SEASON REVIEW 2021/22
TREVOR BIRCH

Welcome

It's the great pleasure to do this forward as we reflect on an exciting albeit challenging EFL season that has just concluded.

Despite a difficult year, we got to see fans return to the stands in numbers over the second half of the 2021/22 season which was a fantastic sight.

Their hard work and dedication to safety measures that were put in place, ensuring that their stadiums were safe and Covid-compliant. Fans also played an integral role in helping to fundraise to help provide the resources and operations.

That football was able to return to the stands in numbers after a very long time and for many fans, an unforgettable experience.

First of all, it was great to see fans welcomed back into the stadiums to watch an incredible season of football which saw some amazing moments and dramatic conclusions.

The race for the Play-Offs reflected the strength of League One with the top six teams vying for the automatic promotion places. All in all, it was a very exciting season with bigmoments and dramas. And I don't recall witnessing such a long and dramatic EFL season that has just concluded.

Records were also broken as Billy Sharp scored his 38th goal in total in the second tier, surpassing Guy Whittingham's achievement that set the previous record. And then Aleksandar Mitrović netted 43 goals for Fulham this season, surpassing the previous record of 42 set by Andy Cole in 1994.

Overall, across all competitions, almost 20 million people went through our turnstiles, which provided crucial support to our Clubs as they continue to rebuild their finances following a difficult couple of years, and I also had the pleasure of visiting many Clubs on the road, meeting players and fans, and having some amazing conversations.

We also announced the EFL Green Clubs scheme that helps Clubs across the country to improve their environmental practices and operations.

And, of course, the annual EFL Awards held at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London commemorated all the positive differences that have been made in London, the UK and around the world over the course of the season.

Finally, the most important part of the season for me was the EFL Award for Female Fan of the Year which celebrated female fans across the league. It's the most important part of the season for me was the EFL Award for Female Fan of the Year which celebrated female fans across the league. It's the most important part of the season for me was the EFL Award for Female Fan of the Year which celebrated female fans across the league. It's the most important part of the season for me was the EFL Award for Female Fan of the Year which celebrated female fans across the league.
Fulham are promoted back to the Premier League at the first time of asking, following a 3-0 victory over Preston North End in April.
As Jock Stein famously once said, “football without fans is nothing.” After an 18-month hiatus due to the pandemic, supporters once again flocked back to stadia across the EFL to watch their teams in action. Twenty million supporters made their way through the turnstiles of EFL competition during the 2021/22 season, including over 17.5m for matches across the Sky Bet Championship, League One and League Two.

Of that figure, 9.4m came via the Championship, with Nottingham Forest, buoyed by the arrival of Steve Cooper earlier in the season, recording the highest average attendance at just over 27,000.

Perhaps the most impressive statistic from the season came via League One. The divisional aggregate of over 5.5m was the best tier-three aggregate since 1959/60 in the old Division Three (5.7m). A big part of that number was a result of Sunderland AFC who, after their four-year stay in League One, confirmed their place in the Championship for 2022/23 after defeating Wycombe Wanderers in the Play-Off Final at Wembley in May. Alex Neil’s side gained success both on and off the pitch, with the 38,395 in attendance at the Stadium of Light against Doncaster Rovers the highest during the regular season across all three divisions.

However, it wasn’t just in League One that supporters were eager to return to their matchday seats, with League Two also welcoming on average an attendance of almost 5,000 at each fixture – the second highest EFL tier-four average attendance this century.

The culmination of the regular season in League Two was one of the more dramatic occasions in recent memory, but it was at the Utilita Energy Stadium where a divisional-high attendance of 18,283 supported Peterborough United as they hosted Carlisle United.

Away from the League, the Cup competitions continued to provide drama and excitement, with Rotherham United winning the Papa Johns Trophy in a thrilling tie against EFL-newcomers Sutton United. The 2021/22 cumulative attendance in the Carabao Cup was over 1.4m, 7% higher than in 2019/20 and 12% higher than in 2018/19, whereas the Papa Johns Trophy welcomed over 2,000 supporters on average at each fixture, a 11% rise from the 2019/20 campaign.

Despite the circumstances at hand, EFL Clubs worked tirelessly to ensure the season was completed. Clubs not only overcame fixture postponements as a result of the rising cases, but also the operational challenges that matchday protocols and the introduction of Covid-19 passports presented.

The 2021/22 campaign has simply highlighted that the appetite for live sport hasn’t gone away, with action in the EFL continuing to engage millions of supporters across the country.

return of fans

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return of fans
August 2021

Tactical August kicks off with an early statement from Fulham and West Brom as the automatic promotion places. The Blues would continue to strengthen their championship with a 1-0 victory over Reading, brushing aside Emba 2-0 from the start of the season. In other big scoring games, Hull City saw off Preston North End 1-0, while QPR came out on top in a five-goal epic at Middlesbrough, despite playing 40 minutes with 10 men.

**Manager of the Month**

**MARCO SILVA**
Fulham

**Player of the Month**

**SORBA THOMAS**
Huddersfield Town

**Young Player of the Month**

**FÁBIO CARVALHO**
Fulham
A crowd of over 30,000 marked the return of Sky Bet League One football on 7 August as two sides who would end the season with promotion met at the Stadium of Light.

And it was Sunderland - eventual Play-Off winners at Wembley Stadium - who took the spoils ahead of ultimate champions Wigan Athletic, with Ross Stewart proving to be the difference maker in a 2-1 win.

Newly-promoted Morecambe, playing in the third tier for the first time in their history, came within moments of an historic debut win at Ipswich Town before Macauley Bonne scored a late leveller. In a sign of things to come, Cole Stockton was the danger man, scoring twice for the Shrimps in a marvellous start to life under new manager Stephen Robinson.

There was more late drama as another side new to League One - Bolton Wanderers - rescued a thrilling 3-3 draw at home to Milton Keynes Dons. The Dons had seen manager Russell Martin depart for Swansea City just a week before the season's start but kicked into gear instantly under new boss Lee Johnson. Following MK Dons' win the team were fourth in the league. Bolton had been bottom but started well under new manager Stephen Robinson.

By the end of the opening month, Sunderland would out a new record of 10 wins from a possible 15 on their way to beating Sheffield Wednesday 3-0 in the final game of the month.

Records were rewritten in the early throes of the Carabao Cup when Southampton netted the biggest ever away win in the Hampshire Club's 135-year existence against Newport County at Rodney Parade in Round Two.

The Saints sunk Newport, who developed something of a reputation of 'giant-killers' in more recent times, 8-0 on home soil, with Mohamed Elyounoussi completing his hat-trick in added time and Armando Broja impressing on his debut, making the scoresheet twice, Nathan Redmond, Kyle Walker-Peters and Nathan Tella also played their part in the historic triumph, firing Southampton into Round Three of the competition.

Meanwhile, Cambridge United's Dimitar Mitov was recognised as Round One's star man, being named the Player of the Round as the U's edged Swindon Town on penalties, with the stopper making two saves in the shoot-out. And Sunderland's Aiden O'Brien was awarded Round Two's prize after bagging a hat-trick against Blackpool.
August 2021

As fans flocked back to Sky Bet League Two football at the start of August, it was Sutton United’s turn to step into the limelight with their first-ever EFL match. There was to be no fairytale start for the side from south London though after a 123-year wait - a cruel one in fact, as a stoppage-time goal from Ebou Adams gave Forest Green Rovers an opening day win. The side from Nailsworth would end the month on top of the tree - a position they would not give up for the whole season as Rob Edwards led his side to a formidable campaign, topping the table after 43 of a possible 46 matches. They signalled their attacking intent early on with a 6-3 thumping of Crawley Town, which saw the prolific duo Matty Stevens and Jamille Matt joined on the scoresheet by hat-trick hero Nicky Cadden.

Also riding high at the end of the opening month were Harrogate Town - in just their second EFL season - Swindon Town and Bradford City, who were off to an as predicted strong start under new manager Derek Adams. Adams came into Bradford on the back of promotion from League Two just a few weeks previously, but chose to leave Morecambe and Sky Bet League One for a shot at a repeat success with the Bantams. Ten points from his first five games was certainly a good start to his building job.

Hartlepool United were back in the EFL after four years in the National League and also got off to a flier, taking full advantage of the fixture list giving them three home games in August. Pools duly won the lot - the first time they had won their opening three home games in League Two history - before Edwards’ men were carried away by a goal from Nicky Cadden, which saw them win in style with a 6-3 thrashing of Cowley Town, which saw the now-former Fleetwood Town and Sutton United duo sensation.

At the foot of the table, Sutton United were looking up at everyone else in the EFL after an winless first month and were joined in the relegation zone by Oldham Athletic.

## Team P GD Pts

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<th>Team</th>
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<th>Pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sutton United</td>
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There were dream debuts as the Papa John’s Trophy got underway in the summer. In particular, Liam Kelly and Rochdale enjoyed a strong start to their campaign in Northern Group D. The former Feyenoord midfielder netted on his debut for the Club against Liverpool Under-21s in a 4-0 victory.

And there were scorelines to be marvelled at elsewhere as the goals rained in on the Group Stage. Stevenage were narrowly beaten by Tottenham Hotspur Under-21s in a seven-goal thriller at the Lamex Stadium. Boro fought back from losing positions but were eventually defeated by Spurs.

Elsewhere, Charlton Athletic thrashed Crawley Town 6-1 in Southern Group G. The Addicks fashioned a three-goal lead before the break, courtesy of Josh Davison, Corey Taylor-Blackett and Elliot Lee. George Francomb and Mason Burstow got in on the act in the second half, before Davison bagged his second of the evening.

Coach of the Month
ROB EDWARDS
Forest Green Rovers

Player of the Month
MATTY STEVENS
Forest Green Rovers

igrated from the Sky Bet League Two logo to the EFL logo.
A global audience

The EFL’s broadcast partners - alongside the EFL’s streaming platform iFollow - brought more football to the public than ever before during the pandemic, but with the full return of fans in 2021/22, the opportunity for Clubs to live stream matches reverted to the pre-pandemic paradigm, with all non-broadcast League and Trophy matches available for streaming outside of the UK and select non-broadcast matches available for streaming inside the domestic market.

Fixtures which were available to stream this season were midweek fixtures, displaced weekend games, bank holiday fixtures, international weekend fixtures and Papa Johns Trophy fixtures.

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<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,656</td>
<td>League matches streamed internationally</td>
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<td>563</td>
<td>Across the 2021/22 season, 563 matches from 1,656 total League matches were eligible for UK streaming (34%)</td>
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<td>6,075</td>
<td>Spanish Town set a new record for iFollow sales in 2021/22, selling 6,075 match passes for fans to watch from home</td>
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<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Sky Bet EFL matches shown live on Sky Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Carabao Cup fixtures shown live on Sky Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Papa Johns Trophy fixtures shown live on Sky Sports</td>
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£15,468,288

Gross streaming revenue for the 2021/22 season was £15,468,288 across all products - an increase of more than £2.5m.

£81,498,379

Overall streaming revenue in the five seasons since the opportunity was introduced (and fourth since it was available in the UK in any way) is now £81,498,379.

Ahead of the 2021/22 season, the EFL launched its ‘Together Against Discrimination’ campaign, encouraging all those in stadiums to call out abuse, report discrimination and to respect both players and one another. The campaign saw Clubs across the three divisions adopt the position on a matchday, referring that racism, discrimination and abuse is not welcome in any part of our communities.

