

Valencia CF - Chelsea FC

MATCH PRESS KIT

Mestalla Stadium, Valencia

Wednesday 3 October 2007 - 20.45CET

Group B - Matchday 2



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Match background

Valencia CF begin their home campaign in the UEFA Champions League with revenge on their minds as they welcome Chelsea FC back to the Mestalla six months after the London club removed them from the quarter-finals of Europe's premier club competition.

- The Spanish side started their 2007/08 UEFA Champions League campaign with a commendable 1-0 away victory against FC Schalke 04. Meanwhile, Chelsea could only manage a 1-1 home draw with Rosenborg BK on Matchday 1. It proved to be the last game in charge for José Mourinho who left the manager's position at Stamford Bridge by mutual consent that same week.
- A 90th-minute strike from Michael Essien helped the Blues to come from behind to win 2-1 in Valencia and reach the UEFA Champions League semi-finals for the third time in four seasons. For the Spanish club it was a disappointing end to their fifth attempt to land the trophy after they had earned a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge, David Silva's stunning strike on the half-hour later cancelled out by Didier Drogba's header.
- Chelsea's victory was the only time Valencia, finalists in both 1999/00 and 2000/01, showed any weakness on home soil in last year's competition. After winning 3-0 in the home leg of their third qualifying round contest with FC Salzburg they then gained maximum points in their three home games in Group D before holding FC Internazionale Milano 0-0, a result which was sufficient to send them through to meet Chelsea. In those five fixtures they conceded just a single goal, to AS Roma on Matchday 2.
- Following the 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge, the English side had looked to be on their way out of the competition when Fernando Morientes shot Valencia in front in the 32nd minute. However, Andriy Shevchenko levelled from close range seven minutes after the break, and Chelsea were rewarded for their tireless second-half endeavour in the final seconds as Essien beat Santiago Cañizares with an angled low shot to set up a meeting with eventual runners-up Liverpool FC.



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- On the previous occasion an English team travelled to the Mestalla there were contrasting fortunes for Chelsea's London rivals. Arsenal FC went there in the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League second group stage and lost 2-1, although Thierry Henry's strike did break a formidable sequence - in the previous five meetings with English opposition at their ground, Valencia had not conceded a single goal. In fact before Essien worked his magic, Valencia had only once conceded more than a single goal in home games against English teams – in the 1998/99 UEFA Cup second round when they drew 2-2 with Liverpool FC.
- In total those twelve fixtures had produced seven wins and five draws for Valencia who, under Quique Sánchez Flores, finished fourth in the Primera División and booked their ticket for the group stage with a 5-1 aggregate victory over IF Elfsborg in the third qualifying round and will be looking to restore that dominance again.
- Valencia owed their first two European trophies – the 1979/80 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Super Cup the following season - to victories against English opposition, seeing off Arsenal FC in the first instance following a penalty shoot-out, and then triumphing on away goals against Nottingham Forest FC.
- Chelsea, who are bidding to go further than their three UEFA Champions League semi-final appearances in four seasons, earned draws on their previous two visits to Spain before last season. Both came against FC Barcelona, in last season's group stage and again in the previous season's first knockout round. However on the latter occasion the 1-1 scoreline meant they bowed out of the competition after the first leg had gone the way of Ronaldinho and co.
- Those draws ended a run of four successive defeats while in a total of nine games in Spain they have only registered a single victory – against Real Betis Balompié in the quarter-finals of the 1997/98 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, when they won 2-1. Their record is played nine, won two, drawn two, lost five.
- Two significant Chelsea victories against Spanish opponents came on neutral soil. They played Real Madrid CF in the 1970/71 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final in Athens with Chelsea winning the replay 2-1 after a 1-1 draw. The teams also met in the 1998 UEFA Super Cup in Monaco, Chelsea winning 1-0.

Match facts

Valencia

- Seven Valencia players have appeared in all three UEFA Champions League games so far this season, including qualifying: **Raúl Albiol**, **Carlos Marchena**, **Emiliano Moretti**, **Joaquín**, **David Villa**, **Fernando Morientes** and **David Silva**.
- Valencia warmed up for their game with Chelsea by securing a 1-0 win away to ten-man RC Recreativo de Huelva on Sunday evening. **Villa** struck the only goal after four minutes to ensure **Quique Sánchez Flores'** men posted their fifth consecutive Primera División victory - all by a one-goal margin. **Marchena** supplied the pass for Villa, who drew goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino wide before firing in. The hosts had coach Víctor Muñoz sent to the stands for protesting just before half-time while midfielder Carlos Martins also saw red late on. Valencia sit third in the league table, a point behind leaders Real Madrid CF.
- **Sánchez Flores** said: "We've taken part in a very tough game, in what is a difficult place to play, against a team that worked very hard. Fortunately we secured the win very early on and it will give us a lot of confidence for Wednesday's game against Chelsea. We controlled the game and our goalkeeper didn't have much to do save for the last ten minutes. It was a hard-working performance with a lot of physical confrontations."
- **Santiago Cañizares** has made a full recovery from a strain in his left thigh, although **Sánchez Flores** decided to rest the goalkeeper ahead of the match with Chelsea.
- **Vicente Rodríguez**, **Marco Caneira** and **Jaime Gavilán** are all continuing to recover from thigh injuries, while **Edu** is out with cruciate ligament damage.

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- **Luis Miguel** signed a two-year extension to his contract on 20 September, tying him to the club until 2012.
- Los Ché picked up where they left off on their return to domestic competition, beating Real Betis Balompié 2-1 in Seville on 23 September. **Miguel** (68) and former Betis star **Joaquín** (82) made it 2-0 before Rafael Sobis pulled one back late on.
- **Joaquín** asked for forgiveness from the home supporters after his goal, explaining: "Betis fans have always treated me well and are aware of everything I gave to the team when I played here. They applauded me because they know I'm a Betis fan and I will be until the day I die."
- **Miguel's** strike was his first in 61 league appearances for Benfica – he scored on his debut against RC Deportivo La Coruña in September 2005.
- Three days after defeating Betis, Valencia claimed a fourth successive 2-1 league victory, this time at home to Getafe CF. Again **Sánchez Florez's** team opened up a two-goal advantage as **Silva** and **Villa** struck first-half goals before Nóbrega Braulio ensured a tense finale with 15 minutes remaining but Valencia held on.
- **Sánchez Florez** said: "We're continuing with the good run of results. We seem to be suffering some kind of mental block in our home games though. We played a good first half and created chances but in the second we lost our attacking presence and this led us to some uncomfortable moments."
- **Villa's** strike – his 73rd in the Primera División – came in his 150th Spanish top-flight appearance.
- It was **Villa's** first league goal of the season – at the same stage last term he had managed four.
- **Nikola Žigić**, who cost a reported €20 million from Real Racing Club Santander during the summer, was named in the squad for the first time against Getafe. The Serbian striker, who has been recovering from an ankle injury, remained on the substitutes' bench.
- **Villa** has been included in the 55-man shortlist for the FIFPro World XI Player Awards, as has former Valencia defender **Roberto Ayala**. The winners will be announced on 5 October.
- Valencia marked the International Day of Deaf People and Sign Languages on 29 September the day before by having **Sánchez Flores's** press conference signed. In collaboration with the Valencia Deaf and Dumb Sports Club, who are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year, the club also auctioned a package of Valencia products for charity.

