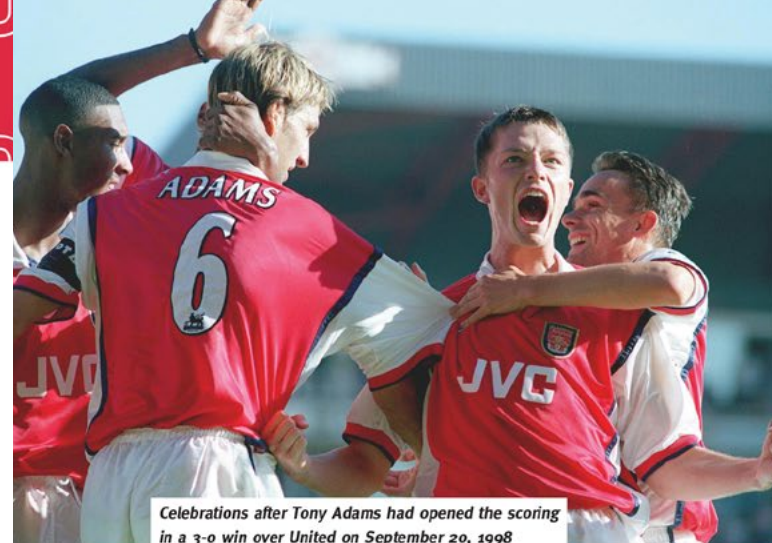
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Celebrations after Tony Adams had opened the scoring in a 3-0 win over United on September 20, 1998

# PROGRAMME ITK

Arsenal have won their last two Premier League matches against Manchester United, last winning three in a row in September 1998 under Arsène Wenger.

Manchester United are winless in all four Premier League games against Arsenal under Ole Gunnar Solskjær (D1 L3).

From day one, Arsenal v Manchester United games have guaranteed goals. The very first match on October 13, 1894 finished 3-3. After 10 games between the teams, there had been 46 goals – including four 5-1 results, two wins for Arsenal, two for United. ■



# REF WATCH

Today's referee Michael Oliver is from Northumberland and has been a Premier League referee since 2010. Michael has already officiated at Emirates Stadium three times this season, in our 2-1 win over West Ham, then the 2-1 home defeat against Wolves and most recently the 3-1 win over Chelsea on Boxing Day – the seven yellow cards he showed in the Wolves match was the most he has brandished all season. ■



**LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**  
1930/31, 1932/33, 1933/34, 1934/35, 1937/38, 1947/48, 1952/53, 1970/71, 1983/89, 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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## GEOFF BARNETT

Arsenal Football Club were greatly saddened to hear of the recent death of former goalkeeper Geoff Barnett, aged 74.

Geoff joined the club in October 1969 from Everton, after Bob Wilson had broken his arm, and performed admirably in Bob's absence that season – featuring in the victorious Fairs Cup campaign, when he saved a crucial penalty against Sporting Lisbon. Throughout his time with the club, he was an excellent understudy to Bob and later Jimmy Rimmer and made an FA Cup final appearance at Wembley in the Gunners' 1-0 defeat to Leeds in 1972.

After making a total of 49 appearances – featuring 23 clean sheets – Geoff left the Gunners and crossed the Atlantic to play for Minnesota Kicks in January 1976, where he later coached.

He later returned to England but eventually settled back in the States, where he died due to Covid-19 on January 15.

A former England schoolboy and under-21 international, Geoff was a popular figure at the club and much loved team-mate and friend, as seen on his return to Highbury to be part of the 'final salute' celebrations against Wigan Athletic in 2006.

The thoughts of everyone at Arsenal Football Club are with Geoff's family and friends. ■

## ARSENAL REMEMBERS

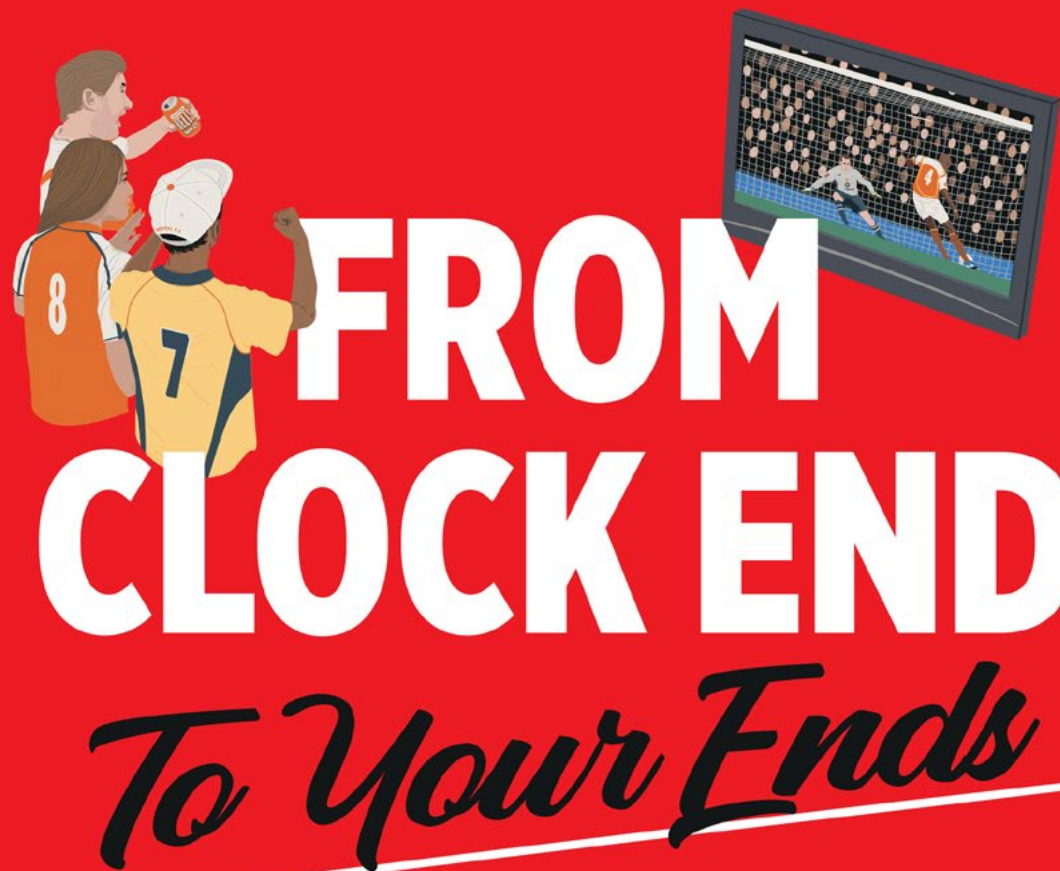
In memory of our beautiful boy **ETHAN BOURNE** – January 3, 2009 – January 8, 2021. Taken too soon. We want to raise awareness to all those young people out there and if we could help anyone, he would be so happy. Keep playing our sweet boy and keep scoring. We love you forever xxx

**CHRISTOPHER DAVIS** – A lifelong, devoted Arsenal fan who sadly passed away aged 46 on November 8, 2020. He will be sadly missed by fiancée Kim, godson Zane and all those who loved him xxx

**PAUL ROGERS** – Aged 49 years. Grandson of an army gunner thus a lifelong Gooner! An immensely popular man: Fundraiser/Chairperson Relay for Life (CRUK), Luton. Am-dram devotee, magician and more. Missed by an entire community, his wife, Helen & four daughters

**KEN CORDING** – Aged 66 passed away January 6, 2021 after a short illness. Lifelong Gooner and Block 108 season ticket holder, he will be sorely missed by friends and family alike

**LIONEL FRANCIS MASSETTI** – Sadly passed away on January 14, 2021 aged 93. A Gibraltar national who supported Arsenal since his early days when he spent several years in London during the Second World War. May he Rest In Peace ■



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AUBAMEYANG 50, 77  
SAKA 61



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## PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 19

8pm • Monday, January 18 • Emirates Stadium

### FIRST HALF

Most of our first-half chances fell to skipper Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, including a powerful shot over the bar after a good break involving Thomas Partey and Emile Smith Rowe. Newcastle offered little attacking threat but remained tough to break down, with Aubameyang poking another shot wide from inside the area and then seeing a deflected cross nearly fly into the top corner only for Karl Darlow to make a flying save. The half drew to a close with David Luiz sending a free header over at the end of a low-key opening 45.

### SECOND HALF

less than two minutes into the second half we tested the Newcastle goalkeeper again, with a fierce Alex Lacazette drive. But minutes later we had the breakthrough as the influential Partey released Aubameyang on the break with a fine pass, and our captain raced in on goal and fired past Darlow. We doubled our advantage shortly afterwards when Smith Rowe – enjoying another fine game – entered the area, tied up his marker in knots and cut the ball back for Bukayo Saka to stroke home into the empty net. We remained in total control and added a third 13 minutes before the end when Cedric did superbly to get to the byeline and cut it back for Aubameyang to slot home beyond Darlow. That sealed the three points and a thoroughly satisfactory night for Mikel Arteta's side. ■

MATCH STATS	
25	TOTAL SHOTS 12
9	SHOTS ON TARGET 2
8	CORNERS 3
1	OFFSIDES 1
17	FOULS 15
61	POSSESSION % 39

#### ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 17 CEDRIC
- 23 DAVID LUIZ
- 16 HOLDING
- 3 TIERNEY
- 34 KHAKA
- 18 PARTEY (67)
- 7 SAKA
- 9 LACAZETTE
- 14 AUBAMEYANG (78)
- 32 SMITH ROWE (82)

#### SUBSTITUTES

ELNENY (67), WILLIAN (78), MARTINELLI (82), BELLERIN, GABRIEL, WILLOCK, PEPE, RUMARSSON, NKETIAH

#### NEWCASTLE UNITED

- 26 DARLOW
- 17 KRAFTH
- 15 LEWIS
- 6 LASCELLES
- 2 CLARK
- 8 SHELVEY
- 24 ALMIRON (87)
- 4 M LONGSTAFF (78)
- 13 WILSON
- 9 JOELINTON
- 7 CARROLL (69)

#### SUBSTITUTES

HENDRICK (78), ANDERSON (87), MURPHY (69), DUBRAYKA, RITCHIE, MANQUILLO, S LONGSTAFF, HAYDEN, YEDLIN





**MATCH ACTION**

**FIRST PAGE**

*Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang takes a bow after opening the scoring*

**PREVIOUS PAGE**

*Bukayo Saka points at goal architect Emile Smith Rowe*

**RIGHT**

*Bukayo emphatically doubles our lead*

**MIDDLE LEFT**

*The team celebrate the crucial second goal*

**MIDDLE RIGHT**

*Granit Xhaka holds off Callum Wilson*

**BOTTOM LEFT**

*Ball on a string – typical Emile Smith Rowe*

**BOTTOM RIGHT**

*A poised Alexandre Lacazette*



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# ROB HOLDING 100 APPEARANCES



ROB HOLDING'S ARSENAL RECORD



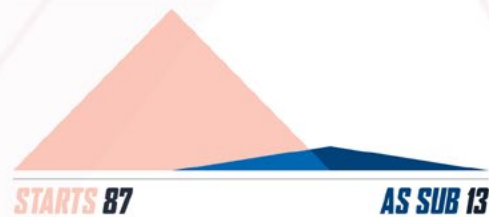
1

Rob's debut came on August 14, 2016 – a 4-3 home defeat to Liverpool



Rob has played 12 times against Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United combined, and remains unbeaten against them all

ROB'S APPEARANCES – STARTS & SUBS



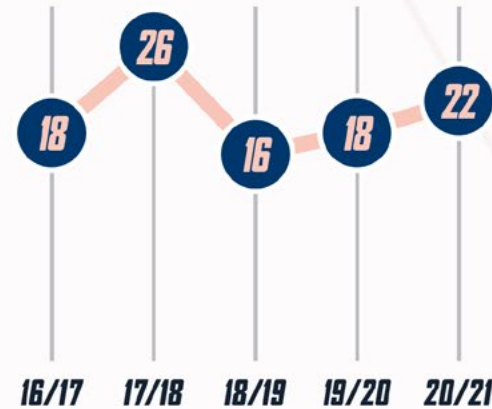
ROB'S APPEARANCES – BY COMPETITION



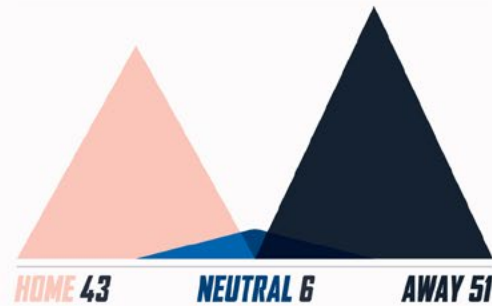
6

Rob has made six appearances at Wembley, winning them all

ROB'S APPEARANCES – BY SEASON



ROB'S APPEARANCES – BY VENUE



Rob has scored twice – in a 4-2 win away to BATE Borisov on September 28, 2017 and a 5-0 home win over Nottingham Forest on September 24, 2019

8

The team Rob has faced most often is Liverpool (eight)

CURRENT PLAYERS WITH 100+ APPEARANCES

	STARTS & SUBS <b>207+18</b>	TOTAL <b>225</b>	GOALS <b>8</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>185+13</b>	TOTAL <b>198</b>	GOALS <b>13</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>142+9</b>	TOTAL <b>151</b>	GOALS <b>9</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>116+35</b>	TOTAL <b>151</b>	GOALS <b>58</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>115+14</b>	TOTAL <b>129</b>	GOALS <b>78</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>84+37</b>	TOTAL <b>121</b>	GOALS <b>3</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>83+29</b>	TOTAL <b>112</b>	GOALS <b>3</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>74+29</b>	TOTAL <b>103</b>	GOALS <b>4</b>
	STARTS & SUBS <b>87+13</b>	TOTAL <b>100</b>	GOALS <b>2</b>



# BERND

If you are looking for turning points in the season, our win at home to Chelsea on Boxing Day is one match that certainly stands out.

**U**nder a fair amount of pressure going into that game – without a league win in seven matches – we recorded a 3-1 victory to kick-start a winning run.

