

Football finances

Where is the money in football today?

Table 1 Money paid by television companies for live football television rights

Year	TV company	Fee (£)	Duration	Average
1983	ITV and BBC	5.2m	2 years, 20 games	£0.26m per game
1988	ITV	44m	4 years, 80 games	£0.55m per game
1992	Sky	191m	5 years, 300 games	£0.64m per game
1997	Sky	670m	4 years, 240 games	£2.79m per game
2001	Sky	1,200m	3 years, 330 games	£3.64m per game
2004	Sky	1,024m	3 years, 414 games	£2.47m per game
2007	Sky and Setanta	1,706m	3 years, 414 games	£4.12m per game
2010	Sky and ESPN	1,773m	3 years, 414 games	£4.28m per game
2013	Sky and BT	3,008m	3 years, 462 games	£6.52m per game
2016	Sky and BT	5,136m	3 years, 504 games	£10.2m per game

Table 2 Notable players who have moved on a Bosman (free) transfer

Player	Year	From	To
Steve McManaman	1999	Liverpool	Real Madrid
Sol Campbell	2001	Tottenham	Arsenal
Robert Lewandowski	2014	Borussia Dortmund	Bayern Munich

Five richest football clubs in the world 2018

Manchester United tops the list with a revenue of £581.2 million. Real Madrid is close behind with a revenue of £579.7 million. Barcelona and Bayern Munich have revenues of £557.1 million and £505.1 million respectively, and fifth is Manchester City on £453.5 million.

Note that Dallas Cowboys (American football) and New York Yankees (baseball) were both ranked slightly higher than Manchester United in a list of the richest sports teams in 2018.

Table 3 Top ten wage earners in football 2018

Player	Country	Club	Earnings (£ per year)
Lionel Messi	Argentina	Barcelona	40.5m
Neymar	Brazil	Paris Saint-Germain	31.7m
Alexis Sánchez	Chile	Manchester United	23.4m
Oscar	Brazil	Shanghai SIPG	21.1m
Ezequiel Lavezzi	Argentina	Hebei China Fortune	20.3m
Cristiano Ronaldo	Portugal	Real Madrid	18.5m
Hulk	Brazil	Shanghai SIPG	17.6m
Kylian Mbappé	France	Paris Saint-Germain	15.9m
Paul Pogba	France	Manchester United	15.4m
Graziano Pellè	Italy	Shandong Luneng	15m

Chinese influence

Table 3 is an indicator of how high some footballers' salaries have risen. However, it requires a little explanation as it contains four players from Chinese Super League clubs. This competition was formed in 2004 and has received substantial support from two sources.

First, Chinese President Xi Jinping has taken a personal interest in the game's development, particularly the nurturing of young players, and has set out a 10-year vision that involves the country becoming capable of hosting and winning a FIFA World Cup by 2026.

Second, the growing Chinese economy has enabled successful companies to sanction massive corporate investment in member clubs. There are limits on the number of foreign players but, in March 2018, China still only lies 68th in FIFA's rankings.

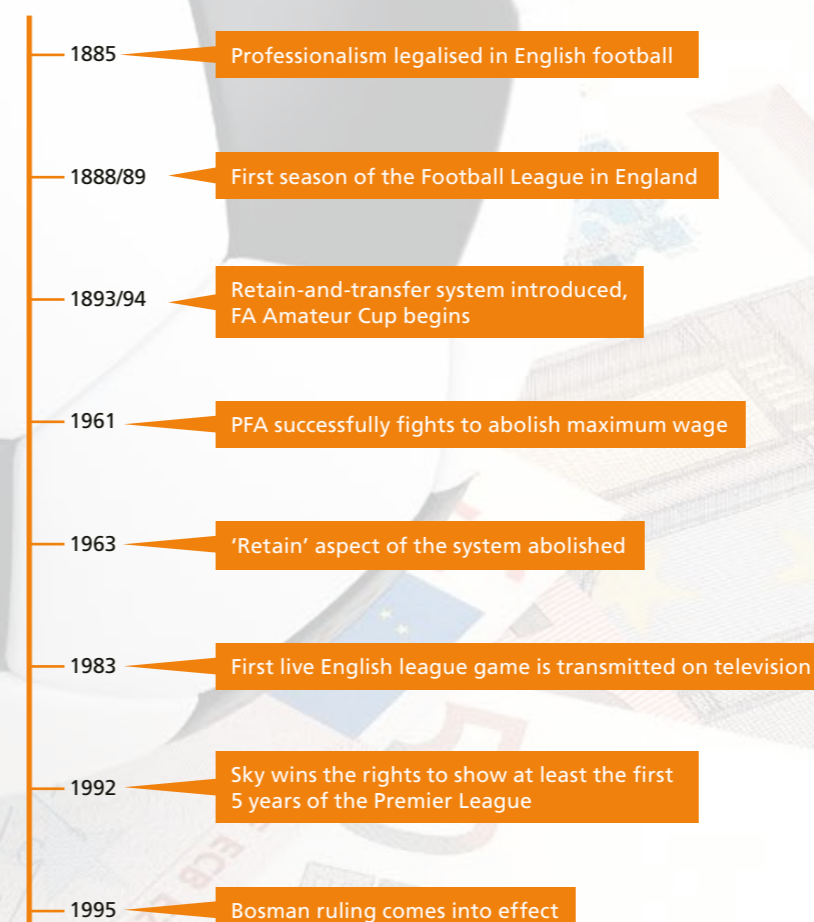


Figure 1 Football timeline

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Graham Curry is a regular contributor to PE REVIEW and the author of a range of books on the development of association football.