

THIS IS



ANFIELD



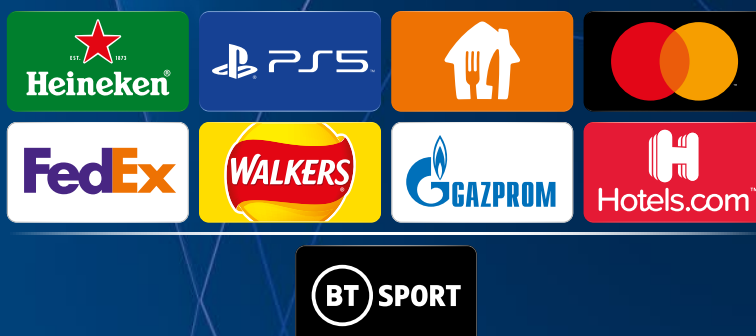
UEFA
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE



LIVERPOOL FC v AC MILAN



GROUP B • MATCHDAY ONE • WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2021 • KICK-OFF 8PM





DIRECTORS

John Henry (principal owner),
Tom Werner (chairman),
M Gordon,
B Hogan (chief executive officer), **Sir Kenny Dalglish**,
M Egan, **A Hughes**

HONOURS

League Champions (19)

1900/01, 1905/06,
 1921/22, 1922/23,
 1946/47, 1963/64,
 1965/66, 1972/73,
 1975/76, 1976/77,
 1978/79, 1979/80,
 1981/82, 1982/83,
 1983/84, 1985/86,
 1987/88, 1989/90,
 2019/20

European Cup Winners (6)

1976/77, 1977/78,
 1980/81, 1983/84,
 2004/05, 2018/19

European Super Cup Winners (4)

1977/78, 2001/02,
 2005/06, 2019/20

UEFA Cup Winners (3)

1972/73, 1975/76,
 2000/01

FIFA Club World Cup Winners (1)

2019

FA Cup Winners (7)

1964/65, 1973/74,
 1985/86, 1988/89,
 1991/92, 2000/01,
 2005/06

League Cup Winners (8)

1980/81, 1981/82,
 1982/83, 1983/84,
 1994/95, 2000/01,
 2002/03, 2011/12

Community Shield Winners (15)

1964*, 1965*, 1966, 1974,
 1976, 1977*, 1979, 1980,
 1982, 1986*, 1988, 1989,
 1990*, 2001, 2006

*Shield was shared with
 opposing team



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TONIGHT'S OFFICIALS (FROM POLAND UNLESS STATED):

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FOURTH OFFICIAL: TOMASZ MUSIAL

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ASSISTANT VIDEO ASSISTANT REFEREE:

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15.09.21 LIVERPOOL FC
 V AC MILAN



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 contact our dedicated team on 0151 264 2500 or at disability@liverpoolfc.com





Let's have all the noise, all the colour, all the positive energy and all the passion and intensity that is our trademark – let's give this fixture the stage it deserves



Good evening and welcome back to Anfield for our opening UEFA Champions League game against AC Milan. I welcome Stefano Pioli, his players, staff and the officials of our visitors from Italy to our home.

As fixtures go, this is one where the very mention of the two team names makes you realise you are in line for a proper occasion. Such amazing heritage for both. And a famous joint history in this very competition.

I must say the Champions League is a better competition for having AC Milan back in. Honestly speaking, I would sooner they be in someone else's group because they are so strong, but now we face each other we must embrace the challenge.

Stefano has done a fantastic job at Milan and is a tremendously experienced coach and leader.

At the time of writing these notes Serie A, like the Premier League, is only a few games in, but AC Milan have already made an impressive start. They look strong, organised and full of belief. They are such a powerful opponent. World-class players in their ranks. Street-wise. The full package.

I am doing this column before we play Leeds United, and so therefore cannot comment on either the result or performance.

There is an issue around this that I want to address, though, on which we received clarification late on Friday evening last week. We have seen with the recent international-break confusion and worry around call-ups. This will come again in October and November and possibly even January and March.

Let me make it clear that I love that my players have earned the honour and prestige of being able to play for their country. I was never good enough as a player to have this privilege, but I know it's recognition players strive for and work hard to achieve.

Yes, in press-conferences around international weeks I often comment, when asked, that waiting for them to come back is like a parent waiting for their children to return home safely. But I have never and will never be a block on this ambition and neither will the club. In an ideal world every single one of my players is called for their country. This is our hope and dream for each of them.

But at the moment it's not about injuries and game-load. It is, though, about calendars, commitments and demands on these boys. These conversations are important and we must continue to look for solutions. We all have a duty on this. There is at the moment a spotlight due to global issues and restrictions around travelling and entry into countries and territories.

The last few weeks – and it will be the same in October and maybe November – was about something beyond all of our control really. It was about the ongoing issues of trying to play football across the planet while the pandemic is still here and travelling is far from straightforward.

It was also about the pressures of fulfilling a schedule that has been pushed to breaking point over the past 18 months.

For the last break we had four players affected to different degrees. Mo Salah for Egypt, plus Bobby Firmino, Fabinho and Alisson Becker for Brazil. All of these boys would do anything within their power to represent their nations. They are passionate for their country.

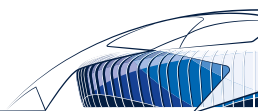
Honestly, in English I struggle to find the words to express how frustrated I felt for them that they found themselves placed in this position.

I only pray that the fans in Brazil – and for Mo, the Egyptian supporters – recognise the players are faultless in this. In fact it's more than that – they are the ones who suffer the most despite doing nothing wrong. They are punished for factors beyond their control. And yes, beyond Liverpool FC's control also.

There are restrictions on where you can travel and how you can return which means it cannot be business as usual. For our players affected it cannot be ignored that they live and work in the UK. With no exemption in place, what else could they and we do?

I empathise totally with the Brazilian and Egyptian team management. I would want these four amazing players to report also. The fans in their country deserve to have their best players compete so they can qualify for a World Cup. But at the moment COVID is still with us.

I understand by the time this column is public I will have probably spoken a lot about this and the politics around it. And





also decisions around the calendar that do need to be looked at. But I wanted to use these pages to make it clear that inflicting further pain on the players is wrong and should not be in anyone's mind if we have this situation later in the month also.

The players deserve that the people in power find solutions and not make them collateral damage.

Before we know it we will be discussing the October call-ups and this whole situation will be back. And it's more than just about quarantine exemption, although of course that is a critical problem to sort out.

Trying to cram in these extra matches will also impact. Common sense and solution-based thinking must be at the forefront of the discussions. It cannot be right that matches can kick off so late in the second international week and then clubs be expected to play on Saturday – or in our case after the next break early Saturday.

The practical impact of this means we will be without these players. It's not right and it needs to be addressed.

Finally, I am usually more keen to focus on my own players rather than an opponent, but tonight I must make an exception. This evening it is possible that Simon Kjaer will line up against us and this is a person who I think has the respect of the entire football and sporting world.

You recognise true leadership in a crisis. I think the world acknowledges this now more than ever with everything that goes on around us.



Like millions of others I was rocked by the scenes that unfolded at the European Championships in the summer when Christian Eriksen fell ill during Denmark's opening group game.

There were many heroes that night, not least of all the remarkable medical professionals for the Danish national team, in the stadium and subsequently at the hospital. But Simon shone that traumatic day for his own conduct.

The image of the Danish players shielding their team-mate as he was cared for will, in my opinion, forever be one of the most iconic in sporting history. It showed the best of humanity. Compassion, care and love for their friend.

Honestly, I have no idea how he managed to not only keep his own composure in that situation, but to have the clarity of mind to make the decisions he did in that moment. His conduct humbles us all.

I'm told that Simon's dad is an LFC fan – and if that is the case he must be bursting with pride that his boy is now recognised worldwide as the epitome of our anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

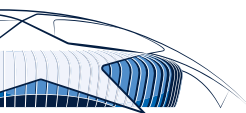
I know our supporters are knowledgeable and generous of spirit and therefore I am sure Simon will feel the gratitude of the home crowd tonight, but for the 90-plus minutes of the game he is again the opponent.

It will be so cool just before kick-off to hear that Champions League anthem and see the players lined up in front of a full Anfield. We missed supporters for every second of every game during the pandemic, but I must admit it was most acute on the European nights.

Let's have all the noise, all the colour, all the positive energy and all the passion and intensity that is our trademark. Let's give this fixture the stage it deserves.

I honestly cannot wait.

You'll Never Walk Alone
Jürgen







MO'S 100TH

A coolly-taken, close-range finish brought up Mohamed Salah's 100th goal in the Premier League last weekend. The Reds' 11th side-footed home from Trent Alexander-Arnold's composed cross after central defender Joel Matip had broken forward to set up the attack on the edge of the Leeds United penalty area. Mo has achieved the feat in just 162 appearances.



This is European competition in its truest sense and I'm speaking for all of the lads when I say we can't wait to get going



A European night at Anfield with fans. Wow. They say you don't know what you've got until it's gone, but in this case we always knew. That's why we've been so desperate to have these nights back.

Tonight was always going to be special, no matter who the opposition was. The fact that our opponents are AC Milan only makes it even more special.

I only found out the other day that this will be the first time our two clubs have met outside of a pair of Champions League finals and it really surprised me, but again rarity value will add to the sense of occasion.

It always makes me massively proud when I see the 'European Royalty' banner on the Kop and this is a tie where such sentiments also apply to our opponents. The fact that only Real Madrid have

won more European Cups tells us everything we need to know about AC Milan and what they have brought to this competition. Theirs is a name that speaks for itself.

I know it's been a few years since they were in the Champions League and they're on a similar journey to one that we were on not so long ago, but I'm a big believer that the biggest clubs with the biggest reputations have some sort of institutional memory that makes them equipped for these competitions when they are able to qualify.

So we won't be expecting any looseners or opening-night nerves from Milan tonight. They will be right at it in the knowledge that they have the chance to make their mark at the very first opportunity. Just as we do when we go away to Europe's most famous venues, they will see Anfield as a stadium to conquer and a place where history can be made and reputations enhanced.





The incentives might be different for us, but they are just as great. The biggest of them all is the chance to create another European night to remember with our supporters. I know it is just the opening group game and nothing will be decided at this stage, but after being apart for so long I'm expecting a bit of extra electricity on and off the pitch.

I think when the draw was first made a few people looked at our group and thought: tough. I know I did. But it is tough in a good way. Along with Porto and Atletico Madrid, there are four top teams and we are guaranteed a stern contest in every one of our six games.

This is European competition in its truest sense and I know I'm speaking for all of the lads when I say we can't wait to get going.

For the youngest lads in the squad – the likes of Harvey, Neco, and Curtis – there is a youthful excitement about competing at this level. For the newer players – particularly Ibrahima, Diogo and Thiago – there is a real sense of anticipation about experiencing a European night at Anfield in front of fans for the first time as Liverpool players. For the rest of us there is a more knowing appreciation of what awaits us.

It doesn't matter what your age is, how long you've been here or whether you sit in the stands or play on the pitch – this is an occasion to revel in.

Finally, I want to end these notes by paying tribute to Simon Kjaer, who will hopefully be in the Milan line-up this evening. Simon is not a player I know too well, I have come up against him a few times and his qualities are obvious, but like everyone else in football I thought he set new standards of leadership during Euro 2020 when Christian Eriksen fell ill.

I can't even begin to imagine what that experience was like for the

Denmark players and I'm hugely relieved that Christian continues to make a recovery, but as a captain I couldn't help but be impressed by the way Simon conducted himself and led his team.

What can sometimes get overlooked in football is that when any player is hurt in any way, his team-mates will inevitably be affected. We are all professionals so we get on with the game, but we wouldn't be human beings if we didn't have concern for a mate who is struggling physically.

What Simon did was to turn that concern into a protection of his team-mate so that he could get the best possible treatment when he needed it most. He even put Christian into the recovery position and started CPR.

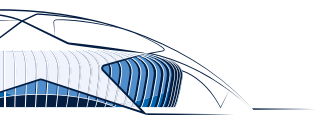
I have seen that UEFA have given Simon and the Denmark medical team the 'President's Award' and that is both fitting and deserved. But I hope Simon also knows that he has the respect and admiration of everyone in football for what he did that night.

I'm also led to believe that his dad is a big Liverpool fan so it is clear on a number of fronts that he was brought up the right way!

On behalf of the Liverpool players I would like to welcome Simon and his team-mates to Anfield. It goes without saying that I don't want AC Milan to enjoy the night too much, but I hope this is an occasion to remember for all involved.

Football has missed nights like this and it is brilliant to have them back.

• This column was written before Leeds United v Liverpool.



COUNTDOWN



Catch up with the latest news around this fixture



VIRGIL: A PERFECT START

Reds defender Virgil van Dijk said Sunday's 3-0 win at Leeds United was the ideal way to start a busy run of seven games before the October international break.

After the victory at Elland Road, the Dutchman told Sky Sports: "It's a perfect start – three-nil away and keeping a clean-sheet is something to be very happy about. Everyone knew beforehand that it was going to be a very intense, hard game with their fans pushing them forward for the full 90 to 95 minutes.

"So we had to be brave, ready for the battle and embrace the atmosphere too. We prepared well, even in the short space of time that we had coming back from internationals. But winning here with a clean-sheet is always good to build on."

Liverpool's no4 also believes that the team were rewarded for the courage they showed throughout the fixture. "I think being brave [was key], getting the ball. We knew that we were going to be in one-v-one situations, so you had to be ready to take your opponent on. Also you need to be ready to defend, ready to run back, especially on the counter-attack, and win those second-ball fights."



ALL GAMES LEAD TO SAINT PETERSBURG

Saint Petersburg's Gazprom Arena will stage the final of this season's UEFA Champions League, with the game scheduled for 28 May 2022.

The home of FC Zenit was originally earmarked to stage the 2021 decider. But on 17 June 2020 the UEFA Executive Committee changed the venue in line with the decision to hold the closing rounds of the 2019/20 competition in Lisbon.

The settings for the following two UEFA Champions League finals were confirmed at the same meeting with the Football Arena Munich to host the 2023 showpiece and Wembley in 2024.

Next year will be the third major UEFA club final played in Russia. Previously Parma beat Marseille in the 1999 UEFA Cup final at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, before Manchester United overcame Chelsea on penalties in the 2008 Champions League decider at the same venue.

Built to stage games at the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the Gazprom Arena stands on the site of the old Kirov Stadium which held football matches at the 1980 Olympic Games. Modelled on Kisho Kurokawa's Toyota Stadium in Japan, the spaceship-style arena has a retractable roof and 60,000 capacity.

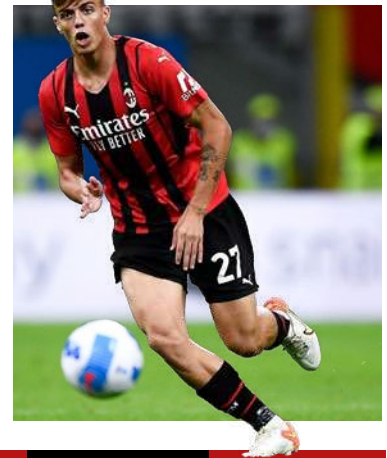


DANIEL SEEKING MALDINI TREBLE

A player for Reds fans to keep an eye on is AC Milan's attacking midfielder Daniel Maldini. The teenager is seeking to follow his father Paolo and grandfather Cesare in winning Europe's premier club competition.

Daniel came through the club's youth ranks and made his first-team debut against Hellas Verona in February 2020. He is a current Italy Under-19s international.

Cesare captained Milan to European Cup glory at Wembley in 1963 as they defeated Benfica 2-1. Paolo won five European Cup/Champions League titles, most recently in 2007 when he skippered his side to a 2-1 win over Liverpool in Athens.



IBRA'S SCORING RETURN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned to both the AC Milan side and the scoresheet on Sunday, as I Rossoneri made it three wins out of three in Serie A with a 2-0 win over Lazio. They went top of the early season table in the process.

Milan forward Rafael Leao had put the hosts ahead before Swedish star Ibrahimovic, who'd been out since May with a knee injury, added a second goal after the break.

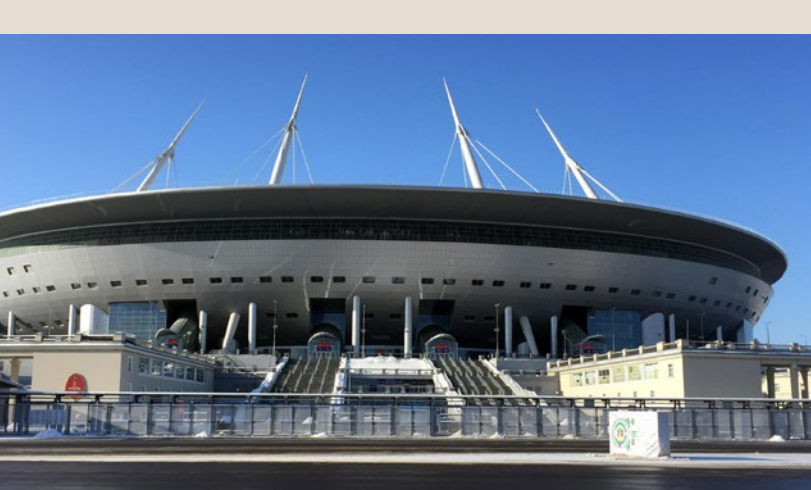
Coach Stefano Pioli said: "Ibra is a true great. He knows how he's doing physically and that four months away from the pitch is a lot of time. However, he's worked

from morning to night and like always has displayed great professionalism and motivation levels.

"I don't think any member of the squad will be able to play seven full matches in the next 21 days, so like all the others Zlatan will have to be managed. [But] I hope he'll be able to play as much as possible and on a continuous basis, something that was lacking a bit last year."



TO KICK - OFF



HOW THE SQUADS WORK

Every club submits two lists of players to UEFA for Champions League fixtures.

List A is a squad of no more than 25 players, of whom at least two must be goalkeepers. As a minimum, eight of those 25 places are reserved exclusively for 'locally trained players'. If a club has fewer than eight of those in their squad, the maximum number of players on List A is reduced accordingly. List A squads were submitted to UEFA on 2 September.

List B includes players born on or after 1 January 2000 and who have been

eligible to play for the club for any uninterrupted period of two years since their 15th birthday, or for a total of three consecutive years with a maximum of one loan period to a club from the same association for a period not longer than one year. Clubs can register an unlimited number of players on List B during the season but it needs to be submitted no later than midnight the day before a match.

Ahead of the Round of 16, clubs can register a maximum of three new players for List A by 2 February 2022.

NEW SEASON NEW MATCHBALL

The Adidas Finale 21 is the official matchball for this season's UEFA Champions League. It combines a white base with yellow, red and black for the star panels.

The UEFA Champions League 2021/22 ball combines the iconic stars panel with materials and technology from the latest in matchball design.



GARY
GILLESPIE

**LIVERPOOL VERSUS AC MILAN
AT ANFIELD... YOU HARDLY NEED
TO TALK UP SUCH A GLAMOROUS
OCCASION IN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL**

We come into this first Champions League game after a terrific performance at the weekend in the Premier League. First and foremost you've got to compete with a team like Leeds United, especially at their own ground, and I think we did that exceptionally well, right from the kick-off.