And for goalkeeper Bernd Leno that game also proved to be a pivotal moment. The outcome would have been right in the balance in the closing few minutes were it not for the German's late penalty save from Jorginho that preserved our two goal cushion. In fact, from that moment, Bernd didn't concede another goal for more than 500 minutes, racking up five consecutive clean sheets in the process. It led to compatriot and Gunners great Jens Lehmann describing his fellow number one as 'our most consistent player of the season.'

Speaking to the programme before we announced the signing of Mat Ryan, Bernd looked back on the last few weeks, and gave his assessment on today's opponents.

**You started the year in fantastic form with five consecutive clean sheets, you must be delighted?**

Yeah of course, it's always good to have one clean sheet, so five in a row is even better. But it's not only me, I don't take all the credit. It's about the whole team, look at the Newcastle league game for example, there wasn't much for me to do. It's not only the defenders, or the midfielders, but also the strikers. We are defending as a team, we are pressing well and not allowing as many counter attacks for the opponents. That is something we have struggled a bit with over the past couple of years, but the team is much better organised now. Everybody wants to do their job and you see the results.

**Do you feel the team is more comfortable playing out from the back lately?**

Yes, when you try to play from the back, you need confidence to do it successfully. Everybody needs to be in the right position and everybody needs to take a little bit of risk but you can see over the last few weeks the confidence is coming back. But I think what's happened is that we have become more unpredictable – sometimes we play long, sometimes short – and before we wanted to play too much in our own half and move the ball backwards, where there was no advantage. That makes it more difficult for teams to press us when they don't know what we are going to do every time. We still have a lot of potential to improve even more though.

**Does keeping back-to-back clean sheets help to build confidence?**

Well to be honest I don't focus too much on those types of stats, but yes, I think it can create a good habit. You know that when you keep a clean sheet that's at least one point, and with our quality on the pitch, we should be confident to be able to score at least once in each game. Every goalkeeper wants to keep a clean sheet every game but the difference is the basics. When you have a good defence, then it becomes much more possible to win the games, especially in the Premier League where there is so much quality. So every game our target has to be to defend like that as a team, and for me I try to be hard to beat individually. ▶

**BORN** Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, March 4, 1992

**JOINED ARSENAL** From Bayer Leverkusen on June 19, 2018

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

**INTERNATIONAL HONOURS** 2017 FIFA Confederation Cup winner





**And you have made plenty of big saves in the last few games, do you have a favourite?**

There's not one save in particular, I think all of them were very important. Maybe the save against Newcastle in the cup was in the last second of the 90 minutes, and so if that goes in, we've lost. That was a very difficult game for a goalkeeper, because there was not much for me to do in the game, until that big chance right at the end. And that's the hardest thing for a goalkeeper – to stay focused for that one chance. Also the save in the Palace match was very important, because if you go one nil down it becomes even harder against a team like Palace. So I'm very pleased with all of them, the most important thing is that I could help the team.

**“THE BEST WAY NOT TO CONCEDE FROM A PENALTY IS DON'T MAKE FOULS IN THE BOX!”**

**That penalty save against Chelsea also proved to be important and helped kick start our form...**

Yes, but penalties are always a little bit lucky. Especially with somebody like Jorginho – you wait and then gamble, left or right. We played well in that game, conceded a goal late on, then in the 90th minute they had that penalty. If they score that, then we know we would have five more long minutes! That save meant we could have a calm five minutes. Against Jorginho you have to gamble and wait as long as possible. He has a very special technique, and I remember the penalty he scored against us in January at Stamford Bridge. He scored it but I went the right way and the difference was he put that one closer to the post. But this one was not right in the corner, which made it easier to save, but I also gambled right!

**Do you spend much time studying the penalty technique of the opposition, especially against a team like Manchester United that has been awarded so many this season?**

Not really, but of course you see it on TV quite often and we also prepare. But at the end I depend more on the feeling I have at the moment. Which way is he going to go? Is he going to wait? There's no preparation because you don't know 100 per cent what he will do. I know Bruno Fernandes is a top player and top penalty taker, so the best way not to concede from a penalty is don't make fouls in the box!



**We beat United 1-0 at Old Trafford in November but they have been in great form ever since. Does that just prove how quickly things can change in the Premier League?**

Yes, I can remember after that game everyone was talking about us, and United were in 14th or 15th place, and looked like they were struggling. But then they went on a long run and went top of the league. You can see they have top quality in every position, but this is a game for us to also show how good we are. We lost a lot of points in November and December so we have to win these types of games to make sure the gap to the top gets smaller and not bigger.

**Matt Macey left the club recently, so can you tell us about the young goalkeepers coming through at Arsenal now? Players like James Hillson, Karl Hein and Arthur Okonkwo?**

I have to say all of those guys are top guys, they are very motivated and really want to learn each day. When they train with us you can see how much they have improved because the quality in first-team training is obviously very high. They all look like very good ▶



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ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB

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goalkeepers for the future and have a great chance to reach the top level. For me, I enjoy working with them, we all get on well in the goalkeeper group – that makes things much more fun and makes it easier to work well together every day and enjoy your job.

**As the number one and experienced keeper, did you speak much with Alex Runarsson after his game against Manchester City?**

Yes of course, experience is very important for a goalkeeper. Alex made the mistake but it happens. It happens in every goalkeeper's career. After the game I said to him to keep his head up, because it was very hard for him. I'm sure that in the long-term, or in a year or two, he will say to himself 'this game made me stronger.' In that situation when you are very disappointed it's sometimes better to leave him alone as well and not go on about it too much. We have a very good relationship in training, we get on well, he's a calm guy, a top guy and I'm always trying to be very positive with him. I try to push him every day, be positive and he recovered very well from that game. It's part of being a goalkeeper – you make one mistake and everybody talks about that, not the three or four saves you made. Sometimes that's not fair, but that's the life we choose as a goalkeeper.

***"IN A YEAR OR TWO, HE WILL SAY TO HIMSELF 'THIS GAME MADE ME STRONGER'."***

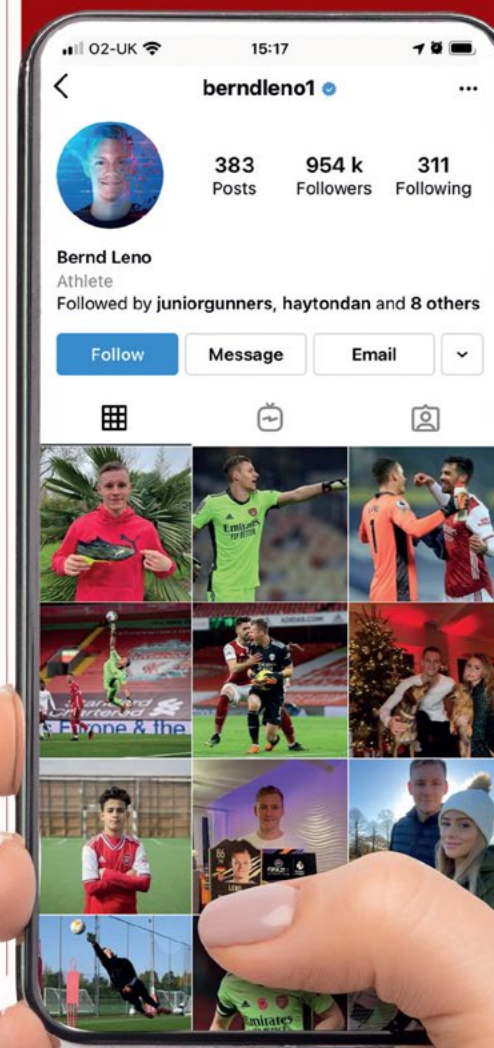
**Finally Bernd, how are you finding lockdown life?**

First of all I'm pleased that we can still play football. Because the first lockdown when we had eight or nine weeks with no football was very weird, but I don't want to complain. People all over the world are struggling with real problems, so not playing football doesn't compare to that. So now we have got more used to it. I live with my wife and our two dogs, so my life is training, then walking dogs in the afternoon – and they are enjoying it that we spend so much time at home now! We have had the small dog for four years, and then we adopted a new dog in January, and ever since then we have spent a lot of time together because we've basically been at home. So that's how we spend our time at the moment. In that first lockdown I think

I read more books in a month or two than I had in my whole life! The weather was nicer in the first lockdown so we spent time outside, my wife was helping with training, we did a lot of YouTube workouts together. Now at least we are playing football, so it's a bit more normal, but we hope to get back to how we were as soon as possible. ■

# FOLLOW ME

Follow Bernd on Instagram! @berndleno1





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# CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY

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

## THIERRY HENRY LEFT WING TO LEGEND!

**W**hen Arsène Wenger first saw the teenage prodigy play at Monaco, his first instinct was that Thierry Henry was a natural striker. Yet Wenger believed that at that age, Henry's prodigious abilities would be better served out on the left wing: "I thought that – as a youngster – he'd have more success against full backs than central defenders."

For France and then Juventus, whom Henry joined from Monaco in January 1999, he remained 'stuck' – as he later described it – out on the left. In Italy, his form and self confidence plummeted. In 2002, he explained: "We played 3-5-2, with all of the left side for me. When we were attacking, I was the second or third forward. When the ball was in the middle, I had to be the fifth midfielder. And when the ball was at the back, I was the fourth defender." Aged only 21, Henry found it nigh on impossible to adapt to the demands of a wide midfielder in Serie A. Signed by Marcello Lippi, Henry fared little better under Carlo Ancelotti, who later admitted to Henry's biographer Philippe Auclair: "I didn't think I could play him in the middle, and he never told me he could."

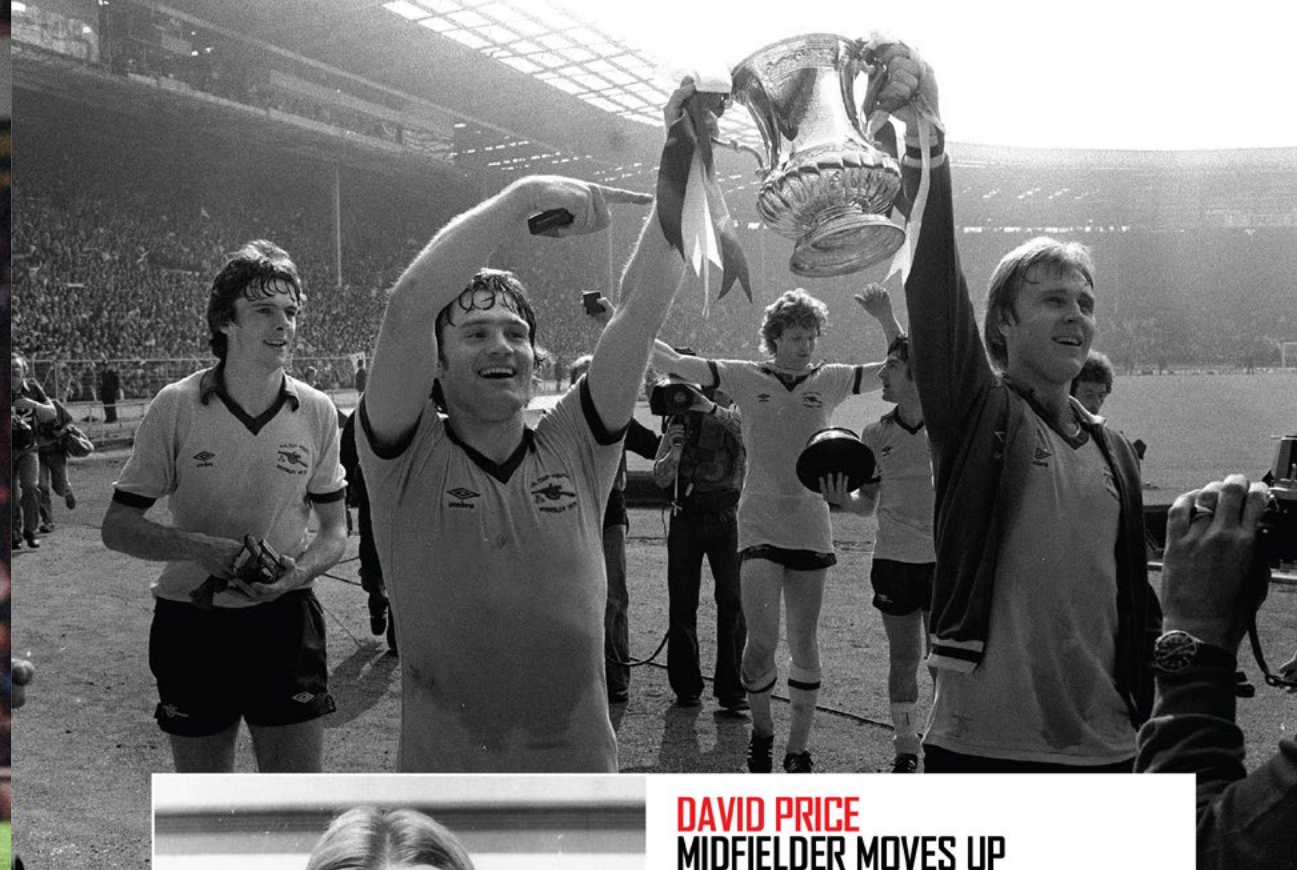
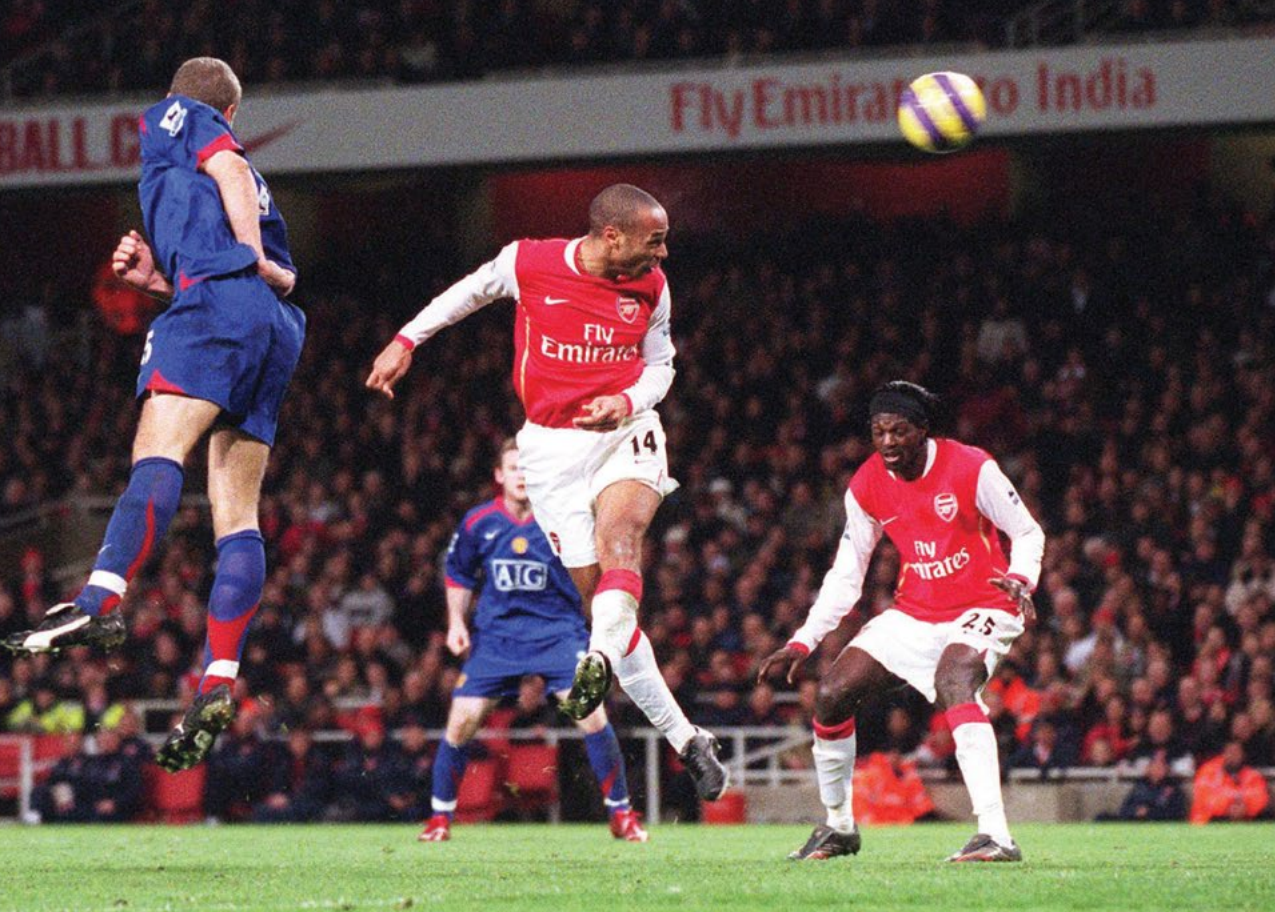
Arsenal were linked with Henry as soon as Wenger took over at Highbury, but when striker Nicolas Anelka departed N5 in the summer of 1999, Wenger decided to reinvest the estimated £22 million the Gunners received from Real Madrid in both Davor Suker and Henry.