Additionally, it reaffirmed the EFL’s commitment to support any player(s) and staff who wished to take the knee during the 2021/22 campaign, whilst equally supporting others who choose to challenge prejudice in another way. The commitments followed the completion of the most in-depth piece of independent research on anti-discrimination activity on football matchdays. Commissioned by the EFL, the research consulted players, Clubs, fans, the public, plus stakeholders in and out of the game, with greater support for the knee and unified efforts across the game favoured by respondents where possible.

We might support different teams, but we are all together against discrimination.

TREVOR BIRCH
EFL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Together Against Discrimination

The message is clear: prejudice and abuse - whether in the street, in the stadium or online - has no place in society, and the EFL will not accept it. Football is a game with many opinions, but those who do not share our opinion on removing racism and discrimination from our games are not welcome.

TREVOR BIRCH
EFL CHIEF EXECUTIVE
In September, Ismaël’s Baggies side drew at Peterborough, before finishing the month with victories over Queens Park Rangers and Cardiff, which sent them to the top of the table.

During September, the Sky Blues maintained their position among the pacesetters. Their impressive early-season form continued as Mark Robins’ side registered victories over Barnsley, Cardiff City and Middlesbrough, racking up home victories against Crawley Town and Charlton.

Blackburn Rovers were another side to emerge as a respected force during the second month of the season. Fuelled by the goalscoring exploits of Ben Brereton Díaz, Tony Mowbray’s outfit were directly involved in 10 goals (eight goals, two assists) in 142nd appearance in the 5-1 home win over Cardiff on 25 September. His stunning display against the Bluebirds meant the Chilean had been named EFL Young Player of the Month.

During September, Ismaël had worked his team hard, but his desire to win promotion with another season in the second tier was not enough. The Frenchman had worked wonders during the previous season. After the club were deducted 12 points, sending them to the foot of the Championship table, he had now scored twice in a single game for the first time since 1973/74. That result also meant opponents Peterborough had lost their first five games in a league season for the first time since 1993/94 campaign – a 3-1 win at Barnsley saw Blackpool move another step closer to avoiding relegation from a possible 15 points deducted over the course of the season.

Ismaël’s Baggies side had also enjoyed successful spells as Huddersfield Town against Charlton Athletic – in the 2-2 away win on 4 September – and then the same opponents for Huddersfield Town against Shrewsbury Town – in the 2-1 home defeat on 11 September. Ismaël’s side had also achieved the feat with Blackburn Rovers and were deducted 12 points, sending them to the foot of the Championship table.

ASU Gloannac’h were also beginning to make their mark on the Championship table after the autumn leaves started to fall. The Cherries, who were deducted 12 points, finished September with a 2-1 win over QPR before being held to a goalless draw at Forest. The 3-0 win over Posh on 24 September, a 3-1 victory at Barnsley, and a 1-1 draw at home to Millwall meant that Coventry had won their opening five home matches to a league season for the first time since 1973/74. That result also meant opponents Peterborough had lost their first five games in a league season for the first time since 1993/94 campaign – a 3-1 win at Barnsley saw Blackpool move another step closer to avoiding relegation from a possible 15 points deducted over the course of the season.

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September 2021

September started with a flurry of goals across the division on the road as Bolton Wanderers put five past Ipswich Town at Portman Road, Fleetwood Town scored four at Rotherham United, Lincoln City smashed in five of their own at Cambridge United, while AFC Wimbledon came out on top of an epic seven-goal clash at London Road.

Ipswich boss Paul Cook, who had brought in 19 players over the summer, called the thrashing at the hands of the Trotters, “the lowest point of my career.” However, the fickle fortunes of football saw Cook’s men soon pick up a 6-0 hammering of their own by the end of the month as they sent Doncaster Rovers back north on the end of a beating, punctuated by a Lee Evans hat-trick.

Rovers were struggling but did find a win in September with Tommy Rowe’s late header beating Morecambe, while Crewe Alexandra also got their first win of the season against Burton Albion.

Crewe and Doncaster would end the month in the relegation zone again, with Burton Albion sliding down to them, and Buckinghamshire club Wycombe Wanderers also joining them, their third consecutive relegation battle.

Lincoln City’s Anthony Scully was off to a flyer with 10 goals in 12 appearances in all competitions, while adding a further three assists – no player had scored more in the top four tiers of English football.

Portsmouth’s slow start continued as they lost at Burton Albion and at home to Cambridge, while there were celebrations for a real stalwart as Milton Keynes Dons captain Dean Lewington made his 700th League appearance for the Club. Lewington is one of just four players to have reached the landmark of 700 League games for a single Club.

At the top end of the table, things were still looking good for Sunderland, with 22 points from a possible 27 giving them a three-point cushion over Wigan Athletic and the chasing pack.

Tellingly, 72 hours after Lee Johnson’s claim that “somebody is going to get beaten by four or five soon,” Cheltenham were the victims of a 5-0 victory for the Black Cats in front of 28,000 fans, as the former Premier League side flexed their muscles.

“Ross Stewart might get the headlines, but Joyce cooking the dinners is just as important,” Johnson said afterwards. “Our players are the overnight heroes, but the people behind the scenes are all heroes as well.”

Gary Gunn, member of Potton Bowls Club in Sandy, Bedfordshire, hosted the Carabao Cup Round Four Draw after winning the Carabao Cup ‘Win the Draw’ competition. The draw was hosted by Sky Sports pundit Micah Richards and football legend Harry Redknapp and shown live on Sky Sports Football.

Manager of the Month

LIAM MANNING

Milton Keynes Dons

Player of the Month

COLE STOCKTON

Morecambe
Forest Green Rovers’ relentless start continued as they went unbeaten throughout the month to climb up the table past the pack to the top of League Two. They didn’t concede a goal all month and put four past Stevenage, momentum building fast.

Leyton Orient were making early waves too, with a fine away win at Joey Barton’s Bristol Rovers and a 4-0 dismissal of Oldham Athletic being early season highlights for Kenny Jackett’s side, who ended the month in second, ahead of Harrogate Town on goal difference.

Port Vale and Northampton Town had moved into the Play-Off places after nine games, and Exeter City had started to find their feet too. Captain Matt Jay starred in a 4-0 win at Scunthorpe United, who would end September in the bottom two with Oldham, with one win in their opening nine games.

Sutton United quickly pulled away from trouble and had a memorable win on 11 September when two goals from Richie Bennett gave them a 2-1 win against Stevenage – their first-ever in the EFL.

The match featured another notable first as fitness coach Craig Dundas came off the bench to make his EFL debut at the age of 40 years and 207 days.

Mansfield Town had surprised many by making a slow start. Just two wins by the end of September and four defeats left them in 20th place, well off the early pace.

The Stags had conceded 14 goals already by September, while Tranmere Rovers struggled to find the back of the net themselves. Rovers had scored just four in their opening nine fixtures – but had only conceded a remarkable three.

Walsall were struggling after a difficult start, as Barton’s Rovers ended the month with a 2-1 win at the Bescot – their first away win in nine months. Barton had told his players “it’s put up or shut up time.” They delivered for him, and ended the month just four points behind the Play-Off places up.
**EFL Green Clubs**

A first for football, the ‘EFL Green Clubs’ scheme sees the EFL partner with GreenCode, the new environmental accreditation scheme, to recognise clubs and clubs around the world. The programme works to improve the environmental performance and operations of EFL clubs and their respective community organisations.

Through partnerships with clubs and their respective community organisations, the programme not only supports the clubs in their own environmental improvements but also encourages supporters to engage with these efforts.

**Women’s Weekend**

At the start of their environmental improvement journey have also placed a focus on sustainability and creating a greener future. The scheme is designed to help clubs improve their environmental practices, benchmark their progress, and achieve recognition for their efforts.

**Family Excellence Status**

As part of the Family Excellence scheme, EFL Clubs are encouraged to improve the matchday experience for all families by creating engaging initiatives, supporting social and community efforts, and promoting the natural environment as an issue and a collective responsibility.

**Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston**

It is fantastic to see Forest Green Rovers and other Clubs across the country taking the lead in sustainability, with the EFL’s support.

**Women’s Supporter Survey**

The EFL and its Clubs celebrated female supporters in April, with a dedicated ‘Women’s Weekend’. This event included various initiatives aimed at attracting more women to EFL matches and promoting female supporters.

**Family Engagement Awards**

A total of 65 Clubs achieved Family Excellence status for the 2021/22 season, 12 of which were crowned ‘Gold Award Winners’ for their exemplary work in engaging families on game day.

**For Football’s Sake…**

March saw the EFL, and its Clubs, launch a new campaign to improve the matchday experience for all families by creating engaging initiatives, supporting social and community efforts, and promoting the natural environment as an issue and a collective responsibility.

**Women’s Supporter Survey**

84% of female supporters stated that women’s supporters were integral to their matchday experience.

84% of female supporters stated that they enjoyed the atmosphere at the ground.

84% stated that football was an important part of their life.

75% supported going to watch football as a big part of their weekly routine.

67% stated that football is about more than just playing, but about their group of female friends going to watch football.

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**Season Review 2021/22**

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**Women’s Weekend**

At the start of International Women’s Day, the EFL will launch the Club-based Women’s Weekend - the new environmental accreditation scheme that will help clubs improve their environmental performance and operations, encouraging them to support their respective community organisations.

**GreenCode distills everything we’ve learned from a decade of greening up Forest Green Rovers**

The first football club in the world to be recognised as a UN and FIFA ‘Green Club’, Forest Green Rovers have rightly been recognised by the UN and FIFA as pioneers of the green football club movement.

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October 2021

October saw AFC Bournemouth and Fulham lay down another marker. The Cherries enjoyed a run of five successive victories in October, beating Sheffield United, Bristol City, Stoke City, Huddersfield Town and Reading. Their five star displays earned Scott Parker the Sky Bet Championship Manager of the Month as he collected the award for the second time. Parker led his team to a perfect 15 points from five games, with 10 goals scored and four clean sheets as they dominated the Championship. Even the one goal they conceded led to a confidence-building comeback home win over the Blades. Bournemouth's top Terrace fan, David Alexander, said: “Every game is a must-win. But when you see them playing like this, you know the best is yet to come.” Parker was named Manager of the Month for the second month running. Parker led his team to a perfect 15 points from five games, with 10 goals scored and four clean sheets as they dominated the Championship. Even the one goal they conceded led to a confidence-building comeback home win over the Blades. Bournemouth's top Terrace fan, David Alexander, said: “Every game is a must-win. But when you see them playing like this, you know the best is yet to come.”

October also saw the EFL launch ‘EFL Green Clubs’, a new League-wide scheme that will help support Clubs across the country to improve their environmental practices and operations. In a first for football, the scheme saw the EFL joining forces with GreenCode – the new environmental accreditation scheme born from the work of environmentalist Dale Vince and the team at Forest Green Rovers, who pioneered work at the club – helping it become recognised by the United Nations and FIFA as the world’s greenest football club.