It was a high-octane game, certainly the first 10 or 15 minutes, and I thought Liverpool were on top and dominated and their class showed through in the end.

With the man-marking system Leeds play, it showed you a couple of times as well that when your centre-backs break into the middle of the park – as Joel Matip did for our first goal – you get a bit of an overload and that can be the way to break down the opposition.

But everybody just seemed to be 'at it'. Right from the start, Mohamed Salah was buzzing, energetic, wanting the ball and causing them all sorts of problems. Sadio Mane on the other side, well, he was all over the park. He was persistent and he got his reward with the goal at the end.

Like everyone else my thoughts have been with Harvey Elliott and we're all hoping he makes a speedy recovery. In the short term it means there will be changes in midfield and at this stage of the season it's already a balancing act where you've got to rotate your squad because you're playing weekend, midweek, weekend again.

I imagine we'll be seeing rotation right through the course of the next couple of months. We've got lots of options. We've got Naby Keita and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who both had cameo roles late on against Leeds. We've got Hendo obviously coming back into the side, James Milner too. So I don't think that will be too much of a worry for the manager.

Could it be Fabinho, Thiago and Henderson tonight? The manager might select Keita and perhaps give Thiago a rest. It will be interesting to see. Either way, the squad is strong and, as I say, there are options, as opposed to last season.

We've got to a position now where it's all about Liverpool, not about the opposition. If I'm AC Milan and coming to Anfield and watching that performance at the weekend, I'm more worried about Liverpool than the other way round.

But of course we'll have done our homework on AC Milan, know where their strengths and weaknesses lie. You treat every game as the biggest, you've got to be prepared, and Liverpool have always shown that in Europe. Our European record under Jürgen Klopp has been so impressive.

Put these two names together and you'd hope for a cracker. Every time you talk about Liverpool and European nights you talk about playing under the lights at Anfield, the big occasion, full house, excitement, atmosphere. With the history we've got in this competition it just adds more to it. And it will be fantastic to see everybody back here.

HEAD 2 HEAD



Sadio century under the Anfield lights?



◆ Liverpool have met Italian opposition 14 times at Anfield, winning eight and losing five. They have scored in 12 of those 14 encounters with only Roma (2001) and Atalanta (2020) keeping clean-sheets.

◆ This will be the fifth successive European campaign in which Liverpool have faced a club from Italy – Roma in 2018, Napoli two years in a row and Atalanta in 2020/21.

◆ Should Sadio Mane score his 100th Liverpool goal tonight he will join Michael Owen in joint-third place on the club's all-time European goalscorers list with 22 goals, with only Steven Gerrard and Mo Salah above them.

◆ Mo Salah's next appearance here will be his 100th for Liverpool at Anfield. He has scored 71 times in the previous 99 in front of the Kop.

◆ Diogo Jota, against Atalanta last season, scored Liverpool's 20th and most recent European hat-trick. It is only the fourth to come away from Anfield and only the second in all games against Italian opponents, the other from Steven Gerrard against Napoli in 2010.

◆ When AC Milan last took part in the Champions League in 2013/14 they qualified second from a group consisting of Barcelona, Ajax and Celtic. They were defeated in both legs of the Round of 16 tie by Atletico Madrid.

◆ Olivier Giroud is the oldest player to score a Champions League hat-trick. He was 34 years and 63 days when achieving the feat for Chelsea at Sevilla in December 2020. Going into this campaign he was one of only 12 players to score a Champions League hat-trick for more than one team. Giroud has scored eight times against Liverpool in 16 career matches with four of those coming in seven Anfield outings.

◆ This will be Milan's 42nd encounter with an English club. In the previous 41 they have won 12 and lost 17 (the 2005 Champions League final being recorded as a loss).

◆ The Reds and Milan (as well as a host of other clubs) share a group-stage record on conceding only once across the six matches in a particular season. Milan achieved it in 1992/93 – one of only seven occasions a side has won all six games – while Liverpool did so in 2005/06.

◆ Patrik Berger scored his first Liverpool goals on this day 25 years ago, registering twice from the bench in a 3-0 win at Leicester City. The Czech later made nine appearances for the Reds in this competition across 2001 and 2002.

LIVERPOOL'S GROUP STAGE RECORD

P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
78	39	21	18	136	70	66	138



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE THIS WEEK



Matchday 1

Tuesday 14 September

Group E: Barcelona vs Bayern, Dynamo Kyiv vs Benfica

Group F: Young Boys vs Man United, Villarreal vs Atalanta

Group G: Sevilla vs Salzburg, LOSC vs Wolfsburg

Group H: Chelsea vs Zenit, Malmö vs Juventus

Wednesday 15 September

Group A: Man City vs Leipzig, Club Brugge vs Paris

Group B: Atletico Madrid vs Porto, Liverpool vs AC Milan

Group C: Besiktas vs Dortmund, Sporting CP vs Ajax

Group D: Sheriff vs Shakhtar Donetsk, Inter vs Real Madrid



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WORDS: William Hughes



GROUP DYNAMICS

A tight-knit team full of leaders with a winning mentality at home and abroad – That's why midfielder Fabinho loves playing in this Liverpool side

Less than 48 hours after the crushing disappointment of losing the 2018 Champions League final to Real Madrid, Liverpool announced the imminent transfer of Fabinho.

His arrival from AS Monaco had gone under the radar. Of the catalogue of names perennially linked with the Reds in the gossip columns and internet clickbait sites, his had not been prominent.

But with Fabinho's move from AS Monaco signed, sealed and delivered and the capture of his Brazil team-mate Alisson Becker also confirmed later that summer, Jürgen Klopp had two key pieces in his winning picture in place.

On 1 June the following season, Fabinho, Alisson, Klopp and the rest of the Liverpool lads were walking around Madrid parading the Champions League trophy.

Now, as another European campaign kicks off, Fabinho and his team-mates are ready to fight to get their hands on the famous piece of silverware once again.

"We won the Premier League title two years ago and the Champions League three years ago and the team is almost the same," he says. "It's even better in a lot of ways because now we have more experience and have played more important games together, including finals, so we have a really strong team."

"We are Liverpool FC so we will always play for winning games and trophies."

There will be more of those shared moments in the years ahead too with Fabinho one of half-a-dozen senior players to commit their futures to the Reds this summer.

"It is really important to have experienced players in the team," he explains. "I think that everyone knows each other. Some of the players have been together for three or four seasons, some for five or more seasons, and that is important for the team to have a nice chemistry."

"We have a lot of leaders on the pitch. Some players like to speak a little bit more, and then there are some who don't speak as often but are leaders as well. I think if you want to have a winning team, you need to have these players in your team. Our squad is really strong."

"If you want a winning team, you have to have something automatic on the pitch as well as good relationships off the pitch and this group is unbelievable in that way. These players have a really nice mentality, a winning mentality."

"I think these last two months have been really important for us as players to have new long-term contracts and I was really happy to renew my contract and to keep my future here in Liverpool."

"Of course making new signings such as Ibou [Konate] and having players back from their loans is important to add something to the group, but to keep the experienced players together is really important as well."

Like Fabinho when he first joined the club, Konate is having to bide his time to force his way into the starting line-up but the Brazilian believes the centre-back is another quality addition to the ranks.

"Ibou is a really nice guy. I speak with him often because we can both speak French even though he can speak really good English as well! He is learning a lot with the manager and the players and he has really good references as well."

"In this moment he has to be a little bit patient, work really hard and try to learn from the players and from the staff. I am sure he will have his opportunity so he needs to stay patient and be ready for when it comes along."

Fabinho's own influence on this Liverpool team has, of course, also been strong. His leadership qualities came to the fore last season after being forced to play in the centre of defence following long-term injuries to Virgil van Dijk, Joe Gomez and Joel Matip.

He started four of the side's six Champions League group games in last season's tournament in the heart of defence and his performances were an important factor in the team reaching the knockout stages.





Now, however, he is delighted that trio of centre-halves are back in action. Van Dijk played a big part in Fabinho's first goal of the season in Sunday's win at Leeds United and he believes the Dutchman's very presence in the Liverpool line-up can have a psychological effect on opposing teams as well.

"Virgil is really important for us for several reasons. First of all, because of his quality. He is really strong and really quick. For me, he is the best centre-back in the world.

"After that there are his qualities of leadership. He is a great leader and is always taking to us during the game. He is a good communicator on the pitch.

"Then, I think for the opposing strikers as well, perhaps when they see Van Dijk on our team-sheet it can maybe intimidate them a little bit and this is good for us as well. But overall it's just really good to have him back, just as it is to have Joel and Joe back too."

The Reds have been handed a particularly tough-looking Champions League group. Fabinho and his team-mates have come up against FC Porto and Atletico Madrid in the knockout stages in recent seasons but tonight they face another historic name in AC Milan, making their first visit to Anfield.

Fabinho admits he was a keen follower of Milan teams in his

younger days with their star-studded squads including a strong Brazilian contingent of players such as Kaka, Cafu, Leonardo and Robinho.

"It will be really good to have the Champions League games back at Anfield," he says. "We're all really looking forward to it and I'm sure the fans are waiting for this as well.

"Our group is a really nice group. It is a really hard and strong group but personally I like it.

"AC Milan in the first game is really exciting for everyone. They are a really big team and they have won the Champions League seven times so they have a lot of history in this competition. I used to watch them when I was a kid as they had a lot of Brazilian players and I always liked to watch these players.

"I think it will be a good game, a special game and hopefully we will be ready to fight and to win it because I think we really need to win every game in this group."

The Anfield effect will be a big one too and something the Reds definitely missed last season, particularly in games such as the quarter-final tie against Real Madrid.

This will be the first full house for a Champions League game since the Reds took on the other Madrid side, Atletico, back in

"VIRGIL IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR US FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE OF HIS QUALITY. HE IS REALLY STRONG AND REALLY QUICK. FOR ME, HE IS THE BEST CENTRE-BACK IN THE WORLD"



March 2020 and Fabinho says all the players have relished having their 'Twelfth Man' back inside this storied stadium.

"Yes, it is really good to have our fans back. We have a full Anfield with all the reactions: after a goal, after a good action, a good tackle. We really missed this sensation in the last season or so and so to have them back with us is really special.

"We always want to play our best football for them and we want to win every game for them. They are the best fans in the world so it is really special to have them back."

Following the Reds' unbeaten start to their Premier League campaign, Fabinho declares himself pleased with the opening month of the season and says there is a good foundation for the team to build on.



"We have had a good start with four games, three wins and one draw," says the man who was named as the Carlsberg player of the match after Sunday's victory at Elland Road.

"We have had a lot of positive things that we can take from the four games. The first two games we kept a clean-sheet and then we did so again at Leeds at the weekend which is really important from a defensive point-of-view.

"I think we have been playing good games with personality and we have been creating good opportunities too.

"Even in the game we drew against Chelsea we had a lot of positive things to take away from that match: the intensity, the quality and, of course, it was nice to play at Anfield with a full stadium with the fans behind us in a game like that.

"Of course, there are always things to improve on but personally I am pleased with our performances so far."

Mention of that Chelsea game gives the Reds another good



"WE HAVE HAD A GOOD START WITH FOUR GAMES, THREE WINS AND ONE DRAW.

"WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF POSITIVE THINGS THAT WE CAN TAKE FROM THE SEASON SO FAR"

barometer by which to measure themselves going into this Champions League campaign with Thomas Tuchel's team being the reigning champions following their win over Manchester City in last May's final.

Although the Reds were left frustrated at being unable to break down Chelsea's ten men in the second half, the no3 saw enough to believe his team are more than capable of competing with their rivals this season.

"We played against one of the best teams in the league and the defending European champions so we didn't expect anything different from the game than the way it turned out: a hard game, an intense game.

"In the first half they had their opportunities and they scored one goal, we had our opportunities and we scored one goal as well. In the second half it was a bit of a different game because of the red card [for Reece James]. It was a bit more attack against defence but they defended really well and we couldn't score a second goal.

"It's difficult to talk about favourites [in the Premier League and Champions League] but I am sure that ourselves and Chelsea will be among the teams fighting for trophies at the end of the season."

All four English entrants in Europe's premier club competition will have designs on continental as well as domestic success and Fabinho believes the standard of competition in the Premier League this season is as strong as he has known it.

"Everyone wants to challenge Manchester City who are the reigning champions. They always have really good players in their team.

"Chelsea have some really good players as well. Manchester United as well want to be on top and want to fight for the title and have also brought in big players like Ronaldo, one of the best players in the world and probably one of the best in football history.

"So all the top teams have been trying to get stronger, but I believe that we have a very strong squad too. As I say, a lot of us have been playing together for many years which can really help us this season."





RESPECT



FOUNDED: 1899

Home ground: San Siro

CAPACITY: 80,018

BEST EURO PERFORMANCE:

European Cup/Champions League winners seven times (1963, 1969, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003, 2007).

HONOURS: Italian champions 18 times, Italian Cup winners five times, UEFA Super Cup winners five times, Intercontinental Cup winners three times, FIFA Club World Cup winners once.

NICKNAME: I Rossoneri (The Reds and Blacks)



AC MILAN

ANFIELD FIRST

While this is AC Milan's first competitive visit to Anfield, the Italian giants have plenty of previous experiences on these shores.

It dates back to May 1958 when they took on Manchester United in the semi-finals of the European Cup. They went down 2-1 at Old Trafford but won 4-0 in Milan, securing a date with Real Madrid in the Brussels final, which ended 3-2 to their opponents after extra-time.

Milan were back in Manchester for the 2003 Champions League final against Juventus – the first time two clubs from Italy had faced each other in the final. After a goalless draw they won on penalties.

As recently as March they returned to the venue, drawing 1-1 with Manchester United in a Europa League round of 16 game, thanks to a late equaliser from defender Simon Kjaer. However, they lost 1-0 on home soil in the return leg.

Over the years I Rossoneri have played also played European fixtures at Ipswich Town, Tottenham Hotspur, Leeds United, Everton, Manchester City, Arsenal, Chelsea and Portsmouth.



THEIR SEASON SO FAR...

Milan returned from the international break hoping to build on a 100 per cent start.

They were among a handful of teams who won both of their opening Serie A fixtures and hosted Lazio last Sunday.

After finishing last season as runners-up to city rivals Inter, head coach Stefano Pioli brought in a number of new signings, five on a permanent basis and a handful on loan.

Three key arrivals have covered departures. Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma joined Paris Saint-Germain on a free transfer after running down his contract and has

been replaced by the €13 million capture of Lille's Mike Maignan.

Chelsea centre-back Fikayo Tomori was the most expensive signing at €28.5 million and his permanent deal will help offset the loss of Uruguayan international defender Diego Laxalt.

In attack, one veteran campaigner has been replaced by another with Olivier Giroud taking over the no9 shirt from Mario Mandzukic.

It was another signing, loanee Brahim Diaz, whose early goal gave Milan a winning start to their season at Sampdoria. Giroud then scored twice in a 4-1 home defeat of Cagliari after midfielder Sandro Tonali and striker Rafael Leao had scored to put

their side one-up then 2-1 up in an entertaining opening 17 minutes.

Pioli made use of the loan-market late in the transfer window to bolster his midfield for the challenges ahead. Chelsea's French international Tiemoue Bakayoko, who had a previous spell with the club in 2018/19, arrived with an option to buy, while experienced Brazilian Walter Messias Junior joined on deadline day from Crotone.

Many pundits believe Pioli has a much stronger squad than last season with options available in each position in his preferred 4-2-3-1 formation, and Milan will be aiming to challenge at home and in Europe during 2021/22.



FIKAYO TOMORI (No23)

The ex-Chelsea centre-back signed a four-year deal with Milan in July after spending the second half of last season on loan. He scored in a 3-0 away win at Juventus in May, becoming the first Englishman to net for the club since David Beckham in 2009.

OLIVIER GIROUD (No9)

Another former Chelsea man in the squad, he agreed a two-year contract in July. The French centre-forward scored his first goals for the club with a brace in a 4-1 win against Cagliari in a Serie A clash last month.

SANDRO TONALI (No8)

A holding midfielder who agreed a permanent move from Brescia in July after spending last season on loan at the San Siro. He did not score in 37 games last term but recorded his first Milan goal with the opener in last month's 4-1 home win over Cagliari.

THEO HERNANDEZ (No19)

An attacking left-back now in his third season with the club, he joined from Real Madrid in 2019 in a deal overseen by Milan's legendary left-back Paolo Maldini. He received his first senior call up by France last month.

THE SQUAD FOR 2021/22

**STEFANO PIOLI**

Age: 55, Italian

Previously at (since 2011):

Palermo, Bologna, Lazio, Inter, Fiorentina.

Last season Stefano brought AC Milan the prize of Champions League football for the first time in seven seasons, something that would have seemed inconceivable during the club's Eighties and Nineties pomp.

In those days the Parma-born man was a centre-back with the likes of Parma, Juventus, Hellas Verona and Fiorentina.

His coaching career started with Salernitana back in 2003 and Milan are now the 13th Italian club he's taken charge of.

It's proving to be a lucky 13 too. Initially appointed in October 2019 until the end of the season, his work impressed club chiefs and he was handed a two-year extension. He built on that top-six finish by helping the side claim runners-up spot last season.

Now closing in on 100 games as AC Milan boss, he has managed in well over 700 career fixtures.

Reacting to the draw which paired *I Rossoneri* with the Reds, FC Porto and Atletico Madrid, he said: "This is a challenging and difficult group. But we are AC Milan and it is normal to be with the big clubs. These teams also have history like us.

"This is the Champions League and we can't wait to start. We will try to do important things."



NEED TO KNOW...

While this is Milan's first visit to Anfield for a competitive first-team fixture, they have played European football on Merseyside before.

In September 1975 they drew 0-0 with Everton at Goodison Park in a UEFA Cup first-round match before beating the Toffees 1-0 in the second leg at the San Siro.

