

# 2023/24

## Betting Preview Magazine

### **BEST BETS AND STATS FROM THE PREMIER LEAGUE & FOOTBALL LEAGUE**



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## FOREWORD

Hello!

Welcome to the 2023/24 version of the betting season preview magazine.

As much as I knew I would miss football during the summer months when I had to feign an interest in Cricket or Tennis, I was rather relieved when the 2022/23 season drew to a close in June. Not just because my team were relegated in the such feeble fashion, but the longest of all-time with a World Cup in the middle of it was pretty exhausting at times. The never-ending drive from UEFA and FIFA for more and more football has packed out the calendar and from a betting point of view, it's hard to find value across such a hectic schedule, so a month or so off from it all was welcome.

Now we are looking ahead to a new season and hopefully plenty of opportunities to make some money! In this magazine you will find plenty of stats from last year to help with your early season prop bets, my 1-20/24 predictions for the Premier League; Championship; League One and League Two with write-ups and full justifications for some ante-post selections that myself and outright specialist Scott Redfearn have picked out for you.

If you haven't already done so, please drop Scott and I a follow on Twitter and we would love to hear your feedback on what you would like to see more/less of for future additions, as well as what you are personally backing for this season!

How will Manchester City follow-up a treble winning campaign? Will Newcastle continue on their upward curve? Who will find form ahead of Euro 2024? Not long to go until we start to find those answers out...





### Prediction: 2nd

A significant spending outlay may not be enough to shift Manchester City from top spot in the Premier League but the added quality and the lessons learned from last season may push the Citizens all the way this time. If the Premier League is not forthcoming, other silverware is a must



### Star Man

Bakayo Saka: Being such an ever-present, it's almost hard to believe that Arsenal's wide man is still only 21 years-old. The potential of 'star boy' is limitless for club and country

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	15.6
Shots on Target	5.4
Tackles	14.9
Cards (red = 2)	1.36
Fouls	9.8

Against (per game)	
Shots	9
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	17
Cards (red = 2)	2.26
Fouls	11.4

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Gabriel Jesus (3)
Shots on Target	Gabriel Jesus (1.2)
Tackles	Thomas Partey (2.1)
Cards total (red = 2)	Saka/Jesus (6)
Fouls	Gabriel Jesus (1.7)



### Positives

- Signed some top talent in the summer
  - Attacking output consistently superb
- Young squad is only going to get better



### Negatives

- Still making too many individual errors leading to goals conceded
  - Need to show better mentality when facing adversity against tougher opponents



### Betting angles to target

Martinelli and Saka shots, opposition offsides/cards, opposition tackles v Saka



### Prediction: 8th

A club certainly going places but it is becoming increasingly more difficult for 'the rest' to compete with the traditional big hitters. Dealing with the Thursday-Sunday grind in winter could prove a challenge in the winter months for a side lacking European experience but 8th would still represent a great finish



### Star Man

Jacob Ramsey: Has quickly become a cult hero for the Holte End. The dynamic youngster can play across the midfield and has so many positive attributes. It's only a matter of time before he moves from the U21 to Senior England squad

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	11.3
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	16.7
Cards (red = 2)	2.15
Fouls	11

Against (per game)	
Shots	11.3
Shots on Target	5
Tackles	18
Cards (red = 2)	2.39
Fouls	

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Ollie Watkins (2.3)
Shots on Target	Ollie Watkins (1.3)
Tackles	Boubacar Kamara (2.4)
Cards total (red = 2)	Douglas Luiz (8)
Fouls	Boubacar Kamara (1.4)



### Positives

- Huge optimism surrounding the club with European football returned
- Positive momentum may lead to further success
- Well balanced squad



### Negatives

- Need more consistency in wide areas in support of Ollie Watkins, who also needs an able deputy to ease the goal scoring burden on him
- Lack of away goals



### Betting angles to target

Opposition offsides, opposition fouls/cards, Watkins SOT/goals



### Prediction: 15th

There may be a snobbery towards Bournemouth being at this level due to club stature and their facilities but they are here on merit, as last season's performance showed. The managerial change is a risk but one that should eek out even more from an attack-minded squad. Survival, again.



### Star Man

Philip Billing: There are few better in the Premier League at arriving in the box on the end of cut-backs than the big Dane. Seven goals in 2022/23 was higher than the entire Cherries squad, including four crucial match winners.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	9.4
Shots on Target	3.5
Tackles	16.3
Cards (red = 2)	1.81
Fouls	10.3

Against (per game)	
Shots	16.5
Shots on Target	6
Tackles	19
Cards (red = 2)	1.34
Fouls	9.6

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Dom Solanke (2.3)
Shots on Target	Dom Solanke (0.9)
Tackles	Hamed Traore (2.4)
Cards total (red = 2)	Adam Smith (11)
Fouls	Dom Solanke (1.2)



### Positives

- New ownership showing plenty of ambition with investment and recent manager appointment
- No single reliance on one player for goals



### Negatives

- Set-piece defending is the worst in the division
- Four successive defeats to end last season has dampened some of the optimism around staying up

### Betting angles to target



Opposition headed goals/centre-back shots, team/player tackles



Prediction: 9th

Selling your best players does catch-up with you eventually, even if your recruitment to replace those lost talents is excellent. Overachieving clubs are so often victims of their own success in the end but the Seagulls are too well run to drop that far down the table. Top half and a good run in Europe can still be measured as a positive campaign.



Star Man

Solly March: Mr Dependable. He may not grab too many headlines outside of West Sussex but March has now been on the South Coast for 11 years and has never been in better form. Goals and assists aplenty should continue if he stays injury free.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	16.1
Shots on Target	6.1
Tackles	16.2
Cards (red = 2)	1.55
Fouls	11.2

Against (per game)	
Shots	10.2
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	17
Cards (red = 2)	2.47
Fouls	10.7

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Alexis MacAllister (2.5)
Shots on Target	Leandro Trossard (1.1)
Tackles	Moises Caicedo (2.7)
Cards total (red = 2)	Moises Caicedo (10)
Fouls	Moises Caicedo (1.8)



### Positives

- Few better teams to watch in Europe currently
  - European football will propel some of this squad to even greater heights
- Model club in every aspect



### Negatives

- Losing McAllister and Caicedo is a big blow despite transfer fees received
- Need to resolve issues with Robert Sanchez or sign an adequate replacement

### Betting angles to target



Player/team passes, March shots from outside the box, opposition cards



### Prediction: 18th

An outstanding Championship winning season under their belt will give many confidence that the Clarets can more than hold their own at the top table but a stubborn approach to stumping up the money to improve the squad could prove very costly if that mentality does not change for the remainder of the transfer window. Survival, just.



### Star Man

Josh Brownhill: It's little surprise that Brownhill ended up with 15 goal contributions last season given his underlying key passes and shot numbers, benefitting from playing in a more advanced role than usual for much of the campaign. His partnership with Josh Cullen has been growing ever-stronger and both will relish the step up

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	13.6
Shots on Target	4.8
Tackles	14.9
Cards (red = 2)	1.84
Fouls	9.8

Against (per game)	
Shots	8.6
Shots on Target	2
Tackles	14
Cards (red = 2)	2.45
Fouls	10.7

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Scott Twine (1.9)
Shots on Target	Nathan Tella (1.8)
Tackles	Josh Brownhill (2.2)
Cards total (red = 2)	Jack Cork (12)
Fouls	Josh Brownhill (1.6)



### Positives

- Fantastic attacking numbers in the Championship
- Style is matched by substance - the team can be a strong physical unit when needed



### Negatives

- Yet to land key transfer targets due to inability to pay asking prices
- Top goalscorer from 2022/23 season Nathan Tella looks set to stay at Southampton

### Betting angles to target



Brownhill shots/shots on target/yellow cards



### Prediction: 6th

After a turbulent last couple of years following the Champions League triumph, a season of limited drama would be most welcomed at Stamford Bridge. A bloated squad needs to be trimmed down and find its identity before the Blues can compete at the top end again.



### Star Man

Christopher Nkunku: That a new signing has been selected here gives much to the lack of stability in the starting eleven recent times, with one of the club's summer arrivals needing to translate his remarkable Bundesliga numbers in to Premier League potency for Chelsea to have anything like a positive year

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	12.7
Shots on Target	4.2
Tackles	19.5
Cards (red = 2)	2.18
Fouls	10.4

Against (per game)	
Shots	11.5
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	19
Cards (red = 2)	1.86
Fouls	12.2

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Joao Felix (2.9)
Shots on Target	Joao Felix (1)
Tackles	Marc Cucurella (2.8)
Cards total (red = 2)	Conor Gallagher (11)
Fouls	Kai Havertz (1.7)



### Positives

- Abundance of young talent tied down to long-term contracts
- Well respected coach in charge who will instil a clear way of playing



### Negatives

- Squad is still far too big, making it difficult for any manager to know his best XI
- Lack of top centre-forward may lead to another season of a poor goal return

### Betting angles to target



Fernandez/team tackles, team & opposition offside



### Prediction: 14th

The re-appointment of Roy Hodgson as manager for the forthcoming season may not get the pulses racing, but it represents stability and a comfort blanket for so many of this Palace squad. With less of a reliance on Wilf Zaha, the Eagles have enough about them to secure another year in the Prem.



### Star Man

Eberechi Eze: The laidback character and languid style of Eze could be perceived by the ignorant as lazy but oh boy does this guy have talent. Plus, who could possibly question the mentality of someone released four times as a youngster and now starring in the best league in the world?

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	11.2
Shots on Target	3.6
Tackles	18.2
Cards (red = 2)	2.23
Fouls	11.7

Against (per game)	
Shots	12
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	20
Cards (red = 2)	2.34
Fouls	12.6

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Wilf Zaha (2.4)
Shots on Target	Wilf Zaha (0.8)
Tackles	Cheick Doucoure (2.3)
Cards total (red = 2)	Cheick Doucoure (11)
Fouls	Jeff Schlupp (1.5)



### Positives

- Previously ageing squad now possesses some really exciting young talent
- Found a way to win without Wilf Zaha so much more last season



### Negatives

- Lack of consistency at the top end of the pitch - need to identify a main number nine and stick with them
- Not enough quality at full-back

### Betting angles to target



Opposition tackles/fouls/cards, Olise assists



**Prediction: 1th**

"We cannot be in this position again next season", declared Everton fans in May 2022. Fast forward 12 months and the club found itself on the precipice once again but dragged itself over the line through sheer desperation. Sean Dyche is a smart manager but not a miracle worker - he'll need more support for Everton to escape the constant feeling of looking over their shoulder.