October also saw newly-promoted Blackpool muscle their way into the Play-Off places. The Seasiders, under the astute guidance of Neil Critchley, ended the month in sixth place after impressive home wins over Fulham and Barnsley and an away success at Middlesbrough. Cardiff, meanwhile, parted company with Mick McCarthy after a Club-record eighth straight defeat and replaced him with Steve Morison. Elsewhere, the Tykes continued to struggle under Austrian manager Markus Schopp, who had replaced Valérien Ismaël at the end of the previous season.
October was a month to remember for Plymouth Argyle, who recorded wins over Burton Albion, Oxford United, Bolton Wanderers and Ipswich Town, ending the month top of Sky Bet League One with 33 points from their opening 16 games. Ryan Lowe’s side were top of the league after resuming their season following the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are a good team and we are becoming a very good team. But you have got to be a very, very good team, and then an excellent team and then a brilliant team,” Lowe said after seeing his side beat Ipswich in front of a sold-out crowd of 16,087.

Heavy defeats to Portsmouth and Rotherham United saw Sunderland slip to fifth by the end of the month. Lee Johnson’s side had played two games fewer than the leaders but the defeat to Rotherham saw Paul Warne’s side climb above them in the table.

Crewe Alexandra were starting to face a mathematical headache as they ended October already seven points adrift from safety. The 4-1 defeat at home to Milton Keynes Dons meant they had won one of their opening 15 games. One win in the month saw Birmingham City climb above them in the table on goal difference, while a home defeat to the Cobblers saw Stanley firmly in a relegation battle following a run of one win and nine defeats in 12 league games.

One win in the month saw Fleetwood Town fall into the bottom four, while a home defeat to Accrington Stanley proved the trigger for the first managerial departure of the season, with Nigel Adkins leaving Charlton Athletic to take control.

Back at the top, it was Wigan Athletic and Wycombe Wanderers chasing Plymouth, with Oxford United moving into the Play-Off picture with a run of three straight wins.

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After 3,120 days, Manchester City’s Carabao Cup reign finally came to an end in Round Four at the hands of West Ham United in October. The Citizens were finally ousted from the competition after a 3-0 defeat on penalties to reach the Quarter-Final.
October brought a change in weather, a change of season and the first managerial shifts in the fourth tier.

Michael Flynn resigned from his position at Newport County after four hugely successful years which saw him rescue the Club from being 11 points adrift at the foot of the EFL and included two Play-Off Finals - not to mention taking Tottenham Hotspur to an FA Cup replay at Wembley Stadium and beating Leicester City in the same competition.

He would leave huge shoes to fill, with Cardiff City coach James Rowberry taking on the mantle, and a 5-0 win at home to Stevenage at the end of the month showed signs of immediate progress.

Dom Telford scored five goals in two games for County as they ended the month only a place outside the Play-Off positions.

Chris Beech departed Carlisle United after a 3-0 defeat to Bristol Rovers, which made it just three wins in 19 League games. Keith Millen was the new man in Cumbria, but United would end the month in the bottom two after a 3-0 defeat to Tranmere Rovers. Paul Levrero took over at Championship side Bristol City in the same competition.

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West Ham United Under-21s were deducted three points by the EFL Board following a Group Stage fixture staged in October from the season’s Papa Johns Trophy group standings. The Hammers fielded an ineligible player in the Southern Group A fixture against Gillingham on 26 October and accepted a penalty. Having received yellow cards in each of the previous two group fixtures, Ajibola Alese was suspended from playing and unavailable for selection, though he appeared in the fixture which the young Hammers won 2-0.

As a result, West Ham’s points totalled three, with the Club finishing third in Southern Group A, and Colchester United progressed to the next stage of the competition in second place.

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West Ham end Manchester City's Carabao Cup dominance

After 1,827 days, October saw Manchester City's incredible Carabao Cup reign finally come to an end in dramatic fashion.

City, who had their hearts set on a record fifth consecutive Cup triumph, were finally ousted from the competition at the hands of West Ham United, as the Hammers edged their Premier League rivals on penalties to reach the Quarter-Final in front of an ecstatic sell-out crowd at the London Stadium.

Such has been City's dominance in the Carabao Cup, it was the first time they had been knocked out since losing to Manchester United at Old Trafford back in Round Three of the 2016 competition. Following City's 6-1 vanquishing of Wycombe Wanderers in Round Three of the 2021/22 campaign, there was every indication that they could make history this year and few expected West Ham to have the nous to overcome the defending champions.

But with the two sides unable to be separated in 90 minutes, a penalty shootout beckoned. The Hammers kept their cool to make it five out of five, and it was Phil Foden, the City starlet who made his mark in the competition, who spurned his spot-kick.

MARK NOBLE, JARROD BOWEN, CRAIG DAWSON, AARON CRESSLAND and SAİD BENRAHMA kept their cool to make it five out of five, and it was Phil Foden, the City starlet who made his mark in the competition, who spurned his spot-kick.
Rangers winger Chris Willock picked up the Player of the Month award in November, scoring six goals in five games, helping his side to an impressive unbeaten run at the Riverside Stadium. Chris Willock was tasked with engineering an upturn in form and fortune.

Yet there was upheaval elsewhere in November. Despite the incredible feat, Warnock’s Boro’s 3-1 defeat at Luton Town on 2 November was a sign of things to come. The Yorkshire side were struggling and he was replaced by United’s Under-21s boss Paul Heckingbottom in the winter. The Serbian had replaced Wilder at the Riverside Stadium by mutual consent with his team 14th in the Sky Bet Championship.

Manager of the Month

**Reading deducted 6 points under EFL Regulations.**

**Derby County deducted 21 points under EFL Regulations.**

At the top of the table, Fulham and AFC Bournemouth were emerging as the clear favourites for the two automatic promotion places. The Cottagers sailed through November unbeaten and kicked off the month with a remarkable 7-0 win at Blackburn Rovers – their fifth straight Championship win.

At the bottom end of the table, Blackburn and Coventry City occupying the relegation places with the midway point in February 2013. Despite winning only once in November, the Championship's title contenders are starting to ebb away as they picked up just one win from four outings in November. Nevertheless, the league leaders’ month in first place, with promotion and safety firmly in sight, could be seen as one of the most impressive in 20 games.

With 16 weeks left of the table, Peterborough, Barnsley and Derby County have three relegation places to fight over and November could be one of the most important of the season in approaching.
November 2021

In an unpredictable world, November 2021 saw a sign of normality as Rotherham United moved to the top of Sky Bet League One on the back of a dramatic 8-2 victory over the division’s form team, Sunderland.

The match was the latest high point in a remarkable fourth promotion in six years for the South Yorkshire club. Despite a testing 2021 campaign, but the new season had seen key midfielder Matt Crooks leave for Sky Bet Championship side Middlesbrough in the summer, with the former Leeds striker being replaced by Stephen Crainey until the end of the season. Fleetwood ended the previous round. West Ham United goalkeeper Alphonse Areola was awarded the Player of the Month for November, with a pause in Carabao Cup action in December. The Hammers a place in the last eight of the competition. Inspired by the support of a sell-out crowd of 60,000 at the London Stadium, the Paris Saint-Germain loanee produced several important saves to keep holders City at bay for 90 minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty minutes as the score remained goalless, while Foden’s penalty

Areola’s Man of the Match display

"I suffered a cardiac arrest and required CPR, and I am told it was only the quick response of my team-mates and other staff - I am here thanks to them," Richardson said.

"Our thoughts are with Charlie, first and foremost, never mind football and the result. That was just a bonus. That win was about Charlie," Richardson added.

"It is certainly the toughest week I have had - it was such a close call," Richardson said.

"It was a moment of panic but one I have come to expect," Richardson said.

"The Doc that saved my life. I will be forever grateful that due to their actions - and those of my teammates and other staff - I am here to talk about the experience."
Two wins from their opening 15 games left Scunthorpe United at the bottom of the EFL and manager Neil Cox departed on 1 November. In came former Bolton Wanderers and Tranmere Rovers boss Keith Hill, prepared for the job ahead of trying to keep the Iron in the EFL.

Hill would end the month still looking for a win but Scunthorpe did at least pick up three draws in November to get some points on the board.

The start of the month saw another more surprising change as Dave Challinor left Hartlepool United for National League side Stockport County. Pools were only out of the Play-Off places on goal difference and going well, but Challinor couldn't turn down the chance to ‘help make history’ with his former Club. The former defender was true to his word too, with Stockport winning promotion at the end of the season and returning to the EFL after 11 years away.

Alex Revell left Stevenage and Keith Curle departed Oldham Athletic before the end of the month too, which meant the EFL's bottom four Clubs had all made a change since the start of December.

At the top was a familiar tale for Forest Green Rovers, who’ve moved from a shock FA Cup defeat against a fifth-tier side to a run of wins that has them leading the league. Their interesting tale is that their start to the season had included a play-off final appearance at Wembley against Tranmere Rovers. This ended in defeat, but it’s been a very good first season in the EFL for the Greens.

The next two in the table were Northampton Town and Exeter City, who have been in the division for a couple of years but are still building their teams.

Swindon Town, Port Vale and a resurgent Sutton United remained right behind.

Sutton – who struggled at the start of their maiden campaign – were kicking into gear with three wins in four games in the month to move up to sixth. Their sole defeat came at Leyton Orient, with Harry Smith scoring twice. The target man scored and assisted in two of his three Sky Bet League Two matches in November, after doing so in just one of his previous 110 League appearances. The resurgent striker had already been directly involved in 11 league goals by the end of the month – scoring nine – a joint-high for him in a single season in the EFL.

In contrast to Sutton’s form, Bradford City were winless in the month, and the Bantams would go into December in 12th place – albeit only six points outside of a Play-Off place in a very congested mid-table.
In May 2022, Blackpool forward Jake Dunns - the UK’s first active male professional footballer to come out publicly - spoke about his journey.

For a long time, I’ve thought I would get there, but I didn’t feel ready. I started to doubt myself. It’s only now that I’m comfortable to be. Now it’s out, and people know. So this was the one last thing in my head that I knew I needed to do. Now I can just live my life how I want to and it’s been incredible.”

Jake Daniels, 17 years old

In December, the EFL held its first-ever Cory Searle Foundation Fundraising Gala as part of the annual Rainbow Laces campaign.

Tickets for the event were sold out in 48 hours and representatives from Clubs, organisations and charities from across the Sky Bet Championship, League One and League Two came together to discuss Stonewall’s Rainbow Laces campaign with a clear message: football should be welcoming for everyone.

“Football should be welcoming for everyone. Football should be for everyone.”

RICHARD MURPHY, LIVERPOOL MANAGER

JAKE DANIELS
• Swansea City and Proud Swans
• Forest Green Rovers hosting a round-table discussion with both men’s and women’s first-team players about their journeys for academy players.

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Jake Daniels, 17 years old

In December, the EFL held its first-ever Cory Searle Foundation Fundraising Gala as part of the annual Rainbow Laces campaign.

Tickets for the event were sold out in 48 hours and representatives from Clubs, organisations and charities from across the Sky Bet Championship, League One and League Two came together to discuss Stonewall’s Rainbow Laces campaign with a clear message: football should be welcoming for everyone.

“Football should be welcoming for everyone. Football should be for everyone.”

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December 2021

As winter approached, Sky Bet Championship Clubs geared up for the customary hectic festive period. Preston North End began their season with a high-scoring 4-1 win over Barnsley on Boxing Day, while former Manchester United goalkeeper Euan Robertson made his debut for Reading on December, as they sought to move up the Toppling league.