Chelsea

- **Ricardo Carvalho** and **Claudio Pizarro** are within one appearance of 50 matches in the UEFA Champions League.
- **John Terry's** next appearance in UEFA club competition will be his 50th.
- **Pizarro** celebrates his 29th birthday the day of the Valencia game, on 3 October.
- Chelsea's barren run in front of goal continued on Saturday when they were held to a 0-0 draw by London rivals Fulham FC at Stamford Bridge. The Blues have now failed to score in their last four Premier League fixtures.
- **Didier Drogba** returned from a knee injury that had kept him out of action since 2 September but his afternoon came to an early end as he was sent off for a second bookable offence 18 minutes from time.
- **Michael Essien** was ruled out by injury shortly before kick-off, so **Claude Makelele** came into midfield.

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- "We can play better," said **Avram Grant**. "It's not been good enough for Chelsea, I'm not happy we didn't take the extra two points, but at least we created plenty of chances."
- Chelsea captain **John Terry** is suffered a depressed fracture of the cheekbone against Fulham. The 26-year-old sustained the injury in a challenge with Clint Dempsey during the first half at Stamford Bridge, and was substituted at the interval.
- The draw with Fulham extended Chelsea's unbeaten home league record to 67 matches. Their last reverse at Stamford Bridge was a 1-2 loss to Arsenal FC on 21 February 2004. Since then, they have won 50 home Premier League games and drawn 17.
- With 12 points from their first eight games, Chelsea have made their worst start to a Premier League season since 2000/01, when they eventually finished sixth.
- On 20 September **José Mourinho** parted company with Chelsea by mutual consent after more than three years in charge at Stamford Bridge. The Portuguese manager took over in 2004 having enjoyed a glittering period of success at FC Porto, winning the UEFA Champions League that year to add to the UEFA Cup that had been secured in 2003. Mourinho, who also landed two Portuguese Liga titles and a domestic cup with Porto, translated his success to English football, ending Chelsea's 50-year wait for a league title in his first season in charge and repeating the feat in 2005/06.
- He also presided over a remarkable run of unbeaten home games at Chelsea, with the 3-2 win against Birmingham City FC on the opening day of the Premier League season last month setting a record in surpassing Liverpool's 63-match streak which was set between 1978 and 1981. Chelsea are now unbeaten in 67 league games at Stamford Bridge. He also added the English FA Cup in May and two League Cup victories, in addition to two UEFA Champions League semi-finals.
- "I am very proud of my work at Chelsea and my decision in May 2004 to come to England was an excellent one," said **Mourinho**. "It was a beautiful and rich period of my career. I want to thank all Chelsea supporters for what I believe is a never-ending love story. I wish great success to the club, a club that will be forever connected to me for some historic moments. I wish the players happiness in football and in their family life."
- Chelsea subsequently named former Israel coach **Grant** as their new manager. The 52-year-old had been working for the club as their director of football and will now take sole command, with assistant manager **Steve Clarke** continuing in his post. Grant coached Maccabi Petach-Tikva FC, Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC and Maccabi Haifa FC in Israel before taking charge of the national team in 2002. He subsequently joined Portsmouth FC as technical director before taking on his previous position at Chelsea in July 2007. The 44-year-old Clarke, meanwhile, played over 300 games for Chelsea and was also Mourinho's assistant.
- "I love attacking football," **Grant** said on taking charge. "Football became entertainment in the last few years, more than before. It has always been like this but in the last few years it has become more than this when you see how the top clubs are playing. You can't always play good football, but it's our ambition to play positive football that wins lots of titles."
- **Grant's** reign got off to a losing start, however, as Premier League champions Manchester United FC recorded a 2-0 victory at Old Trafford on 23 September. Chelsea lost **John Obi Mikel** to a 31st-minute red card for a tackle on Patrice Evra and United took full advantage in added time at the end of the first half, Carlos Tévez heading in. Louis Saha then added a second from the penalty spot in the 89th minute after he had been tripped by **Tal Ben Haim**.
- "With everything that has happened, I'm happy with the players," said **Grant**. "[The departure of Mourinho] was a shock to everyone, including me, but the players have responded well. I have been happy with their support. As a manager I am happy. They are more than OK and are trying to do their best on and off the pitch. The only thing we can do is to work hard to put the team in the place they deserve to be. Chelsea have a good team but it is easy to say."

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- **Pizarro** returned after a calf injury to come on as a late substitute but **Drogba** (knee), **Frank Lampard** and **Wayne Bridge** (both thigh) and **Carvalho** and **Michael Ballack** (both ankle) remained on the sidelines.
- Chelsea's last three managers have all started their reigns with Premier League fixtures against United. **Claudio Ranieri** took charge for the first time in a 3-3 draw at Old Trafford on 23 September 2000 while **Mourinho's** first league engagement was a 1-0 home defeat of United on 15 August 2004.
- Chelsea cruised into the fourth round of the English League Cup on Wednesday night with a 4-0 win at Hull City FC, **Scott Sinclair** opening the scoring shortly before half-time. **Salomon Kalou** doubled the advantage early in the second period and completed the win in the closing stages after **Steve Sidwell** had made it 0-3 with his first competitive goal for the club.
- "I liked the goals we scored a lot," said Grant. "All were from combinations of passes between many players. Some of the movement and some of the passes were quick with good finishing after good movement. On this base we can continue. Our target is to score many goals, as many as possible. Managers come and go. The only thing that stays are the supporters so the commitment needs to be first of all to the club. I thought today we saw players that had a high level of commitment. It has not been an easy time for them but it is important the players have a good attitude because we know how to play."
- **Sinclair** and **Carlo Cudicini** made their first starts of the season at Hull, while **Bridge** returned as a second-half substitute after summer surgery on a hip injury.
- **Ballack**, who has been left out of Chelsea's UEFA Champions League squad, is optimistic of an imminent return from an ankle injury that has kept him on the sidelines since 22 April. "I'm working very hard and I hope I can come back soon," said the German international. "I'm running in a sandpit, which is very hard for the condition but it is good for the foot so it is part of my programme now. It's much better; I've been waiting a long time to be at this level, so I'm happy. I hope in a few weeks I will be back on the pitch."
- Chef **Marco Pierre White** opened his new restaurant, named 'Marco' after his son, at Stamford Bridge on 25 September. "I'm very excited," said White. "It's understated, it's comfortable, intimate, romantic, luxurious and delicious. I've lived in Chelsea for the last 26 years, I grew up on these streets and so Chelsea is the only place I could have chosen."
- Eight Chelsea players have been included in the 55-man shortlist for the FIFPro World XI Player Awards: **Petr Čech**, **Carvalho**, **Ashley Cole**, **Terry**, **Michael Essien**, **Lampard**, **Claude Makelele** and **Drogba**. The winners will be announced on 5 October.