Keen to emphasise that he was a different player and character than Anelka, Henry insisted: "Nicolas is his own man, I am mine," after putting pen to paper, but he already knew that he was signed to replace Anelka.

Arsène Wenger had informed Henry that he would be playing through the middle. "I think he is a good finisher," Wenger argued. "That is something he hasn't worked on enough in the last two years, because he has played more wide, but I think he can become a central striker again." Henry had no time to adapt to the English game, entering the fray as a substitute for Freddie ▶







Ljungberg in the 1999/2000 season opener against Leicester City. But in the opening few weeks, Henry looked out of sorts, missed several great chances to break his Arsenal duck and was – in his own words – “awful” during a 2-0 loss to Liverpool.

The Guardian’s Kevin McCarra likened the Gunners – and Henry – to “a piece of film being developed.” He

**“HENRY’S ENGINE BEGAN TO PURR, AND THE GOALS FLOWED”**

even admitted to “not being a natural goal scorer,” and confessed to missing “loads of chances this season.” But then, away at Southampton on September, he finally modelled the type of explosive finish which would later see him described as Arsenal’s finest ever striker. With 15 minutes left, and the scores tied up at 0-0, Henry received a Kanu pass, skipped past Saints defender Marco Almeida and curled an exquisite 25 yard effort past goalkeeper Paul Jones.

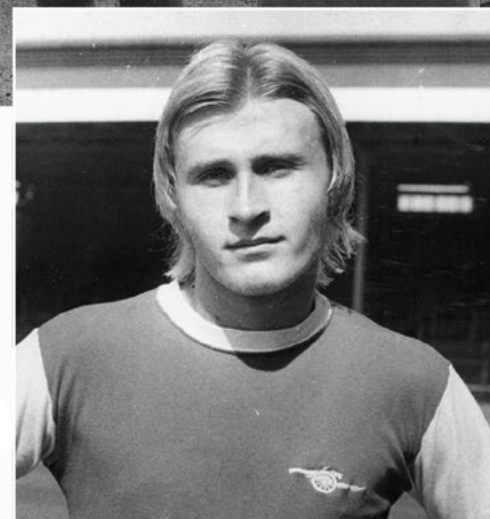
Comparatively little was made of Henry’s first goal in English football, although the press purred about his

impact against AIK Solna in the Champions League at Wembley a few days later, when the introduction of Henry and Kanu from the bench turned the game, enabling Arsenal to record a 3-1 win.

By late November, after he returned to the side following an injury which kept him out of the starting XI for a month, Henry’s engine began to purr, and the goals flowed. Within the space of three and half months, Henry had enjoyed the first of many purple patches he’d have in an Arsenal shirt, plundering braces of goals against Derby County, Sunderland and Deportivo La Coruna. Long before the clocks went forward in April 2000, he’d mastered the art of hanging on the shoulder of the last defender and blasting past him. After he did so to devastating effect against Sunderland’s former Gunners defender Steve Bould, the TV commentator described the Frenchman as “world class.” Henry became ever more consistent as the months and years passed, and by the time he departed Arsenal in 2007, this spellbinding left winger turned central striker had scored a record 226 goals for the Gunners, adding two more when he returned for a brief but memorable seven game spell in 2012. ■

**DAVID PRICE  
MIDFIELDER MOVES UP**

**A**lthough the former England Schoolboys skipper made his Arsenal debut against Leeds United at the tail end of the 1971/72 campaign aged just 17, and remained at Highbury for almost a decade, midfielder David Price – with a first team slot never a certainty – admitted to “always looking over my shoulder at Highbury”. A serious ankle injury in the reserves hampered his progress, but a loan spell at Peterborough, and a one-year extension of his Arsenal contract by Bertie Mee enabled the Surrey-born player to regain his confidence and his composure, fight for his place, and play – as he recalled – “wherever I was needed on the pitch.” Price is best remembered for his decisive role in the 1978/79 FA Cup run, in both the semi final against Wolves, and in the final, where his crucial interception set up Arsenal’s opening goal, scored by Brian Talbot. But on one memorable occasion in March 1977, Price was awarded the number 10 shirt, playing up front alongside Malcolm Macdonald, after an injury to Frank Stapleton. Just for good measure, Price even scored Arsenal’s equalising goal, but with Stapleton restored to fitness for Arsenal’s next league match against Leicester, Price was back in his more familiar midfield berth for that game. ■



**FIRST PAGE**  
*Arsène Wenger and Thierry Henry turned out to be a match made in heaven*

**OPPOSITE PAGE**  
*Demonstrating his centre forward skills with a headed against United in 2007*

**TOP**  
*David Price (right) played a vital role in the 1979 FA Cup success*

**ABOVE**  
*David was a valuable member of the Arsenal squad for nearly a decade*







# FOURTEEN TIMES

## THIERRY HENRY

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

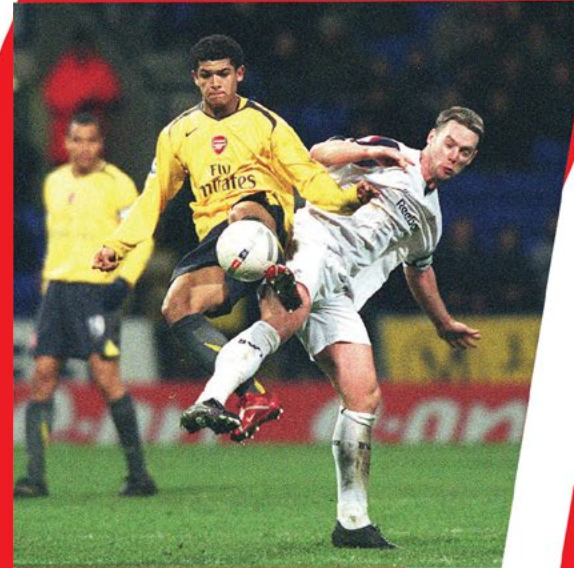
*When the No14 became an Invincible*

### BOTTOM RIGHT

*One of his many goals against Manchester United*

### OPPOSITE PAGE TOP

*Denilson in FA Cup action against Bolton in 2007*



FEB 2007

14

IT HAPPENED ON THE 14TH...

FEBRUARY 14, 2007  
BOLTON 1, ARSENAL 3

We missed two penalties, but still managed to overcome Bolton after extra-time in this FA Cup fourth round replay. A much-changed Arsenal side went ahead early through Emmanuel Adebayor, and Gilberto's penalty miss on the hour mark looked to be costly when Abdoulaye Meite scrambled an injury time equaliser. Freddie Ljungberg restored our lead in the second period of extra-time before Julio Baptista missed our second spot kick of the night. But this time it wasn't costly as Adebayor wrapped up the win with his second goal in the last minute to send us through to the fifth round.

The most famous number 14 in our history is Thierry Henry, who broke the all-time club scoring record while wearing the shirt in 2005, just six years after joining the club from Juventus.

But as the master goalscorer revealed himself, he never wanted that squad number in the first place.

"Fourteen is not my number," he said "I took the number 14 because Christopher Wreh had number 12, so I didn't want to take it off him. That's the reason."

So the man who made the Arsenal 14 shirt so iconic, could instead have done so to our number 12 shirt, and indeed he did get the chance to do that in 2012, when he returned for a loan spell from New York Red Bulls.

"I came back with number 12, that's my number actually," the Frenchman explained.

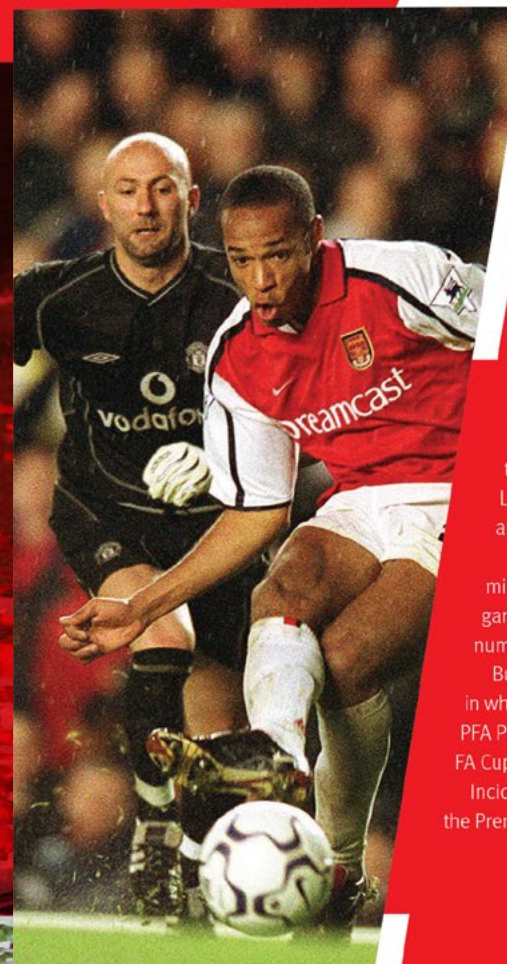
"I took number 12, because of Marco van Basten at Euro 88."

Henry then went on to score two more goals in the shirt, taking his overall total to 228. The first of these, against Leeds in the FA Cup, remains one of the most memorable, and it owed more to number 12 than 14.

Henry added: "It was kind of weird. I scored with 12 minutes to go on the clock, 78th minute. That was my 12th game against Leeds, that was my 12th goal, I'm wearing number 12 and we were just turning into 2012."

But Henry's Arsenal legacy was built as the number 14, in which he won four Premier League Golden Boots, two PFA Player of the Year awards, two league titles and three FA Cups.

Incidentally he netted three times in the 14th minute, all in the Premier League. ■





# MY STORY



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

The Arsenal Foundation has partnered with Islington Council and HIS Church to supply meals to food projects and food banks across Islington and Camden during the Covid-19 lockdown. Joseph Huston-Mendy, 24, from Islington Council tells us what's involved...

I actually graduated from Bournemouth University with a degree in Sports Management, but after a long day of applying for jobs I was watching The Apprentice, which sparked an interest in finding an apprenticeship in project management. Islington Council's Parking Department had one and I was fortunate enough to pass the interviews.

Since I started in September 2019 I've developed out of my apprenticeship role into Islington Council's Estate Transport Team, where one of the big projects I've been working on is to deliver cycle storage facilities to local estates within the borough – a project that has received great feedback so far.

Since the first lockdown I've also been working for Islington's food distribution service.

There has been a partnership between Islington Council, Arsenal and HIS Church, which has delivered 500,000 meals to food projects across the borough. These deliveries are crucial to feeding Islington because residents who have had their finances impacted by lockdown rely on the services provided at the food bank, which rely on the deliveries that we provide them.

The demand for food provision since the first lockdown has definitely risen as the financial affects have created difficulties and uncertainty. The additional



Lee Dixon and the Mayor of Islington dropped by to show their support after the FA Cup final



Delivering meals to the local community

financial services such as furlough and universal credit have provided some support to residents, but dependence on food projects has definitely gone up. The first wave pretty much caught everyone off guard with the demand but during this winter period, we have come together as a community to provide additional support to those most in need.