**1****CIPRIAN TATARUSANU**

Age: 35, Romanian

Previously at: Lyon

GOALKEEPER

**16****MIKE MAIGNAN**

Age: 26, French

Previously at: Lille

GOALKEEPER

**77****ALESSANDRO PLIZZARI**

Age: 21, Italian

Previously at: N/A

GOALKEEPER

**2****DAVIDE CALABRIA**

Age: 24, Italian

Previously at: N/A

DEFENDER

**5****FODE BALLO**

Age: 24, Senegalese

Previously at: AS Monaco

DEFENDER

**13****ALESSIO ROMAGNOLI**

Age: 26, Italian

Previously at: AS Roma

DEFENDER

**19****THEO HERNANDEZ**

Age: 23, French

Previously at: Real Madrid

DEFENDER

**20****PIERRE KALULU**

Age: 21, French

Previously at: Lyon

DEFENDER

**23****FIKAYO TOMORI**

Age: 23, English

Previously at: Chelsea

DEFENDER



24

SIMON KJAER

Age: 32, Danish
Previously at: Sevilla
DEFENDER



25

ALESSANDRO FLORENZI

Age: 30, Italian
Loaned from: AS Roma
DEFENDER



46

MATTEO GABBIA

Age: 21, Italian
Previously at: N/A
DEFENDER



4

ISMAEL BENNACER

Age: 23, Algerian
Previously at: Empoli
MIDFIELDER



8

SANDRO TONALI

Age: 21, Italian
Previously at: Brescia
MIDFIELDER



10

BRAHIM DIAZ

Age: 22, Spanish
Loaned from: Real Madrid
MIDFIELDER



27

DANIEL MALDINI

Age: 19, Italian
Previously at: N/A
MIDFIELDER



33

RADE KRUNIC

Age: 27, Bosnian
Previously at: Empoli
MIDFIELDER



41

TIEMOUE BAKAYOKO

Age: 27, French
Loaned from: Chelsea
MIDFIELDER



56

ALEXIS SAELEMAEKERS

Age: 22, Belgian
Previously at: Anderlecht
MIDFIELDER



79

FRANCK KESSIE

Age: 24, Ivorian
Previously at: Atalanta
MIDFIELDER



9

OLIVIER GIROUD

Age: 34, French
Previously at: Chelsea
FORWARD



11

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC

Age: 39, Swedish
Previously at: LA Galaxy
FORWARD



12

ANTE REBIC

Age: 27, Croatian
Previously at: Eintracht Frankfurt
FORWARD



17

RAFAEL LEAO

Age: 22, Portuguese
Previously at: Lille
FORWARD



30

WALTER MESSIAS JUNIOR

Age: 30, Brazilian
Loaned from: Crotone
FORWARD



"RED AS FIRE, AND BLACK TO INVOKE FEAR"

Those red-and-black stripes, the pantheon of star players, the foggy and fabulous San Siro, the stranglehold on Italian and European football in the late Eighties and early Nineties... There's just something about Associazione Calcio Milan, or AC Milan as they are more widely-known, Italian football's most successful export.

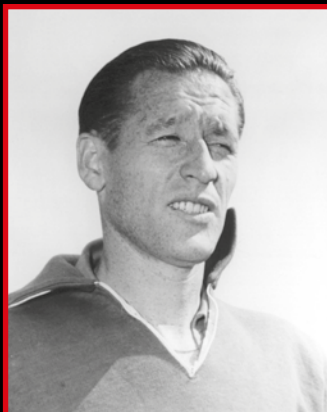
No other team from the country has won more than their 18 UEFA and FIFA trophies and they've spent all but two seasons of their 120-year history in the top tier of the domestic game. They are *I Rossoneri* – the Red and Blacks.

The club's first president back in 1899 was an English ex-pat businessman, Alfred Edwards, among 12 founding founders of the then Milan Foot-Ball and Cricket Club. Another was Herbert Kilpin, who worked in the textile industry and went on to become player-manager.

The *Milanisti* take pride in the fact that their club is the oldest in the city, formed nine years before Inter, and retains the English spelling of the city's name.

It is Kilpin, so the story goes, to whom the club owes its colours. "We are a team of devils," he once said. "Our colours are red as fire, and black to invoke fear in our opponents." The team won their first national title in 1901 and two more followed in 1906 and 1907.

Fast-forward half-a-century to the golden era of Swedish trio Nils Liedholm (below), Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl – 'Gre-NØ-Li' for short – who powered AC Milan to four



LEGEND

FRANCO
BARESI

scudettos in the 1950s. Liedholm would later coach the club to the Serie A title in 1979.

An even more successful spell followed the appointment of Silvio Berlusconi as president in 1986. He made Arrigo Sacchi manager and funded the signings of Dutch trio Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, allied to the all-Italian defensive base of Franco Baresi, Alessandro Costacurta and Paolo Maldini.

Milan won the scudetto in 1987/88, the same year that Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool of Barnes, Beardsley and Aldridge swaggered to the English title – imagine what an encounter in Europe that might have been. There followed two European Cups, two UEFA Super Cups and two FIFA World Club Cups, all in two seasons.

Milan's mastery continued under new boss Fabio Capello: four more Serie A titles in five years and the Champions League in 1994 when they famously swept aside Johan Cruyff's Barcelona – Pep Guardiola and co – in the Athens final.

The team which won 4-0 that night: in goal Sebastiano Rossi; a back-four of Mauro Tassotti, Christian Panucci, Filippo Galli and Paolo Maldini; in midfield Demetrio Albertini, Roberto Donadoni, Marcel Desailly and Zvonimir Boban; and upfront Dejan Savicevic and Daniele Massaro.

Under Capello's successor Alberto Zaccheroni a 16th scudetto was clinched in 1998/99.

Another followed in 2003/04 under Carlo Ancelotti, coach in both of those Champions League finals against Liverpool in 2005 and 2007, then most recently in 2010/11 under Massimiliano Allegri.



The stylish defender broke into AC Milan's first team in 1977/78 and won his first Serie A title 12 months later aged just 18. Loyal to the jersey through ups and downs, he was captain of the team that conquered the footballing world from the late Eighties onwards under the guidance of both Arrigo Sacchi and Fabio Capello.

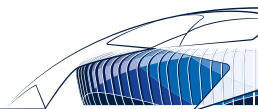
He finished his football career with 719 official matches for I Rossoneri, winning six league titles, three European Cups, two Intercontinental Cups and three European Cup Winners' Cups. AC Milan later retired their no6 jersey in his honour.

He is delighted to see his club return to Europe's premier competition tonight. "We are back after seven years, so we're happy to experience this moment," he told UEFA.com. "We need to enjoy playing in this important competition right until the end.

"The group isn't easy – it's very tough, very difficult – but Milan can play its part and play with conviction as we have always done over the last two years. We've grown a lot over that period.

"[Our opponents are] three great teams, so they'll be beautiful games and we're happy to be able to play them. I hope Milan can do well and I'm convinced we'll make the others work hard."





KOSTAS TSIMIKAS

The left-back had to bide his time last season but now he's showing what he can do – with a little help from the boss and Robbo

The start to the season has been good with the team going into the first international break unbeaten – how much have you enjoyed those games?

I have enjoyed them a lot. Obviously I started the first two games with the team and came on in the third and we have started this season with good results. I am very happy for that and to be part of this team.

Also we have had our fans by our side and this is perfect for the team. It helps us a lot and gives us an extra boost. I am very, very happy about that.

You had spent more than a year at the club without playing in front of a full Anfield but now we have a European night with a capacity crowd for the first time...

It was an incredible day for me when we played Burnley. I was very happy to play in front of our fans and personally they gave me a big boost when they sang for the team and I know that was the case for the other lads too.

As you saw, they gave everything and I think one part of that was the energy we received from our fans. We missed them a lot but now we are altogether and we will fight in every game.

I had heard a lot about how important the Liverpool fans are to the team at Anfield when I was young because my brother is a fan of Liverpool and he always sang the club's song You'll Never Walk Alone.

Of course we missed them a lot. If possible we always have to have the fans in the stadiums. They make the game more joyful.

I experienced a full Anfield for the first time against Burnley and then Chelsea and the experiences were incredible. We missed our fans singing for us during

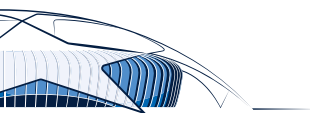


the 18 months that they weren't allowed to attend the stadiums because of the pandemic and we are happy they are back and they will be important to us achieving our goals at the end of the season, especially on a Champions League night like this.

The manager was very complimentary after your full home Premier League debut against Burnley – how pleased were you to be able to deliver such a performance?

I was very proud of the things the manager said about me after the game. It gave me power and a boost for the next training sessions and games. I always give everything in the training sessions and we all start a new season or new Champions League campaign with the same mentality – to give everything and try to win all the games.

Last year I obviously didn't have the game time to show what I could do, but I never gave up and I always trained hard every day at Kirkby. I put in the time to try and improve myself and now I know I can do more and more things.





It was a tough first year but Andy Robertson also had to bide his time before getting his chance – what have you learned most during your first 12 months here?

The manager has a different tactical game-plan and that takes time to adapt to. For me, it was also difficult because I lost a lot of the first six months because of COVID and two injuries that I picked up so the manager didn't have too much time to explain to me what he wants from the left-back in this team.

But everything about Liverpool is unbelievable. The fans, the people who work here at the club and the players. When I came everybody here made a big effort to make me feel at home and from the first day I loved this team because it is a big family.

Yes, those first six months were a very, very tough time for me but during the second six months of the year I trained with the manager and he showed me what he wants. I tried to understand from Andy too because it was also tough for him at the start.

It was hard for the manager last season because the team had big injuries to players, particularly in central defence, so it was really hard to put me in to play. But I feel that time has made me stronger and given me more opportunities to train and make more preparations with him until my chance came.

Now I'm ready and I know everything the manager wants from my position and I will try to show that on the pitch. I am ready for every challenge for the future.

You mention chatting to Andy Robertson too...

Yes, last year I tried to take the chance to ask him

about the game and the position. He is a very good person and he was always open to try and help me with the things that I wanted to talk about.

I spoke more with him about the tactical side because, like I say, because of the injuries I didn't have too much time to talk to the manager about what he really wanted. So I tried to learn that from everywhere because, for the team, left-back is a very important position.

My work, the things I heard, the things they showed me – the manager, Andy, the technical staff – were really helpful to help me understand faster the way that we play, our game-play.

I am very happy for that time I had to learn fast the Liverpool way and hopefully I am showing that on the pitch.

Fans have taken to your nickname of the 'The Greek Scouser' – how did that first stick?

It happened one day when we trained together as a team. It was said first of all as a joke because I always try to speak Scouse! I like the way the Scousers speak very fast and sometimes I try to use the Scouse accent but it is very hard for me. I try, but not always very well!

Then 'Greek Scouser' was said to me and one time I posted it on social media and everybody loved it! I am very happy for that and the people

“MO IS JUST PHENOMENAL BECAUSE THE THINGS HE IS DOING, NOBODY ELSE CAN DO – TO SCORE GOALS VERY EASILY. BUT HE ALSO WORKS VERY HARD. HE IS ONE OF THE GUYS WHO IS ALWAYS IN THE GYM OR OUT ON THE TRAINING PITCH”



always in the gym or out on the training pitch. We often stay together to train on things like his finishing or even free-kicks.

I wish all the best for him and I'm sure he will achieve everything that he wants to because he loves what he is doing and he works really hard for it.

Mo has also excelled in the Champions League but who did you enjoy watching in the tournament when you were younger?

When I was a kid I liked Ronaldinho a lot with the skills that he produced. I can't do the same! I would say Ronaldinho because of those skills. He was like a magician with the ball.

here have given me their support to give everything in every single game I play, so I want to make them happy and, first of all, win the games.

How is my Scouse? I'm still working on it but at the moment it is not at a good level!

You have a close friendship with Mo Salah – how did that come about?

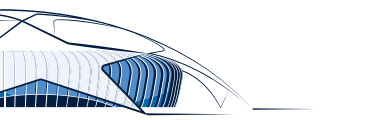
When I played at Olympiacos I had a team-mate from Egypt who is a very good friend of Mo's. When I was ready to travel to Liverpool, Mo was in Athens with my old team-mate so we flew together. So that's how the relationship started because we travelled together for our preparations and had more time to speak and to understand a lot of things about each other.

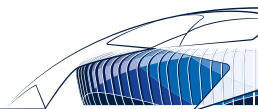
Mo is very friendly, a very good guy and in training I always ask him about everything because he knows the Premier League and he always suggests the best for everything to me. He is always a very honest guy and that is what I like about him.

Mo went into Sunday's game at Leeds United on 97 Premier League goals for Liverpool and 99 in total – his stats are absolutely astonishing...

I hope we will see his 100th Premier League goal for Liverpool soon and I am really confident it won't be long because he is a goal machine!

He is a very good player, and for me he is phenomenal because the things he is doing, nobody else can do – to score goals very easily like him. But he also works very hard. He is one of the guys who is





Some things never change

Saturday 23 March 2019 and while tonight is AC Milan's first official visit to Anfield they did enjoy a reunion with the Reds with a host of the class of 2005 and 07 and more lining up in aid of charity.

Legends games at Anfield have always delivered goals and this occasion certainly didn't disappoint either. Following the 4-3 win over Real Madrid and the 5-5 draw with Bayern Munich in the two previous Springs, supporters were treated to another thriller that again would go right down to the wire.

Liverpool Legends and Milan Glorie played out an enjoyable topsy-turvy affair (sound familiar?) with Steven Gerrard scoring a last-minute Kop-end winner (sound familiar?) in a 3-2 home win.

Twenty of the 36 players involved across those two UEFA Champions League final tussles were here in support of LFC Foundation and other causes, with eras colliding and old partnerships restored for the occasion.

Fellow European Cup heroes Alan Kennedy and Djimi Traore shared duties at left-back, while John Aldridge and Djibril Cisse would form part of the forward line to name but two combinations only these events can bring, while Milan brought stellar players such as Cafu, Kaka and Andrea Pirlo to the party.

The Reds – managed by Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush – took a 1-0 advantage into the break against Carlo Ancelotti's side courtesy of a terrific improvised volley by Robbie Fowler from Glen Johnson's cross.

Cisse – as he did from the spot in Istanbul – found the net soon into the second period, sliding a low finish past Christian Abbiati in front of the Kop. Milan, to their credit, struck back with two superb goals of their own.

First, Pirlo stroked home a 25-yard free-kick into the corner of the net with Sander Westerveld – on for Ataturk hero Jerzy Dudek – helpless, and there was nothing he could do about Giuseppe Pancaro's stunning curler from the corner of the box in the closing stages.

In typical fashion, the Reds responded with captain Gerrard central to the exciting climax. Twisting on the edge of the area, the no8 found half-a-yard to shoot with his right foot into the far corner of the net. Some things indeed never change.

"Never let it be said that Steven Gerrard doesn't know how to work to a script," read the *Liverpool Echo* match report. "Memories of Istanbul and 2005 came flooding back as Liverpool earned victory over their AC Milan counterparts in Anfield's annual Legends match."

Both sides left the field to a standing ovation on their respective lap of honours, the reunion generating almost £1million in funds to support those in need in Liverpool and beyond.

Here's to many more trips down memory lane...





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STORY BOARD

Six images recalling one 2005 night in Istanbul



1. Them Scousers Again reached another European Cup final and the travelling Kop descended on Istanbul, taking over the city's historic Taksim Square then trekking to the remotely-situated Ataturk Stadium to see Liverpool take on AC Milan. It was the first time the two clubs had ever met.

2. By half-time Carlo Ancelotti's Milan side looked to have the UEFA Champions League final won. Defender Paolo Maldini's shock first-minute opener and two goals in six minutes from Hernan Crespo gave I Rossoneri a seemingly unassailable 3-0 half-time lead.

3. Liverpool supporters sang You'll Never Walk Alone at half-time and Steven Gerrard's looping header gave them hope. Vladimir Smicer fired in a quick second then Xabi Alonso completed a stunning six-minute comeback by netting from the rebound after Milan keeper Dida had saved his penalty.



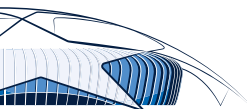
4. Reds goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek made a logic-defying save from Milan marksman Andriy Shevchenko in extra-time and when the final went to a nailbiting penalty shoot-out it was Dudek's save from the 2004 Ballon d'Or winner that made the Reds champions of Europe again.

5. It was the fifth time that Liverpool had won the European Cup/Champions League in their history but the first occasion since 1984, when they'd beaten Roma in the Italian capital again on penalties. Amid wild celebrations among the massed travelling Kop, defender Jamie Carragher picked out family and friends in the crowd.

6. Then came a moment that will last in the memory forever. Skipper Gerrard joyously lifted the trophy high into the Turkish night as the ticker-tape fell. In Istanbul, we won it five times.



TWO YEARS LATER, RAFA BENITEZ'S REDS FACED ANCELOTTI'S AC MILAN IN ANOTHER UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL, THIS TIME IN ATHENS. GERRARD AND MALDINI AGAIN LED THEIR TEAMS BUT THIS TIME IT WAS MILAN'S NIGHT. TWO GOALS FROM FILIPPO INZAGHI WERE ENOUGH FOR THE ITALIANS TO LAND THEIR SEVENTH EUROPEAN CUP, DESPITE DIRK KUYT PULLING A LATE GOAL BACK. TONIGHT, WE MEET AGAIN.





UNA NOTTE COME QUESTA

AC Milan tonight become the ninth different Italian side whom Liverpool FC have faced at Anfield in European competition

Statistically speaking, history suggests that there will be a decisive result between Liverpool and Associazione Calcio Milan tonight. During the Reds' previous eight encounters against first-time Italian visitors to L4, there has never been a draw.

It all began back in 1965 on Anfield's first famous big European night when Milan's neighbours Internazionale became the first Italian club to face the Kop. Manager Bill Shankly's side, who had switched to playing in all-red six months earlier, were enjoying their first season in Europe and had reached the semi-final of the European Cup.

Italian and reigning World Club Cup champions Internazionale were playing in their eighth season of European football but ran into an incredible Anfield atmosphere – the like of which they had never witnessed before.

Master of psychology Bill Shankly allowed the Inter players to run out of the Anfield tunnel first and they made the mistake of heading to the Kop-end. Legend has it, the noise was so deafening that they froze before turning around and running towards the Anfield Road end instead.

Shanks then sent out the injured Gerry Byrne and Gordon Milne to parade the FA Cup – won by Liverpool for the first time

TRENDING



WORDS: Chris McLoughlin



against Leeds United at Wembley just three days earlier – around the perimeter of the pitch.

The decibel levels went up another notch and Inter were a goal down in four minutes, Roger Hunt half-volleying home Ian Callaghan's cross. Inter, who had an array of talent in their side including Giacinto Facchetti, Jair and Luis Suarez [not that one!] equalised in the tenth minute through Alessandro Mazzola after a rare mistake by Ron Yeats. But the Reds were on fire.

A brilliantly-worked free-kick between Willie Stevenson and Hunt allowed Callaghan to make it 2-1 from a narrow angle before Chris Lawler had a goal disallowed for a debatable offside



given against a team-mate. But when Ian St John made it 3-1 from close-range after Hunt's shot was parried, the Kop were at their inventive, intuitive best.

'Oh Inter one-two-three, go back to I-ta-ly', they sung to the show tune *Santa Lucia*. "The crowd made such a noise as I have never heard in my life," wrote Vittorio Pozzo, Italy's 1934 and 1938 World Cup-winning manager-turned-journalist. "It was beyond my comprehension how a football crowd could be stirred to such passion. No team could hope to triumph against this crowd tonight."

Inter coach Helenio Herrera turned his back on the pitch for part of the game due to Liverpool's dominance and paid tribute to the Reds in his own way. "We have been beaten before but never defeated," he said. "Tonight we were defeated."

A controversial 3-0 second-leg defeat in the San Siro knocked the Bill Shankly Boys out, but five months later their next European opponents were also Italian Anfield debutants: Juventus. They arrived on Merseyside leading 1-0 from the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round but also ran into the Kop in its 1960s pomp.

Amid another din from the 51,055 Anfield crowd, Juve went 1-0 down to Chris Lawler's 19th-minute header and five minutes later made the mistake of letting Geoff Strong shoot from long-range.

"It has to be just about the greatest goal I ever scored," he later recalled. "The ball crashed down off the crossbar right above the goalie, bounced down on the line behind him and into the roof of the net. He never moved. It was like a rocket, if I do say so myself!"

