

# KISSING THE BADGE

How Much Do You Know About  
20 Years Of The Premier League?



FACTS • QUIZZES • TRIVIA

# KISSING THE BADGE

How Much Do You Know About  
20 Years Of The Premier League?

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B L O O M S B U R Y

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## INTRODUCTION: The Prawns and the Passion

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The best league in the world? A threat to the England side and to our national game itself? The answers vary depending on who you ask. But all would surely agree that professional football in England now is barely recognisable as the same game from 20 years ago, before the Premier League landed.

The downside is that the celebrity status from the days of George Best now embraces even the journeymen, modest players who can earn millions from mediocrity. Add to that the trail of arrogance, aggression and general bad behaviour on and off the pitch and it's easy to understand why parents might worry about their children's choice of role models.

It's easy to see also why fans may fear that the Premier League could kill their team, so high is the price of failure. But it doesn't stop them trying again.

This book looks back at some of the milestones, memorable players, epic matches and occasionally bizarre sideshows as the Premier League approaches its 20th season.

It's not official, although the research has drawn on official and unofficial sources. Nor is it definitive, because a complete record would take up too much space and because there are some stats on which all the usual experts just cannot agree. But it is a reminder of how little has actually changed. In the midst of the media frenzy and corporate clamour, the game itself retains the capacity to thrill and to shock, to enthrall and to bemuse, to exhilarate and to devastate all at the same time.

That unpredictable nature of football at the highest level – far more than the comfy seats and prawn sandwiches – is the reason why, deep down, fans all want to be part of the Premier League.

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## FIRSTS

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The Premier League arrived in a blaze of hype and began re-writing the record books from day one with new names next to the categories for first goal, first red card, first champions and more.

It didn't do the new competition any harm that the Football League found itself with something of an identity crisis before deciding to reclaim its own Championship. Then, faced with the confusion of a record book with conflicting entries for before and after the split, the football family generally drew a line to separate the modern game from its history.

So the star performers in the Football League avoid meaningful comparison with the heroes they seek to emulate in the Premier League, and players in both competitions are spared going head-to-head with the big names of yesteryear. Didier Drogba or Derek Dougan anyone?

The context is that of a changing game, one which has advanced so rapidly as to create its own history, unburdened by events between the formation of the Football League in 1888 and the launch of the Premier League 104 years later.

Prominent in that history are overseas players, new stadia and sponsored awards. But there's still a place for bookings, dismissals and – most of all – goals.

# A Test of Two Halves

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## Pre-Match Warm-Up

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The first Premier League goal was scored by Brian Deane in the fifth minute of Sheffield United's home win over Manchester United on the opening day of the season – 15 August 1992.



The first Premier League goal to be scored by an overseas player came the following Wednesday when Everton's Robert Warzycha netted his side's second in a 3-0 win at Manchester United.



The first away win in the Premier League was achieved by Norwich City, the only team to win on the road on the opening day in 1992. The Canaries triumphed 4-2 at Arsenal.



Middlesbrough were the first Premier League founder members to move to a new stadium. The old ground, Ayresome Park, was closed as Boro won promotion back to the Premier League in 1995. They kicked off the new campaign at the Riverside.



Eric Cantona scored the first hat-trick in the Premier League. The Frenchman scored three goals in 20 minutes as Leeds beat Spurs 5-0 at Elland Road on 25 August 1992.



The first yellow card in the Premier League was shown to Southampton's Micky Adams in the fifth minute of their goalless draw against Spurs on the opening day.



*"I knew Paul was a  
world-class player.  
Everybody knew ...  
Paul was like a  
piece of old teak.  
He was a very tough lad.  
I don't think people  
realised how hard he  
could be if riled."*

Aston Villa's Shaun Teale  
on team-mate Paul McGrath



The first Premier League substitute was Manchester United's Mike Phelan, who replaced Paul Ince five minutes into their opening-day defeat at Sheffield United.



Brian Deane scored the first Premier League penalty. It was awarded by referee Brian Hill in the 50th minute of Sheffield United's home game against Manchester United and proved crucial as the Blades won 2-1.



The first Premier League match to kick off on a Sunday for live TV coverage was Nottingham Forest's 1-0 win over Liverpool on Sunday 16 August 1992.



The first manager to lose his job in the Premier League was Ian Porterfield, sacked by Chelsea chairman Ken Bates in February 1993 and replaced by club legend David Webb.