North End began the month in 17th place and the managerial switch apparently had an immediate impact, with the visitors netting three in two halves. The win secured the points but, as Christmas approached, a number of EFL Clubs were positioned perilously near to Covid 19 exclusions at the City Ground.

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The results were an inspiration for the managerial duo, who were seeking to revive their flagging campaign. Frankie McAvoy on 7 December, as they sought to move up the Toppling league.

Tony Mowbray’s men racked up four victories which saw them climb into sixth spot by the end of the month to climb into sixth spot by the end of the month to climb into sixth spot by the end of the month. Huddersfield Town enjoyed a profitable one for Blackburn Rovers.

Nevertheless, the month of December was a mixed bag for many games during December. Carlos Corberan’s men enjoyed a successful run which saw them climb to 12th position. Daniel Johnson’s late strike at Blackburn Rovers was an inspired one as Lowe oversaw a 2-1 win over Barnsley in his first game as manager. The prolific Ben Brereton Díaz scored twice against Birmingham and was respectively.

The month to come was one of numerous victories which saw them climb to 12th position. Daniel Johnson’s late strike at Blackburn Rovers was an inspired one as Lowe oversaw a 2-1 win over Barnsley in his first game as manager. The prolific Ben Brereton Díaz scored twice against Birmingham and was respectively.

However, as the month came to a close, a number of EFL Clubs were positioned perilously near to Covid 19 exclusions at the City Ground.

The subtle changes he made at the Riverside saw them jump up one spot by the end of December. Notably, using the 4-3-3 formation which he introduced in November crept into focus. Indeed, they embarked on a six-match unbeaten run which ended with a 2-1 loss to Blackburn Rovers.

According to a wide range of dedicated Christmas events off the field.

The EFL hosted its first-ever LGBTQ+ Laces campaign, Reading celebrated their 150-year anniversary and EFL Clubs supported almost 30,000 people throughout the festive period, with

EFL Clubs and Club Community Organisations.

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As well as the opening of calendars and the switching on of festive lights, December began with a trio of managerial manoeuvres. Firstly, Richie Wellens left Doncaster Rovers after just three wins from 19 games, with former Coventry City forward Gary McSheffrey taking charge.

Ipswich Town then said goodbye to Paul Cook 48 hours later with the Tractor Boys mid-table in 11th place and seven points off the Play-Offs with 20 matches played. They turned to Manchester United's young coach Kieran McKenna for a change of approach and his impact was immediate as James Norwood's goal earned Town a win over Wycombe Wanderers in his first game in charge.

Ryan Lowe then departed Plymouth Argyle for Preston North End, with Lowe's former team-mate and assistant Steven Schumacher taking the job on at Home Park. After defeat at Sunderland, Schumacher's side ended the year with back-to-back wins over Charlton Athletic and Cheltenham Town to remain very much in the Play-Off hunt.

Sunderland returned to the summit with a fine month containing two 5-0 wins, the second of which came against Play-Off chasers Sheffield Wednesday in front of 34,000 fans.

Rotherham United, with 47 points from 22 League matches, had made their best start to a campaign since 1950/51 in the Third Division North, and kept up the chase with Wigan Athletic. The Latics would enter the new year with three points in hand after a flurry of postponements, but they faced McKenna's Town in his first home match of 2022.

Cambridge United striker Joe Ironside — who would go on to have a day to remember in the FA Cup the following month, scoring the only goal in a 1-0 win over Newcastle United — scored a hat-trick as the U's thrashed Cheltenham 5-0, while Crewe Alexandra moved off the bottom with a much-needed 2-0 home win over Lincoln City.

Improving Shrewsbury Town ended the year six points clear of trouble with Daniel Udoh netting twice in an eye-catching 3-1 win over Cheltenham.

After their positive start to life in Sky Bet League One, Morecambe had failed to net in four matches and ended the year in the relegation zone along with Crewe, Gillingham and Doncaster. Morecambe could take solace from the fact they are the only Club in the top four flights to never suffer relegation, though.
Who would be top of Sky Bet League Two going into the new year was a question that could have been answered very early on in the season. How big would Forest Green Rovers’ advantage be was the more pertinent question and the answer was four points – with games in hand.

Rob Edwards and his side continued to march on. They only had two games in the month as a wave of Covid-19 postponements affected the division but they still managed to pack in nine goals. A 4-1 win at Harrogate Town was followed up by a remarkable 5-5 draw at Oldham Athletic, who ended the year bottom of the EFL despite rallying from 4-1 down to take a point.

Northampton Town were Forest Green’s nearest chasers, with fine away wins at Exeter City and Harrogate suggesting momentum was building – only for postponements to hit their festive programme too. Six matches across the division were postponed on Boxing Day, another blow for Clubs after two years of absent crowds, with the biggest match coming at the bottom.

Scunthorpe United picked up just their third of the season at Darlington to climb above the play-offs. Thanks to another goal from Ryan Loft and a third from Myles Hippolyte, it was Keith Hill’s first victory in charge.

Tranmere Rovers were the big movers at the top, going from 10th to third in the month after winning all four of their matches. They found an unlikely match-winner against Leyton Orient as Jay Spearing scored his first home league goal since August 2019, coming for former side Blackpool against Bristol Rovers, a wait of 868 days.

Sutton United ended the year in fourth place, becoming the first team to win as many as seven of their first 10 home matches in the EFL since Crawley Town in 2011/12.

Matt Gray’s side made a slow start to life in the EFL but were looking a real force by the end of the year, both in league and cup.

Bristol Rovers ended the year in 17th place but did at least sign off with a win, finding two late goals to beat Rochdale 4-2.

As Round Two continued into December, there was a shock on the cards as defending champions Sunderland AFC were dumped from the competition at the hands of Oldham Athletic in Round Two when the Black Cats, who lifted last year’s trophy, fell foul of a 1-0 defeat on home soil.

Next up, Cambridge United goalkeeper Kai McKenzie-Lyle scooped the Player of the Round prize following his spectacular display against Walsall in Round Two. The 24-year-old was in inspired form as the U’s faced a barrage of attacks from their opponents, who failed to score despite registering 24 shots at goal. McKenzie-Lyle was called into action on several occasions, including denying Kieran Phillips from the penalty spot, while goals from Sam Smith and Shilow Tracey secured a 2-0 victory for Mark Bonner’s side, who progressed to the Round of 16.

MICKY MELLON
Tranmere Rovers

JAKE BEESLEY
Rochdale

#EFL
January 2022

Fulham began 2022 as they meant to continue – in rampant goalscoring and winning form. Marco Silva’s men began January in second behind AFC Bournemouth but ended it in top spot following an incredible run of victories. For the second time this season, they won 7-0 away, this time at Reading, before successive home wins over Bristol City and Birmingham City, both coincidentally by the same 6-2 scoreline. Then came a thrilling 3-2 success at Stoke City before the Cottagers ended the month 4-1 wins at home to Blackpool. To nobody’s surprise, Silva was named the Sky Bet Championship Manager of the Month for January, picking up the coveted prize for the second time this season.

Silva inspired a month for the ages at Craven Cottage as his swashbuckling side rattled in goals from every angle – 23 in five games – which harvested a 13-point haul.

A new year often brings new hope for football supporters, and followers of Blackburn Rovers were also left dreaming after an impressive start to 2022. Tony Mowbray’s men played five Championship games and collected a valuable eight points, lifting them to second place by the end of January.

Preston’s Emil Riis Jakobsen scored his 11th and 12th goals of the season in the Championship in the 2-2 draw with Bristol City at Deepdale on 29 January. The last player to score more in a single league season for the Lilywhites was Jermaine Beckford, who notched 18 times in the 2014/15 League One campaign.

January also saw a truly monumental feat achieved by Sheffield United captain Billy Sharp. The boyhood Blade became the Championship’s all-time leading goalscorer since its rebrand in 2004, with his goal in the 2-0 win at Peterborough United on 29 January. It was his 122nd second-tier goal, taking him above the competition’s previous leader David Nugent.

Meanwhile, on 27 January, Hull City appointed Shota Arveladze as successor to Grant McCann and he marked it with a 2-0 home win over Swansea City thanks to goals from Tom Eaves and Keane Lewis-Potter.

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January 2022

A new year brought a long month in Sky Bet League One as teams began to catch up on Covid-related postponements. A total of 61 matches were played out across 12 different matchdays - and at the end of it, Rotherham United were on top.

The Millers recorded wins over Bolton Wanderers, Cheltenham Town and Crewe Alexandra, among a packed schedule of cup matches, to hold a one-point lead over Wigan Athletic going into February.

Sunderland AFC, top at the turn of the year, saw their month end with the departure of Lee Johnson following a 3-1 defeat to Lincoln City at the Stadium of Light and a 6-0 defeat to Bolton at the end of the month. The Black Cats ended the month with just one victory, falling out of the automatic promotion places.

The 6-0 victory over Sunderland was Bolton's biggest home win in the EFL since beating Swindon Town 7-0 in March 1997, and Sunderland's heaviest defeat since an 8-0 defeat to Southampton in the Premier League in October 2014.

Another Club making a change in the dugout were Gillingham, who parted company with Steve Evans after a 4-0 home defeat to improving Ipswich Town. The Gills would end the month in 23rd spot having failed to win in 14 games - their longest winless run in the EFL since September 1972.

Former Millwall boss Neil Harris was the new man in, staring at a 10-point gap to AFC Wimbledon and safety. They would also end the month with a 7-2 defeat at home to Oxford United, as U's midfielder Cameron Brannagan became the first player to score a hat-trick of penalties in an EFL game since Josh Wright did so for Gillingham against Scunthorpe United in March 2017. Brannagan actually scored four times from the spot and understandably stole the headlines.

Oxford ended January well placed in the Play-Off positions as four points covered the top five. Wigan, rather ominously, had four games in hand on three of the sides around them.

The bottom three were starting to look adrift. Doncaster Rovers were still bottom, below the Gills on goal difference, with Crewe finding a much-needed win over Charlton Athletic but still looking at a seven-point deficit to the side around them.

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January saw four teams reduced to two as the Carabao Cup Semi-Finals were staged across two legs, when Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur battled it out, whilst Liverpool and Arsenal went head-to-head to book their place at Wembley.

Chelsea were the first to confirm their place in the final. Thomas Tuchel's side progressed on a 3-0 aggregate scoreline over the two legs, coming from a 2-0 deficit in London.

Liverpool joined them soon after by beating Arsenal. With the scores level after a goalless first 90 minutes at Anfield, Diogo Jota’s double at the Emirates Stadium saw the Reds through, running out 2-0 winners on aggregate.
January 2022

Things were looking increasingly promising for bottom two Colchester United, who ended the month in the play-off places with a 0-0 draw against Rochdale and there was renewed optimism of beating the drop for the first game of his latest spell, John Sheridan returned to take charge at Oldham for a sixth time looking to steer them to safety.

A bumper 8,000-plus crowd turned up at Boundary Park as Brown was learning the ropes, as Harrogate Town manager Simon Weaver would later be confirmed as the Club's new permanent manager.

As Brown was learning the ropes, new permanent manager Wayne Brown. The former centre-half would earlier in the month completed by an old favourite - as he first took charge in the National League North.

A remarkable achievement for the man who had moved up to second - was their joint-biggest margin of victory on the road in the U’s a 1-0 win at Vale Park at the end of the month making it six defeats in a row for the Iron. A bad run for Northampton Town saw them slide down to fifth place. The Cobblers fell to a 5-2 defeat at Swindon who ended the month seven points adrift of safety after failing to pick up a point in their last three matches.