The Arsenal Foundation has helped us tremendously, in terms of providing volunteers, funding for food deliveries and at one point during lockdown housing us within Emirates Stadium. As a huge Arsenal fan myself that was an incredible experience, especially as I was lucky enough to bump into club legend Tony Adams.

I've worked at the distribution centre since early April and I have seen the impact it has had on residents and also on the atmosphere of the borough. My proudest moment on a personal level was winning the London Councils Apprentice of the Year award for my contribution to this project – 12 months on from watching The Apprentice. I was simply honoured to know that I was helping my community when it was most in need.

I think that it is really important for football clubs to help their communities, especially in an era when we hear a lot about how much a club is worth and how much players are paid. Football clubs are the focal point of their communities, and many people cherish any link they have to their club. ■

PS4

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FIFA 21



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# COMMUNITY



## PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS

Although he'll be an opponent on the pitch tonight, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Marcus Rashford and congratulate him on his work to not only raise awareness of food poverty, but also in tackling the stigma attached to it. Following on from this, the Premier League and Barclays supported young people by funding Premier League Kicks Holiday Camps that we ran just prior to Christmas.

The Holiday Camps were an extension of our weekly PL Kicks sessions in Islington and Camden and were delivered between December 21 and 23 at Elthorne Park

and Canteloves Sports Centre. Each day consisted of socially distanced football activities and life skills workshops, which included a Barclays Financial Literacy workshop. Each day, every participant also received a nutritious meal, and a goody bag provided by both the Premier League and the Football Club. All of this was provided free of charge to all participants.

In addition to our regular PL Kicks participants, the Holiday Camp places were offered out to young people that we hadn't worked with before. Through liaising with some of our strategic partners, we were able to ensure that the programme was accessible to families who needed it most. It was also due to our strong strategic

partnerships that the programme was able to run, as a couple of days beforehand, a government announcement regarding changing Covid restrictions meant that eleventh hour plans had to be made, but people pulled together to ensure that young people in both boroughs could enjoy a safe and positive experience, and have an enjoyable end to a challenging year. We received the following feedback from parents who loved the Holiday Camps:

**"This year has been tough, this programme has brought happiness to many children"**

"Being a single parent, I am so grateful for this activity, my sons have been able to play football, have fun with their friends and have a healthy lunch each day, I am really grateful"

**"I was worried that my daughter wouldn't have any nice presents for Christmas, so thank you for the gifts. It means a lot to us"**



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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

**CONGRATULATIONS DALID, YOU'RE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE #PLKICKS #PLCFIDYEARAWARDS**

@PLCOMMUNITIES

## OPPOSITE PAGE

Coaching sessions took place in the local community just before Christmas

## THIS PAGE

Socially distanced sessions as part of the PL Kicks programme at Elthorne Park



# FORWARD



23



## DAVID LUIZ

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?

Well my plans at the moment are the same for every evening – to be with my family and to be with my daughter. My daughter was a great gift from God last year, so I want to spend all the time I have free now with her. She is my world now so I don't need to do anything else away from football any more.

### Looking further ahead, what are your plans for the end of your playing career?

I think I'm going to be a coach. I love to be with people, to work with teams, to help people improve and help make dreams come true. I have this idea now, when I finish football, to be a coach. It's my plan for now but you never know what can happen in the future. Maybe I have to change, maybe I have to be more living just for my daughter or if we have other kids, I don't know. But if you ask me today what my plans are for the future, then it's to be a coach.

### Have you started your coaching badges yet?

Yes, I've already started taking the qualifications.

### What sort of coach do you want to be?

Well I want to be a head coach, I want to be out on the pitches every day, training players. I love football so I want to stay involved as much as I can and be around the players every day. That's the plan but you never know, you don't know what project you might be offered, and whether you want to do it at that time. All I know is that I will be a coach who really loves their work, really wants to work every day and does the job because I really love football. For me that's the only way to do the job – if you really love it.

### Before that, what would you still like to achieve in your playing career?

I still have a lot of ambitions, I always have, that's why I think carefully about every move I've made. When you play for Arsenal you have to win trophies. When I joined the club I did that to win titles, I managed to get one in my first season and I want to continue the same way now. Football is about winning, that's what I am here for.

### How far forward do you generally plan your life and your schedule?

Well I have my plan for the week and I have my goals ▶

# ARSENAL



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

### MEAL

Simple food, Brazilian food – rice and beans.



### NEW CAR

I'm not a guy who's so into cars anymore, I was when I was younger. But I love the Mini Coopers.

### THING YOU BUY

A cage for my dogs.

### HOLIDAY DESTINATION

Hawaii



### TROPHY YOU WIN

Well the one that is missing for me is the World Cup

### NEW TEAM-MATE

I'd choose Lionel Messi because he's at the end of his contract soon!



for the year. Of course I have a schedule, one for inside the club and the training that we are doing, and also one for outside the club and the individual work I am doing. I try to improve my performance, I try to improve my fitness so everything is worked around that.

***"LOOKING AT THE FIXTURES CAN HELP YOU THINK 'OH, MAYBE THINGS WILL CHANGE HERE'."***

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

Yes I do as well because you can't just have a short-term plan, you have to look long-term as well at when there are more busy periods or quieter periods. This helps you understand things better, that at certain moments things can be different. It helps you understand how you can train, how you can motivate yourself, how you can organise yourself. Looking at the fixtures can help you think 'oh, maybe things will change here, maybe we will get good results there' so I always try to have plans for both long term and short term.

#### **Are you working on anything away from football at the moment?**

Yes, I have my charity in Brazil and I try to spend time on that when I can. My mum and dad are the head of the project and ever since I was young they have taught me that you have to share in life. So when God blessed me with my football, ever since I have tried to help others ▶





# No room for racism anywhere

when I can. It's just me and my family, and some volunteers, and we try to help who we can back in Brazil.

#### Do you think you will live in Brazil when you stop playing?

I don't know because it depends where your job takes you. I want to be a coach, mainly in Europe, so I think I will live in Europe. Maybe in Portugal, because of the language, because I know the country and I love it there, and the weather, the beaches. So I think it will probably be Portugal.

#### What do you want to do when you retire that you can't do now?

Surf! I want to go surfing because I can't do that while I'm playing, but I am looking forward to doing that with my daughter when I retire.

#### What country or city would you like to visit?

I want to visit Hawaii because I've never been there.

#### How organised are you in general life?

I'm very organised, I like to have a clear idea of what I'm doing, what's happening, what my plan is. I think that's because I left home when I was 14 so I had to live alone and life taught me you need to be organised if you want to achieve anything.

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 would you want with you?

Yeah of course, why not, could be cool! ■



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DEVELOPING STRONG YOUNG

**GUNNERS**

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## YOUNG GUN

ALEX  
KIRK

TALKING TO Aidan Small

## BORN

October 27, 2002,  
Stevenage

## SIGNED FOR ARSENAL

Under-11s

## POSITION

Centre back

## HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

6ft 4ins and 87kg

## SCHOOL

Hitchin Boys



I recently had the honour of signing my first professional contract with Arsenal, and it got me thinking back to the Hale End days and where my love for football started.

You see, I didn't follow the most conventional route to becoming an academy player. Unlike many of my teammates who joined Arsenal at just six years of age, I couldn't even kick a ball yet, let alone do all the skills they were doing.

It wasn't until I was seven that I became more interested in football and started practicing in the back garden with my dad, but I didn't join my first Sunday team until I was nine! I know that's not late in the grand scheme of things, but compared to my current teammates and even my friends in school, it's very late.

The root for my love of football is still something we're trying to work out as a family! No one on either side of my family is sporty and no one is particularly interested in football either. My parents know nothing about football! They watch it just to try and understand the sport a little more, but my mum in particular has no idea, bless her. She tries!

So, where did it all start then? As a kid, I used to love watching Match of the Day and I'd always try and stay up late to watch it every weekend. From there, I joined my Sunday team and school team, and that's when I realised that this is something I really enjoy.

As a kid, I was always quite tall and athletic compared to my friends, so I'd often play as a central midfielder or winger for my Sunday team and the game plan would be 'Give the ball to Alex and let him run straight!'. When I first joined that Sunday team, the only thing that made me stand out was my height, but after a couple months of training, the difference was noticeable and I realised I

**"AT ONE STAGE, I WAS HONESTLY BETTER AT ATHLETICS THAN I WAS FOOTBALL. I WAS INVITED TO REPRESENT ENGLAND"**

was the best player there – and I hate myself for saying that! We won the league in my final year and they eventually folded as a club the year after.

Until I joined Arsenal as an under-11, my football education was non-existent. I just used to go out there and

run. I didn't even know that academies existed! I remember going to Hale End for my first day and I came away thinking there's no way they're going to sign me. Incredibly, they did, but over the next three years, I never really played and I really didn't think I was that good. Compared to my school friends I was great, but when I joined, Arsenal already had players like Yunus Musah and Miguel Azeez and they were just a joke. They were miles clear of me.

But as an only child, my parents have always spoken to me as a young adult, and I feel like over the years, it's made me really mature for my age. That allowed me to process and understand those difficult situations because I could talk it through with my parents. We joke about it now because they know that I was thinking it too, but my parents were thinking 'Oh no, it's not looking good, is it?!'.

At one stage, I was honestly better at athletics than I was football. I started in Year Four doing cross country and came first in Hertfordshire every year for the next five years. I also completed a pentathlon in Year 10 for my school and I was invited to represent England, but that was the same year I picked up a nine-month injury at under-15 level. Things were certainly looking tough for me

in football at that time, but I've never stopped working hard and I'm so proud to be where I am today.

I think over the last 18 months in particular, I've improved a lot as a player – both on and off the pitch. Training with the under-23s from pre-season until now has played a massive part in that. Everything they do is so much more intense, so when I've come back to under-18s football, I feel more confident and I'm able to implement certain things to my game. I made a few mistakes for goals last season and I'm sure at some stage I will make another, but I really believe I've cleaned up my all-round game.

Another thing I've been working on is becoming more vocal on the pitch. Growing up at Arsenal, I was always very quiet and polite, but as a defender, you can really help your teammates by leading and giving instructions from the back. You have to be vocal as a defender and so many people were saying it to me, but as a kid, it just wasn't in my natural character. Playing with the under-23s has given me so much more confidence to do that and I really feel like it's added another layer to my game. Now, I just need to keep working hard. Who knows what the future holds. ■





## ALEX KIRK LOWDOWN

**Earliest memory of football** Playing in the garden with my dad

**Got me into playing football** My friends

**First footballer looked up to** Cristiano Ronaldo

**Favourite football shirt owned** Retro Arsenal 99 kit

**Best friend in football** All my teammates

**Team supported as a child** Manchester United

**Best goal of all-time** Messi vs Getafe

**Best goal I've scored** Against Southampton U-13

**Best player I've faced** Bukayo Saka in training

**Best game I've had** Against Manchester United

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

**Best piece of skill I've done in a game** Just a simple stepover!

## RATE YOURSELF

SPEED	██████████	80
SHOOTING	██████████	50
DRIBBLING	██████████	50
STRENGTH	██████████	80
PASSING	██████████	75
DEFENDING	██████████	80



5

AZEEZ 7, BALOGUN 10, 45, 90,  
MOLLER 86



0

Premier League 2  
Friday, January 22  
Meadow Park

**ARSENAL U23** Okonkwo,  
Alebiosu, Dinzei, Olowu,  
Lopez, Akinola, Azeez  
(Lewis 88), Cirjan (Taylor-  
Hart 72), Cottrell, Moller,  
Balogun

**SUBS NOT USED:**  
Hillson, Kirk, Ogunbo

**Best moment of my career so far** Signing my professional contract

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

**A player to score a one-on-one to save my life**  
Cristiano Ronaldo

**If I could change position** I'd be a striker

**Best training ground tip I've had** Work hard everyday

**Other sports I'm good at** Golf and athletics

**Favourite training drill** Small-sided games

**Ambitions this season away from the pitch** To get good A Level grades

**The important non-playing attributes for young footballers?** Determination and a good work ethic

**The biggest lesson learnt off the pitch** How to deal with injuries

**Something not many people know about me** My right foot is size 10 and my left is size 12

■ Bukayo Saka



**F**olarin Balogun delivered a performance to remember for our under-23s as we cruised to a 5-0 victory over Brighton last week.

It was also a fifth consecutive Premier League 2 victory for Steve Bould's side, seeing them climb up the table from 11th to fifth.

This was our youngsters' first competitive fixture in over a month, but there were no signs of rustiness at Meadow Park, as Miguel Azeez gave us an early lead.

The 18-year-old midfielder picked up possession on the edge of the area, skipped past his marker and then curled the ball into the top right corner.

Balogun then went on to double our advantage in style, kickstarting an attack by weaving between two defenders, before playing a one-two with Azeez and whipping the ball past Thomas McGill and into the far corner.

The 19-year-old forward looked dangerous every time he received the ball, and it wasn't long before he had his second of the night. Played through by Azeez on the counter, Balogun got his head down on the halfway line and charged at the Brighton defence, beating his marker for pace before finishing into the bottom corner.

Things only got better in the second half too, as Tim Akinola made a vital recovery on the edge of Brighton's defence and teed up Nikolaj Moller, who was left with the simple task of firing into an open goal.

Our entire team delivered an impressive performance, but captain Balogun in particular was outstanding, and deep into stoppage time he completed his hat-trick, controlling a loose ball inside the area to finish through the legs of McGill. ■



Hat-trick hero Folarin Balogun

Joseph Olowu steps forward







4

MONLOUIS 17, HUTCHINSON 45,  
TAYLOR-HART 49, OGUNGO 90



1

MATHURIN 40

**U-18 Premier League South**  
**Saturday, January 23**  
**London Colney**

**ARSENAL U18** Ejeheri (Graczyk 46), Norton-Cuffy, Kirk, Monlouis, Ogungbo, Hutchinson, Bandeira, Patino, Taylor-Hart (Plange 74), Sweet (Henry-Francis 70), Butler-Oyediji  
**SUBS NOT USED:** Sraha, Ideho



*Kido Taylor-Hart grabbed our third*



*Luke Plange came on for Taylor-Hart late on*



*Mazeed Ogungo enjoys that winning feeling*

**O**ur under-18s claimed bragging rights in the north London derby as they secured a 4-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur.