Liverpool's 2-0 win took them through on aggregate and incredibly it was 1992 – 27 years and seven pieces of European silverware later – before the Reds faced another Italian side at Anfield.

Genoa, two up from the first leg of a UEFA Cup quarter-final tie, met a Liverpool side that were struggling to adapt to the so-called 'four-foreigners' rule which allowed only a quartet of non-English players to appear in UEFA competitions.

It forced manager Graeme Souness to pick four from Bruce Grobbelaar, Steve Nicol, Jan Molby, Ray Houghton, Ian Rush, Dean Saunders and Ronny Rosenthal, meaning the likes of Mike Hooper and Mike Marsh came into the side.

Two goals from Uruguayan international Carlos Aguilera

handed Genoa a 2-1 victory – Rush netting for the Reds – to give them the honour of becoming the first Italian side to win at Anfield.

Nine years later AS Roma, defeated by the Reds in Rome in the 1984 European Cup final, also won on their first Anfield visit, beating Gerard Houllier's side 1-0 courtesy of a goal from another Uruguayan, Gianni Guigou.

However, with Michael Owen having netted twice in the Stadio Olimpico first leg, it was Liverpool who progressed to the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup, although they did so in controversial circumstances after referee Jose Maria Garcia-Aranda appeared to award the visitors a penalty for handball against Markus Babbel only change his mind and give a corner instead.

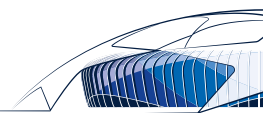
Roma were beaten 2-0 at Anfield on their second visit in 2002 while Juventus (2-1) and Internazionale (2-0) also suffered defeats on their returns to L4 in the Champions League in 2005 and 2008 respectively.

The next first-time visitors – and winners – were Fiorentina in the 2009/10 Champions League group stage. It was an unusually subdued Anfield as Rafa Benitez's side were enduring a difficult campaign on the pitch, amid turmoil off it, and had already been knocked out of the competition with a game to play.

Yossi Benayoun put Liverpool ahead, but a second half equaliser from Martin Jorgensen and Alberto Gilardino's 90th-minute strike gave *la Viola* an historic victory as the first Italian side to win a Champions League game at Anfield.

The following season, Napoli's maiden Anfield visit came in the group stages of the Europa League and at half-time it looked as if Ezequiel Lavezzi's goal would give the Neapolitans all three points. But Liverpool boss Roy Hodgson had an ace up his sleeve and brought on Steven Gerrard for Milan Jovanovic at half-time.

Liverpool's captain was at his inspirational best. He equalised in the 75th minute, converted a penalty in the 88th minute and



in stoppage-time completed his hat-trick. It was the first time a Liverpool substitute had ever netted a treble in European competition and only the second time it had happened in LFC's entire history – quite a feat for new owner John W Henry to witness at his first home game since completing a takeover of the club.

Brendan Rodgers was in charge of the team two years later when Udinese made their Anfield debuts in the Europa League group stage. A number of regular starters were rested with the likes of Jack Robinson, Oussama Assaidi and Fabio Borini getting game-time, but it didn't work out for Liverpool.

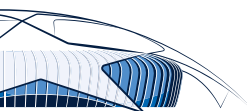
Despite Jonjo Shelvey opening the scoring, I Bianconeri hit back with three goals from Antonio di Natale, Sebastian Coates (og) and Giovanni Pasquale to become the first and only Italian side to score three times at Anfield. Substitute Luis Suarez got



one back from a free-kick and had two other close-range efforts blocked, but Udinese clung on for a 3-2 win.

Since Jürgen Klopp has been in the Anfield hot-seat, Roma have returned to Anfield in 2018 and were beaten 5-2 in the Champions League semi-final. Napoli also made two group-stage visits, losing 1-0 in 2018 and becoming the only Italian side to get a draw here when it finished 1-1 in 2019. Then last season Atalanta became the eighth, and most recent, side from Italy to make their Anfield debuts. Yet This Wasn't Anfield.

Goals from Josip Illicic and Robin Gosens gave Gian Piero Gasperini's side a thoroughly-deserved 2-0 Champions League group-stage win, but with the game played behind-closed-doors due to the coronavirus pandemic it couldn't have felt less like the atmospheric Anfield usually associated with big European nights. Nights like tonight...



YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB



GOT A MINUTE, BOSS?

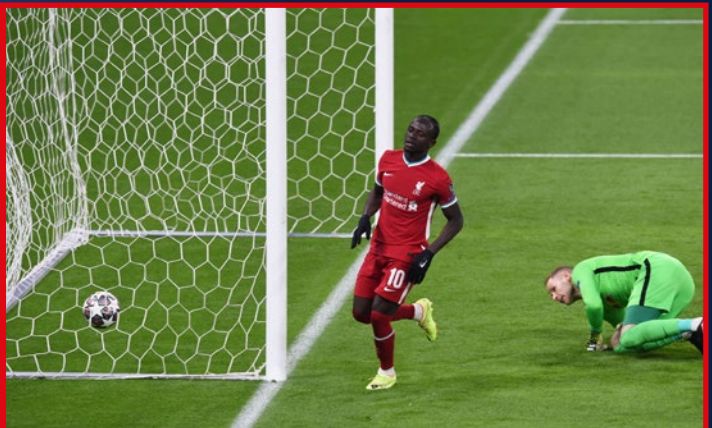
The stats that matter from Jürgen Klopp's first four seasons as
Liverpool manager in the UEFA Champions League

43

Different players
used by Jürgen
Klopp in the
competition

100TH

Sadio Mane brought up a
century of Liverpool goals
in the Champions League
under the manager when
he netted the second in
the 2-0 'home' win over RB
Leipzig in Budapest in the
round of 16 back in March



Stats compiled by Dave Ball and Ged Rea

17

Goalscorers. It comes as no surprise that
Mohamed Salah leads the scoring charts
with 26. Sadio Mane on 19, and Roberto
Firmino on 16, also have double-figures,
then it's Philippe Coutinho and Alex
Oxlade-Chamberlain with five-apiece

46

Matches played so far with Liverpool
winning 27 of them. Eight have been drawn
and eleven have ended in defeat

4

Liverpool have qualified from the group
phase in all four Champions League
campaigns under Klopp – lifting the trophy
in the only season they'd reached the
knockout stage by finishing second in
their group instead of topping it

20

The Reds have kept 20 clean-sheets in
the 46 games, with three of the shut-outs
coming against Porto. They have failed to
score in only nine of those fixtures – that's
less than 20 per cent





3 Players have played against Liverpool and then for LFC in the competition: Alisson Becker (AS Roma), Takumi Minamino (RB Salzburg) and Thiago Alcantara (Bayern Munich). Conversely Philippe Coutinho (Barcelona) is the only man to have played for Liverpool and then against them, in that order

1st

The first goal was Trent Alexander-Arnold's free-kick at Hoffenheim in the play-off round first leg in August 2017. The most recent was Mo Salah's at Real Madrid in last April's quarter-final first leg at the Alfredo Di Stefano stadium



6

Members of JK's first Champions League line-up still at the club: Jordan Henderson, Joel Matip, Roberto Firmino, Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Trent Alexander-Arnold were all in Klopp's XI for the play-off round tie at Hoffenheim in August 2017

**18
YEARS
25 DAYS**

The age of the youngest player used by Klopp for Liverpool in the Champions League so far: defender Billy Koumetio in the group stage game at FC Midtjylland last December



3

Philippe Coutinho is among three men to have scored a hat-trick for the Reds in the tournament, in the 7-0 group-stage win over Spartak Moscow at Anfield in December 2017. The others came in 5-0 wins away from home: Sadio Mane at Porto in February 2018 and Diogo Jota at Atalanta in November 2020

45

Appearances by Mo Salah, the most, playing in all but one of the Klopp's Champions League fixtures at the helm. Not far behind on 44 are Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, while Georginio Wijnaldum played in 43 before his summer switch to PSG. The closing pack consist of James Milner (39), Trent Alexander-Arnold (38), Andy Robertson (36) and captain Jordan Henderson (35)

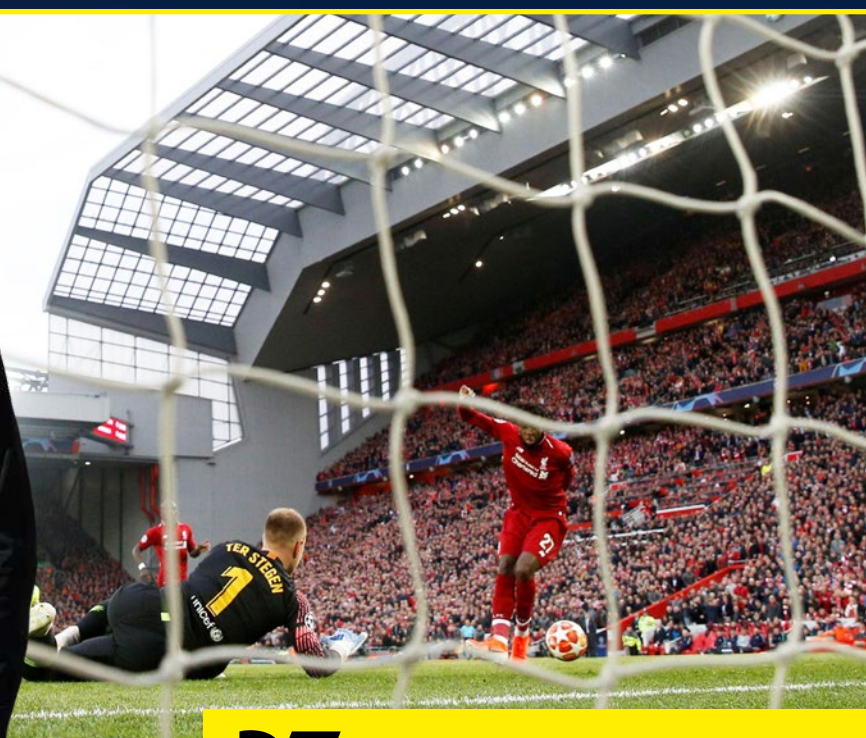


101

Goals scored by LFC at an average of 2.20 per game. The Reds have conceded 49 goals at an average of 1.06

7-0

Liverpool's biggest-ever European away win has come under Klopp: a 7-0 victory at Maribor in October 2017. The scoreline also saw Liverpool equal the Champions League's biggest-ever away wins. The other two teams to achieve that scoreline are Shakhtar Donetsk (v Bate Borisov in Belarus in 2014) and Marseille (v Zilina in Slovakia in 2010)



27

Liverpool's no27 Divock Origi has shown himself to be a man for the big occasion. His three Champions League goals to date have either come in the semi-final or final! He netted twice in the semi second leg against Barcelona in 2019 and of course once against Tottenham Hotspur in the final in Madrid

5

Goalkeepers used. Alisson Becker has been the most frequently selected with 25 appearances, followed by Loris Karius (13), Adrian (four) plus Caoimhin Kelleher and Simon Mignolet (two games each)



35 YEARS 100 DAYS

The age of the oldest player used to date: vice-captain James Milner in the home quarter-final draw with Real Madrid in April 2021



8

Liverpool have faced an opponent for the first time in their European history on eight occasions. Those clubs are: TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, NK Maribor, Manchester City, RB Salzburg, KRC Genk, FC Midtjylland, Atalanta BC and RB Leipzig



52

Of Liverpool's 101 Champions League goals under Klopp, more than half have arrived in the second period. Forty-eight have been scored in the opening half while one has been netted in extra-time (Roberto Firmino v Atletico Madrid in March 2020)



106

After Liverpool conceded the quickest goal ever in a Champions League final to AC Milan's Paolo Maldini in the first minute of 2005, striker Mohamed Salah's penalty against Tottenham Hotspur in 2019 was the second-quickest goal in a final, coming after 106 seconds in Madrid. That goal in the 2019 final also saw Salah score with his first touch of the ball. Alisson Becker, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Andy Robertson and Roberto Firmino did not get their first touches of the game until Liverpool were already one goal ahead

1

The game against RB Leipzig in March 2021 was the first time in Liverpool's history that they played a competitive home match 'away' from Anfield



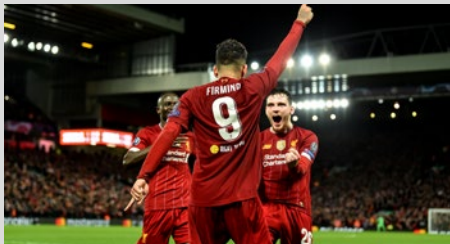
23

In 2017/18 the Reds broke the English record for most goals in a Champions League group stage, scoring 23 times. Including the play-off round games against Hoffenheim, they netted 47 goals in total during that campaign, beating Barcelona's 1999/2000 record of 45



98,299

The biggest attendance came in the semi-final first leg against Barcelona at the Nou Camp in May 2019



4

The home leg with Atletico Madrid in 2020 saw four goals scored in extra-time for the first time in Champions League history

12,506

The lowest attendance came in the group-stage game against NK Maribor in Slovenia in October 2017. Had the pandemic not resulted in games being played behind-closed-doors last season, that figure would have been smaller as the capacity at FC Midtjylland's Arena Herning is 11,432

13

The Reds have faced teams from 13 nations with Spain (four), Germany and Italy (three each) providing the highest number of different opponents. Liverpool's most regular opponents under Klopp have been Napoli and FC Porto who they have faced in four fixtures. They have also met Real Madrid three times

3RD

Against Barcelona in 2019 Liverpool became only the third team to overturn a three-goal first-leg deficit in a European Cup/Champions League semi-final – following Panathinaikos in 1971 (v Red Star Belgrade) and Barcelona in 1986 (v IFK Goteborg)

10,000

The Champions League win over Midtjylland at Anfield last season in the group stage saw forward Diogo Jota record the 10,000th goal of Liverpool's history in all competitions



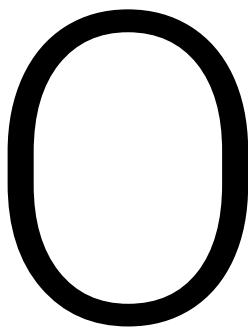


LIGHTNING BOLT

Jordan Henderson has captained Liverpool on Champions League nights of fire and fury,

joy and heartache, in awesome atmospheres at home and abroad





On Tuesday 16 September 2014, seven years ago almost to the day, Anfield witnessed Jordan Henderson's first appearance for Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League: a group match against Bulgarian champions Ludogorets, graced by a late Mario Balotelli European

debut strike for the Reds and an even later penalty converted by captain Steven Gerrard.

In the return game Henderson, then 24, scored his first and so far only Champions League goal, clipping home at the far-post from a Raheem Sterling cross, only for Ludogorets to grab an 88th-minute equaliser in Sofia.

The *Times* match report noted that 'Henderson's furious goal celebration released at least some of the pent-up frustration that had been building in the squad'.

This was Liverpool post-Luis Suarez, struggling to integrate new signings, still coming to terms with the previous season's painfully-derailed Premier League title challenge, and just about avoiding the ignominy of a fifth straight defeat in all competitions.

Ultimately the Reds finished third in their group behind Real Madrid and Basel, transferring to the Europa League where'd they'd lose to Besiktas on penalties in the knockouts. Henderson had played in five of the Champions League group matches under manager Brendan Rodgers but was an unused substitute when a subdued Liverpool went down 1-0 in the grand setting of the Bernabeu.



The following season, 2015/16, brought more Europa League football under first Rodgers then new boss Jürgen Klopp. Following Steven Gerrard's farewell, Henderson had been appointed club captain. But a broken bone in his right foot, sustained in September, delayed his participation until February's round-of-32 tie with Augsburg.

He played in both legs against the Germans and twice versus Manchester United in the subsequent round-of-16 triumph, before a knee injury curtailed his contribution during the quarter-final first leg at Borussia Dortmund.

At the end of the epic second leg against Thomas Tuchel's team at Anfield he celebrated on crutches with his team-mates. In the inauspicious final against Sevilla in Basel, he could only watch from the bench.

The following season there'd be no European football for Liverpool, but a fourth-place finish secured a return to the Champions League for 2017/18. It would be an altogether different adventure.

This time, after a taste of European football in both of UEFA's main tournaments – of learning what it took to wear the armband against some of the best in the business – Henderson was skipping a more confident and capable Liverpool back into the big time.

After a two-legged qualifier with Hoffenheim, the Champions League 'proper' commenced in 2017/18 with Group E consisting of the Reds, Sevilla, Spartak Moscow and Maribor – the order in which the teams would finish after the completion of their six matchdays.

Sevilla at home, Wednesday 13 September. One down after five minutes before Alberto Moreno's one-two with Henderson allowed the left-back to burst into the box and cut back for Roberto Firmino to score. "A wonderful equaliser," enthused *The Times*, "highlighting the myriad qualities in Klopp's team." It finished 2-2 on the night.

Spartak away. One-all in the Russian capital despite Liverpool having 41 shots. Three weeks later Henderson was rested for the 7-0 rout of Maribor in Slovenia and returned as an early sub for Georginio Wijnaldum in the corresponding 3-0 win at home.

Sevilla away in late November. From three-up to three-all in the white-hot atmosphere of the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium, before Spartak were blitzed 7-0 at Anfield with Henderson again on the bench ahead of the first Merseyside derby of the season four days later.

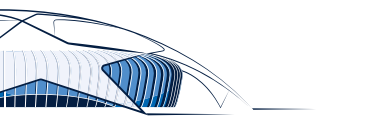
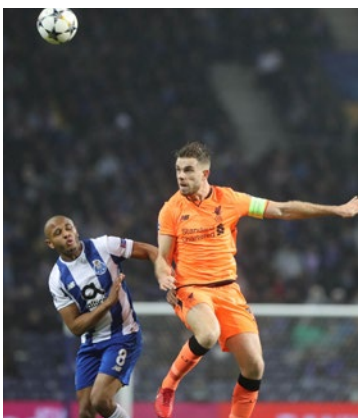
He played in both legs against Porto in the last 16, the tie all but over after Liverpool's 5-0 win in the Estadio da Dragao. It was a midfield masterclass by Henderson and fellow Englishman James Milner, roadblocking their hosts

AFTER A TASTE OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL IN BOTH UEFA TOURNAMENTS – OF LEARNING WHAT IT TOOK TO WEAR THE ARMBAND AGAINST THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS – HENDERSON WAS SKIPPING A MORE CONFIDENT AND CAPABLE LIVERPOOL BACK INTO THE BIG TIME

while spurring deadly counterattacks in what was Porto's heaviest European home defeat and the first time an English side had scored five goals in an away Champions League knockout match.

Out came Liverpool and Manchester City in the mouthwatering draw for the quarters. "We haven't won a raffle to be at this stage – we've earned it," wrote Henderson in his matchday programme column for the first leg.

"We're here on merit and it's important for Liverpool that we embrace that mindset. Our involvement in the Champions League in recent years hasn't been as regular as any of us would have wanted. It's our aim that being in this competition and being in the advanced stages is something we achieve consistently."



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As pivotal at Anfield as those three first-half strikes by Mohamed Salah, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Sadio Mane was Henderson's relentless graft after the break, snuffing out any hopes the visitors had of poaching an away-goal. In the process, though, he was booked for a foul on former team-mate Sterling – his third yellow card of the competition – and would miss the second leg.