**Star Man**

Jordan Pickford: The man for the big occasion. The shot-stopper is less erratic than his younger days and so often leads by example in performance and desire when those in front of him fall short on both fronts. It's critical that the England number one stays on Merseyside.

**2022/23 STATS**

For (per game)	
Shots	11.3
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	18.6
Cards (red = 2)	2.18
Fouls	10.4

Against (per game)	
Shots	15.2
Shots on Target	5
Tackles	15
Cards (red = 2)	2.05
Fouls	10.1

Top players (per game)	
Shots	D.Calvert-Lewin (1.8)
Shots on Target	Demarai Gray (0.7)
Tackles	Idrissa Gueye (2.9)
Cards total (red = 2)	Amadou Onana (9)
Fouls	Amadou Onana (1.3)

**Positives**

- Must tougher to beat in general under Dyche, especially at Goodison Park
- Attacking output much improved at back-end of the season, creating chances aplenty

**Negatives**

- Concede too many goals from counter attacks/transitions
- Not enough change at the club over the summer to give confidence that same mistakes will not happen again

**Betting angles to target**

Player (McNeil/Gueye)/team tackles, Doucoure shots/shots on target, opposition throw-ins



### Prediction: 11th

With Marco Silva staying at the helm, there appears to be little worry about Fulham suffering from second season syndrome - they know the score in the Premier League now and what it takes to compete at this level. The club are moving forward on and off the field and 11th place would represent another good season



### Star Man

Joao Palhinha: With Mitrovic heading for the exit door, Fulham's Portuguese midfielder will need to continue to dominate the stats in terms of physicality and progressive play for Silva's men to have another good season. Linked with a move away himself, it is crucial that the tough tackler remains at Craven Cottage and that his pre-season shoulder injury is a not a serious one

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	11.3
Shots on Target	3.9
Tackles	16.4
Cards (red = 2)	2.15
Fouls	10.8

Against (per game)	
Shots	13.3
Shots on Target	5
Tackles	16
Cards (red = 2)	1.76
Fouls	10.7

Top players (per game)	
Shots	A.Mitrovic (3.9)
Shots on Target	A.Mitrovic (1.5)
Tackles	Joao Palhinha (4.2)
Cards total (red = 2)	Joao Palhinha (14)
Fouls	Joao Palhinha (14)



### Positives

- Play great football with roles within the team well defined and understood throughout
- Fifteen different Premier League goalscorers shows they are not a one-man team



### Negatives

- Record against the top sides holding them back from competing for European spots
- Losing too many key players to suspension because of card count

### Betting angles to target



Opposition offsides, throw-ins earned at Craven Cottage



**Prediction: 4th**

The Reds may be unable to compete financially with some of their rivals but have signed astutely and now have an abundance of creative talent at their disposal, setting themselves up well for a top four push and some more silverware. They won't be lacking goals, that's for sure...



**Star Man**

Trent Alexander-Arnold: In his new inverted midfield role towards the back end of 2022/23, we saw the best of TAA. There is nobody better in the game at creating chances from deep and his post World Cup form was almost a cheat code for Liverpool.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	15.9
Shots on Target	5.6
Tackles	15.5
Cards (red = 2)	1.55
Fouls	10.7

Against (per game)	
Shots	9.7
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	17
Cards (red = 2)	1.60
Fouls	8.4

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Mo Salah (3.3)
Shots on Target	Darwin Nunez (1.3)
Tackles	Thiago (2.4)
Cards total (red = 2)	Fabinho (11)
Fouls	Ibrahima Konaté (1.6)



### Positives

- Continue to be a real force at Anfield
- Fantastic attacking talent for Klopp to choose from



### Negatives

- Having to manage the Thursday-Sunday schedule of the Europa League
- Away record has been appalling for some time and simply has to get better in order for the team to compete at the top again

### Betting angles to target



Opposition offsides, Alexander-Arnold/Szoboszlai assists, Salah shots



Prediction: 20th

Luton will be a firm favourite for the neutral this season as they try to defy the odds and remain in the top flight, but that looks a bridge too far given their lack of Premier League experience and quality. Not many teams will relish visiting Kenilworth Road, mind...



Star Man

Tom Lockyer: Luton's captain had to be withdrawn from the play-off final win after falling ill but there is no doubting the huge part he played in getting his team to Wembley in the first place. Winning plenty of headers in both boxes, the Welshman was the leader in a defence that conceded just 39 goals in 46 matches. More of the same will be needed.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	12.1
Shots on Target	3.8
Tackles	16.7
Cards (red = 2)	2.23
Fouls	12.7

Against (per game)	
Shots	10.8
Shots on Target	3
Tackles	20
Cards (red = 2)	2.13
Fouls	9.8

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Carlton Morris (2.6)
Shots on Target	Carlton Morris (0.9)
Tackles	M.Nakamba (4.3)
Cards total (red = 2)	Morris/Doughty (11)
Fouls	Elijah Adebayo (1.6)



### Positives

- Superb consistency of delivery from wing-backs
- Very well organised out of possession



### Negatives

- Signings have not added top level know-how
- Will see very little of the ball to make desired attacking impact
- Financially dwarfed by virtually all other clubs around them

### Betting angles to target



Lockyer/Andersen headed shots/shots on target, opposition player/team passes, team cards



### Prediction: 1st

In a relentless pursuit of dominance, who is stopping Pep Guardiola's side domestically or in Europe? The true mentality monsters always find their best form at the right time, with the only pressure now how they can go one better in the season ahead? With no Nathan Jones to stop them, a quadruple anyone?



### Star Man

Erling Haaland: 52 goals from an opening season is frankly ridiculous and the frightening thing for City's rivals is that the Norwegian striker is only 22 - he is going to get better. Some may criticise his all-round game but as long as he's scoring at the rate he currently is, the Citizens will care little given the on-the-ball quality they have playing behind him.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	15.8
Shots on Target	5.8
Tackles	12.4
Cards (red = 2)	1.21
Fouls	9.1

Against (per game)	
Shots	7.7
Shots on Target	2
Tackles	13
Cards (red = 2)	2.21
Fouls	10.1

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Erling Haaland (3.5)
Shots on Target	Erling Haaland (1.7)
Tackles	Rodri (1.9)
Cards total (red = 2)	Silva/Rodri (5)
Fouls	



### Positives

- Unmatched strength in depth and quality across the squad
- Champions League hoodoo finally ended after treble win



### Negatives

- Financial Fair Play charges hanging over the club's head will continue to cast a shadow

### Betting angles to target



Stones shots/shots on target, Haaland to score (when offers/specials occur)



### Prediction: 3rd

A Carabao Cup win has whetted the appetite at Old Trafford for more silverware, with there being little doubt that Erik ten Hag has installed a winning mentality at the club again. There is much more to do however, with plenty of deadwood needing to be shifted and the takeover saga settled before United can challenge for the big trophies again



### Star Man

Marcus Rashford: After a difficult year following England's Euro 2020 final defeat and the abuse that followed, United's academy graduate rediscovered his scoring touch in 2022/23 and looked to be in much better health mentally to deal with bumps along the road. Whether he will be played on the left or through the middle needs to be resolved, though.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	15.6
Shots on Target	5.7
Tackles	17.3
Cards (red = 2)	2.15
Fouls	11.2

Against (per game)	
Shots	12.7
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	19
Cards (red = 2)	1.31
Fouls	7.8

Top players	
Shots	Marcus Rashford (3.1)
Shots on Target	Marcus Rashford (1.4)
Tackles	Casemiro (3.2)
Cards (red = 2)	Casemiro (11)
Fouls	Tyrell Malacia (1.8)



### Positives

- Trophy secured (albeit not the biggest) in ten Hag's first season
- Rashford back to formidable form



### Negatives

- Lack of progress on a takeover of the club is holding back the team progressing on the pitch
- Still need to settle on the most effective front three partnership

### Betting angles to target



Fernandes shots/tackles/fouls, team offsides and cards away, opposition tackles



### Prediction: 5th

Managing expectations is always challenging when you feel that you are on a never-ending upward trajectory, but the Geordie Boys will face much more in the way of challenge in this coming season than they have in the past 18 months of joy. It will take time to add the depth required to maintain a strong footing in both the Premier and Champions League.



Star Man

Kieran Trippier: He may not grab the headlines, but Newcastle's right-back is the definition of consistency. He took a gamble moving to St James' Park in the midst of a relegation battle but that risk has been rewarded thanks in no small part to his outstanding qualities at both ends of the pitch. At 32, he shows no signs of slowing down, but does need adequate cover

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	15
Shots on Target	5.2
Tackles	16
Cards (red = 2)	1.68
Fouls	10.7

Against (per game)	
Shots	10.2
Shots on Target	3
Tackles	19
Cards (red = 2)	2.21
Fouls	10.5

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Callum Wilson (2.4)
Shots on Target	Callum Wilson (1.1)
Tackles	Bruno Guimaraes (2.4)
Cards total (red = 2)	Joelinton (12)
Fouls	Joelinton (2)



### Positives

- Huge ambition and deep pockets of the owners has united the fanbase and got the city believing in the club again
- Top young coach leading the side



### Negatives

- Need to add more quality to the squad in certain areas to avoid overplaying and burning out key players

### Betting angles to target



Team/player tackles (Joelinton, Trippier), opposition tackles/fouls/cards



**Prediction: 18th**

Not much more could have been asked of Nottingham Forest in their first season back in the big time with safety achieved without any final day drama to contend with. Steve Cooper has done a wonderful job managing a squad of such size and maintaining a great team spirit at the same time but the league is becoming tougher each year and may just prove too much at this time of asking



**Star Man**

Brennan Johnson: Despite the big money spent on some of new teammates, it was Brennan Johnson who came up with the goods for Forest at big moments and who drove the team forward with his relentless energy and athleticism. He did tire towards the end of the campaign but his fitness and form is vital to Forest in their quest to stay in the league again

**2022/23 STATS**

For (per game)	
Shots	9.7
Shots on Target	3.1
Tackles	17.3
Cards (red = 2)	2.21
Fouls	11.7

Against (per game)	
Shots	14.7
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	13
Cards (red = 2)	1.71
Fouls	10.3

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Morgan Gibbs-White (1.7)
Shots on Target	Brennan Johnson (0.7)
Tackles	Serge Aurier (2.7)
Cards total (red = 2)	Neco Williams (7)
Fouls	Ryan Yates (1.9)

**Positives**

- The City Ground has become a real fortress
- Mass amount of signings actually was a help at the end of last season when injuries hit

**Negatives**

- Dreadful away form needs to improve for survival to be secured again
- Conceding far too many soft goals

**Betting angles to target**

Johnson shots/shots on target, team/player cards



### Prediction: 19th

With a limited budget, Paul Heckingbottom is finding it tough to recruit adequately for the fight ahead. With the ongoing takeover drama hanging over the club, United's potential is being blunted. The atmosphere and hostility at Bramall Lane will only carry them so far and it's likely to be a swift return back to the second tier for the Blades.



