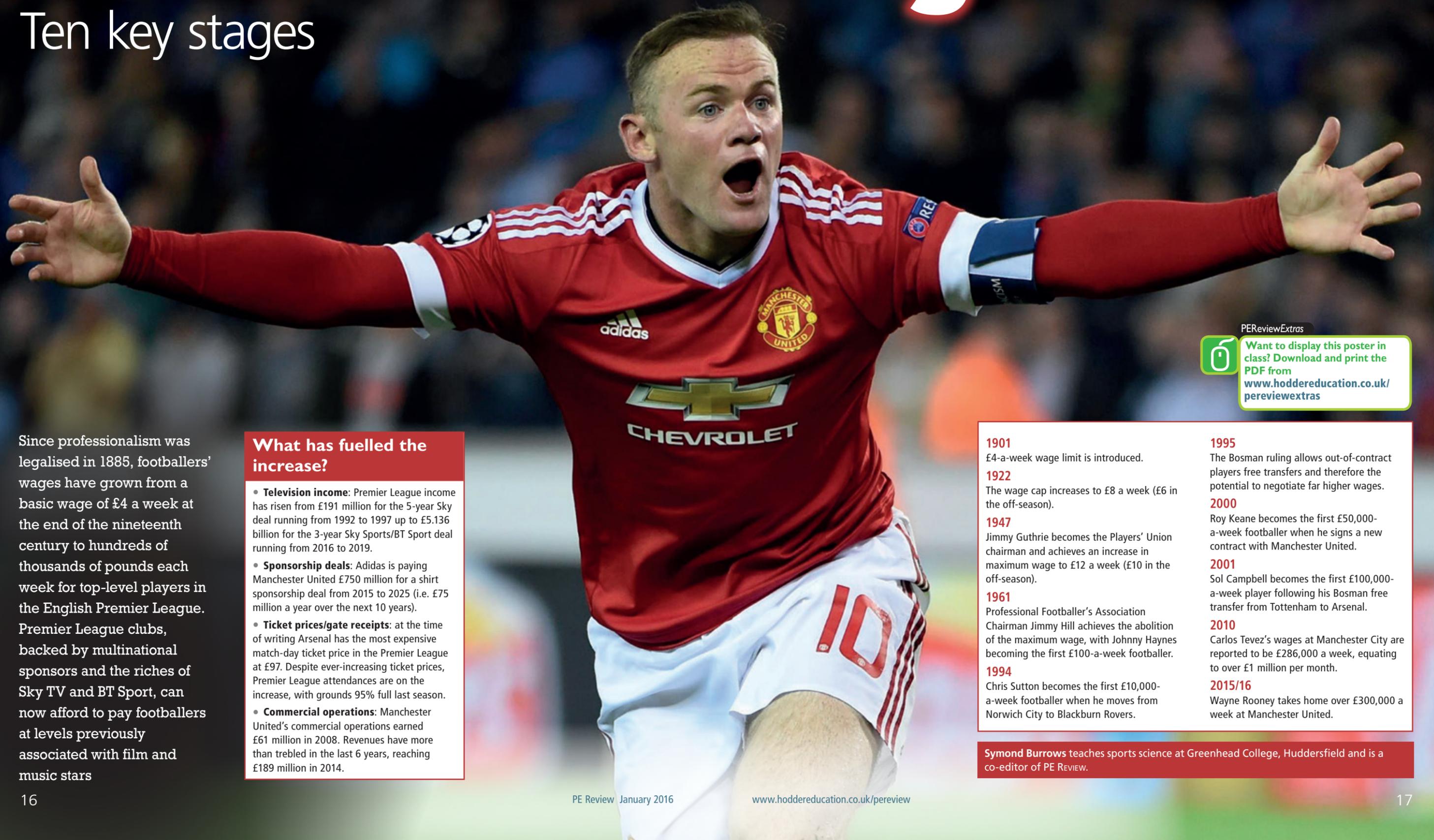


Footballers' wages

Ten key stages



Since professionalism was legalised in 1885, footballers' wages have grown from a basic wage of £4 a week at the end of the nineteenth century to hundreds of thousands of pounds each week for top-level players in the English Premier League. Premier League clubs, backed by multinational sponsors and the riches of Sky TV and BT Sport, can now afford to pay footballers at levels previously associated with film and music stars

What has fuelled the increase?

- **Television income:** Premier League income has risen from £191 million for the 5-year Sky deal running from 1992 to 1997 up to £5.136 billion for the 3-year Sky Sports/BT Sport deal running from 2016 to 2019.
- **Sponsorship deals:** Adidas is paying Manchester United £750 million for a shirt sponsorship deal from 2015 to 2025 (i.e. £75 million a year over the next 10 years).
- **Ticket prices/gate receipts:** at the time of writing Arsenal has the most expensive match-day ticket price in the Premier League at £97. Despite ever-increasing ticket prices, Premier League attendances are on the increase, with grounds 95% full last season.
- **Commercial operations:** Manchester United's commercial operations earned £61 million in 2008. Revenues have more than trebled in the last 6 years, reaching £189 million in 2014.

1901

£4-a-week wage limit is introduced.

1922

The wage cap increases to £8 a week (£6 in the off-season).

1947

Jimmy Guthrie becomes the Players' Union chairman and achieves an increase in maximum wage to £12 a week (£10 in the off-season).

1961

Professional Footballer's Association Chairman Jimmy Hill achieves the abolition of the maximum wage, with Johnny Haynes becoming the first £100-a-week footballer.

1994

Chris Sutton becomes the first £10,000-a-week footballer when he moves from Norwich City to Blackburn Rovers.

PEReviewExtras



Want to display this poster in class? Download and print the PDF from www.hoddereducation.co.uk/perreviewextras

1995

The Bosman ruling allows out-of-contract players free transfers and therefore the potential to negotiate far higher wages.

2000

Roy Keane becomes the first £50,000-a-week footballer when he signs a new contract with Manchester United.

2001

Sol Campbell becomes the first £100,000-a-week player following his Bosman free transfer from Tottenham to Arsenal.

2010

Carlos Tevez's wages at Manchester City are reported to be £286,000 a week, equating to over £1 million per month.

2015/16

Wayne Rooney takes home over £300,000 a week at Manchester United.

Symond Burrows teaches sports science at Greenhead College, Huddersfield and is a co-editor of PE REVIEW.