So to Roma, who had somehow overturned a 4-1 first-leg deficit against Barcelona in the previous round to reach the last four. It was Liverpool's first Champions League semi-final for ten years and uncharted waters for Henderson and company.

"I don't think that matters too much because we've demonstrated what we're about and shown what we can do when we're at our top level," he argued.

"Roma are a fantastic team. They beat Barcelona, who were probably favourites to win the Champions League, and to beat them 3-0 shows you how strong they are.

"Of course it will be a proud moment leading Liverpool out, but it's not about me – it's about the club and how far we've come. I'll be totally focused on the game, my role in the team and the job I have to do on the night."

A tempo-setting Henderson was everywhere in the first leg at Anfield as the home side triumphed 5-2, and tired and emotional at the end of the equally hard-fought second leg in the Italian capital which finished 4-2 to Roma. The Reds were through.

Despite a strong start to the Kiev final against Real Madrid, with Henderson, Milner and Wijnaldum working tirelessly to shut down space, it all went horribly wrong. Among the night's abiding images were those of an injured Salah trudging tearfully off the pitch after half-an-hour, goalkeeper Loris Karius inconsolable at the final whistle, and the captain walking past the Champions League trophy on its high presentation plinth.

Football, like life, is all about timing. It wasn't meant to be Jordan's night, but how do you bounce back from such bitter disappointment? Starting with a stirring message in the matchday programme ahead of the first group game the following season, at home to much-fancied Paris Saint-Germain.

"It's less than four months since our last game in the Champions League and in all honesty tonight's fixture could not have come around quickly enough," he wrote.

"I know because of the way we lost the final to Real Madrid that we now have some painful memories of this competition, but they are far, far outnumbered by the special ones and that is why the players can't wait to get going in Europe again.



"So while we welcome PSG – as a team which has our total respect – we do so with a determination to show our best and to remind Europe that what happened in 2017/18 was not a flash in the pan."

What a night, what a start to the new campaign. Three-two, with goals by Daniel Sturridge, Milner (from the spot) and Firmino (in added time) enough to overcome another visiting side coached by Tuchel.

The *Liverpool Echo* remarked that the hosts "won battles all over the field. Henderson and Milner provided the combative edge required as they thundered into tackles and kept the Reds on the front foot."

Henderson's high-octane style occasionally comes at a cost, and after playing in the narrow away-defeat to Napoli he missed the double-header with Red Star Belgrade due to a hamstring injury. He returned for Liverpool's trip to Paris where the hosts exacted revenge for their Anfield woe, winning 2-1 to condemn the Reds to three away-defeats in the group stage for the first time.

Beat Napoli at home, though, and none of it would matter. Hendo's programme notes: "It is 100 per cent not necessary for me to talk up the significance of this game





HOW DO YOU BOUNCE BACK FROM THE BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT OF DEFEAT IN THE FINAL? STARTING WITH A STIRRING MESSAGE IN THE MATCHDAY PROGRAMME AHEAD OF THE FIRST GROUP GAME THE FOLLOWING SEASON, AT HOME TO MUCH-FANCIED PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

Alcantara, James Rodriguez and Javi Martinez. In the Bavarian capital Jordan's evening ended after only 13 minutes with an injury to his left ankle, but his team-mates still conjured a fine 3-1 victory.

Next up, Porto once more and this time a 6-1 aggregate scoreline. The *Echo* scored Henderson eight out of 10 for the Anfield first leg as he "bounded around in a slightly more advanced role and put in a great pass down the inside-right channel to set in motion Liverpool's second goal."

Just the seven out of 10 for the second leg in which he came on for Andy Robertson with 20 minutes left, "brought extra energy to Liverpool's play and provided a lovely cross for Firmino to score."

It could have been so different in the semi-final first leg in Barcelona if the Reds had taken their chances, not least when Henderson's crowd-shusher of a through-ball was spooned over the bar by Mane. It was one-nil in the Nou Camp at that point. It finished 3-0 but the captain was in defiant mood ahead of the Anfield return.

"You should never make promises in football about the outcome or the result, but I can guarantee that whichever

or give any type of instruction to our supporters tonight. Our fans have the heritage and knowledge for nights such as this, like no other.

"It's a big night. We've made it a bigger night than maybe it should be because we haven't performed on the road so far. But it's in our hands."

The skipper and his team-mates duly prevailed, a solitary Salah strike and astounding Alisson save proving to be the difference.

It was tight too in the goalless first leg of the last-16 tie with Bayern Munich, with Henderson, Wijnaldum and Naby Keita effectively cancelled out at Anfield by Thiago





AS ONE LIVERPOOL FANS WEBSITE PUT IT: "YOU REALLY DO NOTICE JORDAN HENDERSON WHEN HE ISN'T THERE. YOU NOTICE HIM WHEN HE IS THERE, OF COURSE, BUT HIS INFLUENCE IS JUST AS OBVIOUS IN HIS ABSENCE, IF NOT MORE SO"

eleven players take to the pitch in red we are going out there to give everything.

"We're not just playing for pride. That's not enough for Liverpool – we're playing to win and make the final. Whether we can do it or not, we'll find out at full-time. But we owe it to the fans to make sure until the final whistle goes, we never stop."

He also wrote respectfully about former Reds duo Luis Suarez and Philippe Coutinho. "Seeing both back at Anfield tonight in Barcelona shirts sums up where we are as a club – we face them as opponents in a Champions League semi-final.

"Hopefully they'll leave remembering why Anfield is so special, but not because they'll leave with a Barca win. They'll see a club which is back at Europe's top table and has another big chapter to come in this season's story."

An altogether big chapter indeed. Gini Wijnaldum and Divock Origi may have grabbed the headlines on that now-legendary evening, but it was Henderson who made the all-important first goal happen.

He powered into the box, taking Mane's flick in his stride and weaving past three opponents before his left-footed shot was parried by the keeper into Origi's path. And it was Henderson who kept the faith, despite taking a wincing blow to the knee on the half-hour. Never give up.

"We wanted to start fast," he told BT Sport afterwards. "We got an early goal which helped, but it wasn't just the goal – it was the overall getting after them and putting them under pressure. They're a fantastic team but we knew if we did everything, showed a bit of personality and showed heart, we'd have a chance to get something."

Liverpool had reached their ninth European Cup/Champions League final. Tottenham Hotspur would try to thwart a sixth success. If it wasn't a classic final – there

was too much at stake for the football to flow more freely – it was compelling.

Henderson ran, passed and tackled with Fabinho and Wijnaldum ably assisting in the middle of the park. The 2-0 win by virtue of Salah's early spot-kick and Origi's final flourish meant it would be a lad from Sunderland hoisting the famous old trophy into the night sky for Liverpool 14 years after a lad from Huyton.





Jürgen Klopp once said: "The most difficult job in the last 500 years of football was to replace Steven Gerrard. In the mind of the people it was like: if it's not Stevie, then it's not good enough. And Jordan has dealt with that outstandingly well, so he can be really proud."

Henderson sought out his father at the end of the final for a dad-and-lad hug then spoke pitchside: "I'm so proud to be a part of this football club. I've had tough times but I've kept going – just as this club has. It's the best moment of my life, what I dreamed of since I was a kid."

Retaining the Champions League title is always a tough ask. After Liverpool had kicked off their defence in 2019/20 with defeat at old foes Napoli, the captain started the home game against RB Salzburg but had to leave the field with the score at 3-3, with Salah eventually restoring the home side's advantage.

Henderson then sat out the double-header with KRC Genk as his manager contemplated an imminent Anfield showdown with Manchester City in the Premier League. Who remembers Hendo's brilliant Kop-end cross for Sadio Mane's header to make it 3-0 on that November afternoon?

He was back in Euro action for the cagey 1-1 draw at

home to Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli, followed by the crucial trip to Salzburg with a point required to reach the last 16.

Having helped the Reds to repel Erling Braut Haaland – the 19-year-old thus failing to become the first player to score in his first six Champions League appearances – Henderson produced the pass of the night to pick out Salah, who fired from the acutest of angles to make it 2-0.

The subsequent tie with Atletico Madrid, on the eve of lockdown, saw Liverpool lose at home in the Champions League for the first time with Henderson as captain. When Atalanta won here in last season's group stage, he was absent from proceedings. As one fans website put it: "You really do notice Jordan Henderson when he isn't there. You notice him when he is there, of course, but his influence is just as obvious in his absence, if not more so."

The Budapest 'away' leg against RB Leipzig last February was Henderson's 40th and most recent appearance in the Champions League, with injury in the Merseyside derby at Anfield three days later all but ending his 2020/21 season.

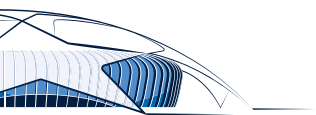
On the all-time LFC list for UCL apps, he occupies joint-12th place with Dirk Kuyt. The current side's front-three of Salah, Mane and Firmino have played 45, 45 and 44 times respectively. Previous Champions League-winning captain Steven Gerrard racked up 86 appearances, five behind Jamie Carragher.

If it's asking way too much to get near to those personal totals, the new deal keeping Henderson at Liverpool to the summer of 2025 does give him a shot at becoming the first Reds captain since Emlyn Hughes (1977 and 1978) to raise Old Big Ears aloft more than once.

But first, the absolute hard yards, starting tonight from scratch against AC Milan.

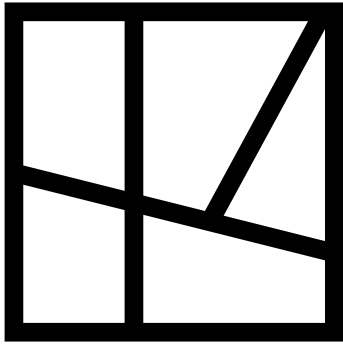


WORDS: David Cottrell





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ANFIELD XTRA

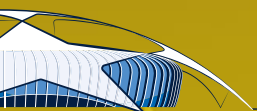
ALL ROUND THE FIELDS OF ANFIELD ROAD WHERE ONCE WE WATCHED THE KING KENNY PLAY

EXHIBITION STUFF

The Reds have been in three Champions League finals since Istanbul, in 2007, 2018 and 2019, but the events of 2005 remain the stuff of legends.

The Liverpool FC Story Museum has displayed various artefacts from that evening, including one of the shirts worn by captain Steven Gerrard in the final and the jersey he received from AC Milan striker Andriy Shenvchenko (in exchange for his own shirt from the first half).

There are also the boots worn by midfielder Xabi Alonso and one of the match balls used during the game.



ANFIELD REVIEW WITH...

JAMIE WEBSTER

Reds fan and singer-songwriter Jamie discusses his new single and debut album and shares his Liverpool FC hopes for the season

I remember being sat in my practice room when the news came in that my debut album *We Get By* made it into the top ten – I was punching the air.

It was such a euphoric feeling. I was alongside Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift and Lewis Capaldi – massive artists. I couldn't have been happier. It opened doors for me, people really did start to take me seriously from that point on.

Then it was devastating to get there and not be able to gig for so long – it felt like the momentum was swept from under us. All the hard work paid off, though. We topped the inaugural folk chart and I got my gold disc through recently. It's up on the wall in my house and nobody can ever take that away from me. To have that on my CV going into the next album is absolutely everything.

The new track *Days Unknown* is a huge step forward. It's true to what's gone before but at the same time it's bigger and better. It's Jamie Webster 2.0.

The first album couldn't be too 'big' in terms of the sound. So many people know me as this acoustic singer-songwriter from the terraces and it wouldn't have worked going straight into a fully-polished album.

I'm still banging the same drum thematically but



it's more developed this time with a full band electric sound.

My values are sharper than they've ever been. The track title is a nod to the frustrations of the pandemic and things being taken away from us. It builds into a joyous chorus where it gives people a right to be happy that they've got their freedom back and that life has returned. It's saying we should celebrate that but it also asks questions.

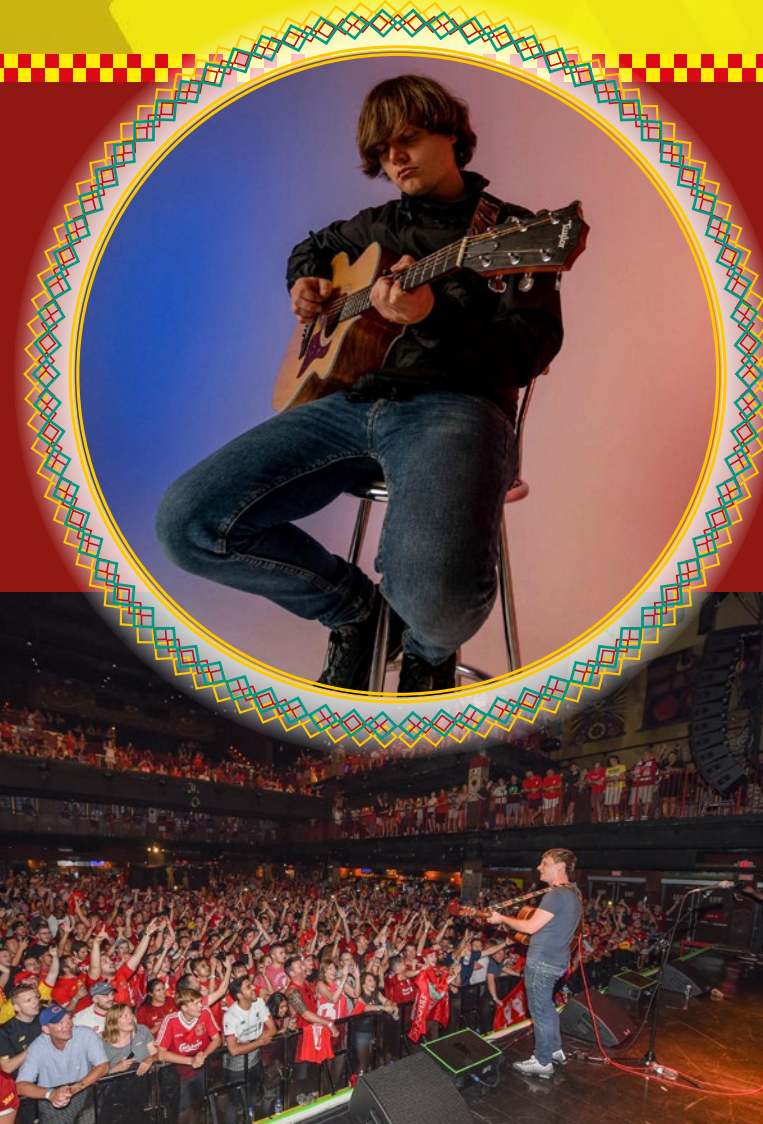
As for the Reds this year, I think the sky's the limit. We've come so far as a team, even looking at the centre-half pairings during pre-season, Virgil alongside Matip and Gomez alongside Konate.

Mane, Jota, Salah and Firmino have looked



As told to Rhys Buchanan





incredible. Harvey Elliott will be huge. He seems like such a mature footballer, I think he's going to be a big star for us.

I'm thrilled to be back playing the Liverpool songs and properly looking forward to getting back out there to the BOSS Nights. Seeing all the people in front of you coming together in the name of the club is what it's all about.

Mums, dads, lads, girls and grandparents all together singing, that's proper culture to me and there's not a lot of that left in the world. It's good for the soul.

Another really special moment for me was having my song *This Place* played on TV before our Premier League trophy-lift. I didn't know I was going to be on so when Kenny Dalglish said, "Here's Jamie Webster to play you all out," I didn't know that was going to be the case!

I was just stunned. I was holding back the tears and people around me were crying. My dad phoned me and I could tell he'd been crying – my phone just went berserk. I'm made-up that it happened that way, it was such an unbelievable surprise.

I'm constantly stepping further into the music industry, but for as long as I'm able to, the club and those BOSS gigs will always be a part of me. It's something I could happily do for the rest of my life.

• **Jamie Webster's latest single Days Unknown is out now with tickets for his forthcoming UK tour available at jamiewebstermusic.com.**

BACK ISSUES

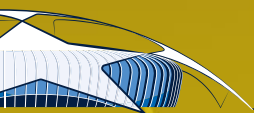
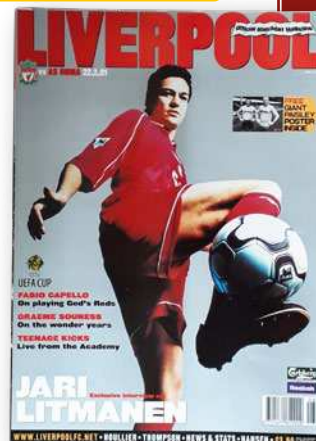
The turn of the millennium saw two seasons of bumper-sized matchday programmes, with the front covers for the 2000/01 UEFA Cup campaign featuring Reds stars posing against a silver backdrop.

For the issue for the fourth-round second leg against AS Roma in February 2001, striker Jari Litmanen was interviewed by Liverpool fan and author Kevin Sampson.

There was also a special tribute to former manager Bob Paisley, five years on from his death, by local broadcasting legend John Keith, while ex-skipper Graeme Souness re-lived his own experiences with Liverpool in Europe.

"Lasting memory," he said, "the 1981 European Cup final in Paris when all the lads went out with the trophy after the game to celebrate but Alan Hansen and I decided we'd stay in the hotel as our wives were pregnant at the time.

"So we went up to Bob's room and he's sitting there in his cardigan, with his slippers on because he always had problems with his ankles, and it's like a night-in watching Coronation Street."



BORN & RED



Happy birthday Matty Welding, 18 today! We hope you have a wonderful time at tonight's game. C'mon you Redmen. All our love, Mum and Graham YNWA.



Tobias Tomlinson is here tonight with his dad just before he heads off to Royal Holloway University to begin his law degree. Your Mum and Dad love you buddy and you'll be missed massively YNWA.



Happy 13th birthday Alfie. Officially a teen! Have a great day! Love Mam, Dad and Pop pops.



Happy 60th birthday to season-ticket holder and lifelong Red, Andrew Gunnion YNWA x.



Today's game is the 350th Liverpool game John Wood and Mark Newham have attended YNWA.



Polish Reds fan Mariusz is hoping to hear from new pen pals. His address is: Mariusz Gamza, ul. Cicha 1, 43-246 Strumien, Poland.



Mila is enjoying her very first season watching the Reds and is excited for our big European Cup tie tonight. She is supporting from home with Mum while Dad is at Anfield xxx



JÜRGEN JÜRGEN WHAT'S THE SCORE?

"How are we, Redmen and women? I'm back with my Champions League match-night preview live from Freshfields Animal Rescue and I hope you're all staying safe and well!"