Star Man

Illiman Ndiaye: The Senegalese forward scored 14 goals and contributed 10 assists to fire his side to promotion last season, appearing in all 46 league matches in the process. From Sunday League with Rising Ballers in 2019 to the Premier League is quite some journey. Expect some mazy dribbling and an end product to boot.

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	13.7
Shots on Target	5
Tackles	17/9
Cards (red = 2)	2.34
Fouls	10.5

Against (per game)	
Shots	10
Shots on Target	3
Tackles	16
Cards (red = 2)	2.26
Fouls	9.4

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Oli McBurnie (2.2)
Shots on Target	Oli McBurnie (1.1)
Tackles	Max Lowe (3.2)
Cards total (red = 2)	A. Ahmedhodzic (12)
Fouls	Enda Stevens (1.3)



### Positives

- Tactically adept squad who have a good mix of technical ability and physical strength
- Proven knack of grinding out results



### Negatives

- Still need plenty of signings to bolster chances of survival
- Owner's willingness to sell the club is impacting on transfer plans

### Betting angles to target



Team/player cards, Lowe tackles, Ahmedhodzic shots



### Prediction: 7th

Another new era for Spurs but it could take time for Ange Postecoglou's methods to bear fruit in North London. He needs total buy-in from his players for his style of football to yield positive results and with the future of so many in this squad uncertain, it could be another year of inconsistency in 2023/24



Star Man

Harry Kane: Who else? At the time of writing, Tottenham's all-time top goalscorer is set to stay for what would be his final season at the club before leaving on a free next summer, but that could all change during August with Bayern Munich lurking. A 30 goal haul in 2022/23 went largely and undeservedly under the radar due to the numbers Haaland was posting

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	13.6
Shots on Target	5.2
Tackles	16.2
Cards (red = 2)	2.13
Fouls	11.2

Against (per game)	
Shots	13.7
Shots on Target	5
Tackles	17
Cards (red = 2)	2.18
Fouls	9.3

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Harry Kane (3.4)
Shots on Target	Harry Kane (1.7)
Tackles	Cristian Romero (2.5)
Cards total (red = 2)	Cristian Romero (11)
Fouls	Cristian Romero (11)



### Positives

- Capable of beating anyone on their day if the mentality is right...
  - Arrival of James Maddison represents great business and some genuine creativity in central areas



### Negatives

- ...the mentality often isn't right
- Trophy drought continues with the team seemingly getting further away rather than ever closer to winning one
- Defensive shambles away from home

### Betting angles to target



Maddison assists/shots, Kane headed shots/goals



**Prediction: 10th**

Without sounding all Jake Humphrey, sustaining success is often harder than achieving it in the first place. Whatever comes after a first European trophy since 1965 is likely to underwhelm for West Ham, but in David Moyes they have the right man to secure a better Premier League finish than last season and a good run in the Europa League



**Star Man**


Jarrod Bowen: Cup final hero Bowen continues to be the man for the big occasion. Following a big year professionally and personally, the 26 year-old will want to kick on and become the main man in East London following Declan Rice's exit, cementing a regular place in the England squad as a result. Becoming more clinical and a bit more selfish at times will help in that regard.

**2022/23 STATS**

For (per game)	
Shots	12.5
Shots on Target	3.8
Tackles	16
Cards (red = 2)	1.15
Fouls	9.5

Against (per game)	
Shots	13.1
Shots on Target	4
Tackles	16
Cards (red = 2)	1.42
Fouls	8.3

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Said Benrahma (2.1)
Shots on Target	Said Benrahma (0.8)
Tackles	Lucas Paqueta (2.5)
Cards total (red = 2)	Lucas Paqueta (5)
Fouls	Lucas Paqueta (1.8)



**Positives**


- European nights under the lights again
- Great crop of youngsters coming through at U21/U18 level - winning the 2023 FA Youth Cup - but need to be given a chance



**Negatives**

- Losing Declan Rice, no matter the fee, is a blow
- Squad is ageing and needs injection of young talent, often overlooked by David Moyes for more experienced signings

**Betting angles to target**



Goal-kicks, unders for cards/fouls



### Prediction: 16th

A season of struggle looks to be on the cards for Wolves again. In Julen Lopetegui they have a great coach with an attention to detail like few others, but he needs far more support than he is getting in terms of spending power if the Old Gold are going to keep their heads above water this season. The sale of Ruben Neves doesn't set a great tone from the off.



Star Man

Pedro Neto: An injury hit 2022/23 prevented Neto from making any form of impact but he showed glimpses of his old self over the summer when playing for Portugal U21 in the European Championships. He has appealed to his manager to get more game time and Wolves would be foolish to ignore those pleas given the lack of spark they currently possess in the final third

## 2022/23 STATS

For (per game)	
Shots	10.8
Shots on Target	3.3
Tackles	17.4
Cards (red = 2)	2.52
Fouls	12.2

Against (per game)	
Shots	14.6
Shots on Target	5
Tackles	15
Cards (red = 2)	1.97
Fouls	12.2

Top players (per game)	
Shots	Ruben Neves (1.9)
Shots on Target	Diego Costa (0.7)
Tackles	Joao Gomes (2.6)
Cards total (red = 2)	Nelson Semedo (13)
Fouls	Joao Gomes (2.6)



### Positives

- Very tough to beat at home
- Won majority of their games against relegation rivals to pull away from trouble, showing a good mentality



### Negatives

- Lack of goals a real problem
- Ill-discipline not helping their cause at times
- Financial restraints preventing improvement of the squad

### Betting angles to target



Team and opposition cards, unders for goals, CB passes

# PREMIER LEAGUE STAT LEADERS\*



Premier  
League

\*PER GAME, PLAYERS - MINIMUM 5 APPS, RED CARD = 2

## PLAYER & TEAM SHOTS/SHOTS ON TARGET

PLAYER	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET	TEAM	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET
Aleksandar Mitrovic	3.9	1.5	Brighton	16.1	6.1
Erling Haaland	3.5	1.7	Liverpool	15.9	5.6
Harry Kane	3.4	1.7	Manchester City	15.8	5.8
Mo Salah	3.3	1.2	Arsenal	15.6	5.4
Marcus Rashford	3.1	1.4	Manchester United	15.6	5.7
Gabriel Jesus	3	1.2	Newcastle	15.6	5.2

## PLAYER & TEAM TACKLES

PLAYER	TACKLES	TEAM	TACKLES
Joao Palhinha	4.2	Leeds	22.1
Tyler Adams	3.7	Chelsea	19.5
Casemiro	3.2	Southampton	18.8
Idrissa Gueye	2.9	Everton	18.6
Pascal Struijk	2.9	Leicester	18.4
Marc Cucurella	2.8	Crystal Palace	18.2

## PLAYER & TEAM CARDS/FOULS

PLAYER	CARDS (TOTAL)	FOULS	TEAM	CARDS	FOULS
Joao Palhinha	14	1.4	Wolves	2.52	12.2
Nelson Semedo	13	1.3	Leeds	2.36	12.3
Joelinton	12	2	Crystal Palace	2.23	11.7
Ruben Neves	12	1.1	Nottingham Forest	2.21	11.7
Adam Smith	11	0.8	Everton	2.18	10.4
Fabinho	11	1.5	Manchester United	2.15	11.2



# CHAMPIONSHIP STAT LEADERS\*

\*PER GAME, PLAYERS - MINIMUM 5 APPS, RED CARD = 2



## PLAYER & TEAM SHOTS/SHOTS ON TARGET

PLAYER	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET	TEAM	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET
Joel Piroe	3.3	1.4	Norwich	13.8	4.3
Zian Flemming	3	1	Sheffield United	13.7	5
Viktor Gyokeres	2.9	1.2	Burnley	13.6	4.8
Callum Robinson	2.6	0.7	Millwall	13.4	4.1
Gustavo Hamer	2.6	0.9	West Brom	13.3	4.3
Chuba Akpom	2.6	1.3	Swansea	13	4.7

## PLAYER & TEAM TACKLES

PLAYER	TACKLES	TEAM	TACKLES
Max Lowe	3.2	Coventry	19
Ben Sheaf	3.1	Blackburn	18.2
Hamza Choudhury	3	Preston	17.9
Lewis Travis	2.7	Sheffield United	17.9
Josh Eccles	2.7	Sunderland	17.3
Gustavo Hamer	2.6	Watford	16.9

## PLAYER & TEAM CARDS/FOULS

PLAYER	CARDS (TOTAL)	FOULS	TEAM	CARDS	FOULS
Andy Yiadom	14	1.4	Swansea	2.54	10
Hamza Choudhury	14	0.9	Preston	2.34	11.2
Jake Cooper	13	1.2	Sheffield United	2.34	10.5
Krystian Bielik	13	1.4	Sunderland	2.32	10.5
Luke O'Nien	13	1.1	Coventry	2.28	10.7
Jay Fulton	12	1	Watford	2.26	11.7

# LEAGUE ONE



Prediction

Position	Team
1	Derby
2	Bolton
3	Portsmouth
4	Blackpool
5	Peterborough
6	Charlton
7	Barnsley
8	Oxford
9	Bristol Rovers
10	Lincoln
11	Wycombe
12	Reading
13	Wigan
14	Leyton Orient
15	Northampton
16	Burton
17	Exeter
18	Fleetwood
19	Stevenage
20	Carlisle
21	Cheltenham
22	Port Vale
23	Shrewsbury
24	Cambridge

## THE LOWDOWN

With some of the big-hitters out of the way, there does not appear to be a clear favourite to win League One this year which makes for an intriguing outright market.