*"I didn't know about that  
until I was told about it.*

*I don't look at the  
passports of people,  
I look at their quality  
and their attitude."*

Arsenal manager Arsène Wenger  
after picking a squad full of  
overseas players in 2005



Having collected the first yellow card in Premier League history, Southampton's Micky Adams also became the first player to be sent off. Referee Ray Bigger dismissed him for dissent in the Saints' second game at Queens Park Rangers.



Sheffield United's Simon Tracey became the first Premier League goalkeeper to be sent off when he received two yellow cards in the 2-0 defeat at Spurs in September 1992.



Chelsea became the first side to field a starting line-up comprised entirely of overseas players when they won 2-1 at Southampton on Boxing Day 1999.



Arsenal boss Arsène Wenger was the first to select a match-day squad full of overseas players when the Gunners beat Crystal Palace 5-1 at Highbury on 14 February 2005.



Trevor Francis was the first man to play and manage in the Premier League, combining both roles for Sheffield Wednesday in the first season of the competition.

## FIRSTS

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16

The Premier League Manager of the Year award was introduced for the 1993–94 season and the first winner was Sir Alex Ferguson.

17

The first winner of the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year Award following the introduction of the Premier League was Paul McGrath of Aston Villa in 1993.

18

Manchester United became the first team to score 1,000 goals in the Premier League when Cristiano Ronaldo netted in the last minute of their 4–1 defeat at Middlesbrough in October 2005.

19

Manchester United were the first team to win the double of Premier League title and FA Cup, achieving the feat in 1994.

20

The first own goal in the Premier League was scored by Nottingham Forest 'keeper Mark Crossley. His side were trailing 3–1 at Blackburn in September 1992 when he saved a header from a corner but spilled the ball across the line as he rolled backwards.

## Late Winners

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- 1 *With which club did Brian Deane make his last appearance in the Premier League in 2003?*
- 2 *What nationality was Everton's Robert Warzycha?*
- 3 *Who finished the first season as Norwich City's top Premier League scorer with 15 Premier League goals?*
- 4 *Against which team did Middlesbrough attract their highest home crowd of the 1995-96 season – an attendance of 30,011 on 10 February?*
- 5 *Which Premier League side signed Eric Cantona from Leeds just three months into the first season of the competition?*
- 6 *Which club did Micky Adams manage in the Premier League after guiding them to promotion in 2003?*
- 7 *From which Premier League founder members had Manchester United signed Mike Phelan in 1989?*
- 8 *Which player who went on to appear in the Premier League for Chelsea, Southampton, Everton and Blackburn Rovers scored Manchester United's goal on the opening day in 1992?*
- 9 *Which 1992 summer signing from Watford made his Liverpool debut in the televised defeat at Nottingham Forest?*
- 10 *Who became Chelsea's first overseas manager in 1996?*
- 11 *How many red cards did Micky Adams receive during his entire Premier League career?*
- 12 *Which goalkeeper who played top-flight football with Everton from 1981 until 1998 was sent off twice during the first Premier League season?*
- 13 *What nationality was Tore Andre Flo, who scored two goals for Chelsea's multinational side on Boxing Day 1999?*

## FIRSTS

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- 14 *Who was the highest scoring Englishman in Arsenal's 2004–05 Premier League campaign, with two goals from defence?*
- 15 *Who succeeded Trevor Francis when he was sacked as Sheffield Wednesday manager in 1995?*
- 16 *Who in 2001 became the first manager to win the sponsor's Premier League Manager of the Year awards without having led his side to the title?*
- 17 *With which Premier League side did Paul McGrath finish his playing career in 1997?*
- 18 *Which team in 2009–10 became the first to score more than 100 goals in a Premier League season?*
- 19 *Which was the only team to beat Manchester United at Old Trafford during the 1993–94 season?*
- 20 *For which Championship team did Mark Crossley score a goal while on loan from Fulham in December 2006?*

## Answers:

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- 1 Leicester City
- 2 Polish
- 3 Mark Robins
- 4 Newcastle United
- 5 Manchester United
- 6 Leicester City
- 7 Norwich City
- 8 Mark Hughes
- 9 David James
- 10 Ruud Gullit
- 11 One
- 12 Neville Southall
- 13 Norwegian
- 14 Ashley Cole
- 15 David Pleat
- 16 George Burley
- 17 Derby County
- 18 Chelsea
- 19 Chelsea
- 20 Sheffield Wednesday



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## STRIKERS

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Goals win games, and that's why the strikers command the top transfer fees. But it's something of a myth that a 20-goal-a-season front-man will deliver the Premier League title. History shows it actually takes more than that.