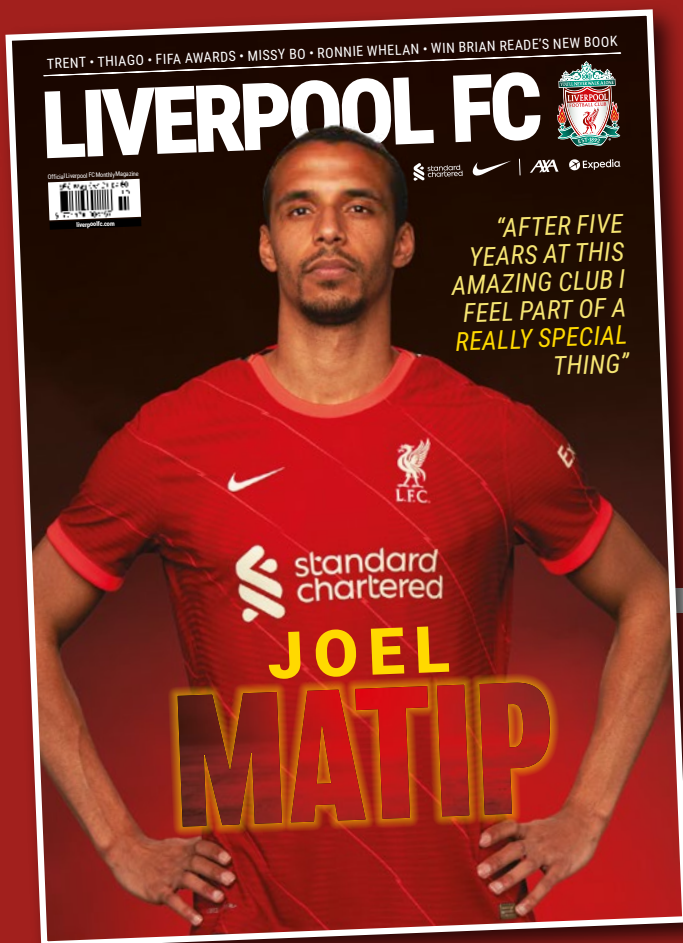
"It's been great to have lockdown restrictions lifted – it means more of my fans can come down to the Freshfields Training Ground and watch me go through my moves. My regime mainly involves a lot of rolling in the mud and eating watermelons as noisily as possible – boy, is it tough."

What do we reckon tonight then? I've always had a soft spot for AC Milan – what a history they've got, and of course we shared a Champions League final win each. I think it'll be close but 2-1 for the Mighty Reds, hooves crossed."

Jürgen and Freshfields always need your support, so that abused, abandoned and unwanted animals in Liverpool will never walk alone. Find out more at freshfields.org.uk or contact Debbie Hughes on 07956 216106.

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CAN YOU SOLVE MY SIX TIMES CHALLENGES?

SPOT THE BALL



ON THE RIGHT PATH

Can you work out the former LFC captain by his playing career timeline?



QUICKFIRE ROUND

1. Who are Liverpool's most recent Italian opponents in the UEFA Champions League?
2. Which group (A-H) were the Reds in when winning this competition three seasons ago?
3. Who scored Liverpool's first ever goal against Porto in the UEFA Cup in 2001?
4. Ex-Red Luis Garcia had two spells with fellow Group B side Atletico Madrid. True or false?

GUESS THE REAL BALL



COMPLETE THE XI



A GAME OF SHADOWS



ANSWERS: Spot the ball: B2. On the right path: John Barnes. Quickfire Round: 1. Atalanta last season. 2. Group C.3. Danny Murphy. 4. True. Guess the real ball: Ball A. Complete the XI: Trent Alexander-Arnold, Jordan Henderson, James Milner. A game of shadows: Jamie Carragher, Vladimir Smicer, John Arne Riise.

AA ROUTE PLANNER



Former Reds midfielder Alberto Aquilani is excelling as a youth-team coach back in Italy, already winning prestigious silverware, and he seems destined for greater things

One of eight players to have appeared for both Liverpool and AC Milan, Alberto Aquilani is now in the early stages of a promising coaching career.

Aquilani was named as coach of Fiorentina Primavera, the club's under-19s, in July 2020. His appointment came six months after they had beaten Milan 3-1 in the quarter-final of the Coppa Italia Primavera, the Italian Spring Cup that has been competed for by players under the age of 20 since 1972.

After knocking out Milan and beating Juventus on away-goals in the semi-final, Fiorentina had to wait for the final to be played after it was delayed due to the pandemic. By the time it was rearranged for August last year, Aquilani was in charge.

Indeed the 37-year-old's first game as boss was that Coppa Italia Primavera final against Hellas Verona and by full-time he had landed his first piece of silverware courtesy of a 1-0 win.



CONFERENCE CALL

UEFA's inaugural Europa Conference League group stage is underway with only one of the 32 teams to qualify for the tournament – Feyenoord – having previously been European champions. Three other entrants are former European Cup/Champions League finalists; Partizan were defeated by Real Madrid (1966) while Roma (1984) and Tottenham Hotspur (2019) both lost to Liverpool.

It also earned his side qualification to the Supercoppa Primavera – an Italian youth version of the FA Community Shield – where they played Campionato Primavera (national youth championship) winners Atalanta.

This time the kids from Florence lost 3-1 against an Atalanta side featuring left-back Matteo Ruggeri, who'd come on as a sub against Liverpool in last November's Champions League match in Italy.

Aquilani's youngsters began their defence of the Coppa Italia Primavera against AC Milan – previously coached by Fabio Capello, Mauro Tassotti, Franco Baresi, Filippo Inzaghi and Gennaro Gattuso – and they beat them 2-1 at home.

A 3-1 quarter-final success against Juventus followed before Genoa were defeated 2-0 in the semis to set up a decider against Lazio. Two first-half goals from Samuele Spalluto (who is from San Pietro Vernotico, the birthplace of Thiago) helped Aquilani's men to a 2-1 win as they retained the trophy for a third consecutive season.

Aquilani has also reflected on his time at Anfield. He signed for the Reds from Roma in 2009 and was billed as a high-profile replacement for Xabi Alonso. The former Italian international, who spent season 2011/12 on loan at AC Milan from Liverpool, didn't see the comparison.

"That was a journalists thing – 'Liverpool sell Alonso and sign Aquilani to replace him'," he told *The Guardian*. "I never saw it that way. Xabi was a great player but I was comfortable with my quality. Also, I was a different player to him – more offensive."

During an injury-hit campaign he netted twice in 28 appearances for LFC with his second goal coming against Atletico Madrid in the Europa League semi-final second leg at Anfield. Rafa Benitez's side won 2-1 but missed out on a trip to Hamburg for the final on away-goals.

"If we had won we would have played Fulham in the final and so had a big chance of winning the Europa League," he continued. "It would have been a



first trophy for me and changed my luck – my life – at Liverpool. But we lost and suddenly everything was different for me. My goal, the way I played – it was forgotten.”

Benitez’s departure in the summer of 2010 and the appointment of Roy Hodgson as his replacement also hastened Aquilani’s Anfield exit.

“I met Roy. He spoke to me in Italian and was a gentleman, but he told me he wanted to buy Joe Cole and make the team more English. It was obvious I would not get many chances so I decided it would be good for me to go back to Italy.”

Following a somewhat nomadic eight seasons that saw him play for six Italian clubs before ending his career in Spain with Las Palmas, he hung up his boots, bought Spes Montesacro 1908 – the Italian junior club where he started out – and began his coaching career in Florence.

With two trophies to his name already, a shot at senior-level management surely beckons.



SHERIFF'S BADGE

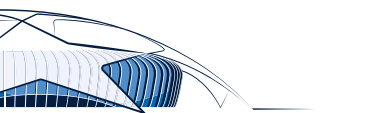
FC Sheriff Tiraspol make history tonight when they become the first Moldovan club to play in the Champions League group stage. Their 12,700-capacity Sheriff Stadium will host Shakhtar Donetsk after the Yellow-Blacks, formed in 1997, came through three qualifying rounds. Named after a sponsor, Sheriff are currently 80th in the UEFA rankings behind Everton (79th) and Burnley (78th).



REDS REUNIONS



The leaner 32-team Europa League group stage kicks off tonight and two Matchday 1 clashes tomorrow will see some ex-Liverpool players face each other. In Istanbul, Galatasaray’s Ryan Babel will be up against Lazio regulars and former Anfield pals Pepe Reina and Lucas Leiva, plus another ex-Red Luis Alberto. While at Ibrox, Xherdan Shaqiri could make his UEL debut for Lyon against Steven Gerrard’s Rangers, who have Ryan Kent in their ranks. Shaq’s last Europa League appearance came for Inter Milan against Wolfsburg in 2015.



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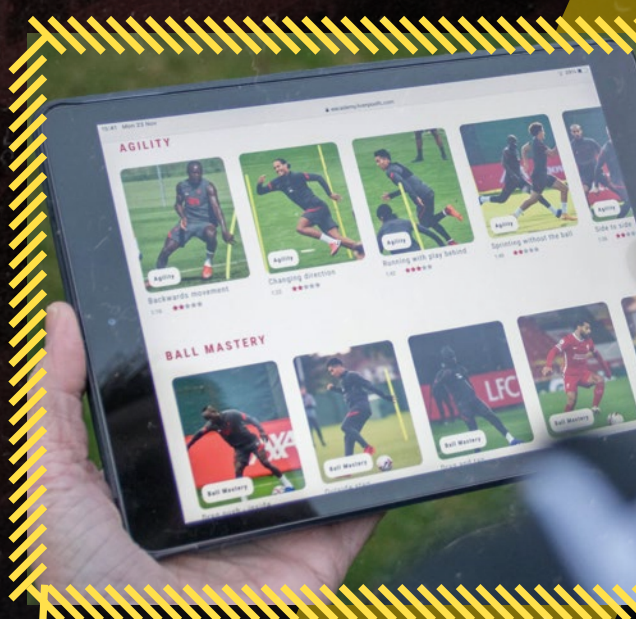
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Jürgen Klopp



WALK ON

MEANWHILE IN MADRID

In the other group game this evening Atletico Madrid entertain FC Porto at the Estadio Metropolitano in the Spanish capital

Group B looks set to be an enthralling prospect with four of European football's biggest names going head-to-head for a spot in the knockout stages.

While the Reds take on AC Milan at Anfield for the first time this evening, there's also action at another venue which means so much to Liverpool supporters.

The Estadio Metropolitano, where the Reds beat Tottenham Hotspur in the 2019 Champions League final, stages Atletico Madrid's opening game with their visitors FC Porto making the relatively short 350-mile trip from Portugal.

Both clubs had contrasting fortunes in their domestic leagues last season. *Atleti* ended the Real Madrid-Barcelona stranglehold on La Liga which dated back to 2014, while Porto finished as runners-up to Sporting Lisbon in their Primeira Liga despite losing only two league games.

Hopes are high again for both sides with Diego Simeone hoping to build on Atletico's title triumph by ending the club's wait for Champions League glory. Los Rojiblancos have finished as runners-up on three occasions, including twice in the last decade.

Their squad includes Luis Suarez who played his part in the La Liga success with 21 league goals following his switch from Barcelona.

This season he'll be joined in attack by his ex-Barca team-mate Antoine Griezmann, with the French forward's loan-return to Atletico on transfer-deadline day creating a buzz of excitement around the club.

"He's an important player in a side that needs



to be champions – both with France and Atletico," said Simeone. "He knows exactly when to choose decisive moments. When he's sharp and physically in form, there's nobody in the world who can understand and interpret football like him."

The club's two other major arrivals are South Americans. Playmaker Rodrigo De Paul joined from Udinese after helping Argentina lift the 2021 Copa America, while Brazil striker Matheus Cunha was bought from Hertha BSC after scoring in the final of the Olympics tournament and returning from Japan with a gold medal.

The big departure was midfielder Saul Niguez, scorer of the only goal against the Reds in the last-16 first leg in 2020, who joined Chelsea on loan.

Porto reached the quarter-finals of last season's Champions League, knocking out Juventus along the way until, like Atletico before them, they were eliminated by eventual champions Chelsea.

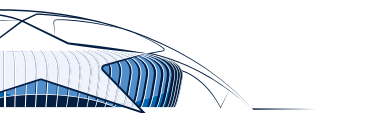
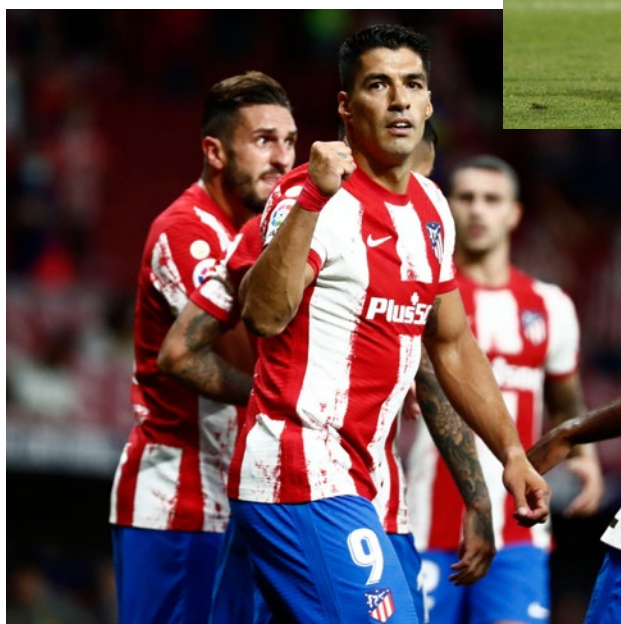
Sergio Conceicao's squad has undergone change since they last met Liverpool in 2019 with forwards Yacine Brahimi and Moussa Marega among those to move on.

Among his summer signings are ex-Reds midfielder Marko Grujic, who joined the Dragons in July following a successful loan last season and exciting Brazilian striker Pepe, not to be confused with the team's veteran centre-back and captain of the same name.

Another to look out for is Iranian forward Mehdi Taremi. His stunning overhead kick in last season's quarter-final with Chelsea was voted as the 2020/21 Champions League goal of the season.

Both Atletico and Porto made unbeaten starts to their domestic seasons ahead of the first international break of the campaign. Atletico won two and drew one of their first three games, while Porto won three and drew one of their opening four.

It should be quite a group – enjoy the ride!





BIGGER BETTER BRAVER

Liverpool's Under-19s side returned to European action this afternoon to kick-off the new UEFA Youth League campaign.

Since its inception in 2013, the Youth League has provided a platform for the stars of tomorrow to test their skills against each other in Europe, offering unique international experience and competitive matches while aiming to reduce the gap between youth and senior teams.

Many of coach Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's Liverpool squad missed out on the chance of continental competition last season when the tournament was abandoned due to the pandemic. But UEFA are planning to press ahead with the competition which was last won by Real Madrid in August 2020.

The contenders are split into two paths in the autumn, the Champions League path and the domestic champions path.

As part of the Champions League path the young Reds take on the same opponents as their senior counterparts in the initial stages, meaning home and away matches against AC Milan, FC Porto and Atletico de Madrid.

The group winners will progress directly to the round of 16, with the runners-up going into the play-offs.



The two pathways come together for the knockout phase, running from those play-offs on 8 and 9 February 2022 to the four-team final tournament at the Colovray Stadium in Nyon between 22 and 25 April.

The domestic champions path will see some new faces in the tournament. Zalgiris are the first UEFA Youth League entrants from Lithuania, while Akademia e Futbollit (Albania), Angers (France), Csikszereda (Romania), Daugavpils (Latvia), Deportivo La Coruña (Spain), Empoli (Italy), Hajduk Split (Croatia), Koln (Germany), Pogon Szczecin (Poland),

Saint Patrick's Athletic (Ireland), Trabzonspor (Turkey) and Zvezda 09 (Bosnia) are all making their debuts.

Liverpool have reached the knockout stages in each of their four appearances to date with a best of reaching the quarters in 2017/18 when Steven Gerrard's side went out on penalties to Manchester City.

Bridge-Wilkinson says the tournament will be a voyage of discovery for himself as well as his players. "In terms of what they missed out on [last season] I haven't been involved in it previously either," he told Liverpool FC's official magazine.

"I've only seen it on TV and witnessed some of the games

here in previous years, but it's definitely a great tool in terms of development.

"You play against the best European teams with different styles and tactics and from different cultures. You also play in different temperatures and on artificial surfaces. They are different challenges that hopefully the boys can benefit from, so I'm sure it was a bit of a loss.

"It's definitely something I'm looking forward to this season. Some of the boys here will know what they missed out on, but for others it will be a new competition and there is excitement to get back into it and play games against some of the best European teams."

Jarell Quansah, who captained Liverpool's Under-18s to the FA Youth Cup final last season, says there is a different dimension to cup football.

"When you play in the UEFA Youth League you have to adapt to different styles and formations. In the FA Youth Cup last season we also played against different teams, from those who set out in a block to those who really attacked. It gives us those different kinds of experiences."

Players such as Curtis Jones, Neco Williams and Rhys Williams have progressed from playing in the Youth League to the Champions League, and Bridge-Wilkinson is keen to highlight this potential route.

"It's all about developing. The bigger the competition, the bigger the opponents, the bigger the occasion, the bigger the pressure you put on them and the more you learn about them. Hopefully they are brave enough to play their games.

"There are plenty of players who have played top-flight football who haven't played in the Youth League, so it's not the be-all and end-all. But it's certainly a way of us putting them in more pressurised situations."

It is a view shared in Milan, too. Fabio Capello, the Champions League-winning former AC Milan and England coach, told UEFA:



"It's very important for players to take part in this tournament. Travelling around Europe, you improve your knowledge and have to face a different level of competition, a different pace and a different style of football. So these are very important moments to improve individually as a player.

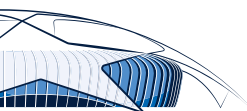
Filippo Inzaghi, pictured above, is well-known to Reds fans for scoring both Milan goals in their 2-1 success against Liverpool in the 2007 Champions League final in Athens. He coached Milan in the Youth League during the 2013/14 campaign before becoming senior coach a year later.

"The Youth League was an extraordinary experience for the lads and me," he told UEFA. "It gave my players the chance to really grow. We were given a very tough group with Barcelona, Ajax and Celtic from which we managed to qualify.

"I carry fond memories and I am convinced that the Youth League was fundamental in the continuing development of my players. The fact that they competed with such strong teams from different cultures enriched them on a personal level too."

You can read all about today's match on the LFC website and in Saturday's matchday programme for the Crystal Palace game.

Liverpool's U18s return to league action next Tuesday evening when they host Derby County at Kirkby, while the U23s entertain Leeds United in their PL 2 fixture this Sunday (2pm).



RIANNA SHINES BRIGHT

Striker Rianna Dean made a sensational scoring start to her Liverpool FC Women's career with a brace in the Reds' first win of the season at Watford.

The former Tottenham attacker had made an appearance off the bench in the opening-day defeat at home to London City Lionesses. Now she was handed her first start for the trip to Vicarage Road and repaid manager Matt Beard with a spectacular double in Liverpool's 3-2 victory.

Dean scored her first on the half-hour mark through a moment of individual brilliance, curling a right-footed beauty into the top corner from 20-yards. She added her second soon afterwards, arrowing a left-footed shot into the corner following a clever pass from winger Melissa Lawley.

"Ri took her goals really well and it will be a great confidence boost for her," said captain Niamh Fahey. "She has it in her locker to score goals like that so I was really happy for her to get off the mark and there was a good feeling around it."

Midfielder Carla Humphrey added: "It was great to see Rianna score her first goals and they were really well-taken. I was hoping that she was going to get her third – that would have been the icing on the cake!"

Dean's display saw her nominated for the FA Women's Championship player of the week award and she was also named in the FAWSL Full-Time Magazine's team of the weekend, made up of FA Women's Championship and WSL players.

