

IAN WRIGHT CLUB LEGEND



Ian Wright has always had a special place in the hearts of Arsenal fans. Not only for becoming the club's record goalscorer but for his passion for the club, unique footballing journey and huge personality.

Ian Wright scored every kind of goal you can imagine: scrappy tap-ins, solo runs, chips from 30 yards, powerful volleys, the lot. And whatever the goal was like, he would celebrate as though it was the first goal he'd ever scored. He just loved scoring goals. Supporters loved Ian as they recognised what he was; a football fan living his dream and enjoying every second of it.

Ian got his chance in football later than most professional players. He had a trial with Crystal Palace and signed his first professional contract just before his 22nd birthday. Before that he had been playing Sunday league football while working as a plasterer. He went on to become a

legend at Crystal Palace, he was even named their "Player of the Century."

In September 1991 Arsenal signed the striker for £2.5 million, which was a club record fee at the time. Ian scored on his debut in a League Cup tie with Leicester City, then netted a hatrick against Southampton in his first league game! Two years after joining the Gunners, "Wrighty" had his first winner's medals as Arsenal completed the cup double in 1993. The following year the team won the European Cup Winners' Cup, although Ian was suspended for the final against Parma. He was a goal machine and finished as Arsenal's top scorer for six seasons in a row! Ian also had success in international football, playing 33 times for England and scoring 9 goals for his country.

At the end of the 1997/98 campaign, his final season with the club, Ian finally got his hands on the league trophy. Not only did he win the FA Cup and Premier League title, he also became Arsenal's all-time leading goalscorer. Playing against Bolton Wanderers on September 13th 1997, Ian scored his 178th and 179th goals for Arsenal, to equal and then go past the record of Cliff Bastin. Having left the Gunners, he went on to score goals for West Ham, Celtic and Burnley before retiring in 2000.

Since retiring he has become a household name through his television work as a football pundit and his time in the jungle on "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!". His personality and passion have made him hugely popular beyond the sport of football. But the memories and moments he gave to Arsenal fans will never be forgotten; Ian Wright will always be true Arsenal legend.



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1. What was Ian working as before he became a professional footballer?
A chef
An accountant
A PE teacher
A plasterer
2. Against which team did Ian score his first hattrick for Arsenal?
Parma
Leicester City
Bolton Wanderers
Southampton
3. How many goals did Cliff Bastin score for Arsenal?
186
179
178
200
4. “He was a goal machine...” What is **he was a goal machine** an example of?
Simile
Alliteration
Metaphor
Personification
5. Put these events from Ian’s career in order.
Number from 1 for the earliest event to 4 for the most recent event.
 Signed a professional contract with Crystal Palace
 Missed the European Cup Winners’ Cup final through suspension
 Lifted the league trophy
 Scored his first hattrick for Arsenal



ANSWERS: 1) A plasterer 2) Southampton 3) 178 4) Metaphor 5) From top: 1, 3, 4, 2.