My prediction for winners is **Derby** who have endured more than enough pain over the past few years. Rewind 12 months and there were serious doubts about the club's future following administration and a protracted process to sell to new owners. Given that, it was always going to be difficult for the Rams to go from near-extinction to promotion in less than 12 months as they were playing catch-up on the rest. The club is a lot more stable now and in Paul Warne, have a manager who has won promotion from this league 3 times before. Improvements were needed to a squad that just missed out on the play-offs and Warne has duly delivered, acting early to bring in a good standard of players before their pre-season tour of Spain to allow maximum time for the new recruits to integrate within the existing group. With Sonny Bradley and Kane Wilson through the door, it will be a surprise if any team concedes less goals across the 46 matches to come than County and, as they say, 'goals win games and defences win championships'. Losing the goals of David McGoldrick is not ideal but Derby have enough know-how amongst the rest of the squad to win plenty of games on the way to promotion. In second, I've predicted EFL Trophy winners **Bolton**. That Wembley success has given a solid squad a taste for winning and the feeling is positive in the North West, reflected in extremely good season ticket sales. The big fish like Ipswich and Sheffield Wednesday have gone so the Whites will be quietly confident this is their year to get back to the Championship if they can be a bit more ruthless in the final third, relying too much on Darius Charles last season. Wanderers are a street-smart outfit and although they have loan influential loanees such as James Trafford, they have the pedigree and a smart manager in place to finish inside the top 2. A team who could run them close is **Portsmouth** who fell away towards the back-end of 2022/23 to finish a disappointing 8th despite plenty of promise in the weeks prior. Too many draws (19 in the end) cost Pompey, with a reliance on loan moves and sustained injury problems not helping team cohesion and, despite the Cowleys being popular in terms of their connection with the supporters and the city, results on the pitch were not good enough to save their jobs and John Mousinho quickly arrived to pick up the pieces. Mousinho still needs to prove himself but has at least made the Blues tough to beat, especially at Fratton Park and that should continue considering impressive defensive signings in Conor Shaughnessy and Regan Park - the latter of whom was poached under the nose from some Championship clubs and can therefore be considered a real coup. A strong spine is completed by new captain Marlon Pack and a goalscorer in Colby Bishop so a top 3 finish, maybe better, is on the cards for Pompey. Looking at the rest of the play-off picture, **Blackpool** are due a good finish. The best man to possibly lead them at this stage is Neil Critchley, returning to the club where he impressed before before taking up the Assistant Manager's job at Aston Villa under Steven Gerrard. Critchley will be much more suited to the task at hand than last season's incumbents Mick McCarthy and Michael Appleton who did not match to the profile of the squad from a style point of view. Losing 15-goal man Jerry Yates to Swansea is a shame but the signings brought in to help soften that blow have big League One experience which will help reduce the naivety of the current playing personnel and as an attacking force, the Tangerines still look promising on paper. Elsewhere, it would be foolish to ignore permanent League One top 6 features **Peterborough**. The Posh's play-off collapse - described as a bottle job by enigmatic owner Darragh MacAnthony - prompted a public display of the club's transfer list containing 9 players and some surprise names, including star striker Jonson Clarke-Harris. The division's top goalscorer is attracting plenty of interest from Championship and MLS teams so is unlikely to stay come the end of August but 'Boro should still find the net plenty of times through the season even if their main man does depart, with money incoming usually spent wisely by the club. Darren Ferguson is in the midst of his 4th spell at the club and will have a main objective of winning promotion this season, but his team must tighten up defensively in order to stand a chance of that. **Charlton** start the new season with positive news, a long drawn-out takeover saga coming to an end with the SE7 Partnership group all-but sealing a buy-out of the club (Que Charlie Methvam hitting the play button on the EDM music). The Addicks were one of the most unpredictable teams in 2022/23, perhaps summed up by holding the record for the joint-record win over the season (6-0 v Shrewsbury) and the joint-record defeat, also 6-0 v Peterborough, as well as coming back from 4-2 down in the 96th minute to draw 4-4 with Ipswich back in October last year, so more consistency would be welcome for their supporters! Manager Dean Holden is well respected by the fanbase who feel more united than they have done in a long time, and the signings of Alfie May - despite heavy interest from elsewhere - plus ball-carrying midfielder Penutche Camara on loan from the aforementioned Ipswich have raised the confidence of a great season ahead. Additionally, with some top young talent continuing to filter through from the academy ranks, Holden's troops look to have a better mix about their squad this year and the foundations for a promotion charge.

Just outside the play-offs is **Barnsley**. Another season and another new manager, this time victims of their own success however with Swansea poaching Michael Duff following a run to the play-off final in his first season in charge. A high-energy young group, current gaffer Neil Collins would be wise not to change style too much and stick with an energetic press as high up the pitch as possible, the team making the best use of a midfield packed with technical ability when they do win the ball back. The Tykes can push for higher than 7th if Collins is backed with more reinforcements, especially at full-back and in wide areas where the numbers are lacking. **Oxford** are a team that have always tried to play attractive football but last season, under the ever-diminishing influence of Karl Robinson - that intention came at the sacrifice of results due to a failure to address the defensive deficiencies that cost them promotion the year prior. Robinson's successor Liam Manning suits United from a style perspective but still needs to prove himself after a mixed spell at previous club MK Dons, though his excellent business to date in the transfer window will have won some doubters over. Mark Harris is a versatile forward; Ruben Rodrigues was incredible for Notts County in the National League; Josh McEachran has a decent passing range and Jordan Thorniley is a good ball-playing centre-back - collectively representing (arguably) the best deals in the division so far. Other sides will have a better balance though, so I think Oxford will fall just short. Not far behind them could be **Bristol Rovers** who had to settle for mid-table in their first year back in League One, unable to fully capitalise on the momentum gained from the prior season's promotion. Boss Joey Barton is confident to the point he has indicated he will stand down within two years if he does not get the side to the second tier, that ambition perhaps misguided if star man Aaron Collins (16 goals & 11 assists in 2022/23) is sold in the coming weeks. If that does occur though, all will not be lost for Rovers whose squad contains plenty of players who can contribute well in an attacking sense, with Scott Sinclair looking a player re-born in pre-season. Much-needed experience has been added to a young group on the signings front in the form of George Friend and James Wilson but it will need to be small strides for The Gas to get where they want to be, in my view. **Lincoln** concluded a promising season in 11th place with plenty to build upon and look more than capable for a top half finish again. This squad contains some very bright footballers and a good mix of strength, athleticism and pace which bodes well. The club's active recruitment has been consistently sensible but not excessive and it has created a solid core, with more goals needed to go beyond the middle of the pack having scored just 47 in 2022/23. Perhaps Tyler Walker re-joining will drive those numbers up but can he re-rejuvenate his career with The Imps? Time will tell. **Wycombe** said a sad goodbye to Gareth Ainsworth after 11 years at the club as he moved on for pastures new, The Chairboys appointing former playing legend Matt Bloomfield as his ready-made replacement. Bloomfield has attracted some eye-catching signings to the club over the summer, namely Manchester City loanee Kian Breckin who had top-level Championship suitors after his signature. That type of addition signifies a gradual change of style for Wycombe, moving away from the often direct approach under Ainsworth to an emphasis on keeping possession more in this new era. The squad looks stacked in defence so will remain tough to break down but perhaps need more time under the relatively new gaffer to be in the top 6 mix again.