A 1-0 win over Walsall on New Year’s Day, with Harry McKirdy scoring four times for the home side, who would end the month in the play-off places, was enough to help Mark Bonner’s men through.

Forest Green would end January with a 4-0 victory at Tranmere Rovers - powering by the goals from prolific striker Dom Telford. The 25-year-old was the first player to reach 20 goals in Sky Bet League Two and became the first Newport County player to score five goals in a single campaign in the top three were Newport County, Forest Green Rovers, who ended the month as the only side across the top four tiers of English football to remain unbeaten away from home.

It was business as usual at the top for Suttonians Rogers, who ended the month as the only side of English football to remain unbeaten away from home.

23 Oldham Athletic 26 -20 19
22 Colchester United 26 -13 26
21 Barrow 27 -8 26
24 Scunthorpe United 28 -28 19
20 Carlisle United 27 -16 27
19 Walsall 27 -7 29
18 Rochdale 25 -2 29
17 Stevenage 28 -14 31
16 Hartlepool United 27 -12 31
15 Leyton Orient 25 13 32
14 Harrogate Town 25 0 33
13 Crawley Town 26 -5 35
12 Bristol Rovers 25 -2 36
11 Bradford City 27 2 36
10 Salford City 28 3 37
9 Port Vale 25 10 39
8 Exeter City 26 11 41
7 Swindon Town 26 9 42
6 Mansfield Town 26 6 44
5 Northampton Town 26 9 45
3 Newport County 28 11 47
4 Sutton United 27 10 47
2 Tranmere Rovers 27 9 48
1 Forest Green Rovers 26 34 58

# Team P GD P Pts
20 FGR 26 34 58
19 Walsall 27 -7 29
18 Rochdale 25 -2 29
17 Stevenage 28 -14 31
16 Hartlepool United 27 -12 31
15 Leyton Orient 25 13 32
14 Harrogate Town 25 0 33
13 Crawley Town 26 -5 35
12 Bristol Rovers 25 -2 36
11 Bradford City 27 2 36
10 Salford City 28 3 37
9 Port Vale 25 10 39
8 Exeter City 26 11 41
7 Swindon Town 26 9 42
6 Mansfield Town 26 6 44
5 Northampton Town 26 9 45
3 Newport County 28 11 47
4 Sutton United 27 10 47
2 Tranmere Rovers 27 9 48
1 Forest Green Rovers 26 34 58

A game-changing partnership...

After four successful years of collaboration, the end of the 2021/22 season will see the EFL’s Official Charity Partnership with Mind come to an end. The game-changing ‘On Your Side’ partnership has seen the EFL and Mind help raise awareness of mental health across the game off and on the pitch, improving the approach to mental health support across 72 clubs, and raise vital funds for Mind’s life-saving services.

“Together, our partnership has seen the EFL and its Clubs help raise awareness of mental health across the game on and off the pitch, improve the approach to mental health support across 72 clubs, and raise vital funds for Mind’s life-saving services. The ‘On Your Side’ partnership has not only been life-changing but life-saving.”

Paul Farmer, Mind Chief Executive

On Your Side Partnership

SEASON REVIEW 2021/22

SEASON REVIEW 2021/22

Heads up discussions around mental health within the game.

Of the partnership, helping to inspire positive change and open up conversations around mental health within the game. It has been instrumental in creating a significant cultural change towards mental health within football, with the support of our 72 Clubs and Club Community Organisations, the partnership has positively impacted people’s lives.

Rick Parry, EFL Chair

Partnership highlights

• Mind’s logo featured on the back of EFL shirts – a first for English football.
• Player names on shirts and replica player kit in support of the Mind logo, incorporating the ‘Goals Worth Talking About’ campaign.
• The ‘Get Set To Go’ programme, which has encouraged those with mental health problems to get physically active.
• Over 2,600 staff at EFL Clubs have been trained in mental health awareness.
• 20 EFL Wembley Finals and 93 dedicated matchdays, including the ‘Mind United: Trek the Peak District’ challenge, EFL staff took on the ‘Mind United: Get Your Mate’s Back’ campaign, advocating for people to talk to their friends and ask their friends if they are OK.
• More than 5,800 people took part in the ‘Get Set To Go’ programme, which encouraged those with mental health problems to get physically active.
• EFL Players at Kings Cross station talking to commuters about the ‘On Your Side’ partnership beginning from the start of the 2018/19 season.
• The ‘On Your Side’ partnership won Gold in the Social Purpose Sponsorship category at the EFL Business Awards (Partnership of the Year) and Silver in the Sports Business Awards (Partnership of the Year) and Silver in the Sports Social Purpose Sponsorship (Best use of sport by a charity).
• February 2018
• Mind announced as EFL’s new Official Charity Partner with ‘On Your Side’ partnership beginning from the start of the 2018/19 season.
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February 2022

Huddersfield Town’s opponents in February found it hard to keep hold of Corberán as his team continued their promotion push.

The Terriers began the month with a 2-0 home win over Reading, with goals from Levi Colwill and Lewis O’Brien, leaving them unbeaten in their last west London league games. The Toffees then went on to win at Barnsley on 1 March, with Nicky Ajose scoring the opener before closing out the victory with a plan from Syed Ahsan.

On 19 February, Huddersfield went to Fulham and won 2-1 with goals from Danny Ward and Duane Holmes. The powerful Serbian striker scored the only goal in a 1-0 win at Hull City.

The Terriers continued to build on their promotion push, with a 3-0 home demolition of Peterborough United on 23 February, thanks not least to their goal-scorer’s brace.

That was evident once more on 26 February, when Town beat Preston North End and Sheffield United. Corberán’s ethos was built on a high-energy approach and a collective desire.

The Spaniard’s ethos was to be seen once more on 2 March, when Huddersfield went to Fulham and won 2-1 with goals from Reading’s season with five goals and an assist, which again made the headlines in February.

Carlo Ancelotti’s side managed to avoid defeat against the Terriers, with their only goal coming from a lovely solo run from Huddersfield midfielder Paul Ince. The Blues eventually went on to win 3-0, thanks to goals from Alexandre Pato and Aymeric Laporte.

The third change saw Darren Ferguson resign as Peterborough manager, following his recent exit from Hull. Meanwhile, Chelsea and Liverpool paid tribute to the people of Ukraine with messages of support inside the stadium on 27 February.

February also saw a ‘Youth Stand Together’ as a show of solidarity, with the message ‘Football Stands Together’ as a show of solidarity, with the message ‘Football Stands Together’ across the 72 League Clubs.
February looked decisive for Rotherham United as they made a break at the top. A superb month, which delivered six wins and a draw, against nearest challengers Wigan Athletic, meant they ended the month with a nine-point cushion at the top.

Wigan did have two games in hand but the Millers were flying, having conceded just one all month as well as putting five past South Yorkshire rivals Doncaster Rovers.

Former Norwich City and Preston North End boss Alex Neil was the new man in at Sunderland AFC but got an early taste of the task ahead with a 1-1 draw at strugglers AFC Wimbledon and a home defeat to Milton Keynes Dons.

Two penalties from the prolific Ross Stewart then helped Neil’s new side to a big 3-0 win at Wigan to ensure they ended the month in the Play-Off places.

“Football is a simple game, but we sometimes complicate it by talking rubbish,” said Neil after his first win in charge. “This is a really good platform for us.”

At the bottom, Crewe Alexandra slipped to the foot of the table after another tough month, though did at least pick up a vital win against title contenders Oxford United, with senior striker Chris Porter scoring.

Manager Stephen Robinson left for St Mirren so Derek Adams - who guided Morecambe to promotion last season before heading to Bradford City - was back after eight months.

Adams very nearly had a dream start to life back with the Shrimps too, but for Wes Burns equalising four minutes from time for Ipswich Town, who were moving in on the Play-Off picture.

Another Club on the up were Bolton Wanderers, winning eight in 11 to move to within striking distance of the top six. A 3-2 win at Oxford United was arguably the pick of the bunch, as Wanderers came from behind twice before Amadou Bakayoko turned in a late winner. Could Bolton make it back-to-back promotions?

#SEASONREVIEW

##EFL

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**Manager of the Month**

PAUL WARNE

Rotherham United

**Player of the Month**

ALFIE MAY

Cheltenham Town

February 2022

February’s Inline decision for Rotherham United and Middlesbrough at the Play-Off Final.

*Sky Bet Championship*
February 2022

A busy February saw some sides play seven times as the league calendar chopped with rearranged games and postponed fixtures. A win for Forest Green Rovers meant they were top of the table with just four games remaining, while Walsall were fifth, who parted company with former Bolton Wanderers’ player Matty Taylor after a midweek defeat at Scunthorpe United, who had lost their previous seven matches.

The defeat was the seventh in a row for the Saddlers, who had fallen to within four points of the relegation zone. Michael Flynn, formerly of Newport County, was the new man installed and immediately recorded three wins to climb up to 17th place.

A home defeat to Exeter City was the final straw for Derek Adams at Bradford City, but Adams would soon return to former Club Morecambe, while the Bantams turned to ex-Wales manager and former Manchester United, Barcelona and Chelsea player Mark Hughes, in an impressive appointment. Not famed for making a fast start, Hughes had failed to win the first league game at each of his last six Clubs since winning his very first game with Blackburn Rovers in September 2004. And his first game against Mansfield Town went with the script - 16,797 arrived to watch but left after seeing a 2-0 win for the Stags.

Kenny Jackett left Leyton Orient after a run of four defeats in a row saw them slip just points above the relegation zone. Orient were seventh in Sky Bet League Two in early December after a 4-1 win over Swindon Town, but a poor run of just two points from their following five matches saw them slide down the table. Richie Wellens, who left Doncaster Rovers earlier in the season, was appointed in his place.

Carlisle United slid into the bottom two, which triggered a sudden return for Paul Simpson, 16 years after leading the Club to the League Two title. Simpson had not managed in the EFL since leaving Stockport County in 2011 but needed just five minutes to re-find his touch - Omari Patrick’s early goal securing a 1-0 win at Leyton Orient.

Forest Green Rovers retained their 10-point lead at the top of the table, but it was now Northampton Town back up to second. Jon Brady’s side had a solid month, beating Colchester United, Newport and Walsall, where new arrival Louis Appéré found the winner on his debut.

The Nordex UK ambassador Luke Pavitt of Huddersfield Town was voted as the Papa Johns Trophy Player of the Round for the Quarter-Final. The 24-year-old notched the equaliser as the Pools edged out Charlton Athletic to reach the Semi-Final of the competition. Minutes after being introduced as a substitute in place of Olufela Olomola, Molyneux took the winger took aim from the edge of the area in the 73rd minute, curling in the Pools’ second goal of the evening to make it 2-2. The hosts took an early lead, before the Addicks turned the scoreline around. However, Molyneux struck back to level proceedings with around 15 minutes left on the watch and took the game to a penalty shoot-out. He was later crowned the Quarter-Final’s star player after putting the Pools within touching distance of Wembley.