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Squad list

Valencia

No	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Santiago Cañizares	ESP	18.12.1969	37	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	62	-	101	-
13	Timo Hildebrand	GER	05.04.1979	28	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	8	-	50	-
25	Juan Luis Mora	ESP	12.07.1973	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
33	Vicente Guaita	ESP	10.01.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defenders															
3	Manuel Fernandes	POR	05.02.1986	21	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	8	1	19	1
4	Raúl Albiol	ESP	04.09.1985	22	-	2	-	1	-	6	-	11	1	20	1
5	Carlos Marchena	ESP	31.07.1979	28	-	2	-	1	-	4	-	17	-	38	-
12	Marco Caneira	POR	09.02.1979	28	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	9	1	31	1
15	Iván Helguera	ESP	28.03.1975	32	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	82	15	89	16
20	Alexis	ESP	04.05.1985	22	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
23	Luis Miguel	POR	04.01.1980	27	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	10	-	25	1
24	Emiliano Moretti	ITA	11.06.1981	26	-	2	-	1	-	6	1	16	-	33	1
26	David Lombán	ESP	05.06.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Manuel Castellano	ESP	27.03.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Arturo	ESP	14.03.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Jaume	ESP	18.03.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
2	Sunny	ESP	17.09.1988	19	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	2	-
6	David Albelda	ESP	01.09.1977	30	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	41	-	71	2
8	Rubén Baraja	ESP	11.07.1975	32	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	34	7	61	12
11	Jaime Gavilán	ESP	12.05.1985	22	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	6	-
14	Vicente	ESP	16.07.1981	26	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	30	2	55	6
16	Juan M. Mata	ESP	28.04.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
17	Joaquín	ESP	21.07.1981	26	-	2	-	1	-	5	1	15	-	28	1
22	Edu	BRA	15.05.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	3	30	3
27	Carles Martínez	ESP	03.01.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Marc Castells	ESP	12.03.1990	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Ángel Montoro	ESP	25.06.1988	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Ximo	ESP	27.01.1990	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
7	David Villa	ESP	03.12.1981	25	-	2	1	1	1	5	2	10	5	30	11
9	Fernando Morientes	ESP	05.04.1976	31	-	2	1	1	-	6	2	84	33	105	41
10	Miguel Ángel Angulo	ESP	23.06.1977	30	-	1	-	1	-	6	-	50	7	81	14
18	Nikola Žigić	SRB	25.09.1980	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	17
19	Javier Arizmendi	ESP	03.03.1984	23	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	1	-	4	-
21	David Silva	ESP	08.01.1986	21	-	2	1	1	-	6	2	10	2	14	4
32	Aser Pierrick	CMR	18.02.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coach															
-	Quique Sánchez Flores	ESP	02.02.1965	42	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	11	-	21	-

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Chelsea

No	Player	Nat.	DoB	Age	BL	Current season						All-time			
						UCLQ		UCL		League		UCL		UEFA	
						Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls	Pld	Gls
Goalkeepers															
1	Petr Čech	CZE	20.05.1982	25	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	39	-	43	-
23	Carlo Cudicini	ITA	06.09.1973	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	21	-
40	Hilário	POR	21.10.1975	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	16	-
Defenders															
3	Ashley Cole	ENG	20.12.1980	26	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	55	1	55	1
6	Ricardo Carvalho	POR	18.05.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	49	3	59	3
18	Wayne Bridge	ENG	05.08.1980	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	2	20	2
20	Paulo Ferreira	POR	18.01.1979	28	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	32	-	45	-
22	Tal Ben Haim	ISR	31.03.1982	25	-	-	-	1	-	7	-	1	-	18	-
26	John Terry	ENG	07.12.1980	26	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	41	4	49	6
33	Alex	BRA	17.06.1982	25	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	27	4	29	4
35	Juliano Belletti	BRA	20.06.1976	31	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	21	1	43	1
41	Sam Hutchinson	ENG	03.08.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Midfielders															
4	Claude Makelele	FRA	18.02.1973	34	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	84	1	114	4
5	Michael Essien	GHA	03.12.1982	24	-	-	-	1	-	6	1	35	7	35	7
8	Frank Lampard	ENG	20.06.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	43	11	61	17
9	Steve Sidwell	ENG	14.12.1982	24	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
10	Joe Cole	ENG	08.11.1981	25	-	-	-	1	-	6	-	30	3	37	3
12	John Obi Mikel	NGA	22.04.1987	20	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	9	-	9	-
15	Florent Malouda	FRA	13.06.1980	27	-	-	-	1	-	8	1	37	5	37	5
24	Shaun Wright-Phillips	ENG	25.10.1981	25	-	-	-	1	-	7	-	13	1	19	2
42	Lee Sawyer	ENG	10.09.1989	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forwards															
7	Andriy Shevchenko	UKR	29.09.1976	31	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	90	47	109	60
11	Didier Drogba	CIV	11.03.1978	29	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	34	17	44	23
14	Claudio Pizarro	PER	03.10.1978	28	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	49	14	67	22
21	Salomon Kalou	CIV	05.08.1985	22	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	12	-	21	4
Coach															
-	Avram Grant	ISR	06.02.1955	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-

Head coach

Valencia CF: Quique Sánchez Flores

Date of birth: 2 February, 1965

Nationality: Spanish

Playing career: Valencia CF, Real Madrid CF, Real Zaragoza

Coaching career: Real Madrid CF (youth coach), Getafe CF, Valencia CF

Quique Sánchez Flores promised to use Rafael Benítez's blueprint to guide Valencia CF back to the top when he took over at Mestalla in summer 2005. Having spent nine years there as a player between 1986 and 1994, he had been a popular choice to replace Claudio Ranieri and soon set about further ingratiating himself to the Valencia fans. Filling the gaps in a leaky defence certainly helped but it was the signing of David Villa from Real Zaragoza that had the biggest impact, the striker scoring 25 goals in 37 league games as the side finished third.

It was enough to secure a UEFA Champions League place after a rare season in the European wilderness for Valencia. Sánchez Flores continued to make his mark in summer 2006, allowing former stars Pablo Aimar and Mista to depart and further fulfilling the role of a young, ambitious coach that had convinced the club to bring him on board 12 months earlier. A year later and Valencia were reflecting on a season of progress in which they reached the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals and finished fourth in the Primera División.

He represented something of a risk for the side after only turning his hand to coaching in 2003 but Sánchez Flores had already enjoyed success, leading Real Madrid CF to the youth title before moving across the city to newly-promoted senior side Getafe CF who enjoyed an impressive campaign. It further vindicated his decision to give up a career as a media pundit and having enjoyed some success as a player at Valencia, Madrid and Zaragoza and made 15 international appearances for Spain, Sánchez Flores is making waves as a coach.

