

Tottenham Hotspur

Based in the Tottenham district of the London borough of Haringey, Tottenham Hotspur is among the winningest clubs in English football (association football). The team, nicknamed the Spurs, has won the English top-division league championship twice. It has won the League Cup four times and the Football Association (FA) Cup eight times. It has also enjoyed notable success in international competition.

The team was founded in 1882 by members of the Hotspur cricket club in Tottenham. Known as Tottenham Hotspur from 1884, the team became a professional football club in 1895. The Spurs soon developed a famous rivalry with Arsenal, another popular football club based in North London. The two teams face off in a “North London derby” match nearly every year.

During the following decades, the Spurs continued to excel in both international and domestic play. The team added a second UEFA Cup trophy to its collection in 1984. It won back-to-back FA Cup titles in 1981 and 1982 and garnered its eighth FA Cup in 1991. The team also won the League Cup in 1999 and again in 2008. In the 2016–17 season, Tottenham finished as runner-up to Chelsea FC for the Premier League title. At the conclusion of that season, the Spurs’ White Hart Lane stadium—the club’s home venue since 1899—was demolished. The team played its home matches at Wembley Stadium in London in 2017–18 while a new 62,000-seat stadium was constructed for Tottenham at the site of White Hart Lane.

Standout players for the Spurs have included Danny Blanchflower and Cliff Jones, who helped lead the club during its famed 1960–61 campaign. Jimmy Greaves, Bobby Smith, and Martin Chivers were among the Spurs’ most prolific goal scorers. Steve Perryman established a franchise record for most games played by appearing in 854 matches with Tottenham between 1969 and 1984. Top players for the Spurs in the early 21st century included Robbie Keane, Jermain Defoe, Gareth Bale, and Harry Kane. Bale was the Premier League’s player of the season in 2012–13. Kane was the league’s leading scorer in both 2015–16 and 2016–17.