Manager of the Month - DAVE ADAMS

Exeter City

Player of the Month - DAVIS KEILLOR-DUNN

Oldham Athletic

Young Player of the Month - JOE TOMLINSON

Swindon Town

SEASON REVIEW 2021/22

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SEASON REVIEW 2021/22

#EFL @theEFL @EFL @efl
Liverpool were crowned winners of the Carabao Cup 2022, beating Chelsea in a penalty shoot-out at Wembley Stadium to see a record ninth triumph in the League Cup. The final was ultimately decided from the spot after a goalless draw after extra-time, marking the most penalty kicks taken in a League Cup Final. A total of 85,512 football fans were treated to a thrilling Final, with the National Stadium at full capacity for the first time for a domestic Cup Final since the 2020 showdown due to COVID-19-related disruptions.

There were chances aplenty for both sides, with four goals disallowed before the Final went down to a penalty shoot-out. Inexperienced stopper Caoimhín Kelleher was ultimately the hero for Jürgen Klopp’s side, skippered by Jordan Henderson – the only current surviving member of the squad that won the League Cup a decade ago under Kenny Dalglish.

Joel Matip had the ball in the back of the net in the 67th minute, only for his header to be ruled out, with Virgil van Dijk adjudged to be in an offside position. Then it was Chelsea’s turn to see a goal ruled off, via Havertz being brought for the first time in the match for the second time in extra-time. In total, 11 goals were disallowed, with three offside decisions going Chelsea’s way and two for each side. In added time, Romelu Lukaku thought he had wrapped up the win for the Blues, only for the flag to be raised against the Belgian. In extra-time, two more goals were disallowed, one for each side. In front of the travelling Merseyside contingent, James Milner, Fabinho, Van Dijk – who was awarded the Alan Hardaker Trophy at the full-time whistle, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Mohamed Salah, Diogo Jota, Divock Origi, Andy Robertson, Harvey Elliott, Ibrahima Konaté, and stopper Kelleher all dispatched from 12 yards.

And keeper Kelleher – who once played football as a striker in his native Ireland, proving to be quite prolific in front of goal – netted the critical kick of the game before Kepa Arrizabalaga skied his effort over the bar to gift the win to the Reds, 10 years on from their last Final victory in this competition.
A FORCE FOR GOOD: Stronger, healthier, more active communities

Using the power of football, EFL Clubs and Club Community Organisations (CCOs) collectively invest more than £59 million in their communities every year, engaging with some of the most vulnerable members of society, focusing on improving health and wellbeing, raising aspirations and realising potential, and building stronger, more cohesive communities.

The work undertaken by the network of CCOs is unparalleled, with almost 900,000 participants every year taking part in over 41 million hours of individual participation.

In 2021, EFL Clubs and CCOs were also recognised at both the Leaders Sports Awards and Sports Business Awards for the important role they played in supporting their local communities during the pandemic.

Education & Employability

- 36.6m
  - Over 36 million people are within 10 miles of an EFL Club.

Health & Wellbeing

- 88%
  - 88 per cent involved in Kickstart have found a positive destination at the end of their placement, whether that be full or part-time employment, or securing an apprenticeship or further training.

Participation & Community Engagement

- 30,000
  - Over 30,000 people from the ages of three to 103 have participated in mental health and wellbeing projects.

Something for everyone

- 36.6m
  - Over 36 million people are within 10 miles of an EFL Club.

- 2,500
  - Nearly 2,500 fans signed up to their Clubs’ Fit Fans scheme to lose the equivalent of 10 Volkswagen Beetles.

- 16,000
  - Over 16,000 young people aged 16-17 have built their confidence, met new people and developed life skills through the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme.

- 700
  - The Kickstart employability programme saw over 700 young people take roles in Clubs and Community Organisations.

SEASON REVIEW 2021/22

Chief Executive of Lincoln City and Trustee of the Lincoln City Foundation, Liam Scully, was appointed Chair of the EFL Trust in September 2021, taking over from John Nixon, who stepped down after 10 years in the role.
“Our Clubs interact with a million people per year. Their place in their local communities is what makes EFL Clubs special and it’s what makes the pyramid special. The world’s a difficult place, it’s one challenge after another, but football is definitely a constant. Its place in the community and relationship between Clubs and the fans, those are the bonds that are incredibly important.”

RICK PARRY
EFL CHAIR

In April, the EFL launched its first-ever Week of Action, as all 72 Clubs and Club Community Organisations (CCOs) showcased their outstanding work in the community with EFL first-team players and managers joining participants across England and Wales.

Using the power of football, EFL Clubs and CCOs collectively invest more than £59 million in their communities every year, engaging with some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Alongside Clubs’ ongoing weekly community sessions, more than 150 community activities were specifically highlighted as part of the Week of Action as a spotlight was shone on the day-to-day impact Clubs have in their local communities.

“I had to wait until I was 26 to play at Wembley and some of these children are going to do it 13 years earlier.” KAREN CARNEY
FORMER ENGLAND MIDFIELDER

“The breadth and depth of the work that goes on within the EFL and the EFL Trust and the network is incredible. EFL Clubs are the cornerstone of the community and the fundamental thing is this: they provide local solutions for local challenges. That’s what’s important about this, it’s not one size fits all. It’s about Football Clubs and Community Organisations getting right to the heart of their community.”

LIAM SCULLY
EFL TRUST CHAIR

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LIAM SCULLY
EFL TRUST CHAIR
March 2022

Luton Town’s remarkable campaign showed no signs of slowing down as the month of March. The Hatters’ first under Nathan Jones’ well-motivated, highly-organised outfit ended the month in the thick of the automatic promotion play-offs. The Hatters registered three wins and at home to Midlands rivals Coventry City on 19 March. It equalled his joint-best goalscoring spell out of any relegation threat. Tom Lawrence scored in the 1-1 draw at home to Midlands rivals Coventry City on 19 March. The Hatters took a major step towards avoiding relegation with a victory against Queens Park Rangers.

For Football’s Sake…” was launched at matches this season. Later in the month, the EFL and its Clubs also launched a new wide-ranging campaign in response to an increase in anti-social behaviour at football grounds. The EFL also called on supporters to help the League and its Clubs spell out clearly that anti-social behaviour was never acceptable at football grounds.

As winter turned to spring, Jones’ men continued to soak up the Hillsborough atmosphere and drive home a 30-yard screamer against Queens Park Rangers. His driving run and trickery earned him the Sky Bet Championship Young Player of the Month award for March 2022.

The Hatters’ rise under Nathan Jones showed no signs of slowing down as the month of March. The Hatters registered three wins and five assists. Only one player had been directly involved in 14 league goals in 2022, including nine goals in the Championship. Andreas Weimann had raced during the season but, by the end of March, Weimann had been directly involved in 14 league goals in 2022, including nine goals in the Championship. Andreas Weimann had been directly involved in 14 league goals in 2022, including nine goals in the Championship.
Global events rightly dominated the agenda at the start of the month as thoughts turned towards Ukraine, with players, Clubs and fans alike showing their support throughout.

On the pitch, it was Wigan Athletic’s turn to step on the accelerator at the top of the table, cutting Rotherham United’s lead to a single point by the end of March. An unbeaten month ended with a thumping 4-1 win at home to Morecambe with Josh Magennis and Will Keane both on target.

Across the country in Yorkshire, Rotherham’s momentum was slowed as their only win came at home to Lincoln City. A surprising 3-0 home loss at the hands of Shrewsbury Town set the title race up for a cracking last few games, with Milton Keynes Dons and a resurgent Plymouth Argyle not out of the picture yet. The Dons picked up five straight wins, along with a draw against Wigan, to keep up the pressure, while Argyle got themselves back into contention with a storming run of six straight wins. Nine victories from 11 games since the start of February put the Pilgrims right back in the mix before they ended March with a narrow defeat at Ipswich Town.

Sunderland’s up and down run saw them end the month out of the Play-Off places, as Oxford United and Sheffield Wednesday moved ahead. Wycombe Wanderers, also just out of the top six, saw manager Gareth Ainsworth take charge of his 500th Chairboys game in a 3-1 defeat of Crawley Town. It was a far cry from where it all started for the 48-year-old. Ainsworth was first introduced to the Wanderers faithful as the new Wycombe manager in September 2012, overseeing a 3-0 defeat to Dagenham & Redbridge with the Club sitting fourth from bottom in the fourth tier and without a win in seven, having suffered relegation the season prior. His side were eyeing an immediate return to the Sky Bet Championship and, regardless of the outcome, the Blackburn-born boss will go down as a Chairboys history-maker.

Not many managers reach the 500 mark of course, and Mark Robinson was the latest man to depart his job, leaving AFC Wimbledon as they fell into the bottom four still looking for a first win of the calendar year.

“It’s a fantastic moment for me. I had two players in the team today that played in that first game back at Dagenham 500 games ago – Josh Scowen and Anthony Stewart. I’m glad to say we weren’t beaten 3-0 like that first game with a bit of mayhem ensuing. It’s really special.”

GARETH AINSWORTH
WYCOMBE WANDERS MANAGER
March 2022

A lot can change in a month across the EFL, especially at the business end of the season, and by the end of the month Sky Bet League Two had a title race as exciting as ever before.

Forest Green Rovers would only pick up one win all month, with Exeter City managing four to cut the lead to just four points at the top of the table. The Grecians had lost Play-Off Finals in three of the previous five seasons, so an automatic promotion place was very much the aim. “Why can’t we get excited?” Taylor said, after said 2-1 victory over Stevenage.

John Sheridan was at it again, and by the end of March, Oldham Athletic were out of the bottom two - although only on goal difference. Stevenage joined Scunthorpe United in the drop zone while Barrow were also feeling the heat. Manager Mark Cooper was handed an eight-game ban and left the Club after a Cumbrian derby defeat at home to Carlisle United, with 600 travelling fans adding to Barrow’s biggest league attendance - 4,658 - since 1969.

Former Hull City manager Phil Brown was the man entrusted with the Bluebirds’ safety as the Club ended March three points above the drop zone. There was to be no let up for Scunthorpe though, who remained 10 points adrift at the bottom after a home defeat at the hands of Harrogate Town, who had not previously won in seven.

Northampton Town celebrated their 125th anniversary with a one-off special kit and victory against Tranmere Rovers and the Cobblers would enter April in the third promotion place. Carlisle United’s revival under Paul Simpson continued, while Bristol Rovers - 17th at the turn of the year - were now in the Play-Off places after a remarkable turn of form. Manager Joey Barton revealed that his side spent the day at Cheltenham Races in the build-up to the game, but went on to beat Northampton 1-0 to push for promotion themselves.

Manager of the Month
JOEY BARTON
Bristol Rovers

Player of the Month
RUEL SOTIRIOU
Leyton Orient

Sutton United, debutants to the competition this year, saw off Wigan Athletic in the Semi-Final to secure passage to the Wembley showpiece. The tie was decided on a penalty shoot-out, after the game finished 1-1. Will Randall gave Sutton the lead in the first half and stopper Dean Bouzanis scored from the spot, pulling off two saves as Sutton progressed 7-6 on penalties.

In similar style, Rotherham United joined them after overcoming Hartlepool United. The Millers progressed on penalties, after the pulsating tie finished 2-2 after 90 minutes. Michael Smith was at the double for the South Yorkshire side in the second half, and it fell to Mickel Miller to score the decisive kick in the shoot-out. Meanwhile, Pools stopper Ben Killip claimed Player of the Round.
Rotherham United came from behind twice to win the Papa Johns Trophy Final 2022, beating Sutton United 4-2 after extra-time.

