

Title: The Ups and Downs in the History of Arsenal FC as a top football club in the world

Description: Learn how Arsenal Football Club grew from being just a group of men to a recognized team in the world. Their achievements, up times, and tough periods are discussed.

# The Rise and Fall: How Arsenal Became One of England's Top Clubs

Will any English club ever break Arsenal's record of winning the league undefeated? This question always pops up every season since the 2003/04 eventful season which saw the Gunners winning the only golden English Premier League trophy. The EPL has many amazing records, but completing a 38-match season with no loss tops the list of records to break.

While the Arsene Wenger-lead Invincibles remains a great feat in Arsenal and EPL history, the football club has come a long way to establish itself as a top team. Like others, the club has had its highs and lows since it was founded. Most Bangladeshis bet on Arsenal via the [Melbet App](#), but is it everyone who knows the club's journey to becoming popular?

On this page, we'll take you through Arsenal's history. Starting with its creation, key milestones and achievements, and the various eras and what made them unique.

## Arsenal's Early Years and Foundation

The early days of the Arsenal FC are fascinating and it dates back to late 1886 when 15 munition workers at Woolwich decided to play the game. Led by David Danskin, with the support of his friends, Elijah Watkins and Richard Pearce, the group contributed to buying a football. They adopted Dial Square Football Club as they won their first match in December 1886, putting 6 goals past Eastern Wanderers at the Isle of Dogs.

But the men wanted more than playing for exercise and wanted to go professional. Therein at a meeting in Royal Oak pub, they renamed themselves as the Royal Arsenal and they played on Plumstead Common. And so the men laid the foundation of a great football club without even knowing.

## Early struggles in the English Football League and relocation to Highbury

An early spell of success kept them going with the Kent Senior Cup, London Charity Cup, and the London Senior Cup all before going full professional in 1891. In the process of becoming a limited liability firm in 1893, Woolwich Arsenal was chosen as the new name. The team was promoted to the First Division of the English League in 1904.

But then, struggles set in as the number of members attending the games became lower and this created financial issues. Also, many other clubs became accessible and available and this almost drove them into bankruptcy just 6 years after promotion. Although they were relegated to

the Second Division, The Arsenal moved to Highbury and this was orchestrated by Businessmen Henry Norris and William Hall in 1913.

And as luck will have it, the team got voted back into the First Division 6 years later. This development coupled with the conducive new stadium brought them more fortunes and they were dubbed the Bank of England club due to large financial backing. They gradually dropped "The" in the name and were officially addressed as Arsenal up till today.

## The Chapman Era: Arsenal's First Golden Age

With the money in the bank, luring Herbert Chapman, a recognized Huddersfield Town manager, into the club started a new era in 1925. He got into work instantly and built a formidable team within five years. His iconic WM formation was known all through the league and yielded significant results.

Chapman was aided by Tom Whittaker, Joe Shaw, George Allison, and others to recruit top players and develop young talents within this period. David Jack, Alex James, Eddie's Hapgood, Cliff Bastin, and others were pivotal to Arsenal's first golden age in the league in the 1930s. The changes Chapman brought to Arsenal were visible on and off the pitch before his sudden death in the 1933/34 football season.

He guided the team to their first FA Cup in 1930, and won the league twice between 1930 and 1933, marking the beginning of Arsenal's dominance in the league. However, this was cut short when the Manager died of pneumonia in the middle of the next season. Chapman also introduced white sleeves, shirt numbers, floodlights, and other developments to the football club.

## Post-war Arsenal and the Rebuilding Phase

Joe Shaw and George Allison continued after Herbert Chapman's demise and maintained the dominance built earlier. They guided the team to the 3 league Championship in 1933/34, 1934/35, and 1937/38. They also won the FA Cup in 1936 before World War 2 began.

After 7 years of suspension, the League returned but the Arsenal team was never the same. Many players died in the course of the war, more than any other teams and this affected the team's performance. North Bank Stand repairs also took its toll on the team's resources and it affected Arsenal's general performance.

Despite the difficulties all around, they won the league in the 1947/48 season, the FA Cup in 1950, and another league title in the 1952/53 season. All these were under Tom Whittaker's leadership. These were followed by drought seasons of 18 years with no major trophy but many managers and players tried their best for the team to remain in the top flight. Some of the common names are:

- Billy Wright

- Don Howe
- Bob McNab
- George Graham
- Billy Wright
- Bertie Mee

Arsenal won the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in the 1969/70 season with Bertie Mee and a double of FA and league titles in the following season. After Terry Neill took over management in 1976, he won an Arsenal vs Man United FA Cup final in 1979. After some periods of downtime, George Graham returned to Arsenal as a manager and brought them back to winning ways.

Graham's time with the club was successful starting with the 1987 League Cup followed by the 1988 Football League Centenary Trophy, and the 1988/89 League title. He also guided the team to the 1990/91 league championship and a double of FA and league title two years later before the 1994 European Cup Winners' Cup triumph. Graham was sacked a year later due to bribery, a shocking end to his successful time at Arsenal.