The Reds no19 was one of five Championship players selected in the line-up, taking her place in a front-three alongside



Arsenal's Beth Mead and Manchester City's Olympic gold medallist Janine Beckie.

The 22-year-old spent three years at Tottenham having emerged from the academy at Arsenal and also spent a season with Millwall Lionesses. Her goals helped Spurs secure promotion from the Championship to the Women's Super League in 2018/19 and she ended her Spurs career with 21 strikes in 63 appearances.

"I'm really happy to be here," she says. "My job is to score goals and hopefully that is what the fans will see from me."

Manager Beard added: "It was important we signed a proven goalscorer this summer and Rianna has done that consistently in two seasons in the Championship.

"She also had a great first WSL season before being in and out of the team last year. She's hungry and we have a talented young player who adds depth to the squad and competition for places."

The FA Women's Championship takes a breather this weekend for the first women's international break of the season. Liverpool return to action on Sunday week when they host Crystal Palace at Prenton Park (2pm).

ACADEMY & WOMEN 2021/22



Under 23s

AUGUST

15	MAN CITY	H	0-0
23	Everton	A	3-1
28	BRIGHTON	H	1-1
31	Rochdale (PJT)	A	0-4

SEPTEMBER

11	Tottenham	A	1-2
19	LEEDS UNITED	H	2pm
24	Chelsea	A	7pm

OCTOBER

2	Man United	A	2pm
5	Bolton Wanderers (PJT)	A	7pm
16	ARSENAL	H	2pm
25	Blackburn Rovers	A	7pm
30	DERBY COUNTY	H	1pm

NOVEMBER

6	West Ham	A	2pm
9	Port Vale (PJT)	A	7pm
20	CRYSTAL PALACE	H	1pm
28	LEICESTER	H	2pm

DECEMBER

3	Brighton	A	1pm
19	WEST HAM	H	2pm

JANUARY

10	Derby County	A	7pm
16	EVERTON	H	2pm
24	Crystal Palace	A	7pm

FEBRUARY

7	Leeds United	A	7pm
20	BLACKBURN ROVERS	H	2pm
25	Arsenal	A	7pm

MARCH

13	TOTTENHAM	H	3pm
20	Man City	A	3pm

APRIL

3	CHELSEA	H	2pm
25	Leicester City	A	7pm

MAY

1	MAN UNITED	H	2pm
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Under 18s

AUGUST

14	STOKE CITY	H	5-3
21	Man United	A	5-0

SEPTEMBER

11	Nottm Forest	A	3-3
15	AC MILAN (UYL)	H	1pm
18	CRYSTAL PALACE (PLC)	H	11am
21	DERBY COUNTY	H	7pm
25	Leeds United	A	12pm
28	FC Porto (UYL)	A	2.30pm

OCTOBER

2	SUNDERLAND	H	1pm
16	Aston Villa (PLC)	A	12pm
19	Atletico Madrid (UYL)	A	3pm
23	Man City	A	12pm
30	EVERTON	H	11am

NOVEMBER

3	ATLETICO MADRID (UYL)	H	3pm
6	MIDDLESBROUGH	H	12.30pm
20	Blackburn Rovers	A	11am
24	FC PORTO (UYL)	H	2pm
27	MAN CITY (PLC)	H	11am

DECEMBER

4	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	1pm
7	AC Milan (UYL)	A	1.30pm
18	Burnley	A	1pm

JANUARY

8	Wolves	A	12.30pm
15	MAN CITY	H	11am
22	Middlesbrough	A	1pm

FEBRUARY

5	BURNLEY	H	11am
19	WOLVES	H	12.30pm
26	Everton	A	11am

MARCH

5	Stoke City	A	11.30am
12	MAN UNITED	H	11am
19	Derby County	A	12.30pm

APRIL

2	NOTTM FOREST	H	12.30pm
9	LEEDS UNITED	H	12pm
23	Sunderland	A	11am
30	BLACKBURN ROVERS	H	11am

MAY

7	Newcastle United	A	11am
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Women

AUGUST

29	LONDON CITY	H	0-1
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SEPTEMBER

4	Watford	A	3-2
12	BRISTOL CITY	H	0-0
26	CRYSTAL PALACE	H	2pm

OCTOBER

3	Coventry United	A	2pm
9	Sheffield Utd	A	3pm
31	LEWES	H	2pm

NOVEMBER

7	BLACKBURN ROVERS	H	2pm
14	Durham	A	2pm
20	Sunderland	A	2pm

DECEMBER

19	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H	2pm
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JANUARY

9	Blackburn Rovers	A	2pm
16	WATFORD	H	2pm
23	Crystal Palace	A	2pm

FEBRUARY

6	COVENTRY UNITED	H	2pm
13	SUNDERLAND	H	2pm

MARCH

6	London City	A	2pm
13	Charlton Athletic	A	2pm
27	DURHAM	H	2pm

APRIL

3	Bristol City	A	2pm
24	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H	2pm

MAY

1	Lewes	A	2pm
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PJT: Papa John's Trophy UYL: UEFA Youth League PLC: Premier League Cup



Tom Clayton



Stefan Bajcetic



Nimah Fahey

TICKET NEWS



RETURN OF SUPPORTERS TO ANFIELD

We're thrilled to have supporters back for the 2021/22 season and we are working in line with football's governing bodies, plus our city partners Liverpool City Council, Merseyside Police and Spirit of Shankly, to adhere to current guidelines and prioritise the safety of

returning supporters, staff, players and our local communities.

We would like to thank supporters for their patience and understanding as we have navigated our way through the return to full capacities.

SEE THE REDS IN ACTION AT ANFIELD WITH MATCHDAY HOSPITALITY

Matchday Hospitality 2021/22 is now on sale. Don't miss the chance to secure your seat for this season's must-see games at Anfield. Soak up the atmosphere in one of our many lounges with a variety of packages on offer including your match ticket.

Visit liverpoolfc.com/hospitality
or call **0151 264 2222**

Please check online for ticket availability and specific selling details at liverpoolfc.com/tickets

Disabled supporters, please visit liverpoolfc.com/fans/accessibility-hub

LFC Official Membership offers access to tickets for every Premier League home game. Visit liverpoolfc.com/membership

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

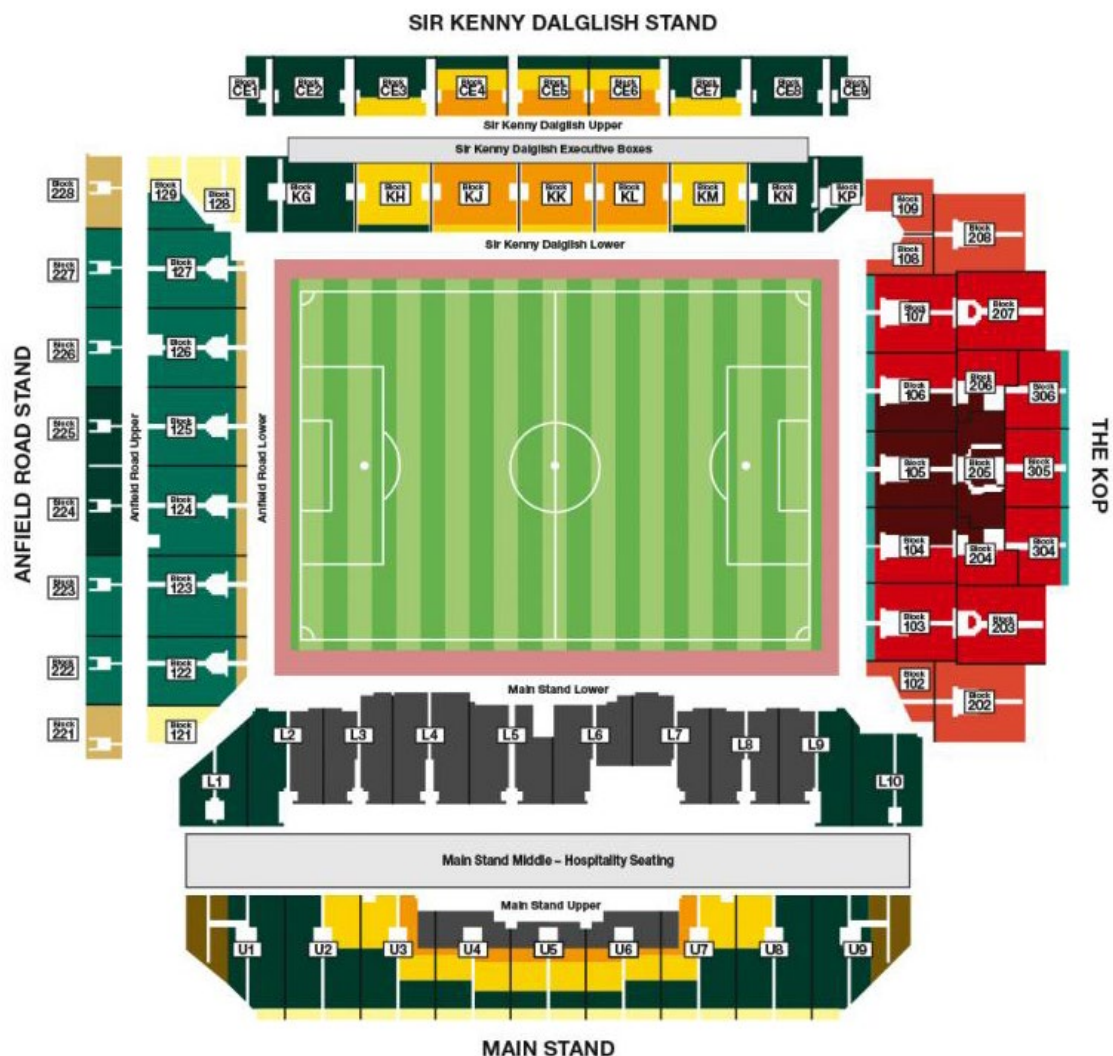
Non-matchdays
9am to 4pm

Matchdays
For opening hours please visit liverpoolfc.com/contactus

FAN SERVICES OPENING HOURS

Fan Services
Mon-Fri 8.15am-5.45pm
Sat 9.15am-3pm Sun closed

Fan Services contact: help.liverpoolfc.com



PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY TICKET PRICES 2021/22

Tier	Stand	Adult	Over 65	Junior	Young Adult
1	MAIN STAND	£59.00	£44.00	£9.00	£29.50
2	SIR KENNY DALGLISH/MAIN STAND	£57.00	£43.00	£9.00	£28.50
3	SIR KENNY DALGLISH/MAIN STAND	£55.00	£41.00	£9.00	£27.50
4	ANFIELD RD UPPER/SIR KENNY DALGLISH/MAIN STAND	£53.00	£40.00	£9.00	£26.50
5	ANFIELD ROAD	£48.00	£36.00	£9.00	£24.00
6	ANFIELD ROAD	£47.00	£35.00	£9.00	£23.50
7	ANFIELD ROAD LOWER/MAIN STAND	£46.00	£34.50	£9.00	£23.00
8	KOP	£43.00	£32.00	£9.00	£21.50
9	KOP	£42.00	£31.50	£9.00	£21.00
10	KOP	£39.00	£29.00	£9.00	£19.50
11	KOP	£37.00	£28.00	£9.00	£18.50
12	MAIN STAND UPPER	£9.00	£9.00	£9.00	£9.00

DISABLED MATCHDAY TICKET PRICES 2021/22

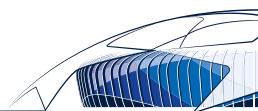
Tier	Stand	Adult	Over 65	Junior	Young Adult
1	MAIN STAND	£44.00	£33.00	£7.00	£22.00
2	SIR KENNY DALGLISH/MAIN STAND	£43.00	£32.00	£7.00	£21.00
3	SIR KENNY DALGLISH/MAIN STAND	£41.00	£31.00	£7.00	£21.00
4	ANFIELD RD UPPER/SIR KENNY DALGLISH/MAIN STAND	£40.00	£30.00	£7.00	£20.00
5	ANFIELD ROAD	£36.00	£27.00	£7.00	£18.00
6	ANFIELD ROAD	£35.00	£26.00	£7.00	£18.00
7	ANFIELD ROAD LOWER/MAIN STAND	£34.50	£26.00	£7.00	£17.00
8	KOP	£32.00	£24.00	£7.00	£16.00
9	KOP	£31.50	£24.00	£7.00	£16.00
10	KOP	£29.00	£22.00	£7.00	£14.00
11	KOP	£28.00	£21.00	£7.00	£14.00
12	MAIN STAND UPPER	£9.00	£9.00	£7.00	£9.00

Disabled status refers to ticket holders who are disabled, ambulant disabled or visually impaired. One FREE personal assistant is allocated to each disabled admission.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

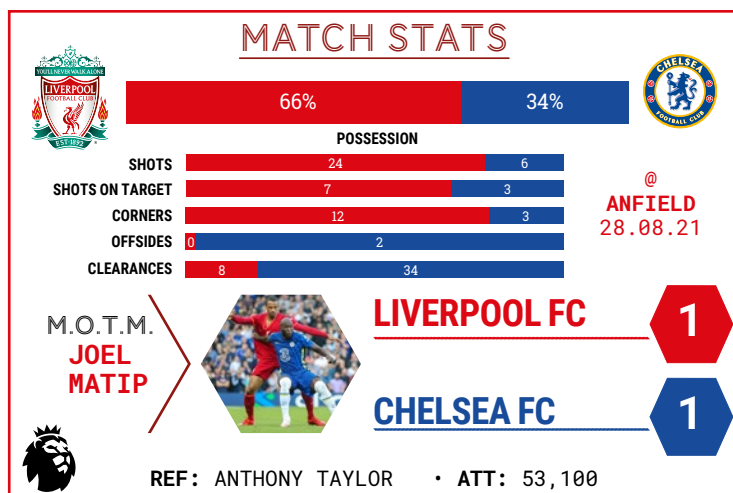
The bus is fast, frequent and convenient with 'express' services that will get you to and from Anfield and Liverpool city-centre in around 15 mins. If you need advice on linking bus and train services we have a dedicated matchday team based in Liverpool Lime Street Station and near Queen Square Bus Station, four-and-a-half hours prior to kick-off. Anfield Stadium also has a free Cycle Hub at Stanley Park car park.





MATCH REPORT

CHELSEA



EARLY-SEASON SHOWDOWN ENDS HONOURS EVEN IN THE ANFIELD SUNSHINE

• The Reds have to settle for a point against ten-man Chelsea at Anfield. Thomas Tuchel's visitors take the lead when Kai Havertz sends a looping header over Alisson from a corner at the Kop-end. But just moments after losing Roberto Firmino to injury, the game swings in Liverpool's favour when Blues full-back Reece James blocks Sadio Mane's goal-bound effort with his arm on the line.

• Following a VAR review, referee Anthony Taylor sends James off and awards the Reds a penalty. Mo Salah sweeps it home for his 99th Premier League goal and Liverpool dominate the second half as Chelsea sit deep, but they are unable to find a winner. Diogo Jota heads over and both Virgil van Dijk and Fabinho have long-range efforts saved by Edouard Mendy to leave Kopites frustrated.

• "The performance was really good against the strongest Chelsea side for a long, long time," says manager Jürgen Klopp. "The intensity both teams put in is really incredible. We take the point and carry on."

LINE UPS

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3):

Alisson, Alexander-Arnold, Matip, van Dijk, Robertson (Tsimikas 86), Elliott, Fabinho, Henderson (C) (Thiago 74), Salah, Firmino (Jota 43), Mane. Subs not used: Kelleher, Konate, Keita, Gomez, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Minamino.

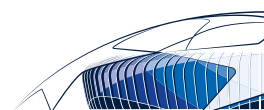
GOAL: Salah (45 pen).

CHELSEA (3-4-2-1):

Mendy, Azpilicueta (C), Christensen, Rudiger, James, Kante (Kovacic 46), Jorginho (Chalobah 87), Alonso, Havertz (Thiago Silva 46), Mount, Lukaku. Subs not used: Arrizabalaga, Werner, Loftus-Cheek, Chalobah, Hudson-Odoi, Chilwell, Ziyech.

Booked: Rudiger, Mendy. Sent off: James.

GOAL: Havertz (22).



MATCH REPORT

LEEDS UNITED



REDS ON FRONT FOOT TO TAKE THREE POINTS AT "A REALLY TOUGH PLACE TO COME"

• Mo Salah nets his 100th Premier League goal, but the Reds' 3-0 win at Elland Road is marred by a serious ankle injury to Harvey Elliott. The teenager is stretchered off following a second-half challenge from Leeds substitute Pascal Struijk, who is dismissed by referee Craig Pawson.

• Salah's historic goal comes in the 20th minute from Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross and Fabinho makes it 2-0 early in the second half after his initial shot from a corner is blocked. Sadio Mane has more shots on goal than Leeds over the 90 minutes and scores with his 10th in stoppage-time, rifling the ball home from Thiago's clever flick.

• It completes a resounding win and Jürgen Klopp's is happy with his side's performance. "This is not a game you can play nice like chess – you have to throw everything on the pitch to make little advantages," he says. "We did that. It's a really tough place to come and we did really well."



LINE UPS

LEEDS UNITED (4-1-4-1):

Meslier, Ayling, Llorente, Cooper (C) (Struijk 33), Firpo, Phillips, Raphinha, Dallas, Rodrigo (Roberts 46), Harrison (James 68), Bamford. Subs not used: Klaesson, Cresswell, Summerville, Klich, McCarron, Shackleton. Booked: Cooper, Llorente. Sent off: Struijk.

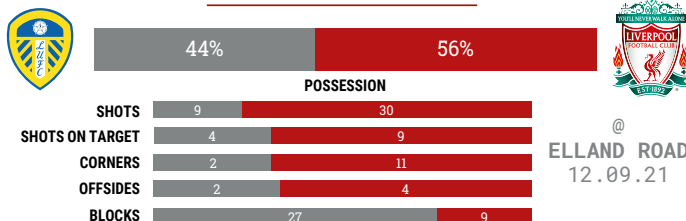
LIVERPOOL (4-3-3):

Alisson, Alexander-Arnold, Matip, van Dijk (C), Robertson, Elliott (Henderson 63), Fabinho, Thiago (Keita 90), Salah, Jota (Oxlade-Chamberlain 82), Mane. Subs not used: Kelleher, Konate, Milner, Gomez, Jones, Tsimikas. Booked: Fabinho.

GOALS:

Salah (20), Fabinho (50), Mane (90).

MATCH STATS



@ ELLAND ROAD
12.09.21

M.O.T.M.
FABINHO



LEEDS UNITED FC

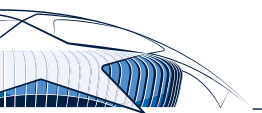
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LIVERPOOL FC

3



REF: CRAIG PAWSON • ATT: 36,507





NEW SEASON FASHION

liverpoolfc.com/store



6

SIMPLE
QUESTIONS
ABOUT...

**JAMES
MILNER**



1.

The Reds vice-captain has played four Champions League games for Liverpool against which Italian club?



2.

Against which side did James score his only Champions League goals for Liverpool to date, both from the spot?



3.