Ken Gillard's side were without Marcelo Flores and Khayon Edwards in attack, but that didn't stop them from delivering an impressive performance from start to finish at London Colney.

With just 17 minutes on the clock, Mauro Bandeira sent an inviting delivery into the penalty area and Zane Monlouis was on hand to finish after his initial header saved.

The visitors then went on to equalise against the run of play, with Roshawn Mathurin finding the bottom corner from 20 yards, but that didn't kill our spirit and with just seconds remaining of the first half, Omari Hutchinson produced a moment of magic.

Once again, it was Bandeira who kickstarted the move, setting Hutchinson free down the right wing, but the youngster had it all to do, and after chopping past his marker and skipping past another, he curled a stunning effort in off the post to restore our lead.

Following the restart, we continued to assert our dominance on the game and with a sweeping counter-attack, Kido Taylor-Hart received the ball out on the left, cut inside on to his right foot and fizzed the ball into the far corner at pace.

Tottenham's Jamie Donley then forced a good save from Hubert Graczyk, who replaced the injured Ovie Ejeheri at the break, before Mazeed Ogungo capped our first victory of 2021 with a sublime strike into the top corner. ■

*Omari Giraud-Hutchinson doubled our lead on the stroke of half-time with a wonderful strike*





Alex Kirk puts pen to paper. Read more from the defender on page 52



## ACADEMY

# NEWS

## ALEX GOES PRO!

As you may have read in our Young Gun feature, Alex Kirk has signed his first professional contract with us. The 18-year-old centre back has progressed through the academy age groups and is now a regular for our under-18s side.

Alex is known for his calm composure on the ball. He has featured regularly at the back for our under-18s this season and made his debut for our under-23s in October. Alex has also trained with our first team several times.

We congratulate Alex on his first professional contract and look forward to supporting him with his continued development. ■



## KEEPER IS HERE FOR KEEPS!

Young goalkeeper James Hillson (below) has signed a new contract with the club.

The 20 year old joined us on loan from Reading at the end of the 2018/19 season, before joining us on professional terms in July 2019.

Well done on your new contract James, here's to many more clean sheets in your Gunners career. ■



## JOHN-JULES FACING SPELL ON SIDELINES

Teenage striker Tyreece John-Jules has unfortunately suffered a hamstring injury while on loan with Doncaster Rovers, and he's since returned to north London for treatment.

John-Jules signed a season-long loan deal with the Rovers back in September, but manager Darren Moore is hopeful that the youngster will feature again before the end of the campaign.

"We anticipate that he's going to possibly miss two to three months of the campaign," said Moore.

"It's quite a lengthy one and in terms of the timescale and schedule of the season, it's a lot of games. I've let the dust settle a bit and he's gone back to Arsenal.

"I'll talk through with him our perspective for the remainder of the season and we'll go from there. It's a sad loss for us, with a player of that ilk and quality.

"We'll keep the loan alive to show from our side that if he makes that speedy recovery then he knows that there is an opportunity for him to come back and still have a part to play this season."

All the best with your recovery, Tyreece. ■







**ABOVE**  
How Karlsruhe announced his arrival this month

**LEFT**  
Xavier in action during the pre-season friendly against Boreham Wood in July 2019

## 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
Fri Jan 22	Brighton & HA	H	5-0
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
Sun Mar 7	Southampton	A	2.30pm
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
Tottenham Hotspur	13	7	2	4	27	23	4	23
Manchester City	12	6	4	2	34	20	14	22
Chelsea	11	7	1	3	25	16	9	22
Blackburn Rovers	12	6	4	2	22	19	3	22
Everton	13	5	4	4	21	14	7	19
<b>Arsenal</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
Liverpool	12	5	2	5	22	23	-1	17
Derby County	12	5	2	5	23	29	-6	17
Brighton & Hove Albion	14	4	4	6	18	31	-13	16
Manchester United	12	4	3	5	27	32	-5	15
Leicester City	13	5	0	8	24	30	-6	15
Southampton	11	3	2	6	18	21	-3	11
West Ham United	11	1	2	8	13	22	-9	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 23	Tottenham Hotspur	H	4-1
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
TBA	Aston Villa	A	TBA
TBA	Southampton	A	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	12	8	2	2	31	18	13	26
Crystal Palace	11	8	0	3	20	16	4	24
Tottenham Hotspur	12	6	4	2	30	14	16	22
Aston Villa	9	7	1	1	19	12	7	22
<b>Arsenal</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>
Brighton & Hove Albion	12	5	3	4	29	21	8	18
Chelsea	10	5	2	3	30	16	14	17
Norwich City	12	5	1	6	28	25	3	16
West Bromwich Albion	12	3	3	6	21	29	-8	12
West Ham United	10	3	1	6	14	26	-12	10
Reading	11	2	2	7	23	35	-12	8
Southampton	10	1	2	7	17	28	-11	5
Leicester City	11	0	2	9	15	42	-27	2

#### FA YOUTH CUP FIXTURES

Tue Dec 15	Rotherham United	A	2-1
Wed Jan 27	Blackburn Rovers	A	7pm

## ACADEMY

# ALUMNI

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

### XAVIER AMAECHI

Joining as a scholar in 2017/18 alongside the likes of Flo Balogun, Trae Coyle, Tyreece John-Jules and Mark McGuinness, Xavier had been part of the Arsenal Academy since 2013 and famed for his speed and dribbling. He played 18 under-18 games, scoring 10 goals and making one assist and made the step up to

the under-23s, playing 22 times at that level, scoring four times and getting eight assists.

However, two years after signing his scholarship, Xavier opted to pursue his career in the Bundesliga 2 with Hamburg and after joining them in July 2019 he made his debut in the German Cup against Chemnitzer two weeks later. The England Under-20 international was involved in numerous matchday squads in his first season, and made two appearances in the Bundesliga 2. In the 'Regionalliga Nord' he made four appearances and scored three goals.

This season however, Xavier has found opportunities hard to come by with Hamburg, with just 12 minutes as a sub in the league and two regional league appearances – when he scored twice. With opportunities limited, earlier this month Xavier was on the move to Karlsruhe – also in Bundesliga 2 – and he was immediately involved for Christian Eichner's side. The right winger was a late sub in their 1-1 draw with Heidenheim last Saturday and he will be hoping to make a real impression during the rest of the season. ■



# THE BREAKDOWN

## YOUTH APPEARANCES

PLAYER	PL2	EFLT	UI8	FAYC	PLIC	TOTAL
Folarin Balogun	11(6)	2(1)	-	-	-	13(7)
Ben Cottrell	11(3)	4	-	-	-	15(3)
Tim Akinola	10+1	3+1	-	-	-	13+2
Ryan Alebiosu	8+1	3	-	-	-	11+1
Nicolaj Moller	7(5)	1	-	-	-	8(5)
Miguel Azeez	6+4(1)	2+1(1)	-	-	-	8+5(2)
Catalin Cirjan	6+1(1)	2+1(1)	1	-	-	9+2(2)
William Saliba	6	2	-	-	-	8
Joel Lopez	5+1	3	-	-	-	8+1
Jonathan Dinzei	5+1	1	-	-	-	6+1
Karl Hein	5	1	-	-	-	6
George Lewis	4+1	1(1)	-	-	-	5+1(1)
James Olayinka	4(1)	2	-	-	-	6(1)
Jordan McEnuff	3+3	2(1)	-	-	-	5+3(1)
Daniel Oyegoke	3+1	1	-	-	-	4+1
Brooke Norton-Culfy	3+1	+1	6	1	-	10+2
Emile Smith Rowe	3(3)	1	-	-	-	4(3)
Calum Chambers	3(1)	1	-	-	-	4(1)
Tolaji Bola	3	1	-	-	-	4
Arthur Okonkwo	3	1	-	-	-	4
Harry Clarke	2	1	-	-	-	3
Matt Macey	2	1	-	-	-	3
Daniel Ballard	2	-	-	-	-	2
Pablo Mari	2	-	-	-	-	2
Joseph Olowu	2	-	-	-	-	2
Kido Taylor-Hart	1+2(1)	1+1	8(5)	1	-	11+3(6)
Salah-Eddine Oulad M'hand	1+1	1	-	-	-	2+1
Alex Kirk	1+1	+1	7(1)	1	-	9+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+1	-	-	7+1
James Hillson	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cedric Soares	1	-	-	-	-	1
Joe Willock	1	-	-	-	-	1
Zane Monlouis	+1	1	5+1(1)	1	-	7+2(1)
Khayon Edwards	+1	-	5+3(3)	-	-	5+4(3)
Mazeed Ogungbo	+1	-	5(1)	1(1)	-	6+1(2)
Taylor Foran	+1	-	3+2	-	-	3+3
Gabriel Martinelli	-	1	-	-	-	1
Matt Smith	-	1	-	-	-	1
Omar Giraud-Hutchinson	-	-	10(2)	1	-	11(2)
Charlie Patino	-	-	9	1(1)	-	10(1)
Mauro Bandeira	-	-	8+1	-	-	8+1
Marcelo Flores	-	-	7+2(3)	1	-	8+2(3)
Luke Plange	-	-	6+3(4)	-	-	6+3(4)
Ovie Ejeheri	-	-	4	1	-	5
James Sweet	-	-	3+1(1)	1	-	4+1(1)
Nathan Butler-Oyediji	-	-	2+2	1	-	3+2
Jack Henry-Francis	-	-	1+3	-	-	1+3
Henry Jeffcott	-	-	1+1	-	-	1+1
Billy Vigar	-	-	+3	-	-	+3
Jason Sraha	-	-	+1	-	-	+1
Own goals	(1)	-	(2)	-	-	(3)

Folarin Balogun



## SOUTHAMPTON FA CUP REPORT



GABRIEL OG 24



1

0

## EMIRATES FA CUP FOURTH ROUND

12.15pm • Saturday, January 23 • St Mary's Stadium

### FIRST HALF

We started the match slowly, and almost paid the price on 15 minutes when Che Adams skipped past Gabriel into the box, but his low shot across goal was kept out by a strong hand from Bernd Leno. Gabriel Martinelli had our first sight of goal, when he made a clever run from deep to latch on to Pepe's free-kick, but the Brazilian fluffed his chance when the ball arrived at his feet. It turned out to be costly, when Southampton took the lead midway through the half. Kyle Walker-Peters' low cross-shot was sliced past Leno and into his own net by the sliding Gabriel. The goal – the first we had conceded in 2021 – lifted the Saints, who began to get on top, and were pressing with even more enthusiasm.

### SECOND HALF

We started the second-half sluggishly too – until Thomas Partey and Bukayo Saka were summoned from the bench to try to inject some drive to our play. Eddie Nketiah and Rob Holding both missed chances in quick succession, but at last we were starting to see more of the ball. Nketiah again drew a low save from Fraser Forster's legs after being set up by Nicolas Pepe. There's no doubt we were increasing the pressure. But the home defence stood firm. Pepe's late free-kick flashed over the bar, and with it our hopes of retaining the FA Cup disappeared. ■

MATCH STATS		
11	TOTAL SHOTS	11
2	SHOTS ON TARGET	2
7	CORNERS	5
3	OFFSIDES	5
9	FUMLS	7
38	POSSESSION %	62

### SOUTHAMPTON

- 44 FORSTER
- 2 WALKER-PETERS
- 35 BEDNAREK
- 5 STEPHENS
- 3 BERTRAND
- 27 DIALLO
- 8 WARD-PROWSE
- 17 ARMSTRONG
- 32 WALCOTT
- 9 INGS (85)
- 10 ADAMS (79)

**SUBSTITUTES**  
LONG (85), NJINDULU (79), LEWIS, RAMSEY, VALERY, VOKINS, CHAUKE, JANKIEWITZ, WATTS

### ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 2 BELLERIN (71)
- 16 HOLDING
- 6 GABRIEL
- 17 CEDRIC
- 25 ELNENY (57)
- 34 XHAKA
- 19 PEPE
- 12 WILLIAN
- 35 MARTINELLI (57)
- 30 NKETIAH

**SUBSTITUTES**  
PARTEY (57), LACAZETTE (71), SAKA (57), MATTLAND-NILES, RUNARSSON, CHAMBERS, WILLOCK, RYAN, DAVID LUIZ



Fraser Forster makes a big save from Eddie Nketiah





Paul Pogba



## MANCHESTER UNITED

By: Mike Hammond

### FORMED

1878 (as Newton Heath),  
1902 as Manchester United

### NICKNAME

The Red Devils

### STADIUM

Old Trafford (74,140)

### HONOURS

First Division/Premier League winners **1907/08, 1910/11, 1951/52, 1955/56, 1956/57, 1964/65, 1966/67, 1992/93, 1993/94, 1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2002/03, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2010/11, 2012/13**  
 Second Division/Championship winners **1935/36, 1974/75**  
 FA Cup Winners **1909, 1948, 1963, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2016**  
 League Cup Winners **1992, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2017**  
 Charity Shield **1908, 1911, 1952, 1956, 1957, 1965, 1967, 1977, 1983, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016**  
 European Cup/Champions League winners **1968, 1999, 2008**  
 Europa League winner **2017**  
 European Cup Winners Cup winner **1991**  
 European Super Cup winner **1991**  
 Club World Cup winner **2008**

### OWNER

Manchester United plc

### CO-CHAIRMEN

Joel and Avram Glazer

### SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

Twitter **24.3M**  
 Instagram **38.8M**  
 Facebook **73.4M**

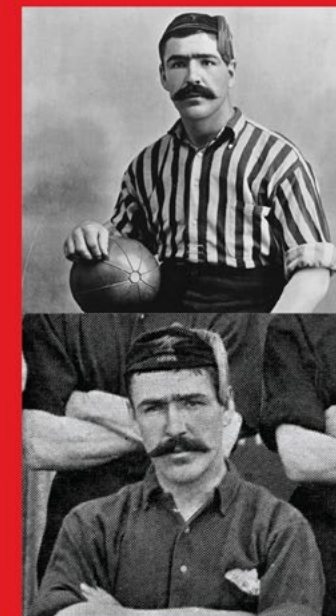
Manchester United are flying high in the 2020/21 Premier League as they bid to become champions again for the first time in eight years – and a record-extending 21st time in all. The Red Devils are on to their fourth manager since Sir Alex Ferguson finally took his leave after 27 years in charge – and no fewer than 13 league titles – with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hoping to achieve what David Moyes, Louis van Gaal and Jose Mourinho were unable to do and return United to the Premier League perch that became their natural habitat under the celebrated Scotsman.