In a game that began with comedians Paul Chuckle and Tim Vine delivering the match ball on mopeds while wearing the jerseys of their respective teams, the Millers and the U’s, it was a Final full of twists and turns, but it was the South Yorkshire side who emerged victorious.

However, Sutton opened the scoring on the half-hour mark. Donovan Wilson grabbed his third goal in seven appearances in the Papa Johns Trophy, slotting home after the ball fell to the Yellows’ leading marksman in the competition on the edge of the box, to make it 1-0 to the South Londoners.

Moments before the half-time whistle sounded, Ben Wiles equalised for the Millers with a stunning strike. The Rawmarsh-born number eight, who made his debut in the same competition in 2017, saw his effort loop over Sutton stopper Dean Bouzanis to ripple the net.

As was the tempo of the showpiece, Sutton mustered a charge, catching the Millers on the break to restore their lead and make it 2-1. U’s captain Craig Eastmond had his initial effort blocked before toe-poking the follow-up beyond a helpless Viktor Johansson.

Deep into added time, substitute Jordi Osei-Tutu took the tie to extra-time, with the Millers loanee, who was introduced in the 80th minute, finding the back of the net in the 96th minute to make it 2-2 and add an additional 30 minutes on to the Final.

And Rotherham, who broke the record for the most goals scored in an EFL Trophy campaign, went ahead for the first time in the Final through Chiedozie Ogbene. The Republic of Ireland international took aim from distance and fired past Bouzanis to make it 3-2.

And Michael Ihiekwe completed the victory for the Yorkshire side, rounding it in the Millers’ fourth of the afternoon as it finished 4-2 to the South Yorkshire side.

Rotherham United fans from behind top to win the Papa Johns Trophy Final 2022, beating Sutton United 4-2 after extra-time.
BILLY SHARP:
Record Breaker
January saw boyhood Blade Billy Sharp score a record-breaking goal to make him the second-tier’s all-time leading goalscorer since the division was rebranded as the Championship ahead of the 2004/05 campaign.
The Sheffield United captain scored his 122nd second-tier goal as United beat Peterborough United 2-0 in January, taking him above the competition’s previous leader David Nugent.
A prolific goalscorer, the 36-year-old has scored goals across the top four divisions of English football, but his most profitable stomping ground is without a doubt the Championship. His first senior strike came back in 2005 for Rushden & Diamonds and 17 years later, he’s still finding the back of the net.

TOP SCORERS IN SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<th>Goals</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BILLY SHARP</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DAVID NUGENT</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>ROSS MCCORMACK</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>JORDAN RHODES</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>LEWIS GRABBAN</td>
<td>112</td>
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“Don’t think I’ll realise until I come away from the game how lucky I’ve been and how special it’s been. I still love playing for this Club.”

BILLY SHARP - SHEFFIELD UNITED

CLUBS MANAGED:
- 1980–1981 GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY
- 1981–1986 BURTON ALBION
- 1986–1989 SCARBOROUGH
- 1989–1993 Notts County
- 1991–1993 BURLEIGH TOWN
- 1993–1995 SÍNHala-IFO
- 1995–1997 SÍNHala-IFO
- 1997–1998 SÍNHala-IFO
- 1999–2007 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2007–2010 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2010–2012 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2012–2013 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2015–2016 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2016–2018 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2018–2019 SÍNHala-IFO
- 2020–2021 SÍNHala-IFO

NEIL WARNOCK:
Managerial Master

After managing a record and unprecedented 1,603 football matches, managerial master Neil Warnock announced his retirement from management in April 2022, drawing to a close a 60-year career, during which he was awarded numerous EFL promotions.
In total, Warnock managed a record eight EFL promotions, leading Sheffield United, Queens Park Rangers and Cardiff City to the Premier League; a record six leading Port Vale to safety in the EFL; and a record three leading Notts County to the Football League.
Warnock’s first club in the then non-league pyramid was as a youth coach at Scarborough Town, after retiring from playing at the age of 30, before joining Rotherham United.
He went on to manage in the Football League in 1990, and then to lead to six promotions to guide Notts County into the then Division One in 1991.

“My biggest achievement was not even a promotion - it was keeping Rotherham in the Championship, when we were six points adrift with 16 games to go and eight out of the top nine Clubs still to play. We went on a fabulous run.”

After winning promotion with Notts County in 1990, before moving to Plymouth Argyle, where he guided the promotion to the Third Division (1990) just 12 months later.
In 1990, Sheffield United took a look over the non-league pyramid and hired Warnock in a player-manager role, but he left before the season ended.
He returned to Scarborough in 1990, after leaving Rotherham in 1990, before returning to management with Crystal Palace, before leading QPR to the First Division in 1998.
warnock went to manage Cardiff City, before leading the Blades to the Premier League as Championship runners-up in 2006.

The Sheffield United promotion was his 52nd success, and his 11th in the Championship. In total, Warnock led 19 clubs to promotion from the EFL, a record.
He describes his greatest achievement as keeping Rotherham in the Championship in 1990.

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A one-of-a-kind in football, his passion for the game has shone through in his touchline antics, charged personality and articulate self. He is a revelation, revered and remarkable, and Warnock is a true giant of the game.
April 2022

Fulham clinched promotion as the first attempt following their relegation. The previous season saw a top-six campaign from Marco Silva and his players.

Describing Ed Jones’ side as having ‘a lot of work to do’ and ‘a lot of improvement to be made’, Fulham manager Scott Parker said a 2-0 win against Fulham in September was the turning point.

A 3-1 win over Preston North End saw Fulham confirm automatic promotion on 14 April with a resounding 2-0 victory away to Preston North End.

Alexandar Mitrovic scored a hat-trick to help Fulham to their 3-0 home victory over Preston North End, sandwiching an eye-catching strike by teenager Fábio Carvalho. The result meant Fulham had picked up four vital results during April, improving under Paul Ince as they built on their impressive start to the season.

The Serbian frontman was presented with the award at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, as the end of a historic promoted campaign drew to a close. The Serbian frontman was named Championship Player of the Season at the star-studded 2022 EFL Awards ceremony in London on Sunday 24 April.

Despite losing ‘it all to his Country’ during the Euros, Cooper was named the Sky Bet Championship Manager of the Month for April. The dynamic Keane Lewis-Potter continued to impress for Hull City and, since the start of last season, the 21-year-old had scored more Championship goals than any other player with 24.

Keane Lewis-Potter continued to impress for Hull City and, since the start of last season, the 21-year-old had scored more Championship goals than any other player with 24.

When Cooper arrived at the City Ground in September, Forest were bottom of the table. The Championship boss transformed them from potential relegation candidates into fierce promotion contenders with a record of seven wins from eight games.

At this point, the Sky Bet Championship was essentially ‘a battle for the championship’, as the Serbian striker netted twice in the first half.

AFC Bournemouth and Millwall to clinch a Play-Off place. Meanwhile, as the race for the second automatic promotion spot continued, a popular manager with winning promotion in the last five seasons in the second tier of English football, Neil Warnock, took charge of more than 1,600 games across his managerial career, winning a record eight Football League promotions and leading Sheffield United to the Premier League. He also holds the record for the most games managed with winning promotion in the EFL.

An intriguing battle played out just behind the leaders in the title race. Middlesbrough and Millwall to clinch a Play-Off place. The Serbian frontman was presented with the award at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, as the end of a historic promoted campaign drew to a close. The Serbian frontman was named Championship Player of the Season at the star-studded 2022 EFL Awards ceremony in London on Sunday 24 April.

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April 2022

And so another marathon season came down to the final match in Sky Bet League One, with AFC Wimbledon leading all the drama as an action-packed finale to the campaign. The Gills’ win against Wycombe Wanderers not only saw them secure promotion but also meant Wigan Athletic had to win and hope for a couple of other results to go their way to have relegation confirmed as a 2-0 defeat at Huddersfield Town saw the return to Sky Bet League One with four places remaining. Manager Lee Brown was delighted with the win saying: "It’s been a huge journey for the club and the players and we’re pleased to have overcome. And we know the challenges that we’ve had to strive for and with no staff. There have been a lot of issues to overcome. And we know the challenges that we’ve had to strive for and with no staff. There have been a lot of issues to overcome. And we know the challenges that we’ve had to strive for and with no staff. There have been a lot of issues to overcome. 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After a challenging season, Scunthorpe United's 72-year stay in the EFL came to an end with a 3-0 defeat at Leyton Orient. Keith Hill saw his side win just twice in 28 matches as their relegation was confirmed with four games left to play.

“Being relegated hurts, it really does hurt,” Hill said, as Scunthorpe United were playing in the Championship in 2011 and competing in the League One Play-Offs as recently as 2018.

Oldham Athletic were then also relegated from the EFL for the first time after defeat by Salford City. The Latics had rallied under John Sheridan but nine defeats in 11 games proved decisive and their relegation was confirmed.

At the other end of the table, Forest Green Rovers were promoted to Sky Bet League One for the first-ever time after a goalless draw at Bristol Rovers. After being top of the league since September, promotion had long looked likely but manager Rob Edwards was unsurprisingly delighted to get over the line.

“The scenes at the end will live with me forever,” he said. “To be part of it as a small Club like ours progresses is a real privilege and I am delighted for everyone.”

Edwards will not be joining Forest Green in the top league this however, after being appointed as the new manager of Watford following their relegation to the Sky Bet Championship.

The identity of the sides who would join Forest Green in winning promotion had been more of a mystery, with a number of teams competing for the top three spots.

Exeter City secured a second promotion spot days later with a 2-1 win at home to Barrow.

City had lost three Play-Off finals since 2017 but ended a decade in Sky Bet League Two with the win. The title was also up for grabs on the final day, with Northampton Town putting themselves in the driving seat for the third spot.

A fine 4-2 win at Leyton Orient saw the Cobblers score four first-half goals in an away league game for the first time since they did it against Macclesfield Town in October 2018. Indeed, only Liverpool - against Manchester United in October - and Chelsea - against Southampton in April - achieved this feat in the top four tiers of English football this season.

Jon Brady’s side drew with Exeter in the 45th match of the season to make the final day very interesting.

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EFL Awards 2022

Hosted by Sky Sports presenters David Prutton and Bela Shah, more than 700 guests gathered at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, for the highly anticipated 2022 EFL Awards. The Awards, taking place in person for the first time since 2019, celebrated and recognised the continued efforts and achievements of Clubs, players and individuals on and off the pitch.