Previously who was the last Liverpool no7 to score in the Champions League, against Atletico Madrid in October 2008?

5.

In which year did he make his Champions League debut, playing for Manchester City:
(a) 2011 (b) 2012
(c) 2013?

4.

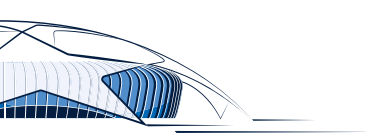
Milner set a new high for most Champions League assists in a single season when he provided nine in 2017/18 – but whose joint-record did he break?



6.

James was one of four men to captain the Reds in the Champions League last season – who were the other three?

ANSWERS: 1. Napoli; 2. Paris Saint-Germain, home and away in 2018; 3. Robbie Keane; 4. Wayne Rooney with eight for Manchester United in 2013/14 and Neymar with eight for Barcelona in 2016/17; 5. (c) September 2011, away to Bayern Munich; 6. Jordan Henderson, Trent Alexander-Arnold (Midtjylland (away) and Georginio Wijnaldum (RB Leipzig home and Real Madrid away).



FIXTURES & RESULTS 2021/22

DATE	OPPOSITION	KO	RES	POS	TV	REFEREE	ATT	STARTING XI					
Sat 14 Aug	Norwich City	5.30pm	3-0	3rd	Sky	A Marriner	27,023	Alisson	A-Arnold	Matip	van Dijk	Tsimikas	Milner
Sat 21 Aug	BURNLEY	12.30pm	2-0	1st	BT	M Dean	52,591	Alisson	A-Arnold	Matip	van Dijk	Tsimikas	Henderson
Sat 28 Aug	CHELSEA	5.30pm	1-1	3rd	Sky	A Taylor	53,100	Alisson	A-Arnold	Matip	van Dijk	Robertson	Fabinho
Sun 12 Sep	Leeds United	4.30pm	3-0	3rd	Sky	C Pawson	36,507	Alisson	A-Arnold	Matip	van Dijk	Robertson	Fabinho
Wed 15 Sep	AC MILAN (UCL MD1)	8pm			BT								
Sat 18 Sep	CRYSTAL PALACE	3pm											
Tue 21 Sep	Norwich City (CC 3)	7.45pm			Sky								
Sat 25 Sep	Brentford	5.30pm			Sky								
Tue 28 Sep	Porto (UCL MD2)	8pm			BT								
Sun 3 Oct	MANCHESTER CITY	4.30pm			Sky								
Sat 16 Oct	Watford	12.30pm			BT								
Tue 19 Oct	Atletico Madrid (UCL MD3)	8pm			BT								
Sun 24 Oct	Manchester United	4.30pm			Sky								
Wed 27 Oct	Carabao Cup 4												
Sat 30 Oct	BRIGHTON & HA												
Wed 3 Nov	ATLETICO MADRID (UCL MD4)	8pm			BT								
Sat 6 Nov	West Ham United												
Sat 20 Nov	ARSENAL												
Wed 24 Nov	PORTO (UCL MD5)	8pm			BT								
Sat 27 Nov	SOUTHAMPTON												
Tue 30 Nov	Everton	7.45pm											
Sat 4 Dec	Wolverhampton W												
Tue 7 Dec	AC Milan (UCL MD6)	8pm			BT								
Sat 11 Dec	ASTON VILLA												
Wed 15 Dec	NEWCASTLE UNITED	8pm											
Sat 18 Dec	Tottenham Hotspur												
Wed 22 Dec	Carabao Cup 5												
Sun 26 Dec	LEEDS UNITED												
Tue 28 Dec	Leicester City												
Sat 1 Jan	Chelsea												
Wed 5 Jan	Carabao Cup S-F 1												
Sat 8 Jan	Emirates FA Cup 3												
Wed 12 Jan	Carabao Cup S-F 2												
Sat 15 Jan	BRENTFORD												
Sat 22 Jan	Crystal Palace												
Sat 5 Feb	Emirates FA Cup 4												
Wed 9 Feb	LEICESTER CITY												
Sat 12 Feb	Burnley												
Tue 15/Wed 16 Feb	UCL Ro16 1												
Sat 19 Feb	NORWICH CITY												
Tue 22/Wed 23 Feb	UCL Ro16 1												
Sat 26 Feb	Arsenal												
Sun 27 Feb	Carabao Cup Final												
Wed 2 Mar	Emirates FA Cup 5												
Sat 5 Mar	WEST HAM UNITED												
Tue 8/Wed 9	UCL Ro16 2												
Sat 12 Mar	Brighton & HA												
Tue 15/Wed 16 Mar	UCL Ro16 2												
Sat 19 Mar	MANCHESTER UNITED												
Sat 19 Mar	Emirates FA Cup 6												
Sat 2 Apr	WATFORD												
Tue 5/Wed 6 Apr	UCL Q-F 1												
Sat 9 Apr	Manchester City												
Tue 12/Wed 13 Apr	UCL Q-F 2												
Sat 16 Apr	Aston Villa												
Sat 16 Apr	Emirates FA Cup S-F												
Sat 23 Apr	EVERTON												
Tue 26/Wed 27 Apr	UCL S-F 1												
Sat 30 Apr	Newcastle United												
Tue 3/Wed 4 May	UCL S-F 2												
Sat 7 May	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR												
Sat 14 May	Emirates FA Cup Final												
Sun 15 May	Southampton												
Sun 22 May	WOLVERHAMPTON W												
Sat 28 May	UCL Final												

All fixtures are subject to change



WELCOME BACK TO ANFIELD

Liverpool FC is welcoming supporters back to a full Anfield for the 2021/22 season, and the club will be using full NFC technology for fans to access the stadium.

Supporters are reminded to download their digital ticket to their phone before arriving. There will also be NFC Help checkpoints around the stadium while the Kop Bar operates as a central hub for technical advice and support.

Spectators are encouraged to arrive at least 90 minutes before kick-off to allow for checks and search procedures. Although no longer required by government guidance, it is recommended that fans wear a face-covering and maintain distance where possible when entering and leaving the stadium and in and around the concourses.

In line with our city partners at Liverpool City Council's Ground Safety Advisory Group and Public Health Department, supporters are strongly recommended to take a lateral flow test 24 to 36 hours prior to kick-off.

KEY: CAPS/BOLD = Home fixture ■ = yellow card ■ = red card p = Penalty * = own-goal ● First sub ● Second sub ● Third sub ● Fourth sub ● Fifth sub Goalscorers in bold

SUBS

Keita ●	Chamberlain ●	Salah 1	Mane ●	Jota 1 ●	Fabinho ●	Firmino 1 ●	Elliott ●	Gomez ●	Konate ●	Woodburn ●	Minamino ●	Origi ●	Kelleher ●
Keita ●	Elliott ●	Salah ●	Mane 1 ●	Jota 1 ●	Thiago ●	Firmino ●	Gomez ●	Konate ●	Robertson ●	Jones ●	Minamino ●	Adrian ●	Kelleher ●
Henderson ●	Elliott ●	Salah 1p	Mane ●	Firmino ●	Jota ●	Thiago ●	Tsimikas ●	Gomez ●	Konate ●	Keita ●	Chamberlain ●	Minamino ●	Kelleher ●
Thiago ●	Elliott ●	Salah 1	Mane 1	Jota ●	Henderson ●	Chamberlain ●	Keita ●	Gomez ●	Konate ●	Tsimikas ●	Milner ●	Jones ●	Kelleher ●



Fans are also reminded that Anfield is home to many people, so we ask that you respect residents by leaving quietly and taking any litter home.

SUPPORTERS CODE OF CONDUCT

To ensure that Anfield is a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone we have developed a set of shared principles which we need supporters to adhere to. These are also known as a 'Code of Conduct' and can be downloaded from the club's official website.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We are committed to providing an environment that remains safe, secure and welcoming as fans return to the stadium. We have worked with local authorities and other key stakeholders to develop venue operation plans and COVID-19 stadium risk assessments to ensure that the season continues with the least risk possible, without adding any further strain

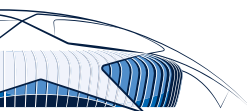
on the NHS and other public services. All our matchday staff have also received appropriate training in relation to COVID-19 and its associated risks. We're 'Fan Ready'.

REPORT ABUSE

Liverpool FC welcomes new Premier League anti-discrimination measures for the 2021/22 season which reinforce the work that the club has been doing to tackle discrimination.

LFC is committed to eradicating all forms of abuse and discrimination, both online and in-stadium. The club has worked closely with Spirit of Shankly and the Football Supporters Association to develop and implement a robust and transparent sanctions process. It's aligned with the club's work within Red Together, which encompasses LFC's approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.

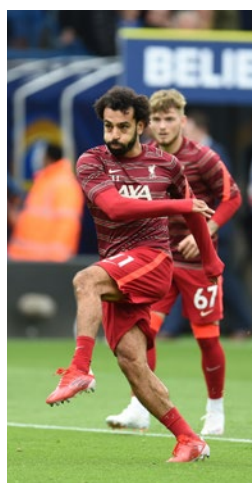
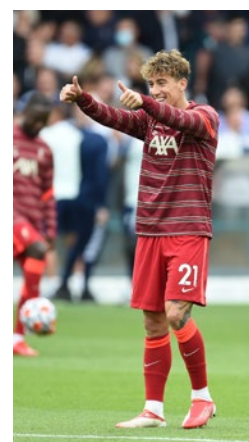
To report incidences of abuse, please visit liverpoolfc.com/reportabuse.



SEASON STATS



	LEAGUE		FA CUP		LEAGUE CUP		UCL		OTHER		TOTAL	
Adrian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thiago Alcantara	1(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(2)	0
Trent Alexander-Arnold	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Alisson Becker	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Harvey Elliott	3(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3(1)	0
Fabinho	2(1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2(1)	1
Roberto Firmino	1(2)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(2)	1
Joe Gomez	0(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
Jordan Henderson	2(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2(1)	0
Curtis Jones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diogo Jota	3(1)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3(1)	2
Naby Keita	2(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2(1)	0
Caoimhin Kelleher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ibrahima Konate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sadio Mane	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Joel Matip	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Takumi Minamino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
James Milner	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Divock Origi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain	1(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(1)	0
Nathaniel Phillips	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andy Robertson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Mohamed Salah	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3
Kostas Tsimikas	2(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2(1)	0
Virgil van Dijk	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Rhys Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neco Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ben Woodburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



PREMIER LEAGUE 2021/22

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Manchester United	4	3	1	0	11	3	8	10
2	Chelsea	4	3	1	0	9	1	8	10
3	Liverpool	4	3	1	0	9	1	8	10
4	Manchester City	4	3	0	1	11	1	10	9
5	Brighton and Hove Albion	4	3	0	1	5	3	2	9
6	Tottenham Hotspur	4	3	0	1	3	3	0	9
7	West Ham United	4	2	2	0	10	5	5	8
8	Everton	3	2	1	0	7	3	4	7
9	Leicester City	4	2	0	2	4	6	-2	6
10	Brentford	4	1	2	1	3	2	1	5
11	Crystal Palace	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
12	Aston Villa	4	1	1	2	5	7	-2	4
13	Wolverhampton Wanderers	4	1	0	3	2	3	-1	3
14	Southampton	4	0	3	1	4	6	-2	3
15	Watford	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	3
16	Arsenal	4	1	0	3	1	9	-8	3
17	Leeds United	4	0	2	2	4	11	-7	2
18	Burnley	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1
19	Newcastle United	4	0	1	3	5	12	-7	1
20	Norwich City	4	0	0	4	1	11	-10	0

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUP B 2021/22

		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Atletico Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Liverpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Porto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	AC Milan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



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PLAYER STATS



NAME / BIRTHPLACE / DOB	LEAGUE		FA CUP		LEAGUE CUP		EUROPE		OTHER		LFC TOTAL	
	games	goals	games	goals	games	goals	games	goals	games	goals	games	goals
1 Alisson Becker Novo Hamburgo, Brazil, 02.10.92	104	1	1	0	0	0	25	0	4	0	134	1
3 Fabinho Campinas, Brazil, 23.10.93	89	4	5	0	2	0	26	0	3	0	125	4
4 Virgil van Dijk Breda, Holland, 08.07.91	99	10	3	1	2	0	26	2	4	0	134	13
5 Ibrahima Konate Paris, France, 25.05.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Thiago Alcantara San Pietro Vernotico, Italy, 11.04.91	27	1	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	33	1
7 James Milner Wortley, England, 04.01.86	176	19	8	1	12	2	51	4	4	0	251	26
8 Naby Keita Conakry, Guinea, 10.02.95	56	4	1	0	4	0	14	2	4	1	79	7
9 Roberto Firmino Maceio, Brazil, 02.10.91	214	67	9	1	10	1	57	17	5	2	295	88
10 Sadio Mane Sedhiou, Senegal, 10.04.92	166	76	5	2	3	0	44	19	4	2	222	99
11 Mohamed Salah Basyoun, Egypt, 15.06.92	149	98	6	4	2	0	45	26	5	0	207	128
12 Joe Gomez Lewisham, England, 23.05.97	80	0	6	0	4	0	27	0	5	0	122	0
13 Adrian Seville, Spain, 03.01.87	14	0	3	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	24	0
14 Jordan Henderson Sunderland, England, 17.06.90	293	27	19	0	22	1	57	2	4	0	395	30
15 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain Portsmouth, England, 15.08.93	79	8	5	0	3	1	15	5	4	0	106	14
17 Curtis Jones Liverpool, England, 30.01.01	30	2	7	2	4	2	5	1	1	0	47	7
18 Takumi Minamino Izumisano, Japan, 16.01.95	19	1	4	0	2	2	5	0	1	1	31	4
20 Diogo Jota Porto, Portugal, 04.12.96	23	11	0	0	2	0	9	4	0	0	34	15
21 Kostas Tsimikas Thessaloniki, Greece, 12.05.96	5	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	10	0
22 Loris Karius Biberach an der Riss, Germany, 22.06.93	29	0	4	0	3	0	13	0	0	0	49	0
26 Andy Robertson Glasgow, Scotland, 11.03.94	134	4	3	0	1	0	36	1	5	0	179	5
27 Divock Origi Ostend, Belgium, 18.04.95	100	19	10	2	13	9	30	5	4	0	157	35
28 Ben Davies Barrow-in-Furness, England, 11.08.95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Joel Matip Bochum, Germany, 08.08.91	99	5	3	0	4	0	19	0	2	1	127	6
45 Elijah Dixon-Bonner London, England, 01.01.01	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
46 Rhys Williams Preston, England, 03.02.01	9	0	2	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	19	0
47 Nathaniel Phillips Bolton, England, 21.03.97	17	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	21	1
50 Luis Longstaff Darlington, England, 24.02.01	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
53 Harvey Davies Liverpool, England, 03.09.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
54 Sheyi Ojo Hemel Hempstead, England, 19.06.97	8	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1
56 Vitezslav Jaros Pribram, Czech Republic, 23.07.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
58 Ben Woodburn Nottingham, England, 15.10.99	6	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	11	1
62 Caoimhin Kelleher Cork, Ireland, 23.11.98	2	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	9	0
64 Jake Cain Wigan, England, 02.09.01	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
65 Leighton Clarkson Blackburn, England, 19.10.01	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
66 Trent Alexander-Arnold Liverpool, England, 07.10.98	133	8	5	0	3	0	38	2	4	0	183	10
67 Harvey Elliott Chertsey, England, 04.04.03	6	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	13	0
72 Sepp van den Berg Zwolle, Holland, 20.12.01	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
75 Jakub Ojrzynski Warsaw, Poland, 19.02.03	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
76 Neco Williams Wrexham, Wales, 13.04.01	12	0	5	0	3	0	4	0	1	0	25	0
81 Layton Stewart Liverpool, England, 03.09.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
89 Billy Koumetio Lyon, France, 14.11.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
98 Liam Hughes Armagh, Northern Ireland, 19.08.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jack Bearn Nottingham, England, 15.09.01	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Morgan Boyes Chester, England, 22.04.01	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Tom Clayton Rainford, England, 27.12.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tony Gallacher Glasgow, Scotland, 23.07.99	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Thomas Hill Liverpool, England, 13.10.02	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Adam Lewis Liverpool, England, 08.11.99	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
James Norris Liverpool, England, 04.04.03	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Stats correct as of 12.09.21. **On loan/ineligible:** Ben Davies (Sheffield United), Rhys Williams (Swansea City), Luis Longstaff (Queen's Park), Sheyi Ojo (Millwall), Vitezslav Jaros (St Patrick's Athletic), Ben Woodburn (Hearts), Jake Cain (Newport County), Leighton Clarkson (Blackburn Rovers), Sepp van den Berg (Preston North End), Jakub Ojrzynski (Caernarfon Town), Adam Lewis (Livingston)

SHARP DRESSED MAN

Why did men stop wearing hats? It was a question posed by *The Guardian* newspaper last month and among the proffered reasons were the warmer climate, the rise of car ownership, their association with the war years, and the trendsetting John F Kennedy (who hardly wore them).

When not on the training ground, and particularly while travelling, Bill Shankly was rarely seen without one in the 1960s. Here he is in an immaculate trilby, trench coat and club tie, signing autographs for young Reds fans as his team arrives home at Speke Airport following their European Cup first-round second-leg victory over Anderlecht in Brussels.





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FABINHO	3
VIRGIL VAN DIJK	4
IBRAHIMA KONATE	5
THIAGO ALCANTARA	6
JAMES MILNER	7
NABY KEITA	8
ROBERTO FIRMINO	9
SADIO MANE	10
MOHAMED SALAH	11
JOE GOMEZ	12
ADRIAN	13
JORDAN HENDERSON	14
ALEX OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN	15
CURTIS JONES	17
TAKUMI MINAMINO	18
DIOGO JOTA	20
KOSTAS TSIMIKAS	21
ANDY ROBERTSON	26
DIVOCK ORIGI	27
JOEL MATIP	32
NATHANIEL PHILLIPS	47
CAOIMHIN KELLEHER	62
TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD	66
HARVEY ELLIOTT	67
NECO WILLIAMS	76



AC MILAN

HEAD COACH: STEFANO PIOLI

1	CIPRIAN TATARUSANU
2	DAVIDE CALABRIA
4	ISMAEL BENNACER
5	FODE BALLO
8	SANDRO TONALI
9	OLIVIER GIROUD
10	BRAHIM DIAZ
11	ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC
12	ANTE REBIC
13	ALESSIO ROMAGNOLI
16	MIKE MAIGNAN
17	RAFAEL LEAO
19	THEO HERNANDEZ
20	PIERRE KALULU
23	FIKAYO TOMORI
24	SIMON KJAER
25	ALESSANDRO FLORENZI
27	DANIEL MALDINI
30	WALTER MESSIAS JUNIOR
33	RADE KRUNIC
41	TIEMOUE BAKAYOKO
46	MATTEO GABBIA
56	ALEXIS SAELEMAEKERS
62	ENRICO SALVATORE DI GESU
70	ANDREA CAPONE
77	ALESSANDRO PLIZZARI
79	FRANCK KESSIE
80	GIOVANNI ALESSANDRO ROBOTTI
90	SEBASTIANO DESPLANCHES
91	LUCA STANGA
96	ANDREAS JUNGDAL