If United are to go on to lift that Premier League trophy again, a major factor will be their remarkable away form. They are yet to be beaten on their travels this season, eight wins and two draws extending their undefeated away run in the league to 17 matches. Indeed, it is over a year since they lost away from Old Trafford in the league, a 2-0 defeat against Liverpool at Anfield on January 19, 2020 their last such reverse.

Perhaps more remarkable still has been United's ability to bounce back from conceding the opening goal. They conceded first in each of their opening six Premier League away games this season, yet won them all – 3-2 at Brighton, 4-1 at Newcastle, 3-1 at Everton, 3-2 at Southampton (when they were 2-0 down), 3-1 at West Ham and 3-2 at Sheffield United. Conversely, the first time they opened the scoring as visitors, against Leicester on Boxing Day, they could only draw 2-2. Their first clean sheets on the road came earlier this month – 1-0 at Burnley, 0-0 at Liverpool – before they returned to the familiar routine of conceding first and winning in a 2-1 victory ten days ago at Fulham that gave them a two-point lead at the top of the table after 19 matches.

United are also through to the fifth round of the FA Cup – where they take on West Ham at Old Trafford – thanks to another big comeback win, 3-2 at home to Liverpool last Sunday. However, they will not be appearing in the Carabao Cup final, having lost to neighbours Manchester City in the semi-final for the second year in a row, 2-0 at home. In fact, United appear to have a semi-final curse under Solskjaer as they were last-four losers last season also in the FA Cup – against Chelsea – and the Europa League – against eventual winners Sevilla.

United are back in the Europa League this season – alongside Arsenal, Leicester and Tottenham – having failed to get through their Champions League group. They looked to be firmly on course for the round of 16 when they beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 away and RB Leipzig 5-0 at home in their opening two matches, but three defeats in their last four games scuppered their chances, and their next European assignment is an intriguing Europa League round of 32 tie against Real Sociedad. Winners of that competition under Mourinho in 2017, United are without a trophy since, but given where they stand right now, it will be a major disappointment if they do not add some more silverware to their roll of honour this season.



## MUTUAL ADMIRATION

We believe the only player to have had the honour of captaining both Arsenal and Manchester United is Caesar Jenkyns. Whose full name, Caesar Augustus Llewellyn Jenkyns, hinted at his position as one of Victorian football's big characters.

He joined the Gunners in 1895, on being released by Small Heath – later Birmingham City – after Jenkyns assaulted two spectators. He went on to score six goals in 27 matches for Woolwich Arsenal and when he was capped for Wales, he became the Gunners' first international footballer.

With a very rugged style, he was frequently sent off in an era when this was a very rare occurrence and he took his physical style to Newton Heath – later Manchester United – in the summer of 1895 for a season in which he skipped the team.





**BORN** Maia, Portugal, 8/9/94

**PREVIOUSLY** Novara, Udinese, Sampdoria, Sporting Lisbon  
Signed a year ago yesterday by United on a five-and-a-half-year contract, Bruno has enjoyed a fantastic first 12 months at Old Trafford, becoming the team's chief creator and scorer of goals and transforming them into major contenders in every competition they enter. The 25-cap Portugal international, who helped his country win the 2019 Nations League, actually started his career in Italy before becoming a star midfielder at Sporting. His international profile has risen to a whole new level at United.



**BORN** Madrid, Spain, 7/11/90

**PREVIOUSLY** Atletico Madrid  
Widely regarded as one of the world's best goalkeepers over the past decade, David has been selected in the PFA Premier League team of the year five times and is now in his tenth season as United's No1 goalkeeper. Signed as Edwin van der Sar's replacement in 2011 from Atletico Madrid, he also subsequently became the successor to Spain's record cap-holder Iker Casillas and was his country's first-choice goalkeeper at the last two major tournaments.



**BORN** Manchester, 31/10/97

**PREVIOUSLY** None  
Mancunian native Marcus first burst on to the Premier League scene with two goals against Arsenal in a 3-2 win five years ago, and the pacy striker remains, at 23, one of English football's most exciting prospects, with a prominent role at this summer's Euro finals on his 2021 agenda. He has made a name for himself both on and off the field in recent months, receiving an MBE for his high-profile child food poverty campaign. The one-club man is close to reaching 250 appearances for United.



**BORN** Lagny-sur-Marne, France, 15/3/93

**PREVIOUSLY** Manchester United, Juventus  
Since returning to first club United in 2016 for a then world-record fee after four brilliant scudetto-winning seasons with Juventus, Paul has generally divided opinion among partisans and neutrals alike. Regularly touted for a move away from Old Trafford, the 2018 World Cup winner with France has generally blown hot and cold for United as well as suffering a number of injuries, but he has been in fine form of late, scoring spectacular winning goals at Burnley and Fulham.



**BORN** Sheffield, 5/3/93

**PREVIOUSLY** Sheffield United, Hull, Wigan (loan), Leicester  
Harry became the world's costliest defender when United signed him 18 months ago for £80m from Leicester, where he had spent the previous two seasons, in the midst of which he starred for England at the World Cup in Russia. Tall, comfortable in possession and aerially dominant, the 27-year-old Yorkshireman has not missed a minute of Premier League action since his arrival. With 30 caps, he is England's first choice in central defence.



**BORN** London, 26/11/97

**PREVIOUSLY** Crystal Palace  
Aaron joined United in the summer of 2019 for £50m after just one full season as a Premier League player with Crystal Palace. Affiliated to the south Londoners since the age of 11, Aaron was a revelation for the Eagles, establishing himself as one of the best right backs in the division, and has continued to progress at Old Trafford. Capped by England's Under-20 and Under-21 sides, the 23 year old will be hoping to make the grade at senior level before too long.



**BORN** Kingston upon Thames, 12/7/95

**PREVIOUSLY** Southampton  
Having become the world's most expensive teenager when United bought him as a 19 year old from Southampton for £30m back in 2014, Luke has had to contend with a number of injuries during his time at Old Trafford, which has restricted his development. However, he has been one of United's most consistent players this term with his charging runs down the left touchline and has re-emerged as a strong challenger for the England left-back slot.



**BORN** Salto, Uruguay, 14/2/87

**PREVIOUSLY** Danubio, Palermo, Napoli, Paris Saint-Germain  
Edinson will turn 34 next month but the vastly experienced Uruguay international striker has shown since his arrival at Old Trafford in October as a free agent that he has lost none of the sharp penalty-box instincts that made him such a prolific scorer for Napoli and Paris Saint-Germain. He scored exactly 200 goals in 301 appearances for the French giants, making him the club's all-time top marksman, before his contract ended last summer.

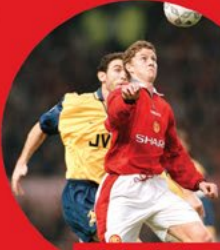


**BORN** February 26, 1973

**PREVIOUSLY** Molde (2010-14), Cardiff (2014), Molde (2015-19)  
Nicknamed the 'baby-faced assassin' by the Old Trafford faithful during a successful 11-year spell as a striker with United during which he won 10 trophies and scored 126 goals in 366 appearances, Ole Gunnar is probably most famous for his typically predatory stoppage-time winner in the 1999 Champions League final against Bayern Munich. He returned to the club in December 2018 as caretaker manager, replacing Jose Mourinho, before earning a permanent deal. The move to Manchester ended his lengthy association with Norwegian club Molde, which was briefly interrupted in 2014 when he took charge of Cardiff City.

## REMEMBER KIT WELL

All of Man United's kit sponsors  
1982-2000 – SHARP  
2000-06 – VODAFONE  
2006-10 – AIG  
2010-14 – AON  
2014-21 – CHEVROLET

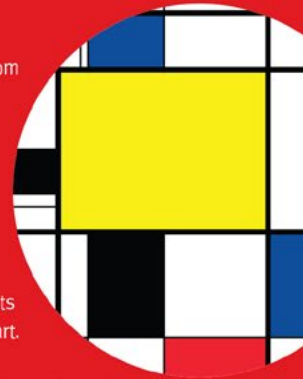


Solskjaer looking 'Sharp' in 96

## REALLY?!

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer last played against Arsenal at Old Trafford on **September 17, 2006** when Emmanuel Adebayor claimed all three points for Arsenal. Also on the losing side that day were Solskjaer's current right-hand men, **first-team coaches Michael Carrick and Darren Fletcher**. Another former teammate – and regular against Arsenal – **Nicky Butt**, is currently United's Head of First-Team Development

**Donny van de Beek** is from Amersfoort in the Netherlands, a municipality in the province of Utrecht. Amersfoort's most famous son is **Piet Mondrian**, one of the 20th century's great artists and pioneer of abstract art.



Recent United signing **Edinson Cavani** helped keep his fitness sharp by training with the National Ballet in Uruguay – he's a long-time fan of the **performance dance** and has said he'd like to break the stigma surrounding men doing ballet, saying they should be 'free to seek their happiness in what they are most passionate about'.

When new United signing **Amad Diallo** scored for Atalanta against Udinese on October 27, 2019, he became **Serie A's youngest ever goalscorer** at 17 years 108 days. He was also the first player born after the 2002 World Cup to score in the division.





## FIRST IMPRESSION

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

It's April 5, 1912 and Woolwich Arsenal forward Charles Lewis – we think – jumps into Manchester United goalkeeper Hugh Edmonds, while a United defender looks on during the Gunners 2-1 win at the Manor Ground in Plumstead. Alf Common – who had been the world's first £1,000 player when he'd moved from Sunderland to Middlesbrough in 1905 – scored both goals for Arsenal with Sandy Turnbull scoring for United. The win ended a poor run for George Morrell's Arsenal, who had lost their three previous games, but the Gunners ended the season a respectable 10th in the 20-team league – with United three places behind. The Gunners wore their traditional red shirts with white shorts and black socks. United sported exactly the same combination at the time, and were therefore in their blue and white striped away shirts, with white shorts and black socks. The 'Brilliant Beers' in question were Beasley's, a local brewery in Plumstead long since demolished. ■



## PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

AFC WINS

16

DRAWS

17

MUFC WINS

24

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE **28**

## ALL-TIME RECORD

AFC WINS

84

DRAWS

52

MUFC WINS

97

ARSENAL WIN PERCENTAGE **36**

5

Arsenal and United filled the top two spaces in the Premier League for five out of six seasons between 1998 and 2003

4,015

Arsenal and United are the top two scorers in Premier League history, with a combined 4,015 goals

50

Ryan Giggs played in this fixture more than any other player, appearing against us in 50 of the total 233 matches

### BELOW

David de Gea kept a clean sheet at Anfield a fortnight ago

### BOTTOM

Dangerman Bruno Fernandes scored the match-winning goal against Liverpool in the FA Cup fourth round



# SCOUTING REPORT

BY Michael Cox

Since Arsenal produced a fine performance to defeat Manchester United 1-0 in the reverse fixture in early November, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side have won 11 of 15 Premier League games. They also have a habit of performing better away from Old Trafford, particularly because of their counter-attacking speed, and boasted a good record in big games even before their dramatic recent improvement against the top-flight's lesser lights, with a surprise change of shape often effective.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has generally played 4-2-3-1 this season, although there have been experiments with a midfield diamond and 'split strikers' playing from the flanks. Either way, the man who dominates this United side is Bruno

Fernandes, who was immediately handed the No 10 role upon his transfer from Sporting Lisbon this time last year, and has produced a remarkably consistent stream of performances. Capable of knitting the play together in deep positions before breaking into the box to score goals, Fernandes is United's obvious danger man.

The aforementioned counter-attacking speed comes primarily from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial. Rashford usually plays from the left, from where he can cut inside and shoot, but he also likes playing first-time around-the-corner passes towards United's central striker. Rashford has also been used on the right on occasion, while for the recent 0-0 draw with Liverpool, he was deployed up front with regular No 9 Anthony Martial switching to the left, where he occupied Trent Alexander-Arnold effectively. That said, Martial has more regularly played up front, where his link play has improved dramatically.

Edinson Cavani is also available if Solskjaer wants a purer No 9; still boasting a turn of speed but a much greater aerial threat than his attacking colleagues, while the two-footed Mason Greenwood can theoretically play anywhere in the final third, but is generally used on the right flank. Creative midfielders Juan Mata and Donny van de Beek are alternative options in the final third.

Paul Pogba has experienced a resurgence in form recently, although as always there's a question about his best role – he was deployed on the right in the recent league draw with Liverpool. He can play deep in a 4-2-3-1, although in big games Solskjaer tends to prefer a combination of Scott McTominay and Fred, which offers better protection for the back four.

United's defensive record isn't particularly impressive, although the combination of captain Harry Maguire and the calm, intelligent Victor Lindelof has worked well, with Eric Bailly capable of replacing the latter to provide more speed at the back. Luke Shaw is in good form at left back, keeping newcomer Alex Telles out of the side, while Aaron Wan-Bissaka isn't a natural going forward but is one of the best tacklers in the Premier League. In goal, David De Gea has performed some heroics at the Emirates over the years, although probably hasn't been at his best over the past year. ■



# ARSENAL WOMEN

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



BRUTON 5



MIEDEMA 40



**WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 MADEJSKI STADIUM**

**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 made a disappointing start to 2021 as we were held to a 1-1 draw by Reading at the Madejski Stadium.

Anna Patten was handed her second Arsenal debut after rejoining the club last week, while Lia Walti made her first start since returning from injury.