Looking further afield - where do you even start with **Reading**?! Relegation to League One has been the least of the club's worries over the last few months, until the last couple of weeks under an EFL-imposed transfer embargo and subject to HMRC winding up orders. Those have been cleared (for now) but there is still an active supporter campaign to force owner Dai Yongee - who has made no effort to communicate to the fans - to sell the club, labelled '#SellBeforeWeDai'. There is no doubt that the situation is still dire, although the club have begun to recruit players at pace to make up for lost time and Ruben Selles has been on-board for a number of weeks following his hopeless period in charge of Southampton - the coach may have now find his level. First signings Harvey Knibbs, Sam Smith Lewis Wing and Charlie Savage are not superstars at this level but are realistic acquisitions and know they will get regular minutes in Berkshire as the Royals look to set the foundations for a future promotion push. It is very hard to predict where Reading will finish this season as they could quite conceivably receive another points deduction and/or more owner chaos and are still short of a squad by double figure amounts. Mid-table is most likely once the young pack find their rhythm. **Wigan** are, until recently, in a similar position to Reading in terms of off-field matters, again leaving it hard to predict their end position come May 2024. An 8 point deduction handicaps the team in their hunt for a play-off place, having to recreate top 2 form throughout the season just to get in to top 6 contention, but there is enough about this group in terms of character and quality to manager than hold their own. The squad is gradually being built back up and Shaun Maloney has stepped in ably as manager since The Tics finally dismissed the disaster that was Kolo Toure last season, nearly pulling off the greatest of great escapes and all could have been different had they not conceded at Reading in the 93rd minute of the penultimate game. The team cannot dwell on that now and will draw belief from the knowledge that they won the League One title in 3 of the last 4 seasons at this level. There is too much to do for that to be achievable this year but it should not be too far away in the near future. Speaking of title wins, **Leyton Orient** are back in the 3rd tier having won League 2 in convincing fashion, top of the table for over 40 weeks. The vultures have inevitably circled following that success however and it has therefore not come as a surprise to see Paul Smyth and Laurence Vigouroux depart to teams at a higher level. Richie Wellens is a decent manager and will back himself to make a real mark in League One with Orient, backed by a pro-active owner who has invested wisely to get the club moving up the pyramid again. Carrying momentum, Orient should experience a consolidation year with a few more transfers under their wing with the demands of a long season. **Northampton** need to establish themselves in League One which they were unable to do before, being promoted or relegated in 5 of the last 8 years. A solid group that are well settled should face no issue with relegation on this occasion, with their key players coming in to their prime years - 22 goal man Sam Hoskins is 30, as is captain Jon Guthrie and forward Mitch Pinnock is 28. Too good for League Two? Self-evident. Not good enough for League One? Unlikely to be true in 2023/24 if all goes to plan. Dino Maamira has fans looking up again at **Burton** after distracted Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's predictable bad start to last season. A good communicator, Maamira can get a tune out of the team and has signed plenty of players who will have a point to prove in this division so the motivation of this group moving forward should be unquestioned. The success or otherwise of Mole Stockton will have huge bearing on where Albion end up finishing after 46 fixtures if they concede as many goals as last season, which simply cannot happen again if the team are to keep their heads above water. **Exeter** have lost some big name players so a small dip in their fortunes is expected in 2023/24. The club is well-run in the fan-owned structure but will continue to be reliant on their academy - one of the best at this level - to feed the first team with talent. This has proved to be a lucrative strategy in the past (Ollie Watkins as a prime example) and Gary Caldwell will know the task ahead of him is a tough one. The Scot has recorded a mixed set of results in his City reign so far and the jury is therefore still out about his ability to turn Exeter in to a force in this league but given the competition around them, the current stature and status of the club should not be sniffed at. It was perhaps not surprising seeing **Fleetwood** end last season with more cards earned and a higher tackles-per-game average than any other team in League One when you consider that Scott Brown is in charge. The former Celtic captain has earned a new 2-year deal following a strong first campaign at the helm, representing some stability on the board following previous owner Andy Pilley's prison sentence for fraud. There are worries about The Cods from a defensive point of view given their personnel in that area but they should have enough firepower in the form of Jack Marriott and goals from midfield to survive if Brown lets the handbrake off a bit more.

Looking at the relegation fight, I want to start with **Stevenage**. Their promotion from League Two was a surprise considering their pre-season odds and squad state but a dream year saw them seal the deal at the end of April and beat Aston Villa in the FA Cup. Steve Evans will always be the pantomime villain but has morphed his Borough side in to an incredibly functional unit who now have a winning habit, even if they are not pretty to watch. Having a clear identity and way of playing is instrumental to success in football and that is what Stevenage now possess, so will continue to take the rough with the smooth when it comes to employing Evans so long as that continues. The squad is small but this summer's signings have an abundance of League One experience, including Dan Butler, Nathan Thompson, Alex MacDonald and Harry Anderson - all of which will help Evans steer the ship to safety. Another surprise (perhaps miracle) promotion belongs to **Carlisle** thanks to Paul Simpson creating a tactically astute team who are worth a lot more than the sum of their parts. Simpson has spoken of his desire to sign another 6 players to bolster the squad, especially after losing top goalscorer Kristian Dennis. Keeping the likes of Owen Moxon and Jon Mellish will be crucial to the Cumbrians' chances of avoiding the bottom 4 and in those and other cases of key players, that remains to be seen. **Cheltenham**'s 2022/23 season has to be viewed as a success having secured survival but it is acknowledged that it will be a lot tougher this time around now that teams know how to play against Town, so Wade Elliott will need to be adaptable to get to the 50 weakener. Alfie May's 20 goals have been lost and Caleb Taylor's loan from West Brom has ended which weakens The Robins at both ends of the pitch, Curtis Davies coming in to fill the void left by the latter. Despite winning 4/4 in pre-season to the time of writing, it is hard to see where the goals are going to come from when the season gets underway in August and that is likely to be the deciding factor in Cheltenham's bid for another year in this division. **Port Vale** endured a very up and down league season with no progression in either the EFL or FA Cups to bring any respite. There are real doubts over Andy Crosby as a manager having been an Assistant for much of his coaching career, with 71 goals conceded across the year and a pitiful run of form to end the season simply not good enough. Don't be surprised, after a poor beginning and/or middle to the season to see Darrel Clarke, who arguably should never have been sacked in the first league, drafted back in to try rescue things if they are looking sour. **Shrewsbury** have given the manager's job to Matt Taylor (a different one to the Exeter gaffer - think Ex-Portsmouth and Bolton player) in a frankly bizarre move after his sacking from Walsall following 7 successive defeats in early 2022 - a league below where the Shrews currently reside. The club look in a real dogfight, something they took too literally last year which led to a poor discipline record and has not helped in keeping key players available for selection. That and other matters need addressing by Taylor who will not have been helped by best player Luke Leahy's departure. Little to no spark can only equal relegation. Finally, I am predicting **Cambridge** to finish bottom, although there is not much to separate many of these teams at the bottom. Like some of those other sides, it is a lack of goal threat which is one of the biggest worries for The Us now that Sam Smith has finished his contract. Gassan Ahadme will add some creativity but with Smith's 13 goals, Joe Ironside's 6 strikes and Harvey Knibbs' 5 goals all gone, who is going to finish the chances? Mark Bonner will have the toughest gig of his career to try and repeat last year's heroics and keep United at this level and it's hard to see that happening in all honesty.

# LEAGUE ONE STAT LEADERS



\*PER GAME, PLAYERS - MINIMUM 5 APPS, RED CARD = 2

## PLAYER & TEAM SHOTS/SHOTS ON TARGET

PLAYER	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET	TEAM	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET
Conor Chaplin	3.6	1.2	Ipswich	17.5	6.2
Josh Windass	3.2	0.9	Sheffield Wednesday	15.2	4.9
David McGoldrick	3	1.6	Oxford	14.6	4.6
Alfie May	2.9	1.2	Derby	14.4	5.2
Sam Smith	2.9	1.1	Plymouth	14.3	4.9
Aaron Collins	2.7	1.1	Peterborough	13.8	4.7

## PLAYER & TEAM TACKLES

PLAYER	TACKLES	TEAM	TACKLES
George Dobson	3.6	Fleetwood	17.8
Josh Scowen	3.5	Charlton	16.8
Liam Gibson	3.3	Lincoln	16.8
Josh Vela	2.9	Morecambe	16.8
Sam Finley	2.7	Shrewsbury	16.2
George Byers	2.7	Accrington	15.8

## PLAYER & TEAM CARDS/FOULS

PLAYER	CARDS (TOTAL)	FOULS	TEAM	CARDS	FOULS
Tom Flanagan	18	1.2	Fleetwood	2.54	12.3
Shaun Rooney	15	1.2	Shrewsbury	2.54	11.2
George Dobson	14	1.6	Accrington	2.54	12.1
Harvey Rodgers	14	0.7	Barnsley	2.30	11.7
Liam Coyle	14	1.5	Cheltenham	2.28	10.3
Joshua Earl	13	0.8	Port Vale	2.17	11.2



# LEAGUE TWO STAT LEADERS

\*PER GAME, PLAYERS - MINIMUM 5 APPS, RED CARD = 2



## PLAYER & TEAM SHOTS/SHOTS ON TARGET

PLAYER	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET	TEAM	SHOTS	SHOTS ON TARGET
Sam Hoskins	3.4	1.4	Stevenage	13.9	4.4
Callum Hendry	2.9	0.9	Mansfield	13.6	4.5
Omar Bogle	2.6	1	Salford	13	4.5
Andy Cook	2.6	1	Stockport	12.9	4.4
John McAtee	2.6	0.9	Newport	12.6	3.9
Luke Armstrong	2.4	1.1	Swindon	12.6	4.4

## PLAYER & TEAM TACKLES

PLAYER	TACKLES	TEAM	TACKLES
Owen Moxon	3.4	Bradford	18.2
Mohammad Sylla	3.3	Newport	17.3
Jack Currie	2.9	AFC Wimbledon	17.2
Liam Kinsella	2.9	Harrogate	17.1
Idris El Mizouni	2.9	Carlisle	17
Brad Halliday	2.8	Mansfield	16.5

## PLAYER & TEAM CARDS/FOULS

PLAYER	CARDS (TOTAL)	FOULS	TEAM	CARDS	FOULS
Elliott Watt	15	1.2	AFC Wimbledon	2.54	13.4
Omar Bugiel	15	3.3	Leyton Orient	2.32	11.3
Junior Tchamadeu	14	0.9	Bradford	2.13	11.1
Hayden White	14	1.3	Barrow	2.10	11.3
Jordan Turnbull	14	0.9	Northampton	2.03	11.5
Jon Mellish	12	1	Walsall	2.00	11.7

# 2022/23 REFEREE STATS\*



\*10 OR MORE GAMES, RED CARD = 2, AVERAGE IN THAT LEAGUE ONLY

## TOP 5 IN PREMIER LEAGUE BY CARD AVERAGE

Referee	Cards Per Game	Fouls Per Game
Michael Salisbury	4.8	23.33
Peter Bankes	4.33	23.05
John Brooks	4.36	22.11
Robert Jones	4.12	22.81
Anthony Taylor	4.06	19.87

## TOP 5 IN CHAMPIONSHIP BY CARD AVERAGE

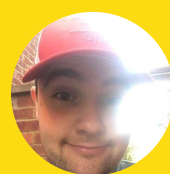
Referee	Cards Per Game	Fouls Per Game
Keith Stroud	5.42	22.97
Leigh Doughty	4.88	21.04
Steve Martin	4.72	22.61
Tim Robinson	4.56	22.67
Jeremy Simpson	4.52	23.00

## TOP 5 IN LEAGUE ONE BY CARD AVERAGE

Referee	Cards Per Game	Fouls Per Game
Thomas Parsons	6	24.17
Martin Woods	5.37	23.88
Neil Hair	5.06	23.64
Carl Boyeson	5.00	24.83
Lee Swabey	4.92	24.38