## The Wenger Era: Arsenal's Second Golden Age

The appointment of Arsène Wenger in 1996 was the break of a new dawn to the London club. He was quick to instill his attacking and possessive football style into the team. He signed top players like Thierry Henry, Patrick Vieira, Dennis Bergkamp, Gilberto Silva, Kolo Toure, Sol Campbell, and others to showcase his Spanish tiki-taka style. He also changed the fitness, scouting, and diet of the team, inaugurating the pre-kickoff warm-up in the league.

Aside from the Invincibles of the 2003/04 season, he guided the team to league and cup doubles in the 1997/98 and 2001/02 seasons. He won the 2003, 2005, 2014, 2015, and 2017 FA Cup titles. He holds the unbeaten record in the EPL with 49 games undefeated before a controversial Manchester United loss.

Aside from the golden trophy for the Unbeaten season, it also symbolizes the need for togetherness in the Arsenal team. It is also dubbed as the peak of Arsenal's achievements so far. Arsène Wenger's first 9 seasons were the most memorable of his 20 seasons at the club. The team had their best shot at the UEFA Champions League with the 2005/06 final defeat to Barcelona.

## The move to the Emirates Stadium and its Financial Impact

In the quest to accommodate more spectators and have access to modern features, the French manager proposed the building of the Emirates Stadium. It happened to be the only solution since Highbury has exceeded its expansion limits. The stadium was constructed between 2004

and 2006 and it ended the 93 years memorable time at the Highbury with the July 2006 transition.

Although the new stadium comes with more space, modern facilities, and more revenue, the financial implications took its toll on the team. It limits the team financially and leads to changes in the transfer policies. The manager had to trade the best players to clear the debts and recruit average ones as replacements. It became difficult for the club to compete with other top teams.

## The Positive Impact of the Emirates Stadium Transition

On the upside, the 60,704 capacity means more fans can come to spectate Arsenal vs Crystal Palace or any other clashes at the Emirates. The Matchday revenue increases with the new development and more money is earned. The modern nature of the Emirates Stadium also enhances fans' time at the stadium with WiFi, more exits, and entrances with other infrastructure.

Arsenal also gets more revenue from the naming right deal with Emirates Airlines which amplifies their budget. With this, they were able to clear the debt and buy quality players to start competing at top levels again.

## The Decline in Arsenal's Dominance

To keep up with the debt obligations, many top players have to leave the team to find the repayment. The financial constraints also limited the quality of players that can join Arsenal. These resulted in the decline of dominance of the Arsene Wenger style in the EPL. Some top players who left include:

- Ashley Cole
- Thierry Henry
- Alexander Hleb
- Robin Van Persie
- Gael Clichy
- Bacary Sagna
- Alex Song
- Samir Nasri, etc.

Acquiring top players became more expensive and with the debt's repayment still on, the football club could only rely on developing young talents. Other teams like Chelsea, Manchester

United, and Liverpool became better leading to years without a trophy until the 2014 FA Cup triumph.

## Arsenal in the post-Wenger era

On the 13th of May 2018, Arsène Wenger guided the team to a 1-0 victory over Huddersfield Town in his last game in charge. Finding a manager after 22 years became challenging for Arsenal but Unai Emery was eventually hired from PSG, as the head coach. The Spaniard took the team to a Europa Cup Final, losing to Chelsea and fifth league position in his first season

Freddie Ljungberg replaced Unai Emery in November 2019 with the team at 8 position before Mikel Arteta took over the following month. Despite Finishing 8th, he won the 14th FA Cup for the team, followed by a Community Shield in 2020 but the league position didn't improve. The 3rd season saw them miss out narrowly on the Champions League spot in fifth place.

Surprisingly, Arsenal Games 2023 were better and they competed with Pep Guardiola's Manchester City to finish Second. This marked the return of Champions League football to the Emirates Stadium but they lost the league to Manchester City the following season again. Arteta's faith in young players has brought a glimpse of hope to the Gooners in recent times.

## The Future of Arsenal: Signs of Resurgence

Going toe-to-toe with Manchester City in the past two seasons has shown hopes of Arsenal's resurgence under Arteta's managerial skills. With the UEFA Champions League back at the Emirates Stadium, more top players are attracted to join the team. They can also invest more money since the financial constraints are no longer there.

One of the unique characteristics of the new Arsenal team is the investment in the young players. Bukayo Saka's consistency over the years has brought more attention to the Academy players. The English U17 World Cup Star, Ethan Nwaneri has also broken into the first team at a tender age to prove the manager's belief in the youngsters.

The manager's tactics of strengthening the team's defense and attack at the same time combine the Graham and Wenger styles in one. This is proven in the 2-2 draw against the League leaders in their last timeout. Many fans are gradually having faith in the team the manager is building.

However, injury has sadly had its toll on the team with many key players out. This has yielded poor results in recent times but the return of club Captain, Martin Odagaard proves the team is still strong in a 1-all draw against Chelsea. Under Arteta's leadership, Arsenal aims to bring European and League glory to the Emirates Stadium in a short time.

Off-pitch, the global fanbase is also increasing and the club is engaging more followers via the social media platforms. For instance, they can discuss the upcoming Arsenal-Forest match and

other developments in the club. This helps the team remain relevant as they strive to carry all fans along.