Lining up in an attacking 3-2-2-3 formation, Joe Montemurro would have hoped for a fast start from his side, but it was the hosts who came flying out of the blocks, with two former Gunners combining for the opener.

Standing over a free-kick, Emma Mitchell whipped a dangerous delivery into the penalty area and Lauren Bruton was on hand to finish at the near post after just five minutes.

This should have been the wake-up call we needed, but over the next half hour, we remained sloppy in possession and struggled to cut through Reading's aggressive press.

Vivianne Miedema only needs one chance in front of goal, though, so when Jill Roord's glancing header was

saved and pushed back into the penalty area, our No 11 was well-placed to level the scores.

The Netherlands international has now scored 12 Women's Super League goals in just 11 fixtures this season.

But that late first-half push wasn't enough for Montemurro, as he opted for a triple change at the break.

With our troubles in playing out from the back, Jen Beattie and Leah Williamson replaced Lotte Wubben-Moy and Patten, while Malin Gut was swapped out for Beth Mead, with Lisa Evans filling in at right back.

These changes saw us carve our three golden opportunities in quick succession.

First, Miedema fired wide from close range following some exceptional wing play by Mead, before the latter was played through on goal and uncharacteristically fired over the bar.

Jill Roord's instinctive flicked effort was then somehow clawed away by Grace Moloney.

We continued to search for a winner, placing the Royals under some late pressure, but we were ultimately made to pay for a sloppy first-half performance and a lack of composure and quality in the final third. ■



## WEST HAM GAME POSTPONED

Our home fixture against West Ham United Women at Meadow Park last Sunday, January 24, was called off due to a frozen pitch and extreme weather warnings.

The Barclays FA Women's Super League fixture was due to kick off at 12pm GMT, however following a pitch inspection at 9:30am and extreme weather warnings, the fixture had to be postponed.

A new date for the fixture has yet to be confirmed. ■



LEFT Anna Patten in action on her second Arsenal debut

MAIN PIC Vivianne Miedema is in the right place at the right time – as usual

### 2020/21 FIXTURES

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

\*Arsenal won on penalties

### WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (AT JAN 27)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
MANCHESTER UNITED	12	9	2	1	30	11	19	29
CHELSEA	10	8	2	0	30	6	24	26
MANCHESTER CITY	11	7	3	1	37	10	27	24
<b>ARSENAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>
EVERTON	10	5	2	3	21	15	6	17
READING	13	3	6	4	16	23	-7	15
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	10	3	3	4	13	18	-5	12
BIRMINGHAM CITY	10	3	1	6	9	15	-6	10
BRIGHTON & HA	12	2	3	7	8	26	-18	9
WEST HAM UNITED	10	2	1	7	13	24	-11	7
ASTON VILLA	10	2	1	7	10	26	-16	7
BRISTOL CITY	11	0	2	9	6	49	-43	2





ARMSTRONG 3



PEPE 8, SAKA 39, LACAZETTE 72

1

## PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 20

8.15pm • Tuesday, January 26 • St Mary's Stadium

### FIRST HALF

We almost went ahead within two minutes of kick-off. Granit Xhaka released Alex Lacazette into the box, but Alex McCarthy saved the Frenchman's low shot. The Saints went up the other end and took the lead, through a thumping Stuart Armstrong volley from James Ward-Prowse's out-swinging corner. But we soon restored parity, Nicolas Pepe keeping his cool in the box after a pass from Xhaka and sliding the ball home. It was an entertaining, end-to-end match and we went into the break in the lead thanks to a wonderful goal from Bukayo Saka. Lacazette fed the youngster with a perfectly weighted pass, and he skipped past McCarthy and rolled the ball home right footed from outside the box. It was his fourth goal in his last six league starts.

### SECOND HALF

It was a much more measured start to the second half. The game was on a knife edge as the hosts began to peg us back. But our third goal killed their impetus. The impressive Cedric found Saka on the opposite flank, and his low, first-time cross was converted from close range by Lacazette. Bernd Leno made a superb save from a James Ward-Prowse free-kick late on and Rob Holding tackled Che Adams in the area as Southampton made us work until the last minute for the three points that lifted us up to eighth.

MATCH STATS	
13	TOTAL SHOTS 9
5	SHOTS ON TARGET 5
4	CORNERS 5
2	OFFSIDES 2
11	FOULS 6
58	POSSESSION % 42

#### SOUTHAMPTON

- 1 MCCARTHY
- 18 VALERY
- 5 STEPHENS
- 35 BEDNAREK
- 29 VOKINS (67)
- 17 ARMSTRONG
- 8 WARD-PROWSE
- 27 DIALLO
- 32 WALCOTT (74)
- 10 ADAMS
- 9 INGS (74)

#### SUBSTITUTES

FRSTER, LONG, REDMOND (67), NLINDULU (74), RAMSEY, FERRY, JANKIEWITZ, WATTS (74), CHAUKE

#### ARSENAL

- 1 LENO
- 17 CEDRIC
- 23 DAVID LUIZ
- 16 HOLDING
- 2 BELLERIN
- 34 XHAKA
- 18 PARTEY (78)
- 7 SAKA
- 9 LACAZETTE
- 19 PEPE (90)
- 32 SMITH ROWE (72)

#### SUBSTITUTES

ELNENY (78), WILLIAN (72), MARTINELLI, MAITLAND-NILES, GABRIEL, WILLOCK (90), RYAN, CHAMBERS, NKETIAH



#### MATCH ACTION

##### PREVIOUS PAGE

Nicolas Pepe sweeps home the equaliser

##### TOP

Bukayo Saka steers home the second goal from outside the box

##### MIDDLE LEFT

Cedric had an excellent night in defence...

##### MIDDLE RIGHT

...as did Rob Holding making his 100th appearance

##### BOTTOM LEFT

Alexandre Lacazette flies in to get the crucial third goal ...

##### BOTTOM RIGHT

...and ends up in a heap in the Southampton goal – but happy!



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## THE BREAKDOWN CHALKBOARD



### AUBA AND AUBA AGAIN

**B**y his own lofty standards, it's been a frustrating season for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang – but our captain was back to his very best against Newcastle United in our last home game.

Decisive on the ball and lightning quick on the counter, Aubameyang looked full of confidence as he converted his first Premier League goal since December 16, before adding another to his tally just 27 minutes later.

But even before these goals, our No 14 displayed a number of promising signs.

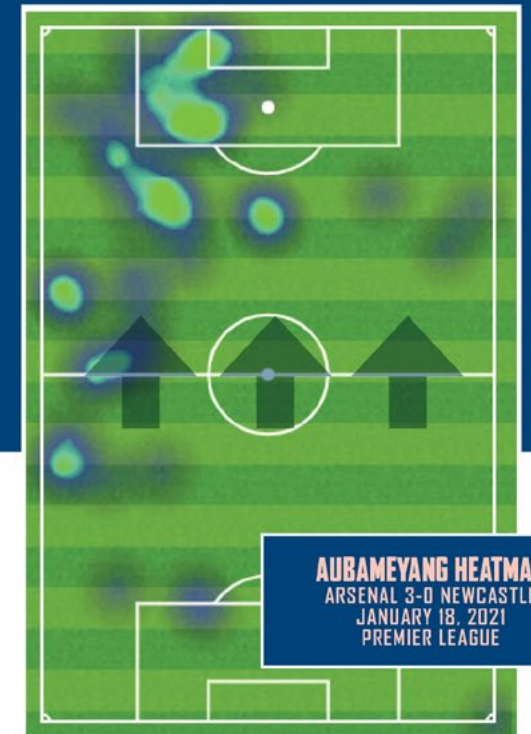
In recent months, Aubameyang has seemingly struggled a little for confidence in the final third, with clear-cut chances arriving few and far between. But with Thomas Partey's probing passes in midfield, Auba gained confidence with some early touches and runs against the Magpies.

Our captain struck the woodwork and twice fired wide in the first-half, but most importantly, he kept his head held high and continued to ask questions of Newcastle's defence.

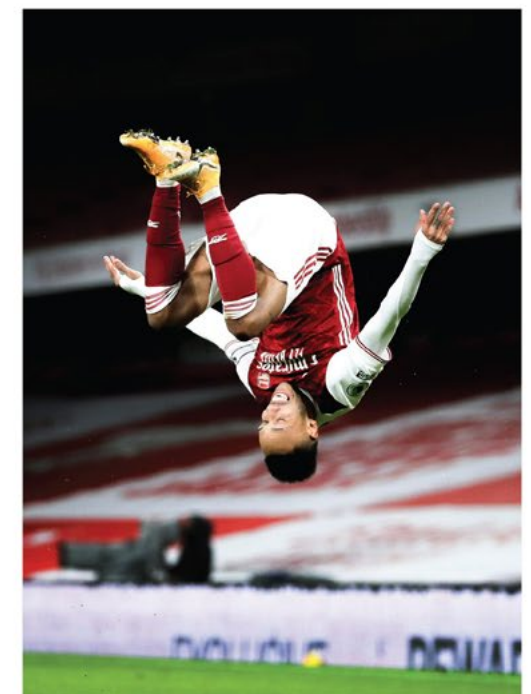
His persistence was rewarded: each of Aubameyang's next two shots at goal were duly converted.

In fact, no other player at Emirates Stadium that night attempted more shots than our captain (5). His general play was excellent too, as he registered two open play crosses and combined with Kieran Tierney seven times down the left flank.

When Auba finds his way into the opposition penalty area, there are few players better in world football – and his heat map against Newcastle certainly makes for pleasant viewing. If we can continue feeding our captain chances, the goals will take care of themselves. ■