## TOP 5 IN LEAGUE TWO BY CARD AVERAGE

Referee	Cards Per Game	Fouls Per Game
Leigh Doughty	5.16	23.50
Simon Mather	5.00	20.80
Robert Lewis	4.85	24.36
Alan Young	4.85	22.36
Sunny Gill	4.46	20.08



SUMMARY

Bet	Units Staked	Odds	Bookie
Trent Alexander-Arnold 12+ Assists	4	11/10	PaddyPower
Trent Alexander-Arnold 15+ Assists	2	7/2	PaddyPower
Darwin Nunez Top Premier League Goalscorer (without Erling Haaland)	2	11/1	Bet365
Tom Bradshaw Championship Top Goalscorer	0.5 (e/w)	100/1	Betway
Charlton to score 70+ League Goals	5	9/4	SkyBet
Charlton to score 75+ League Goals	2	9/2	SkyBet
Colby Bishop League One Top Goalscorer	2	10/1	Ladbrokes
Shayne Lavery League One Top Goalscorer	0.5 (e/w)	50/1	Bet365/Ladbrokes

**Trent Alexander-Arnold to register 12+ assists - 4 Units @ 11/10 with PaddyPower**

**Trent Alexander-Arnold to register 15+ assists - 2 Units @ 7/2 with PaddyPower(Under '#WhatOddsPaddy - EPL Player Specials 2023/24, Player Assists')**

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was forced in to making some tactical changes last season to improve upon his team's poor fortunes, one of which saw adventurous full-back Trent Alexander-Arnold slot in to a more inverted role in midfield to make best use of his creative talents. It paid dividends, reducing the defensive output required from the academy graduate and allowing him more reign to break in to advanced position to lay chances on a plate for the front three. The England international ended the season with 7 assists in his last 10 Premier League matches compared to just 2 across his first 27 appearances in the competition. With that and indications from pre-season that he will continue to be deployed in the same 'number 6' type role, I am happy to back these two selections over the course of a 38 game season. The Reds, despite scoring 75 goals last term, were incredibly wasteful at times and I am expecting their forwards to more clinical in taking their opportunities this time around as they recover from their injury problems or become more accustomed to the English game, which will in turn boost the chances of these bets landing. I'm naturally more confident about the 12+ line but 15 is more than achievable if he can continue his rich vein of form in to another campaign.

**Darwin Nunez Top Goalscorer in the Premier League (without Haaland) - 2 Units @ 11/1 with Bet365**

Staying in the Premier League and a slightly different top goalscorer market which BoyleSports are offering - the man to finish top of the pile when you discount almost inevitable winner Erling Haaland. Darwin Nunez has experienced an inconsistent time having arrived last summer from Benfica for what could eventually become a club record £85million deal. Having lost his place in the starting eleven towards the end of the season, the Uruguayan has had a head start on his positional rivals in pre-season having joined up with the first group to report back, with his teammates lauding his fitness work and the improvements he has made to speaking English, important factors in his development and to settling in the Premier League. For this bet to be a success, a few things will need to fall in to place. Jurgen Klopp will need to settle on the best role for the forward if he is to feature on a regular basis; a good start to the season in terms of a goal return is required for him to retain his place in the front three for the entirety of the campaign and he needs to be more ruthless in front of goal - which comes with confidence. Nunez registered a higher Expected Goals (xG) per 90 than the likes of Harry Kane, Bakayo Saka, Ivan Toney and Mo Salah last season which shows that he is getting in to plenty of good positions but underperformed his overall xG by 5.17 goals so will need to improve on that to be in contention for a win here. Making those darting runs down the inside left channel however, with the creativity that the likes of Alexander-Arnold, McAllister and Szoboszlai will offer, Nunez will continue to get plenty of opportunities in such an attack-minded side and I think he can have a much better year of it in English football now that he appears to be adapting to life on Merseyside. With Harry Kane (favourite in this market) heavily linked with a move away from England, the 11/1 odds on offer here appeal to me enough for a 2 unit stake.

**Tom Bradshaw Top Goalscorer in the Championship - 0.5 Units Each-Way @ 100/1 with Betway**

This is a price play more than anything. Tom Bradshaw is now entering his fifth full season at Millwall but 2022/23 felt like the first time where he had reached his true levels. 17 goals from 41 Championship appearances was a decent tally for the Welshman having never got in to double figures in 6 previous seasons in the second tier. The target man looked simply unplayable at times during Millwall's pursuit of a play-off spot, especially when scoring a hat-trick against Sheffield United in February but inconsistency has often been his downfall and why he has been unable to be amongst the big hitters in golden boot races come May every year. Back in the Wales fold however, Bradshaw has spoken of his renewed confidence and I just don't believe that a man pushing a 20 goal season (his best ever) for a top 10 team in the prime of his career should be 100/1 to go a few better and win the top goalscorer accolade. An each-way shout is definitely the way to go here with the striker at 40/1 with some other bookies - proving that it is so important to shop around for your odds. A top 4 finish in this market will bring home some cash by going each-way.

**Charlton to Score 70+ League Goals - 5 Units @ 9/4 with SkyBet**

**Charlton to Score 75+ League Goals - 2 Units @ 9/2 with SkyBet, (Under 'Specials', 'League One RequestABets', 'Charlton RequestABet 2023/24')**

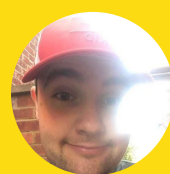
Charlton look in decent order coming in to the new season. As I have alluded to in the League One overview, The Addicks possess some great potential under manager Dean Holden having put together a strong squad lacking in ego but packing in talent. After several years of mismanagement, a recently completed takeover of the club brings stability off the pitch, a lack of which has seemingly held the team back from progressing back up the league pyramid for some time now. In 2022/23, despite a huge turnover in players from the season before, Charlton registered 70 goals across their 46 games including 5 in one game against eventual champions Plymouth and 4 in another when playing runners-up Ipswich - showing what this group of players are capable of. In adding Alfie May to the ranks - who has scored 20 or more goals at this level in successive seasons - Holden has upgraded from Jayden Stockley in the number nine position and the deadly front man will be ably supported by one of the best midfields in the whole of League One, with Scott Fraser and Corey Blackett-Taylor arguably too good for this division on their day in terms of their attacking output. Youngster Miles Leaburn will start the season with an injury but will add to the goal tally when he returns having registered 12 in his breakout year for The Addicks, lifting the weight that will be on May's shoulders throughout the campaign. With Charlton becoming one of the best teams in League One in the second half of last season, they look well on course to carry some of that momentum forward in to 2023/24 and, with an attack-minded squad, I'm willing to wager that they will at least match their goal haul from last season with a 5 unit punt and maybe even improve on that if everything falls in to place, hence the second play.

**Colby Bishop Top Goalscorer in League One - 2 Units @ 10/1 with Ladbrokes**

One man who stands out in the League One top goalscorer market is Portsmouth striker Colby Bishop. When we look at who topped these charts last season, it's very likely that come the end of transfer window - with Jonsson Clarke-Harris expected to depart Peterborough - that 5 of 2022/23's fellow top 8 scorers will not be playing in the division because they've been sold or won promotion to the Championship. Bishop meanwhile will continue to be the main man up front for a promotion chasing team who have signed impressively in key positions that will give him service, so I would expect the 26 year-old to go even better than his 20 goal haul from the last campaign if he can make it four seasons in a row of staying injury free and playing north of 40 games. Bishop takes penalties for Pompey which is always a big bonus when backing players in this market and his shot to goal conversion rate was the best of the top 15 scorers in the third tier last year, bagging 20 times from just 58 shots which shows how clinical he is and why I am confident in backing this selection.

**Shayne Lavery Top Goalscorer in League One - 0.5 Units Each-Way @ 50/1 with Bet365/Ladbrokes**

Although I'm hoping Bishop wins the League One golden boot for our main play in this market, I want to back Blackpool striker Shayne Lavery to at least finish in the top 4 of the race at such an attractive price. The Tangerines are 7th favourites to take the third tier title this season so it doesn't quite tally up that their main striker is presented at big odds like this to top the scoring charts. It was a tough step up for the forward to move from the Northern Irish Premiership, where he recorded 30 goals in his final season at Linfield, to the Championship at the man from County Antrim and he has struggled to make his mark in England to date as a result. This feels much more like the Irishman's level and, at just 24 years old, he is only going to get better. With five goals in pre-season to date, the striker is looking fit and ready to help his team fight for at least a play-off spot. Last time the Pool were in this division, manager Neil Critchley oversaw a 20 goal return from Jerry Yates which, if Lavery could replicate, would very likely get him inside the top four required to get some form of return from this bet. Critchley will have a lot more creativity to his midfield ranks for this season compared to the last - the likes of Albie Morgan and Owen Dale able to pick out a teammate well in League One as proven for the respective clubs in 2022/23 - so Lavery will get decent service. You can find this bet at 25/1 elsewhere which seems much more realistic and I therefore think double those odds are generous and worth a small play.



## SUMMARY

Bet	Units Staked	Odds	Bookie
Stockport to Win League Two	2	7/1	Bet365 (boosted)
Grimsby to Finish Top Half	3	1/1	SkyBet/Ladbrokes
Notts County 75+ League Goals	3	7/4	SkyBet
Top Half Finish 7-fold: Aston Villa, Ipswich, Leicester, Charlton, Portsmouth, Notts County and Stockport	3	13/2	SkyBet
Season Match Bet 4-fold: Aston Villa (v Wolves), Millwall (v QPR), Charlton (v Leyton Orient) & Walsall (v Crewe)	3	3.37/1	Bet365

### Stockport to Win League Two - 2 Units @ 7/1 (boosted) with Bet365

Full write-up on Stockport in the League Two overview. Summary:

- Only missed out on promotion to League One via penalties in the play-off final last season - will be used as motivation to avoid same heartache and go one better this time around
- Defensively solid, only champions Leyton Orient conceded less in 2022/23
- Goals from all over the pitch
- Ended the season with just 1 defeat in 20 in the league
- Dave Challinor a hugely experienced manager who now has a year under his belt at this level and therefore knows what it takes to go the extra mile
- Squad is settled, not needed a huge overhaul in the summer and quality still remains throughout. Ibou Touray and Nick Powell are decent signings for this standard
- Favourites Wrexham have better resources but have been out of the league for a while so may take time for them to adjust. A lot of hype has gone in to their price for the title which is short, equalling value elsewhere. Their star striker Paul Mullin will now miss the season with a punctured lung, a very serious injury.