Chelsea FC: Avram Grant

Date of birth: 6 May 1955

Nationality: Israeli

Coaching career: Hapoel Petach-Tikva FC, Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC (twice), Hapoel Haifa FC, Maccabi Haifa FC, Israel, Chelsea FC

Despite never playing professionally, Avram Grant has developed a reputation for tactically astute football, enhancing players' careers and bringing trophies to the clubs he has managed. He began his coaching career with the youth team at Hapoel Petach-Tikva FC going on to become head coach at the club. He led the small Israeli side to second place in the league in 1990/91 before moving to Maccabi Tel-Aviv FC.

The club had been in decline for some time but Grant bucked the trend, bringing the league title back to Tel-Aviv in 1992 and 1995. He returned to the club in 1996, having spent a season with Hapoel Haifa FC but did not manage to repeat the success of his first spell. However, Grant rediscovered his touch as coach at Maccabi Haifa FC, winning back-to-back championships in 2001 and 2002.

Those achievements earned him a shot as coach of the Israeli national team. The country became one of the most resilient forces in European football. They were unbeaten in the qualifying campaign for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, narrowly missing out on a first trip to the finals since 1970, but despite that showing Grant quit his position. The Russian-speaking coach became friends with Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich and, after a spell as technical director at Portsmouth FC, joined the London club as director of football in July 2007. He moved into the manager's chair following the departure of José Mourinho in September.

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Match officials

Referee	Roberto Rosetti (ITA)
Assistant referees	Alessandro Griselli (ITA), Paolo Calcagno (ITA)
Fourth official	Antonio Damato (ITA)
UEFA Delegate	Benny Jacobsen (DEN)
UEFA Referee observer	Marc Batta (FRA)

Referee

Name	Nat.	DoB	UCL	UEFA
Roberto Rosetti	ITA	18.09.1967	8	22

Roberto Rosetti has bags of experience for one so young. The Italian official has for over a decade been a veteran of Serie A, one of the toughest leagues in the world in terms of pressure on coaches, players and referees. The qualified doctor and physiotherapist from Turin earned his FIFA badge in 2002, shortly before being selected for the UEFA European Under-17 Championship final round in Denmark.

Rosetti refereed the second leg of the 2003 Coppa Italia final between AC Milan and AS Roma before heading to the 2003 FIFA U-20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. Having been assigned to various UEFA youth and club competition fixtures, Rosetti also took charge of FIFA World Cup qualifying fixtures before his selection by the world governing body for the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup.

The 2005/06 season was something of a watershed as he stepped up to the UEFA Champions League group stage – handling two games – before being named as one of nine European referees for the FIFA World Cup. Rosetti, at 1.9m the tallest referee at the Germany finals, was in the middle for four matches culminating in Spain's knockout defeat by France. His appointment on Matchday 3 meant he was the only official to have worked on the first three matchdays of the 2006/07 edition, although he sat out on Matchday 4. When relaxing away from football, he enjoys reading, watching movies and playing tennis.

UEFA Champions League matches involving teams from the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage		Res.	Venue
28.09.2005	UCL	GS	RSC Anderlecht - Real Betis Balompié	0-1	Brussels
22.08.2006	UCL	QR3	Maccabi Haifa FC - Liverpool FC	1-1	Kiev
27.09.2006	UCL	GS	Werder Bremen - FC Barcelona	1-1	Bremen
17.10.2006	UCL	GS	FC Steaua Bucureşti - Real Madrid CF	1-4	Bucharest
06.03.2007	UCL	1/8	Chelsea FC - FC Porto	2-1	London
11.04.2007	UCL	QF	Liverpool FC - PSV Eindhoven	1-0	Liverpool

Other matches - Matches involving teams from either of the two countries involved in this match

Date	Comp.	Stage		Res.	Venue
01.05.2002		GS - FT	England - Denmark	0-0	Hvidovre
27.07.2002	UIC	R3	Aston Villa FC - FC Zürich	3-0	Birmingham
19.09.2002	UCUP	R1	MKE Ankaragücü - Deportivo Alavés	1-2	Ankara
06.11.2003	UCUP	R2	FC København - RCD Mallorca	1-2	Copenhagen
15.11.2003	U21	P-O	Sweden - Spain	2-0	Halmstad
21.10.2004	UCUP	GS	Panionios NFC - Newcastle United FC	0-1	Athens
14.04.2005	UCUP	QF	AZ Alkmaar - Villarreal CF	1-1	Alkmaar
15.02.2006	UCUP	1/16	FC Schalke 04 - RCD Espanyol	2-1	Gelsenkirchen
30.03.2006	UCUP	QF	FC Basel 1893 - Middlesbrough FC	2-0	Basle
27.06.2006	WC	1/8	Spain - France	1-3	Hannover
11.10.2006	EURO	QR	Croatia - England	2-0	Zagreb

Domestic information

Valencia CF (Primera División)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	26/08/07	Villarreal CF (H)	0-3	
League	02/09/07	UD Almeria (A)	2-1	Morientes 47, Moretti 81
League	15/09/07	Real Valladolid CF (H)	2-1	Morientes 25, Silva 90
League	23/09/07	Real Betis Balompié (A)	2-1	Miguel 69, Joaquín 83
Lineups: Hildebrand, Albiol, Marchena, Helguera, Miguel, Moretti, Manuel Fernandes, Joaquín (Sunny 86), Silva, Villa (Morientes 78), Arizmendi (Angulo 71)				
League	26/09/07	Getafe CF (H)	2-1	Silva 16, Villa 32
Lineups: Hildebrand, Albiol, Alexis, Miguel, Moretti, Albelda, Baraja (Manuel Fernandes 61), Joaquín (Arizmendi 89), Silva, Villa, Morientes (Angulo 68)				
League	30/09/07	RC Recreativo de Huelva (A)	1-0	Villa 5
Lineups: Hildebrand, Albiol, Marchena (Albelda 80), Helguera, Miguel, Moretti, Baraja, Silva, Villa (Morientes 83), Angulo, Arizmendi (Joaquín 63)				
League	06/10/07	RCD Espanyol (H)		
League	21/10/07	RC Deportivo La Coruña (A)		
League	28/10/07	Sevilla FC (A)		
League	31/10/07	Real Madrid CF (H)		
League	04/11/07	RCD Mallorca (A)		
League	11/11/07	Real Murcia CF (H)		
League	25/11/07	Real Racing Club Santander (A)		
League	02/12/07	Athletic Club Bilbao (H)		
League	09/12/07	CA Osasuna (A)		
League	16/12/07	FC Barcelona (H)		
League	23/12/07	Real Zaragoza (A)		
League	06/01/08	Levante UD (H)		
League	13/01/08	Club Atlético de Madrid (A)		
League	20/01/08	Villarreal CF (A)		
League	27/01/08	UD Almeria (H)		
League	03/02/08	Real Valladolid CF (A)		
League	10/02/08	Real Betis Balompié (H)		
League	17/02/08	Getafe CF (A)		
League	24/02/08	RC Recreativo de Huelva (H)		
League	02/03/08	RCD Espanyol (A)		