More often than not the top scorer in the Premier League doesn't get his hands on the biggest prize and has to settle instead for the Golden Boot. The eventual Champions will generally have two or three players in and around the top 10 at the end of the season and that's what makes the difference.

There are exceptions, although "exceptional" is perhaps not strong enough a word to describe the title-winning impact of Alan Shearer at Blackburn, Thierry Henry at his peak at Arsenal, Cristiano Ronaldo at Manchester United or Didier Drogba at Chelsea.

And there are players who have accumulated goals as they have amassed appearances while building careers in the Premier League. Such records as Emile Heskey's may never be equalled given the way in which the Premier League has changed in recent years. The modern-day demand is for strikers who come in at huge expense – usually from overseas – and give their all over four or five dynamic, high-intensity seasons and then move on – usually out of the Premier League.

Some of them produce the goods by way of breathtaking goals in abundance. Others are remembered more for the creativity – and rarity – of their goal celebrations.

# A Test of Two Halves

## Pre-Match Warm-Up

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*“When Dennis Bergkamp scores, it’s not a common goal, it’s always what we call ‘a Dennis Bergkamp goal’”*

Thierry Henry  
on his favourite  
strike partner



Alan Shearer holds the record for the most goals scored in Premier League matches. The England striker retired at the end of the 2005–06 season with 260 goals from 441 games.



Teddy Sheringham finished as the Golden Boot winner as top scorer in the inaugural season of the Premier League. Sheringham netted 22 goals, all but one for Tottenham Hotspur who he joined in late August 1992.



Arsenal’s French striker Thierry Henry has won the Golden Boot a record four times. Henry scored 24 goals to take the top spot in 2001–02, his third season with the Gunners. He then won three in a row from the 2003–04 season.



The Golden Boot award was shared for the first time at the end of the 1997–98 season with Blackburn’s Chris Sutton, Manchester United’s Dion Dublin and Michael Owen of Liverpool all tied on 18 goals.



## STRIKERS

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5

Kevin Phillips of Sunderland was the last English player to win the Golden Boot, scoring 30 of Sunderland's 57 goals in 1999–2000.

6

Newcastle legends Andrew Cole and Alan Shearer share the record of having scored the most goals in a Premier League season. Cole scored 34 in 1993–94 for the Magpies and Shearer matched that total the following season for Blackburn.

7

Alan Shearer cost Blackburn a reported £3.6million fee in 1992 and Andrew Cole's price was almost double when he moved from Newcastle to Manchester United in January 1995.

But the £50million paid by Chelsea to Liverpool for Fernando Torres in January 2011 became the record fee between British clubs.

8

Robbie Fowler set the record for the fastest Premier League hat-trick by scoring three goals in four minutes for Liverpool against Arsenal in August 1994.

9

Kevin Campbell became the first player to score Premier League hat-tricks for three different clubs when he netted three times in Everton's 6–0 win over West Ham in May 1999. He had previously struck three for Arsenal twice and once for Nottingham Forest.

10

Arsenal became the second club after Manchester United to score 1,000 Premier League goals when Emmanuel Adebayor scored their second in a 3–1 win at Reading in November 2007.

*"I started receiving masks  
from the fans – and  
ended up with  
250 of them!"*

Fulham's Facundo Sava  
on the origins of his Zorro  
goal celebration



Liverpool and Chelsea both reached 1,000 Premier League goals during the 2008–09 season, Fernando Torres taking the Reds past the milestone with the first goal in a 3–2 win at Manchester City and Alex making history for Chelsea with the first in a 5–0 win over Sunderland.



Ipswich were founder members of the Premier League but had to wait until April 2001 – and their second spell in the top flight – for their first hat-trick. It came courtesy of Marcus Stewart in a 3–0 win at Southampton.



Brian Deane's haul in Sheffield United's 3–0 win over Ipswich in January 1993 was the first and last hat-trick for the Blades in the Premier League.



Emile Heskey became the fourth striker to make 400 Premier League appearances and passed Alan Shearer's record for a front-man of 441 matches in September 2009.



Middlesbrough's Italian import Fabrizio Ravanelli was not the most prolific of strikers during his time on Teesside, but he did leave the lasting legacy of the shirt-over-the-head goal celebration still popular on playing fields nationwide.