### Grimsby to Finish Top Half in League Two - 3 Units @ Evens with SkyBet or Ladbrokes

Full write-up on Grimsby in the League Two overview. Summary:

- Club still riding the crest of a wave from a great season - safely mid-table and glorious FA Cup run
- Funds from cup success have been invested in to the team so squad looks better than the one that finished 11th last season and therefore landed this bet
- Attacking unit, which was perhaps the team's downfall for much of last season, has been refreshed in form of Charles Vernam, Abo Eisa and Danny Rose - all of whom are more than capable at this level
- Good mix of strength and skill across the rest of the pitch
- Paul Hurst settled in the North East and getting a tune out of this set of players more and more

### Notts County to Score 75+ League Goals in League Two - 3 Units @ 7/4 with SkyBet (under 'Specials', 'League Two RequestABets', 'Notts County RequestABet 2023/24')

Full write-up on Notts County in the League Two overview. Summary:

- 117 goals scored in National League last season, one more than eventual winners of the league Wrexham
- This bet would allow the team to score 42 less goals in the same amount of game (46) and still win
- Despite the step up a level, so many of the squad will not look out of place
- Team always tries to play on the front-foot
- David McGoldrick signed - scored 22 goals in league above last season
- Macauley Langstaff leading the line - 42 strikes in 45 matches in 2022/23
- The pairing will be feared by every defence in League Two
- Team not here just to make up the numbers, they are serious about mounting a charge for back-to-back promotions

### Top Half Finish 7-fold: Aston Villa, Ipswich, Leicester, Charlton, Portsmouth, Notts County and Stockport - 3 Units @ 13/2 with SkyBet

Direct link to the bet here - <https://m.skybet.com/football/2023-24-requestabets/event/31607461>

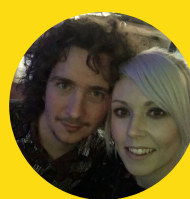
Full write-up on each club can be found in their respective division overviews. Summary:

- Aston Villa amongst the best teams in Europe in second half of the season. Their signings of Pau Torres, Youri Tielemans and Moussa Diaby will only make them stronger. Manager Unai Emery has huge experience of balancing the European/domestic fixture list and will ensure that the high standards set by his team since his arrival do not falter in the Premier League next season. Really well balanced team that can win fouls to break up play, progress up the pitch well, create chances and score plenty of goals. Should be comfortably inside the top 10 again
- Ipswich scored 101 goals in earning promotion back to the Championship and are tipped to do very well upon their return. Manager Kieran McKenna highly regarded and has turned The Tractor Boys in to a well-oiled machine that are remarkably consistent in their output. Games will be harder to dominate now they have gone up a league but their attacking talent alone should see them pick up enough points to finish in the top 12
- Leicester are my pick to win the Championship so it makes sense to include them in this bet as a safe pick. They may have lost Maddison and Barnes but have a progressive manager in Enzo Maresca at the helm and still possess a lot of quality in every position, boosted by their smart acquisitions this summer. Callum Doyle, Conor Coady and Harry Winks represent smart business and with more attacking talent to arrive soon, the Foxes will have little trouble being amongst the chasing pack
- Charlton and Portsmouth have both been included inside my top 6 for League One and are on course for positive seasons. Charlton are a side that will excite - scoring plenty of goals even if others around them will be more capable defensively, with Portsmouth signing well and doing it early over the past two months to add more spark to their attacking output and steel through the spine of their side.
- See above for Notts County and Stockport explanations - both should finish inside the top half with relative ease

### Season Match Bet 4-fold: Aston Villa (v Wolves), Millwall (v QPR), Charlton (v Leyton Orient) & Walsall (v Crewe). Villa v Wolves under the 'Team Finish Higher' market, all others under 'Season Match Bet' - 3 units @ 3.37/1 with Bet365

Full write-up on each club can be found in their respective division overviews. Summary:

- As per overviews and bet above, Villa only look to be getting stronger and are led by a brilliant manager. Wolves are expected to struggle this season under significant financial restrictions and another bottom half finish looks a certainty due to a lack of overall spark and goals
- Millwall are a solid outfit with a clear game plan that is well understood by each player in their team. The club have bought excellently in recent windows and that appears to be the case since June too, with Kevin Nisbet, Joe Bryan and Casper de Norre all improving the depth of a strong squad. QPR meanwhile have a squad of players that do not match the playing style of manager Gareth Ainsworth who is unlikely to last the season at the suffering Rs. Summer transfers have been on the cheap side and do not inspire belief that Rangers will keep away from danger again this season having narrowly survived last time out. I've a lot of confidence that Millwall can keep up their consistent level of performances and point tallies in this league and finish way above their London rivals as a result
- I've talked a lot to Charlton already so won't add any more on them but they should finish higher than newly promoted Leyton Orient. The latter should be safe from the bottom four in League One but will struggle to replicate their 2022/23 form having lost key men Lawrence Vigouroux and Paul Smyth who had racked up over 200 games for the Os between them. As documented, Charlton should be amongst the league's top goalscorers and at least in the play-off mix which looks beyond Orient - for the time being at least
- Walsall finished last season in underwhelming fashion after a run of poor results dampened early optimism. The Saddlers are however looking up again with some confidence after a positive summer, especially now that Danny Johnson has joined the club permanently following a 15 goal return in his loan spell up to January. Manager Mat Sadler has a good level of depth at his disposal to go much better than the 16th place registered last year. Crewe on the other hand will be looking over their shoulder. The Alex are always reliant on their youth production line to bulk up the a thin looking first team set-up and that looks to be the case more than ever this season. With a single goal outlet in Chris Long, who suffered with injuries last term, it will be a tall order for Crewe and inexperienced manager Lee Bell to do anything other than keep their heads above water



SUMMARY

Bet	Units Staked	Odds	Bookie
Crawley to be relegated	3	7/2	Bet365
Crawley to finish bottom	1	8/1	Bet365
Macaulay Langstaff League Two Top Goalscorer - Winner	1	8/1	Virgin/LiveScore Bet
Macaulay Langstaff League Two Top Goalscorer - Each-Way	1.5	8/1	Bet365
Bolton to finish in the top 6	4	1/1	BoyleSports/Unibet
Blackpool to finish in the top 6	2	2/1	Betway
Scunthorpe to win National League North	2	11/4	Betway
Barnet to finish in the top 7	2	2/1	BetVictor

### Crawley to be relegated from League Two - 3 Units @ 7/2 with Bet365

### Crawley to finish bottom of League Two - 1 Unit @ 8/1 with Bet365

It's been a tough 12 months for Crawley Town. After WAGMI United were revealed as the owners back in April 2022, Crawley fans are frustrated with how the tenure is going. Things looked quite promising early on, Kevin Betsy joined, leaving his role with Arsenal under 21's. Loan signings Caleb Chukwuemeka, Teddy Jenks and Ellery Balcombe all looked like astute signings alongside marquee signing Dom Telford who had just topped the league. 2 scoring charts the previous season. Things looked quite positive for Crawley and their Crypto consortium, but after a challenging start to the season, Kevin Betsy lost his job in early October after just one win in 12 games. Matthew Etherington had a short stint throughout December and by the time Scott Lindsey had been appointed on January the 11th, the Crypto dream was starting to look in trouble. Tom Nichols and Glenn Morris both left to join Gillingham, who had just had their own American takeover. (Glenn Morris had been on loan). Tony Craig and Jake Hesselthaler both left abruptly on loan.

George Francomb and Owen Gallagher also left via "mutual consent". Fans were angry and confused, this is after the co-owner himself appeared in the dugout "Managing the team" after Matthew Etherington had left in late December. Kellan Gordon, Jack Roles and Ben Gladwin did arrive in late January. Towards the end of the season several more fringe players left the club but new additions such as Ade Adeyemo and Joy Mukena haven't given the Crawley fans much confidence. Crawley's owners have come out and said they're looking at signing the best talent in the lower leagues, however, a lack of EFL experience could hit hard in a very competitive League 2 this season. Two departures that stand out this summer are the departures of James Tilley (Wimbledon) and Player of the season Jack Powell (Crewe). How many more will leave?

Relegation at 7/2 stands out, I fully expect more competitive teams in League 2 this season, Wimbledon and Walsall might have ended last season poorly but have strengthened well. Harrogate have also been quite competitive in the market despite losing Alex Pattison. Colchester look in a better place than 12 months ago. Morecambe are going through a transitional period but are signing a better calibre of player than Crawley currently. Disgruntled fans, budget cuts and owners who have lost the support of the fans rarely end well, but with rumours about other players leaving and the recruitment coming from the lower leagues, it's going to be a tough season for Crawley Town. The price is dropping fast on Crawley, 9/2 for relegation has long gone and the 7/2 won't last by kick off unless there's some major investment or additions.