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Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Real Madrid CF	6	5	1	0	14	3	16
2	Villarreal CF	6	5	0	1	9	5	15
3	Valencia CF	6	5	0	1	9	7	15
4	FC Barcelona	6	4	2	0	13	4	14
5	Club Atlético de Madrid	6	3	2	1	11	4	11
6	RCD Espanyol	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
7	RCD Mallorca	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
8	Real Murcia CF	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
9	Real Zaragoza	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
10	RC Recreativo de Huelva	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
11	Real Racing Club Santander	6	2	2	2	3	7	8
12	UD Almeria	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
13	Sevilla FC	5	2	0	3	11	9	6
14	CA Osasuna	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
15	Real Betis Balompíe	6	1	2	3	7	8	5
16	Athletic Club Bilbao	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
17	Real Valladolid CF	6	1	2	3	8	13	5
18	RC Deportivo La Coruña	6	1	2	3	3	8	5
19	Getafe CF	6	0	2	4	3	9	2
20	Levante UD	6	0	1	5	3	14	1

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Chelsea FC (Premier League)

Comp.	Date	Opponent	Res.	Goalscorers
League	12/08/07	Birmingham City FC (H)	3-2	Pizarro 17, Malouda 31, Essien 50
League	15/08/07	Reading FC (A)	2-1	Lampard 47, Drogba 50
League	19/08/07	Liverpool FC (A)	1-1	Lampard 62(pen)
League	25/08/07	Portsmouth FC (H)	1-0	Lampard 31
League	02/09/07	Aston Villa FC (A)	0-2	
League	15/09/07	Blackburn Rovers FC (H)	0-0	
League	23/09/07	Manchester United FC (A)	0-2	
Lineups: Čech, Ferreira, Ben Haim, Terry, A. Cole, Makelele, Essien, Mikel, J. Cole (Pizarro 76), Shevchenko (Kalou 59), Malouda (Wright-Phillips 69)				
Cup	26/09/07	Hull (A)	4-0	Sinclair 37, Kalou 48, 81, Sidwell 52
Lineups: Cudicini, Belletti, Ben Haim, Terry, A. Cole (Bridge 65), Wright-Phillips (J. Cole 49), Essien (Makelele 73), Sidwell, Kalou, Sinclair, Pizarro				
League	29/09/07	Fulham FC (H)	0-0	
Lineups: Čech, Belletti, Terry (Alex 46), Ben Haim, A. Cole (Malouda 77), Sidwell, Makelele, J. Cole, Kalou, Drogba, Shevchenko (Pizarro 54)				
League	07/10/07	Bolton Wanderers FC (A)		
League	20/10/07	Middlesbrough FC (A)		
League	27/10/07	Manchester City FC (H)		
League	03/11/07	Wigan Athletic FC (A)		
League	10/11/07	Everton FC (H)		
League	24/11/07	Derby County FC (A)		
League	01/12/07	West Ham United FC (H)		
League	08/12/07	Sunderland AFC (H)		
League	15/12/07	Arsenal FC (A)		
League	22/12/07	Blackburn Rovers FC (A)		
League	26/12/07	Aston Villa FC (H)		
League	29/12/07	Newcastle United FC (H)		
League	01/01/08	Fulham FC (A)		
League	12/01/08	Tottenham Hotspur FC (H)		
League	19/01/08	Birmingham City FC (A)		
League	30/01/08	Reading FC (H)		
League	02/02/08	Portsmouth FC (A)		
League	09/02/08	Liverpool FC (H)		
League	23/02/08	Tottenham Hotspur FC (A)		
League	01/03/08	West Ham United FC (A)		

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Pos.	Clubs	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1	Arsenal FC	7	6	1	0	16	4	19
2	Manchester United FC	8	5	2	1	7	2	17
3	Manchester City FC	8	5	1	2	11	6	16
4	Liverpool FC	7	4	3	0	12	2	15
5	Everton FC	8	4	1	3	10	8	13
6	Portsmouth FC	8	3	3	2	15	12	12
7	Blackburn Rovers FC	7	3	3	1	7	5	12
8	Chelsea FC	8	3	3	2	7	8	12
9	Aston Villa FC	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
10	Newcastle United FC	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
11	West Ham United FC	7	3	1	3	9	7	10
12	Wigan Athletic FC	8	2	2	4	8	8	8
13	Birmingham City FC	8	2	2	4	7	10	8
14	Middlesbrough FC	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
15	Sunderland AFC	8	2	2	4	8	13	8
16	Fulham FC	8	1	4	3	12	14	7
17	Reading FC	8	2	1	5	9	18	7
18	Tottenham Hotspur FC	8	1	3	4	14	16	6
19	Bolton Wanderers FC	8	1	2	5	9	13	5
20	Derby County FC	8	1	2	5	5	21	5

UEFA information

EXCO meeting

UEFA President Michel Platini has outlined his reasons for writing to European government heads to express his concern about the threat posed by "the malign and ever-present influence of money" within European football. "We are asking the political authorities to help us," Mr Platini said after the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Istanbul last Thursday. "Football is an enormous social resource which has taken on an enormous dimension, but it exists in no treaty. A lot of money has come into football because of its popularity, but since a lot of money has come into the game, not many rules have come alongside this money, and this is what I regret. We are approaching political people to help us to be able to regulate ourselves in the interests of football."

Turning to the issues of violence and racism in stadiums, Mr Platini repeated the policy of zero tolerance towards those who engage in such conduct. "We can take strong decisions – if we have to exclude supporters from stadiums or suspend clubs, we will, until the day that we have people in the stadiums who come to watch football, not to cause problems." Mr Platini also said he would applaud any referee who, in agreement with the match delegate, decided to stop a game because of racist conduct in stadiums. "Some things are fundamental in life," he explained. "A football match is important but there is conduct that we cannot tolerate in the stadiums."

Coach symposium

UEFA Champions League playing trends was a key theme at the seventh UEFA Symposium for Coach Education Directors in London from 24-26 September. UEFA technical director Andy Roxburgh reviewed last season's competition, based on thoughts by the Technical Study Group, which included Arsène Wenger, Marcello Lippi, Gérard Houllier and Valeri Gazzaev as well as the participants at the recent UEFA Elite Club Coaches Forum in Nyon.

Roxburgh said: "The UEFA Champions League is a benchmark for football standards and a yardstick for coaches." The central core was the small margin between winning and losing – in the knockout stage, two thirds of games were decided by a single goal and Wenger was quoted as saying: "In 2006/07 each of the 16 teams could have gone to the final." Among the trends noted were the importance of quick breaks and counterattacks, the high proportion of late goals – in the final 15 minutes – how adaptable teams needed to be, the vital importance of concentration, how well-organised every side was, and the crucial nature of specialist set-piece takers, combination play, pressing, keeping the ball and individual flair.