AUBAMEYANG HEATMAP  
ARSENAL 3-0 NEWCASTLE  
JANUARY 18, 2021  
PREMIER LEAGUE





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

Win  
Draw  
Loss  
+ = Won on pens

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

Bold fixture = Scorer  
Bold player = Goal scored  
Goal  
Penalty

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

	DATE	OPPOSITION	F-A	POS /RND	ATT/KO	STARTING XI	SUBSTITUTES										REFEREE
SEPTEMBER	Sat 29	Liverpool	1-1+	CS	BCD #	Martinez Bellerin Holding David Luiz Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	Saka Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	Cedric(59) Nelson(82) Willock(82) Kolasinac(83) Saliba	Smith Rowe John-Jules Olayinka Leno	A. Marriner							
	Sat 12	Fulham	3-0	1	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(75) Ceballos(78) Nketiah(87) Saka Willock Kolasinac Macey	C. Kavanagh								
	Sat 19	West Ham United	2-1	2	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Ceballos Xhaka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(64) Nketiah(77) David Luiz(89) M-Niles Elneny Willock Macey	M. Oliver								
OCTOBER	Wed 23	Leicester City	2-0*	CC3	BCD	Leno M-Niles Holding DAVID LUIZ Kolasinac Saka Elneny Willock	Pepe Nelson Nketiah	William(72) Ceballos(78) Bellerin(87) Saliba Lacazette Xhaka Runarsson	P. Bankes								
	Mon 28	Liverpool	1-3	5	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding David Luiz Tierney M-Niles Elneny Xhaka	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								
NOVEMBER	Sun 4	Sheffield United	2-1	4	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos	Pepe Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(58) Xhaka(81) M-Niles(87) Willock Holding Lacazette Runarsson	L. Mason								
	Sat 17	Manchester City	0-1	5	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos Xhaka	Pepe William AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(69) Nketiah(83) Partey(83) Elneny M-Niles Runarsson	C. Kavanagh								
	Thur 22	Rapid Vienna	2-1	MD1	3,000	Leno Cedric David Luiz Gabriel Kolasinac Saka Elneny Partey	Pepe LACAZETTE Nketiah	Aubameyang(61) Bellerin(61) Tierney(84) Willock(84) Nelson(90) Mustafi M-Niles Xhaka Runarsson Macey	P. Kralovec								
DECEMBER	Sun 25	Leicester City	0-1	10	BCD	Leno Bellerin David Luiz Gabriel Tierney Saka Ceballos Partey	Xhaka Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Mustafi(49) Pepe(65) Nketiah(81) Elneny M-Niles Willock Runarsson	C. Pawson								
	Thur 29	Dundalk	3-0	MD2	BCD	Runarsson Cedric XHAKA Mustafi Kolasinac M-Niles Elneny Willock	Nelson Pepe Nketiah	Ceballos(61) William(62) Tierney(74) Balogun(74) Gabriel Saka Partey Aubameyang Bellerin Lacazette Leno Hein	F. Glova								
	Sun 1	Manchester United	1-0	8	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Partey	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Nketiah(76) M-Niles(86) Mustafi(87) Xhaka Pepe Ceballos Runarsson	M. Dean								
JANUARY	Thur 5	Molde	4-1**	MD3	BCD	Leno M-Niles David Luiz Mustafi Kolasinac Willock Ceballos XHAKA	William Pepe Nketiah	Cedric(64) Saka(64) Elneny(80) Tierney(80) Lacazette Gabriel Bellerin Aubameyang Partey Holding Runarsson Macey	H. Meler								
	Sun 8	Aston Villa	0-3	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Saka Elneny Partey	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(46) Pepe(65) Nketiah(65) M-Niles David Luiz Xhaka Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Sun 22	Leeds United	0-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Willock	Pepe William AUBAMEYANG	Nelson(46) Saka(57) M-Niles(90) Lacazette Mustafi Nketiah Runarsson	A. Taylor								
FEBRUARY	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								
	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) Willian(63) Chambers(70) Balogun(81) Tierney Saka Holding Willock Azeez Macey Leno	R. Petrescu								
MARCH	Sun 6	Tottenham Hotspur	0-2	15	2,000	Leno Bellerin Holding Gabriel Tierney Xhaka Partey Saka	William Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Ceballos(45) Nketiah(75) Mustafi Elneny Willock M-Niles Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Thur 10	Dundalk	4-2	MD6	BCD	Runarsson Cedric Mari Chambers Mustafi M-Niles Elneny Willock	Smith Rowe Pepe Nketiah	Ceballos(62) Balogun(62) Cottrell(77) Azeez(83) Holding Saka Hein Macey	I. Bebek								
	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								
APRIL	Wed 16	Southampton	1-1	15	BCD	Leno M-Niles Holding Gabriel Tierney Ceballos Elneny Saka	Pepe Nketiah AUBAMEYANG	David Luiz(65) Willock(67) Cedric(85) William Lacazette Mustafi Runarsson	P. Tierney								
	Sat 19	Everton	1-2	15	2,000	Leno M-Niles HOLDING David Luiz Tierney Ceballos Elneny Saka	Pepe William Nketiah	Willock(64) Martinelli(71) Lacazette(76) Cedric Bellerin Smith Rowe Kolasinac Mustafi Runarsson	A. Marriner								
	Tue 22	Manchester City	1-4	QF	BCD	Runarsson Cedric Mustafi Gabriel Kolasinac Ceballos Elneny M-Niles	Willock Martineili LACAZETTE	Pepe(49) Smith Rowe(66) Balogun(77) Mari Tierney Nketiah Leno	S. Attwell								
MAY	Sat 26	Chelsea	3-1	14	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	Smith Rowe Martineili LACAZETTE	Willock(65) Pepe(71) Mustafi(90) Ceballos Aubameyang Cedric Nketiah M-Niles Runarsson	M. Oliver								
	Tue 29	Brighton & HA	1-0	13	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Elneny Saka	Smith Rowe Martineili AUBAMEYANG	Lacazette(63) Ceballos(81) M-Niles(89) Willock Cedric Mustafi Pepe Nketiah Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
	Sat 2	West Brom	4-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding Mari Tierney Xhaka Ceballos Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	M-Niles(54) Willian(71) Willock(77) Pepe David Luiz Elneny Martinelli Nketiah Runarsson	M. Atkinson								
JUNE	Sat 9	Newcastle United	2-0	R3	BCD	Leno Cedric David Luiz Mari Tierney Willock Elneny Nelson	William Pepe AUBAMEYANG	Smith Rowe(56) Xhaka(66) Saka(66) Lacazette(105) Balogun(120) Chambers Nketiah Runarsson	C. Kavanagh								
	Thur 14	Crystal Palace	0-0	11	BCD	Leno Bellerin Holding David Luiz M-Niles Xhaka Ceballos Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Pepe(65) Partey(69) Nketiah(81) Willock Cedric Gabriel William Chambers Runarsson	A. Marriner								
	Mon 18	Newcastle United	3-0	10	BCD	Leno Cedric Holding David Luiz Tierney Xhaka Partey Saka	Smith Rowe Lacazette AUBAMEYANG	Elneny(67) Willian(79) Martinelli(81) Willock Bellerin Gabriel Nketiah Pepe Runarsson	D.Coote								
JULY	Sat 23	Southampton	0-1	R4	BCD	Leno BELLERIN Holding Gabriel Cedric Xhaka Elneny William	Pepe Martineili Nketiah	Partey(57) Saka(58) Lacazette(72) Willock M-Niles Chambers David Luiz Ryan Runarsson	P. Bankes								
	Tue 26	Southampton	3-1	8	BCD	Leno BELLERIN Holding David Luiz Cedric Xhaka Partey Saka	Smith Rowe Pepe Lacazette	William(72) Elneny(78) Willock(90) Gabriel M-Niles Chambers Nketiah Martinelli Ryan	K.Friend								
	Sat 30	Manchester United			5.30pm												
AUGUST	Tue 2	Wolverhampton Wanderers			6pm												
	Sat 6	Aston Villa			12.30pm												
	Sun 14	Leeds United			4.30pm												
SEPTEMBER	Thur 18	Benfica		R32	8pm												
	Sun 21	Manchester City			4.30pm												
	Thur 25	Benfica		R32	5.55pm												
OCTOBER	Sun 28	Leicester City															
	Sat 6	Burnley															
	Thur 10	UEFA R16 L1			R16												
NOVEMBER	S/S 13/14	Tottenham Hotspur															
	Thur 17	UEFA R16 L2			R16												
	S/S 20/21	West Ham United															
DECEMBER	Sat 3	Liverpool															
	Thur 8	UEFA QF L1			QF												
	S/S 10/11	Sheffield United															
JANUARY	Thur 15	UEFA QF L2			QF												
	S/S 17/18	Fulham															
	Sat 24	Everton															
FEBRUARY	Thur 29	UEFA SF L1			SF												
	S/S 1/2	Newcastle United															
	Thur 6	UEFA SF L2			SF												
MARCH	S/S 8/9	West Bromwich Albion															
	T/W 11/12	Chelsea															
	Sat 15	Crystal Palace															
APRIL	Sun 23	Brighton & HA															
	Wed 26	UEFA Europa League Final															



FIRST-TEAM APPEARANCES (GOALS)

PLAYER	PL	UEL	FAC	CC	CS	20/21
Bernd Leno	20	2	2	2	-	26
Bukayo Saka	17+1(4)	1+1	+2	2	1	21+4(4)
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	17(5)	+1(1)	1(1)	-	1(1)	19+1(8)
Kieran Tierney	17(1)	+4	1	-	1	19+4(1)
Hector Bellerin	17	+1	1	+1	1	19+2
Rob Holding	16+1	+1	1	2	1	20+2
Granit Xhaka	15+1(1)	3	1+1	1	1	21+2(1)
Alexandre Lacazette	13+4(8)	3(1)	+2	1+1(1)	-	17+7(10)
Willian	12+3	1+2	2	+1	-	15+6
Gabriel	12(2)	1	1	2	-	16(2)
Mohamed Elneny	11+2	4+1(1)	2	2+1	1	20+4(1)
Dani Ceballos	10+6	1+4	-	2+1	-	13+11
David Luiz	9+2	3(1)	1	1	1	15+2(1)
Thomas Partey	6+2	1	+1	-	-	7+3
Emile Smith Rowe	6	+3(1)	+1(1)	+1	-	6+5(2)
Nicolas Pepe	5+8(3)	6(3)	2	2+1	-	15+9(6)
Ainsley Maitland-Niles	5+6	5	+1	2+1	1	13+8
Eddie Nketiah	3+10(1)	6(3)	1	2(1)	1	13+10(5)
Pablo Mari	3	2(1)	1	-	-	6(1)
Joe Willock	2+5	4+1(3)	1	3	+1	10+7(3)
Gabriel Martinelli	2+2	-	1	1	-	4+2
Cedric Soares	2+1	5+1	2	2	+1	11+3
Sead Kolasinac	1	4	-	3	+1	8+1
Shkodran Mustafi	+3	5	-	1	-	6+3
Reiss Nelson	+2	3+1(1)	1	1	+1	5+4(1)
Alex Runarsson	-	4	-	1	-	5
Calum Chambers	-	1+1	-	-	-	1+1
Folarin Balogun	-	+4(2)	-	+1	-	+5(2)
Miguel Azeez	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Ben Cottrell	-	+1	-	-	-	+1
Emiliano Martinez	-	-	-	-	1	1
Own goals	-	(2)	-	(1)	-	(3)

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1. Manchester City	19	12	5	2	23	41
2. Manchester Utd	19	12	4	3	11	40
3. Leicester City	19	12	2	5	14	38
4. West Ham United	20	10	5	5	6	35
5. Liverpool	19	9	7	3	15	34
6. Tottenham	18	9	6	3	16	33
7. Everton	17	10	2	5	7	32
<b>8. Arsenal</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>
9. Aston Villa	17	9	2	6	13	29
10. Chelsea	19	8	5	6	10	29
11. Southampton	19	8	5	6	3	29
12. Leeds United	19	8	2	9	-3	26
13. Crystal Palace	20	6	5	9	-12	23
14. Wolves	19	6	4	9	-8	22
15. Burnley	18	5	4	9	-12	19
16. Newcastle United	20	5	4	11	-15	19
17. Brighton & HA	19	3	8	8	-7	17
18. Fulham	18	2	6	10	-12	12
19. West Brom	20	2	5	13	-33	11
20. Sheffield Utd	19	1	2	16	-22	5

As at Tuesday, January 26



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# 146 LIVE GAMES THIS SEASON



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## MY ARSENAL

**Name** Gavin Garthwaite

**Age** 37

**Live in** Cheltenham

**Occupation** Customer Relationship Manager

**Type of Membership** Silver

**Why are you an Arsenal fan?** An Arsenal supporting Uncle got to me early, just in time for the 1988/89 season, and the rest is history!

**First Arsenal game?** Arsenal v Sampdoria on August 4, 1991 (Makita Trophy). Gianluca Vialli equalised Paul Merson's opener.

**Matchday routine?** Avoid wearing any Arsenal clothing that I've worn, where we've lost a game!

**Favourite place to eat pre-match?** The Little Wonder Cafe. Great atmosphere, food and lots of Arsenal memorabilia.

**Favourite place to hang out before kick-off?** Either in the club shop, or near one of the statues.

**How do you feel when you approach the ground?** Always optimistic of securing a win, when at home.

**Favourite away ground?** Bournemouth. Small and intimate and you got the feeling the local supporters genuinely appreciated seeing the likes of Arsenal play.

**Do you collect Arsenal-related memorabilia?** Some say too much! Programmes, magazines, team sheets, autographs, videos and DVDs and books – there's not much I haven't got! My favourite's a signed 1990/91 team photo. Just means more with David Rocastle's autograph.

**All-time favourite player?** Has to be Thierry Henry. He was the best player in the world for a good few years, when at Arsenal, and should've picked up more personal accolades in my opinion.



Gavin and his son Caleb – who is today's Virtual Mascot!

**Your cult hero?** Anders Limpar the Super Swede. Had so much flair and ability. Just wished he would've stayed with us for much longer than he did.

**Best Arsenal goal you've seen live?** Alexis' free-kick against Southampton in the League Cup, in 2014

**Best debut performance you've ever seen?** Ian Wright against Southampton in 1992. Started scoring straightaway and then couldn't stop!

**Ever met any Arsenal players?** I met Arsène Wenger a couple of times, near the ground. A great Arsenal man. Also got to hug Ian Wright at a book signing in Reading, to thank him for all the goals he scored in my childhood!

**Current player you'd most like to go for dinner with?** Kieran Tierney or Gabriel Martinelli – both extremely passionate about playing for the club and have the desire and ability to become club legends

**You can erase one Arsenal moment from history?** Jens Lehmann's red card in Paris. Should have won the game and a fitting end for some of the Invincibles team

**If you could play in any Arsenal team in history, which would it be and who would you replace?** Has to be the Invincibles Team. I would slot in alongside Sol Campbell (sorry Kolo) and allow the world class players to do their business! ■





## ARSENAL

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

P S SQ

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



## MANCHESTER UNITED

MANAGER OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER  
DARK GREEN SHIRTS, SHORTS AND SOCKS

P S SQ

OO		<b>1</b>	<b>DAVID DE GEA (GK)</b> (17)
OO		<b>2</b>	<b>VICTOR LINDELOF</b> (14/1)
OO		<b>3</b>	<b>ERIC BAILLY</b> (6+1)
OO		<b>4</b>	<b>PHIL JONES</b>
OO		<b>5</b>	<b>HARRY MAGUIRE</b> (19/1)
OO		<b>6</b>	<b>PAUL POGBA</b> (12+4/3)
OO		<b>7</b>	<b>EDINSON CAVANI</b> (4+8/4)
OO		<b>8</b>	<b>JUAN MATA</b> (4+2)
OO		<b>9</b>	<b>ANTHONY MARTIAL</b> (13+2/2)
OO		<b>10</b>	<b>MARCUS RASHFORD</b> (17+2/7)
OO		<b>11</b>	<b>MASON GREENWOOD</b> (9+4/1)
OO		<b>13</b>	<b>LEE GRANT (GK)</b>
OO		<b>14</b>	<b>JESSE LINGARD</b>
OO		<b>15</b>	<b>ANDREAS PEREIRA</b>
OO		<b>16</b>	<b>MARCOS ROJO</b>
OO		<b>17</b>	<b>FRED</b> (12+2)
OO		<b>18</b>	<b>BRUNO FERNANDES</b> (18+1/11)
OO		<b>19</b>	<b>AMAD DIALLO</b>
OO		<b>20</b>	<b>DIOGO DALOT</b>
OO		<b>21</b>	<b>DANIEL JAMES</b> (5+1/1)
OO		<b>22</b>	<b>SERGIO ROMERO (GK)</b>
OO		<b>23</b>	<b>LUKE SHAW</b> (14+1)
OO		<b>25</b>	<b>ODION IGHALO</b> (0+1)
OO		<b>26</b>	<b>DEAN HENDERSON (GK)</b> (2+1)
OO		<b>27</b>	<b>ALEX TELLES</b> (5+1)
OO		<b>28</b>	<b>FACUNDO PELLISTRI</b>
OO		<b>29</b>	<b>AARON WAN-BISSAKA</b> (17/1)
OO		<b>31</b>	<b>NEMANJA MATIC</b> (7+4)
OO		<b>33</b>	<b>BRANDON WILLIAMS</b> (0+1)
OO		<b>34</b>	<b>DONNY VAN DE BEEK</b> (2+8/1)
OO		<b>37</b>	<b>JAMES GARNER</b>
OO		<b>38</b>	<b>AXEL TUANZEBE</b> (0+4)
OO		<b>39</b>	<b>SCOTT MCTOMINAY</b> (11+6/2)
OO		<b>40</b>	<b>JOEL PEREIRA (GK)</b>
OO		<b>43</b>	<b>TEDEN MENGI</b>
OO		<b>44</b>	<b>TAHITH CHONG</b>

## MATCH OFFICIALS

### REFEREE

Michael Oliver

### ASSISTANT REFEREES

Stuart Burt  
Simon Bennett

### FOURTH OFFICIAL

Robert Jones

### VAR OFFICIAL

Paul Tierney

### ADDITIONAL VAR OFFICIAL

Andrew Halliday

## TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Everton v Newcastle United (12.30pm)

Crystal Palace v Wolverhampton Wanderers (3pm)

Manchester City v Sheffield United (3pm)

West Bromwich Albion v Fulham (3pm)

Southampton v Aston Villa (8pm)

(Numbers in brackets = Premier League appearances/goals 2020/21, correct at 26/11/21)



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