### Macaulay Langstaff - Top Goalscorer in League Two (Winner) - 1 Unit @ 8/1 with Bet365

### Macaulay Langstaff - Top Goalscorer in League Two (Each-Way) - 1.5 Units @ 8/1 with Bet365

There's several 20+ goals a season strikers lining up in League 2 next season. Last season's winner 28 goal Andy Cook will lead the line again for Bradford, whereas 20 goal Kristian Dennis has decided to stay in league 2 joining Tranmere. 21/22 duo Dom Telford (25 goals) and Matt Stevens (23 goals) also will be looking for goals in League 2 this season. But its 20/21's top scorer Paul Mullin (31 goals) who is the bookies favourite after 2 prolific seasons in the National league with Wrexham. During the 21/22 season, Paul Mullin did win the golden boot for Wrexham, however, its likely that he would have fallen short if Kabongo Tshimanga hadn't suffered a season ending injury when he was easily clear of the chasing pack on 24 goals from just 27 games. Last season's impressive 38 goals was also not enough against a non penalty taking Macaulay Langstaff (42 goals) and that's going to be my play in League 2. I think 30+ goals will be needed to win the top league 2 this season, this has only been achieved once in the last 10 seasons, (Mullin, 31 goals, 8 of these were penalties). Langstaff is the main focus of how Notts County play, he is the main striker, the number 9, A lot of heads will have been turned when David McGoldrick signed, but he will likely play a deeper role behind Langstaff, McGoldrick was a number 9 for Derby last season and this shows in his goals return, this time around he will be replacing the talented Ruben Rodrigues. Having such a key player like McGoldrick in the team will benefit Langstaff. One thing that Langstaff didn't have last season was penalties, with Ruben leaving, maybe McGoldrick will be the first choice penalty taker, or maybe Langstaff will now have his chance to at least add to his goal tally. Apart from Ruben leaving, This Notts County team has the same promotion winning squad to hand, Dan Crowley will add more creativity, Jodi Jones has signed after impressing on loan. Everything looks set up right to give Langstaff another shot at scoring for fun. Paul Mullin is the favourite, he's been prolific now for 3 seasons, but the last time he played in League 2, he was playing for Mark Bonners talented Cambridge side and the style of play suited him perfectly. Joe Ironside was the perfect unselfish bullish strike partner, League 2 team of the season player Kyle Knogle provided plenty of opportunities from the right and 38 year old Wes Hoolahan inspired and pulled the strings. The trio chipped in with an impressive 22 assists that season. Even though I like the link of play of Ollie Palmer and Ryan Barnett was among the leaders of "crosses into the box" for Solihull before joining Wrexham, I think Wrexham's reliance on set plays could limit Mullins chances. Long throws/corners are a big part of Wrexham's approach and you can see this with Aaron Hayden scoring an impressive 11 goals in 26 starts last season. It won't be as easy for Wrexham next season, their game management will need to be better when in winning positions and with Paul Mullin saying he'd be happy to represent Wales, we could even see him miss some games next season. As Billy Waters joined at the very end of the season, maybe Mullin won't play as many minutes next season as Langstaff.

I'm happy to back Langstaff, but with it being a competitive league next season, I'm happy to play each way as well as the outright winner.

### Bolton to finish in the top 6 in League One - 4 Units @ Evens with BoyleSports & Unibet

Bolton will start the 2023/24 season with promotion as their main objective, what they do have is a solid 22/23 season to build upon. Ian Evatt's side finished a very respectable 5th place last season, an improvement on the 9th place finish in the 2021/22 season. With Sheffield Wednesday joining Ipswich and centurions Plymouth in the Championship, Bolton will look to take advantage. I've mentioned Wigan, Reading and Blackpool in my other article, Barnsley would have probably started as many peoples favourites for promotion but with Michael Duff leaving, it definitely takes away some confidence to back them. (Potential EFL charges now as well). Derby will improve, Peterborough themselves are just going through a transformation and the chasing pack (Oxford, Portsmouth and Charlton - odds wise) are taking people's fancy. I'll however stick with a consistent Bolton who I think can hit 80+ points again this season.

The biggest negatives for Bolton will be replacing James Trafford and Conor Bradley. Both loanees had very good seasons for Bolton. James Trafford in particular starred for a team with an XGA of 1.35 vs a GA of 0.79. Nathan Baxter comes in looking to establish himself now as a number one after a couple of frustrating seasons at Hull on loan. Josh Dacres-Cooley arrives from Tranmere after a solid season, he'll compete for the right wing back spot. Will Forrester arrives from Port Vale and will add depth to the Centre backs. Zac Ashworth has just joined on loan from WBA to give depth at left back after a positive loan stint at Burton last season. I still think there will be one or two more, maybe a creative/attacking midfielder. But this where I would trust Ian Evatt, There's some similarities between Bolton and Coventry, Bolton are following the blueprint set by Coventry, after off the field issues meant both clubs found themselves in League 2, both clubs have progressed since. Bolton have improved year on year with Ian Evatt in charge and I can't ignore this in an already mentioned transitional/weaker league one. I'll take the evens on offer as this price is also dropping.

### Blackpool to finish in the top 6 in League One - 2 Units @ 2/1 with Betway

Over the last 3 seasons, there have been 9 teams relegated from the Championship, 6 of these teams have finished in the top 6 in the following season, 2 of the teams just fell short and finished 7th, Wigan were the unfortunate team that had major financial issues and finished just outside the relegation zone in the 20/21 season. The top half of league one has been very competitive over the last few seasons, but there just seems like there could be an opportunity for some of the stronger teams on paper to cement their places in the promotion mix along with a couple of sides who probably have been treading water for a couple of seasons in a tough league one. We have Wigan - who yet again have had off the field issues, Wigan will start on -8 points and even though the club has since been taken over, I don't think many Wigan fans will be expecting much this season. Reading have had their embargo lifted, Ruben Selles comes in, but like many teams that get relegated with financial issues, the "reset button" will need to be pressed. Yakou Meite has left for Cardiff, Tom Ince to Watford, Nabby Sarr to Qatar. Lucas Joao has left the club and Reading have lost several loan players from last season. As things stand, Harvey Knibbs, Sam Smith, Lewis Wing and Charlie Savage have joined but Reading might need a little time to adjust. You also never know what financial issues will arise at Reading. That leaves Blackpool, Neil Critchley finds himself back at Bloomfield Road, 12 months after leaving them to join Steven Gerrard at Aston Villa. 6 months at Aston Villa followed by a disastrous 2 month stint at QPR and Neil Critchleys gamble hadn't paid off. In Neil Critchleys first season, he guided Blackpool to a 3rd place finish and went up through the play offs. This was then followed up with a more than respectable 16th place finish in the Championship. Critchley moving on wasn't only bad for him, but his former team struggled last season and Blackpool finished in a disappointing 23rd place.

I think Blackpool look the most settled team out of the relegated teams, Jerry Yates might have moved on, along with Curtis Nelson and Jordan Thorniley but I really like the signings of Matthew Pennington, Oliver Norburn and Kyle Joseph. I also think that we might see a strong season for Sonny Carey under the guidance of Neil Critchley. I think Neil Critchley has some unfinished business at Blackpool, the league doesn't look as strong as previous seasons. I still think they need a couple more players like most clubs, but over 46 games, they look a solid top 6 play at 2/1.

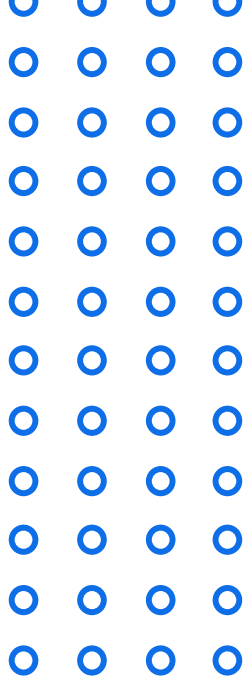
### Scunthorpe to win National League North - 2 Units @ 11/4 with Betway

It's been a turbulent few years for Scunthorpe fans, Scunthorpe found themselves in one of the difficult football cycles of constant cutbacks on budgets and resources, its happened many times before and unfortunately by the time your club finds its way into non-league, the takeover tends to finally happen, or worse, the club folds. Scunthorpe have had their takeover, it unfortunately happened too late into the season for them to get themselves out of trouble last season. The summer started off very positively, several players who are capable and proven of playing in the National league decided to join Scunthorpes new project. The news got even better when Jacob Butterfield decided he wanted to stay and talented attacking midfielder Cameron Willson also signed a new deal after it seemed like both players would be moving on. Will Evans, Maxim Kouogun, Danny Whitehall, Callum Roberts and Ross Fitzsimons are just a few players that have joined this summer. The pressure will be on Jimmy Dean, he's delivered for Peterborough Sports in the past with 4 promotions in 5 seasons but despite all the strong signings, there already seems to be a couple of cracks forming. It seems like there is a major issue with the lease at Glanford Park, rumours/potential legal battles over the lease at Glanford park with former owner Peter Swann have started to become public. Talk about how sustainable the model is as well at Scunthorpe have also been mentioned. But a decent performance against Doncaster at Glanford Park on Saturday in a friendly has eased any major short term issues. On paper, Scunthorpe have the best squad in the league, even last year's main challengers Kings Lynn have been hit hard this season with a few key players leaving, 2 of them have joined Scunthorpe. Kings Lynn had 4 players in the NNL with the NNL season, 3 have moved on. The 11/4 on offer isn't a big price, especially when you could get 6/1+ on the likes of Yeovil and Torquay in the NLS. I'm happy backing the 11/4 though, the long term future of Scunthorpe is still up for debate, but over the next 9 months, I'll back right now what is easily the strongest squad on paper in the league.

### Barnet to finish in the top 7 in National League - 2 Units @ 2/1 with BetVictor

Barnet had a very solid season during 2022/23. The large summer rebuild by Dean Brennan proved to be a successful one and several teams like Woking and Eastleigh benefited from a summer shake up. The National league looks to have a few more progressive teams this season, Oldham as mentioned, York have a new ambitious owner and are splashing the cash, Gateshead will look to push on after their impressive second half of the 22/23 campaign, as will Eastleigh who have recruited well and Altricham will look to progress after their first full season as a full time club. The likes of Woking, Barnet, Boreham Wood and Bromley will need to be on their toes if they're to target the top 7 again and I think Barnet look a fair play.

They've lost Ryan De Havilland, yet again, Peterborough have recruited a young talented Barnet player, but apart from that, they still have the solid base that led them to an impressive 5th place finish. In comes Zak Brunt from Sheffield United, the midfielder spent the last season on loan impressing for Boreham Wood. I think he could have made the step up to league 2 this season. Callum Stead joins from Brackley, the forward had an exceptional season in the National North scooping the Managers, Players and Supporters player of the year. Recce Hall Johnson will provide competition on the right hand side, Ben Coker and Sam Barratt add National league experience and depth. Finley Potter joins the club on loan, the centre back impressed during a late loan move in February last season, another player who potentially could have had an offer from the EFL. With key players Idris Kanu, Harry Pritchard, Dale Gorman, Jerome Okimo and 19 goal Nicke Kabamba all looking likely they will be staying at Barnet for the 23/24 season, I can see them cementing themselves in the top 7 again.



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