Healthy hearts

Liverpool FC captain Steven Gerrard and his former manager Gérard Houllier joined UEFA in supporting the World Heart Federation's World Heart Day initiative on Sunday. "More than skill, technique or athleticism, football is about heart," said Gerrard. "That's why I'm encouraging everyone to team up for healthy hearts for this year's World Heart Day - to eat healthily, take regular exercise and avoid smoking." Sports psychologist Jacques Crevoisier added: "Working at the very top level of football, I know the importance teamwork plays. By working together you are much more likely to achieve your goals."

Key dates

The 2007/08 UEFA Champions League group stage will be played over six matchdays - 18/19 September, 2/3 October, 23/24 October, 6/7 November, 27/28 November and 11/12 December. The first knockout round will follow over two legs on 19/20 February and 4/5 March after the draw in Nyon on 21 December. The draw for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final will be staged on 14 March. The last eight will be played on 1/2 and 8/9 April before the semi-finals on 22/23 and 29/30 April. The 2008 UEFA Champions League final will be played in Moscow on 21 May, before UEFA EURO 2008™ kicks off in Austria and Switzerland on 7 June.

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Match-by-match lineups - Group B

Club	Pld	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Valencia CF	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Rosenborg BK	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Chelsea FC	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
FC Schalke 04	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Date	Match	Result	Stadium, Venue
18.09.2007	Chelsea - Rosenborg	1-1	Stamford Bridge, London
Goals: 0-1 Koppinen 24 , 1-1 Shevchenko 63			
Chelsea: Čech, A. Cole (Ben Haim 74), Makelele, Essien, Shevchenko, J. Cole (Wright-Phillips 74), Malouda, Kalou, Terry, Alex, Belletti			
18.09.2007	Schalke - Valencia	0-1	Arena AufSchalke, Gelsenkirchen
Goals: 0-1 Villa 63			
Valencia: Cañizares, Albiol, Marchena, Albelda, Villa (Sunny 90), Morientes (Arizmendi 80), Angulo (Joaquín 75), Helguera, Silva, Miguel, Moretti			
03.10.2007	Valencia - Chelsea	-	Mestalla Stadium, Valencia
03.10.2007	Rosenborg - Schalke	-	Lerkendal, Trondheim
24.10.2007	Rosenborg - Valencia	-	Lerkendal, Trondheim
24.10.2007	Chelsea - Schalke	-	Stamford Bridge, London
06.11.2007	Valencia - Rosenborg	-	Mestalla Stadium, Valencia
06.11.2007	Schalke - Chelsea	-	Arena AufSchalke, Gelsenkirchen
28.11.2007	Rosenborg - Chelsea	-	Lerkendal, Trondheim
28.11.2007	Valencia - Schalke	-	Mestalla Stadium, Valencia
11.12.2007	Chelsea - Valencia	-	Stamford Bridge, London
11.12.2007	Schalke - Rosenborg	-	Arena AufSchalke, Gelsenkirchen

Competition facts

• **UEFA Champions League:** Group stage milestones

Holders AC Milan will be keen to avoid becoming the first defending champions to fail to get through a group stage since the UEFA Champions League began. (This record, like the others, includes the seasons between 1999/00 and 2002/03 that featured a second group stage)

In 1992/93, FC Barcelona were the reigning European Champion Clubs' Cup holders and were beaten 4-3 on aggregate in the second round by PFC CSKA Moskva.

S.S. Lazio goalkeeper Marco Ballotta is the oldest player to compete in the UEFA Champions League, taking to the field at Olympiacos CFP on 18 September 2007 at the age of 43 years and 168 days. The custodian shattered the record held by Alessandro Costacurta, the AC Milan defender who played against AEK Athens FC in the 2006/07 season at the age of 40 years and 211 days. Laurent Blanc is the oldest player to score in the competition, aged 36 years and 339 days having found the net for Manchester United FC in their 3-2 defeat of Olympiacos CFP on 23 October 2002.

Celestine Babayaro is the youngest player to have appeared in the UEFA Champions League. He was 16 years and 87 days when he started for RSC Anderlecht against FC Steaua Bucuresti on 23 November 1994. He was then sent off in the 37th minute.

In 2006/07, PFC Levski Sofia joined 1. FC Košice in being the only team to have played in the UEFA Champions League and never picked up a point. The Slovakian side have not returned to the competition since losing all six games in their only campaign to date in 1997/98. Only five other teams have ever gone through a single group stage campaign without picking up a point namely SK Rapid Wien (05/06), RSC Anderlecht (04/05), FC Spartak Moskva and Bayer 04 Leverkusen (02/03, first and second group stage respectively) and Fenerbahçe SK (01/02, first group stage).

Levski also conceded 17 goals in their six outings last term, just two short of the record number let in during a group stage set by Ferencvárosi TC (19) in the 1995/96 campaign.

Before their 3-1 win against Sporting Clube de Portugal on Matchday 6 of the 2006/07 campaign, FC Spartak Moskva went 22 games without a win in the competition, surpassing the unwanted record set by AEK Athens FC on Matchday 3 of the same campaign.

The lowest total for a team qualifying from the group stage is seven points. The first to do it, since three points for a win was introduced in 1995/96, were Legia Warszawa that same season before Bayer 04 Leverkusen managed it in 1999/00 and Liverpool FC in 2001/02. FC Lokomotiv Moskva and eventual finalists Juventus both progressed with seven points in 2002/03, a feat achieved by Rangers FC and Werder Bremen in 2005/06.

• **UEFA Champions League:** Did you know?

Domestic champions: This season's competition features 13 domestic league winners from last season, but only Group G of the eight groups features four domestic title-holders - namely PSV Eindhoven, FC Internazionale Milano, Fenerbahçe SK and PFC CSKA Moskva. Alongside the 13 champions, there are ten runners-up and six third-placed finishers. The holders AC Milan, Arsenal FC, Valencia CF are the only clubs in the group stage to have finished in fourth place in their domestic league championship.

Consecutive participations: This season, Manchester United FC have extended their consecutive participation in the UEFA Champions League to 12, a record in the competition. PSV Eindhoven, Olympiacos CFP and Real Madrid CF are making their eleventh consecutive appearances, one ahead of Arsenal FC.

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Knockout streak: In qualifying for the 2006/07 knockout stage, Real Madrid CF surpassed Manchester United FC's record of nine consecutive seasons (which ended in 2005/06) in advancing past the group stage. Madrid have featured in the knockout phase every time since the 1996/97 campaign. Madrid, have won the competition three times in the last ten years while they advanced as far as the semi-finals twice and the quarter-finals twice. However, in the last three seasons their interest in the competition has ended at the first knockout round.