EFL Awards 2022

Contribution to League Football
Ben Robinson MBE DL
Sir Tom Finney Award
Jobi McAnuff
Sky Bet Young Player of the Season
Ben Robinson
MBE DL
Fulham

Sky Bet League One Player of the Season
Scott Twine
Milton Keynes Dons

Sky Bet League Two Player of the Season
Kane Wilson
Forest Green Rovers

Championship Young Player of the Season
Brennan Johnson
Nottingham Forest

League Two Young Player of the Season
Junior Tchamadeu
Colchester United

Goal of the Season
Barry Bannan
MK Dons v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

PFA Player in the Community
Ryan Innis
Charlton Athletic

EFL Supporter of the Season
Cath Dyer
Swansea City

EFL Sustainability Award
Cambridge United

EFL Diversity Award
Blackburn Rovers

Your Move Community Club of the Season
AFC Wimbledon

EFL Project of the Season
Burton Albion Vaccination Centre

Kin + Carta Family Club of the Season
Ipswich Town

EFL Awards 2022

FOOTBALL MANAGER

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE SEASON
Lee Nicholls
Joe Worrall
Lloyd Kelly
Tosin Adarabioyo
Djed Spence
Antonee Robinson
Philip Billing
Ryan Yates
Harry Wilson
Aleksandar Mitrovic
Dominic Solanke
Managers:
Nathan Jones

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Michael Cooper
Jack Whatmough
Michael Ihiekwe
Harry Darling
Wes Burns
James McClean
Dan Barlaser
Barry Bannan
Scott Twine
Ross Stewart
Michael Smith
Managers:
Leam Richardson

FOOTBALL MANAGER

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Jon Guthrie
Peter Clarke
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SeASON REVIEW 2021/22
May 2022

After Fulham had seen automatic promotion in such scintillating fashion, they wrapped up the title with a stunning 7-0 home victory over Play-Off hopefuls Luton Town on 2 May. Record-breaking Aleksandar Mitrović reached 43 goals for the season twice to set a new record for English league goals in a season post-1992 as Fulham’s title celebrations began. Tom Cairney scored the Cottagers’ 100th goal of the campaign with a thunderous first-half strike and a thumping long-range shot from Kenny Tete doubled the tally. Fábio Carvalho made it three after the break, before Mitrović scored his record-equalling 42nd goal of the campaign. Bobby Decordova-Reid and Jean Michaël Seri extended the lead, before Mitrović tapped in his second to set a new record for English league goals in a 46-game campaign.

Fulham broke Ivan Toney’s record for the most goals scored in a Championship season in February, took Whittingham’s record for the most scored in a 46-game campaign and went level on 43 with Brian Clough in the all-time charts. Mitrović, whose 43 Championship goals included three hat-tricks, won the Golden Boot, while Bournemouth goalkeeper Mark Travers was rewarded for an outstanding campaign with the Golden Glove.

Elsewhere at the top end of the Championship, there was much still to be decided. Bournemouth, Huddersfield Town and Nottingham Forest all began the month with a chance of claiming second place in the Championship.

The Cherries, however, got the prize they craved on 3 May with a 1-0 home victory against Forest. Scott Parker made it two promotions after the break, before Mitrović scored a second to level at 1-1. Fulham, who had won their previous 13 home league games, failed to make a significant impact in the second half of the season.

The Terriers edged past the Hatters on penalties, with a 2-1 victory in the first leg at Carrow Road. Forest took advantage of the team’s 5-3 aggregate win, with a 3-0 win at Bramall Lane. Sheffield United’s 3-0 win over Luton confirmed their place in the end-of-season lottery. Bournemouth finished third to set up a two-legged Play-Off Final against Sunderland, while Forest faced Middlesbrough in the other Semi-Final showdown.

Middlesbrough and Millwall still had a chance of making the top six heading into the final day as they sought to overhaul Sheffield United and Luton Town. As it was, the Blades and the Hatters secured their spots in the end-of-season play-offs, while Fulham and Bournemouth remained in contention for a second promotion in a row.

### Championship Table

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* Derby County deducted 21 points under EFL Regulations.
** Reading deducted 6 points under EFL Regulations.
There is no doubt that the final day of the 2021/22 Sky Bet League Two season will be well remembered in years to come.

The bare facts are that Bristol Rovers clinched promotion to Sky Bet League One, with Plymouth Argyle joining a host of teams in the Play-Offs, including Port Vale in the Play-Offs, that the League Two final day will be. But that doesn't begin to cover the drama of an extraordinary final few hours on the League Two final day.

The Cobblers travelled to Cumbria to face Barrow, where a win would all-but secure a place back in the third tier. Level on points with Bristol Rovers, Jon Brady's side had a five-goal advantage on goal difference too.

They made light work of the task in hand. Barrow were nothing more than a shadow of their former selves, and in a case of the Cobblers scoring in the 1st minute, 3-0 inside 23 minutes at Holker Street. Sam Hoskins scored twice as they cruised into a 3-0 lead inside 23 minutes at Holker Street. Barrow's only threat was when Jones headed in an effort that was cleared off the line by the defender.

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Aaron Collins put Rovers 3-0 up at the start of the second half but still offered little change of the championship leadership, despite two late goals, as Rovers had scored more goals than the Cobblers all season.

The Cobblers manager Brady was understandably shocked by the day's events, even with his side playing to win promotion to League One, but his side were unable to score.

"I'm surprised by the games," said Rovers manager Barton as he reflected on the final 90 minutes of the season. "We've been in the top three for 10 minutes all season but they're the most important 10 minutes. There have been loads of times I've been close to getting sacked. I felt that pressure. I didn't expect us to win 7-0 - but were we going to do it any other way?"
Fulham were fearless in the face of goal on their way to the Sky Bet Championship title this season, with Aleksandar Mitrović leading the line. Marco Silva’s men put seven goals past Blackburn Rovers, Reading and Luton Town, as well as scoring six against both Bristol City and Brentford City, with Mitrović wheeling away from goal an all too familiar sight.

In February, the Serbian striker broke Ivan Toney’s record for the most goals scored in a Championship season, before then taking Guy Whittingham’s record previously set in 1992/93 while playing for Portsmouth for the most scored in a 46-game campaign.

Going into the current campaign, Mitrović had hit double figures in three of his four seasons at Fulham, but this has been his most prolific yet. His 43rd and record-breaking league goal came in Fulham’s emphatic 7-0 victory over Luton in May as Fulham clinched the Championship title in style, scoring more than 100 team goals along the way.

“It’s been a big season on an individual and a team level. It’s been amazing. I’m very proud. I couldn’t have done it without my team-mates and people who work for the Club who have helped me a lot.”

ALEKSANDAR METROVIĆ
FULHAM

ALEKSANDAR METROVIĆ:
Goalscoring Sensation

“The numbers speak for themselves. 33 goals at the end of February, with 14 more games to play. It’s fantastic. What I like about him is he’s always demanding more and more. His numbers reflect our philosophy and the players have bought into it. We’re creating and building something important.”

MARCO SILVA
FULHAM MANAGER

43 GOALS
6 PENALTIES
22 RIGHT-FOOTED GOALS
9 LEFT-FOOTED GOALS
12 HEADED GOALS
303 TOUCHES IN THE OPPOSITION BOX
198 SHOTS
0.97 GOALS PER GAME
44 GAMES

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A fitting finale

It was Port Vale who were celebrating at the National Stadium on Play-Off Final weekend, after an emphatic – but emotional – victory over Mansfield Town. Vale had not been to Wembley for 29 years but soon made themselves at home, with early goals from Kian Harratt and James Wilson setting the scene for a comfortable 3-0 win. Mansfield had Oliver Hawkins sent off and there was no way back for the Stags. Vale boss Darrell Clarke – who played more than 170 games for the Stags – dedicated the win to his 18-year-old daughter Ellie, who died earlier in the year. Mansfield fans started a minute’s applause in solidarity in the eighth minute of the game.

"It is special for my family who have gone through tough times. It was very special from Mansfield, as Ellie was a Mansfield girl born and bred.

DARRELL CLARKE
PORT VALE MANAGER

Wycombe Wanderers and Sunderland AFC faced off at Wembley in the Sky Bet League One Play-Off Final. A crowd of 72,332 were in situ as the Black Cats looked for a first Play-Off Final win and a return to the Championship after a four-year absence – and Alex Neil’s side delivered. Elliott Embleton powered in from range after a surging run through midfield and Ross Stewart settled any nerves late on with a second – his 26th goal of the season. EFL legend Adebayo Akinfenwa came on for a late cameo for Wycombe in his final appearance as a professional but there was no fairytale ending for the 40-year-old, with the striker unable to find a way through.

"You can be a hero today and nobody can ever take that away from you. For Sunderland fans, this group, this team, the individuals, will be remembered and rightly so.

ALEX NEIL
SUNDERLAND AFC HEAD COACH

Nottingham Forest clinched promotion back to the Premier League, beating Huddersfield Town 1-0 in the Sky Bet Championship Play-Off Final. After a 23-year absence – the longest of any team to drop out of the top flight – the Reds made their return following a narrow victory over the Terriers at Wembley Stadium, as 80,019 Forest and Town fans watched on. Steve Cooper’s side took the lead in the first half courtesy of an own goal. Terriers defender Levi Colwill, on loan from Chelsea, turned the ball into his own net in the 43rd minute, moments before the half-time whistle sounded, to make it 1-0 to Forest. Huddersfield did not give up, continuing to press for a leveller in the second period. Most notably, the team took a 2-0 lead, wrongly applied within 3 minutes and then equalised through a penalty for a spot-kick sooner than away before stoppage time. Just 3 minutes later, Colin Odumegwu was brought down in the area and the penalty appeal was waved away after VAR checking. Just 2 minutes later, Colwill was brought down in the area by Colback and another penalty was awarded, converted by O'Brien. Steve Cooper took the lead in September, during the points deduction, and his team were promoted from the Championship.

"It is special for my family who have gone through tough times. It was very special.

STEVE COOPER
NOTTINGHAM FOREST MANAGER
SEASON REVIEW 2021/22

This season’s stars...

GOLDEN BOOT

Sky Bet Championship
Aleksandar Mitrovic
Fulham (26)

Sky Bet League One
Michael Cooper
Wycombe Wanderers (25)

Sky Bet League Two
Liam Roberts
Northampton Town (21)

GOLDEN GLOVE

Sky Bet Championship
Mark Travers
AFC Bournemouth (21)

Sky Bet League One
Dom Telford
Newport County (20)

Sky Bet League Two
Liam Roberts
Northampton Town (21)

The future is bright...

This season’s stars have already laid the foundations for a bright future in English football, with a number of young talents impressing in promotion campaigns.

Most U21 starts in each division:

Championship:

201
Jack Colback
Sheffield United (19%)

201
Sean Long
Blackburn Rovers (19%)

238
Callum Robinson
Derby County (21%)

MOST U21 STARTS IN EACH DIVISION:

League One:

211
Jordan Hugill
Wycombe Wanderers (19%)

206
Alex Mowatt
Hull City (18%)

197
Elliott Hewitt
Barnsley (17%)

9,493
6,892
78%

(21%) appearances made by players aged 21 and under.

(21%) appearances were made by players aged 21 and under.

78% of team appearances were made by players aged 21 and under.

-season review - 2021/22

This season...

(Football) 2021/22

(TV) 2021/22

(SEASON REVIEW) 2021/22

The EFL is committed to a clear vision of developing young footballers and promoting them, providing opportunities for the next generation of successful English players.

This season saw the confirmation of young English talent - with the support of The Annual Youth Development Week.

February saw the EFL and its Clubs providing opportunities for the next generation of homegrown and academy players, crucial role in the development of the next generation. It is consistently seen by players aged 21 and under.

The EFL continues to play a significant role in the development of young players.

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SEASON REVIEW - 2021/22

IN EACH DIVISION:

MOST U21 STARTS

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Blackpool
Bristol City
Cardiff City
Coventry City
Derby County
Fulham
Huddersfield Town
Hull City
Luton Town
Millwall
Nottingham Forest
Peterborough United
Preston North End
Queens Park Rangers
Reading
Sheffield United
Swansea City
West Bromwich Albion
Wigan Athletic
Wycombe Wanderers

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Thank you to all our partners for your support