

Chelsea FC

The popular English football (association football) team Chelsea FC is known for its star players and offensive style of play. Based in the Hammersmith and Fulham borough of western London, the team is nicknamed the Blues for the color of its home uniforms.

Chelsea FC was founded in 1905 by Henry Augustus Mears. Home games are played at Stamford Bridge stadium, the original site Mears chose for the club. The team had mixed fortunes over the years, moving up and down between divisions several times. It did not win a major trophy until the 1950s, when it captured the Football League First Division in 1954–55. It was not until the 1990s that the Blues improved their standing to become one of the most successful clubs in English soccer. They won two consecutive English Premier League titles in 2004–05 and 2005–06 and added a fourth league title in 2009–10. The club won additional league championships in 2014–15 and 2016–17. It took the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1971 and 1998 and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Super Cup in 1998. The club claimed its first Champions League title in 2012 and its second in 2021. Chelsea FC has won the Football Association Challenge Cup (FA Cup) eight times.

During Chelsea's roller-coaster history, an array of notable players have performed with the club. Top stars from the 1960s onward include Bobby Tambling, Jimmy Greaves, Terry Venables, John Hollins, Ray Wilkins, Gianfranco Zola, Frank Lampard, Didier Drogba, Michael Essien, Michael Ballack, and Eden Hazard. On the downside, Chelsea fans include one of England's most notorious gangs of football hooligans, known as the Headhunters. They have been responsible for organized violence in the stands since the 1970s, usually consisting of assaults on fans of other teams.