European return: Of all 32 clubs, S.S. Lazio, Rosenborg BK and VfB Stuttgart did not participate in a UEFA club competition during the 2006/07 season.

Past masters: Six clubs competing in the 2007/08 UEFA Champions League were involved in the competition when it started during the 1992/93 season. Olympique de Marseille were champions, beating AC Milan in the final, while PSV Eindhoven, PFC CSKA Moskva, FC Porto and Rangers FC all participated in the group stage. In addition, VfB Stuttgart, AEK Athens FC and FC Barcelona were knocked out in the two rounds preceding the group stage that marked the competition proper.

Long road for debutants: Six clubs have advanced to the group stage from the European Champion Clubs' Cup second qualifying round including one of this season's two debutants, SK Slavia Praha. They are joined by Rangers, FC Shakhtar Donetsk, FC Steaua Bucuresti, Beşiktaş JK and Rosenborg as clubs who had to play four matches to claim their place in the group stage of the competition. A debutant has not won the competition since Juventus in 1995/96, the Italian side becoming the third club to achieve this following Olympique de Marseille (1992/93, first UEFA Champions League final) and AFC Ajax (1994/95).

Sevilla FC join Slavia in competing in the UEFA Champions League for the first time, although both clubs have previous experience of the European Champion Clubs' Cup.

No qualifiers: Of the 32 clubs involved in the group stage, only AS Roma and FC Schalke 04 have yet to play a qualifying round match in order to reach the UEFA Champions League. Roma are making their fifth appearance in the competition, Schalke their third.

Pedigree: Four of the former winners of the competition since it included a group stage element from the 1992/93 season are not participating in this season's UEFA Champions League, namely AFC Ajax (1994/95), Juventus (1995/96), BV Borussia Dortmund (1996/97) and FC Bayern München (2000/01). Of the last ten winners of the competition, Real Madrid CF (three), Manchester United FC, AC Milan (two), FC Porto, Liverpool FC and FC Barcelona, only FC Bayern München are not involved. Only two winners from the last ten UEFA Cup finals are not involved in this season's UEFA Champions League group stage, namely Parma FC (1998/99) and Feyenoord (2001/02). Liverpool and Porto have won both competitions in the past decade, while the remaining UEFA Cup winners in that time are FC Internazionale Milano, Galatasaray SK, Valencia CF, PFC CSKA Moskva and Sevilla FC (two).

• **UEFA Champions League:** All-time records

Biggest wins

7-0: Juventus v Olympiacos CFP (10.12.2003)

7-1: Manchester United FC v AS Roma (10.04.2007)

6-0: Olympique de Marseille v PFC CSKA Moskva (17.03.1993)

6-0: Leeds United AFC v Beşiktaş JK (26.09.2000)

6-0: Real Madrid CF v KRC Genk (25.09.2002)

Most goals in a game

8-3: AS Monaco FC v RC Deportivo La Coruña (05.11.2003)

7-2: Paris Saint-Germain FC v Rosenborg BK (24.10.2000)

7-2: Olympique Lyonnais v Werder Bremen (08.03.2005)

Only one team has scored more than five goals in an away game, Manchester United FC, winning 6-2 at Brøndby IF in 1998/99.

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Leading scorer in a season

12: Ruud van Nistelrooy (Manchester United FC, 2002/03)
Kaká finished as top scorer in 2006/07 with ten goals for AC Milan.

Four goals in a match

Marco van Basten (**AC Milan** 4-0 IFK Göteborg, 25.11.1992)
Simone Inzaghi (**S.S. Lazio** 5-1 Olympique de Marseille, 14.03.2000)
Dado Pršo (**AS Monaco FC** 8-3 RC Deportivo La Coruña, 05.11.2003)
Ruud van Nistelrooy (**Manchester United FC** 4-1 AC Sparta Praha, 03.11.2004)
Andriy Shevchenko (Fenerbahçe SK 0-4 **AC Milan**, 23.11.2005)
Of these four-goal hauls, Dado Pršo's against Deportivo was the quickest. He scored his first goal 26 minutes into the game and his fourth just 23 minutes later.

Fastest goal in a match

10.03 secs: Roy Makaay (**FC Bayern München** 2-1 Real Madrid CF, 07.03.2006)
20.07 secs: Gilberto (PSV Eindhoven 0-4 **Arsenal FC**, 25.09.2002)
20.12 secs: Alessandro Del Piero (Manchester United FC 3-2 **Juventus**, 01.10.1997)
21.20 secs: Clarence Seedorf (FC Schalke 04 2-2 **AC Milan**, 28.09.2005)
25.40 secs: Marek Kincl (Club Brugge KV 3-2 **SK Rapid Wien**, 02.11.2005)

Fastest hat-tricks

9 mins: Mike Newell (**Blackburn Rovers FC** 4-1 Rosenborg BK, 06.12.1995)
19 mins: Marco Simone (Rosenborg BK 1-4 **AC Milan**, 25.09.1996)
19 mins: Dado Pršo (**AS Monaco FC** 8-3 RC Deportivo La Coruña, 05.11.2003)
21 mins: Sigurd Rushfeldt (**Rosenborg BK** 3-0 Galatasaray SK, 21.10.1998)
21 mins: Simone Inzaghi (**S.S. Lazio** 5-1 Olympique de Marseille, 14.03.2000)

Youngest players to score

17 years, 195 days: Peter Oforiquaye (Rosenborg BK 5-1 **Olympiacos CFP**, 01.10.1997)
17 years, 218 days: Cesc Fabregas (**Arsenal FC** 5-1 Rosenborg BK, 07.12.2004)
17 years, 241 days: Martin Klein (Panathinaikos FC 2-1 **AC Sparta Praha**, 27.02.2002)
17 years, 353 days: Karim Benzema (**Olympique Lyonnais** 2-1 Rosenborg BK, 06.12.2005)
18 years, 61 days: Sammy Kuffour (**FC Bayern München** 2-2 FC Spartak Moskva, 02.11.1994)
18 years, 70 days: Andriy Shevchenko (**FC Dynamo Kyiv** 1-4 FC Bayern München, 07.12.1994)
Peter Oforiquaye became the youngest player to score, but Celestine Babayaro is still the youngest to appear, having begun RSC Anderlecht's game against FC Steaua Bucuresti on 23 November 1994, aged 16 years and 87 days.

Appearances: UEFA Champions League

Note: This list considers group stage to final only;
108 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
108 Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid CF, Fenerbahçe SK)
105 Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)
103 David Beckham (Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
103 Oliver Kahn (FC Bayern München)
98 Gary Neville (Manchester United FC)
98 Luís Figo (FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano)
96 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United FC)
96 Paul Scholes (Manchester United FC)
95 Clarence Seedorf (AFC Ajax, Real Madrid CF, AC Milan)
90 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
86 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC, FC Barcelona)

Goals: UEFA Champions League

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57 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
50 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
47 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
43 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC, FC Barcelona)
39 Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus, AC Milan)
37 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)

Appearances: UEFA club competition

168 Paolo Maldini (AC Milan)
137 Luís Figo (Sporting, FC Barcelona, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano)
134 Oliver Kahn (Karlsruher SC, FC Bayern München)
130 Frank de Boer (AFC Ajax, FC Barcelona, Galatasaray SK)
127 Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (FC Bayern München, FC Internazionale Milano, Servette FC)
126 Clarence Seedorf (AFC Ajax, UC Sampdoria, Real Madrid CF, FC Internazionale Milano, AC Milan)
122 Zinédine Zidane (AS Cannes, FC Girondins de Bordeaux, Juventus, Real Madrid CF)
121 Alessandro Costacurta (AC Milan)
121 Phillip Cocu (SBV Vitesse, PSV Eindhoven, FC Barcelona)
120 Roberto Carlos (FC Internazionale Milano, Real Madrid CF, Fenerbahçe SK)

Goals: UEFA club competition

62 Gerd Müller (FC Bayern München)
60 Filippo Inzaghi (Parma FC, Juventus, AC Milan)
60 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
59 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
56 Eusébio (SL Benfica)
54 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
52 Henrik Larsson (Feyenoord, Celtic FC, FC Barcelona, Manchester United FC, Helsingborgs IF)
51 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Juventus, Arsenal FC, FC Barcelona)
50 Alfredo Di Stéfano (Real Madrid CF)
47 Carlos Santillana (Real Madrid CF)

Goals: UEFA Champions League/European Champion Clubs' Cup

Note: This list considers the all-time goalscorers list in both competitions including all qualifying round matches.

57 Raúl González (Real Madrid CF)
56 Andriy Shevchenko (FC Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan, Chelsea FC)
54 Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven, Manchester United FC, Real Madrid CF)
49 Alfredo Di Stéfano (Real Madrid CF)
47 Eusébio (SL Benfica)
43 Thierry Henry (AS Monaco FC, Arsenal FC, FC Barcelona)
43 Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus, AC Milan)

Last updated: 27.09.2007

Team facts

Valencia CF

UEFA club competition milestones

• Valencia have a fine tradition in European competition. In 1979/80 they defeated Arsenal FC 5-4 on penalties to win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup after the teams had played out a goalless draw.

• Valencia's most recent triumph arrived in the UEFA Cup in 2003/04 when a 2-0 win gave them the trophy against Olympique de Marseille in Gothenburg.

UEFA Champions League milestones

• They went close to winning the UEFA Champions League in both of their first two seasons. In 1999/00 and 2000/01 they were beaten in the final by Real Madrid CF and FC Bayern München respectively. Despite losing 3-0 against their Spanish rivals they were only denied by penalty kicks a year later against Bayern after the match in Milan had ended 1-1 after 120 minutes.

UEFA club competition honours

- UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1979/80
- UEFA Cup: 2003/04
- UEFA Super Cup: 1980, 2004
- UEFA Intertoto Cup: 1998

Ten-year record

2006/07: UEFA Champions League - quarter-finals

2005/06: UEFA Intertoto Cup - finalists

2004/05: UEFA Cup - Round of 32 (having transferred from the UEFA Champions League group stage)

2003/04: UEFA Cup - winners

2002/03: UEFA Champions League - quarter-finals

2001/02: UEFA Cup - quarter-finals

2000/01: UEFA Champions League - runners-up

1999/00: UEFA Champions League - runners-up

1998/99: UEFA Cup - second round

1997/98: Did not compete in UEFA club competition

2006/07 season

Domestic record: Valencia finished fourth in highly competitive end to the Spanish season, enough to earn them a shot at the UEFA Champions League third qualifying round. They were ten points adrift of Real Madrid CF and FC Barcelona but only five behind third-placed Sevilla FC. Villarreal CF were four points further back in fifth. Valencia lost to Getafe CF in the Spanish Cup last 16.

European record: Valencia returned to the UEFA Champions League for the fifth time in eight years thanks to a 3-1 aggregate victory against FC Salzburg in the third qualifying round. They then won Group D ahead of AS Roma, FC Shakhtar Donetsk and Olympiacos CFP, recording four victories and a draw from their six outings. A 2-2 first-leg draw at FC Internazionale Milano proved pivotal in the first knockout round as Valencia went through by that score on away goals before going down 3-2 over two legs to Chelsea FC in the last eight.

Key facts

UEFA club competition

• Pld: 190 W: 95 D: 50 L: 45 GF: 296 GA: 180

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

• Pld: 65 W: 32 D: 19 L: 14 GF: 97 GA: 60

Valencia CF - Chelsea FC

MATCH PRESS KIT

Wednesday 3 October 2007 - 20.45CET

Mestalla Stadium, Valencia

European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

• Pld: 79 W: 40 D: 22 L: 17 GF: 119 GA: 68

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

0-5: SK Sturm Graz v Valencia CF

07.03.2001, UEFA Champions League second group stage

6-1: Valencia CF v Legia Warszawa

01.11.2001, UEFA Cup second round second leg

5-0: Valencia CF v FC Chernomorets Novorossyisk

27.09.2001, UEFA Cup first round second leg

• Biggest home win

6-1: Valencia CF v Legia Warszawa (see above for details)

5-0: Valencia CF v FC Chernomorets Novorossyisk (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-5: SK Sturm Graz v Valencia CF (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

7-0: Karlsruher SC v Valencia CF

02.11.1993, UEFA Cup second round second leg

• Heaviest home defeat

1-5: Valencia CF v FC Internazionale Milano

20.10.2004, UEFA Champions League group stage

1-5: Valencia CF v SSC Napoli

16.09.1992, UEFA Cup first round first leg

• Heaviest away defeat

7-0: Karlsruher SC v Valencia CF (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

• Biggest win

0-5: SK Sturm Graz v Valencia CF (see above for details)

• Biggest home win

6-2: Valencia CF v FC Basel

02.10.2002, UEFA Champions League first group stage

• Biggest away win

0-5: SK Sturm Graz v Valencia CF (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

1-5: Valencia CF v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

• Heaviest home defeat

1-5: Valencia CF v FC Internazionale Milano (see above for details)

Valencia CF - Chelsea FC

MATCH PRESS KIT

Wednesday 3 October 2007 - 20.45CET

Mestalla Stadium, Valencia

- Heaviest away defeat
3-0: Real Madrid CF v Valencia CF
24.05.2000, UEFA Champions League final (neutral venue)
- **3-0:** Manchester United FC v Valencia CF
08.12.1999, UEFA Champions League second group stage

Last updated: 19.09.07

Chelsea FC

UEFA club competition milestones

- Two UEFA Cup Winners' Cup successes remain the stand-out achievements although Chelsea have three times reached the semi-finals of Europe's premier club competition in the past four editions.

UEFA Champions League milestones

- Having had to wait until 1999/00 to make their bow, Chelsea have proved their worth with last-four appearances in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2006/07. They have never failed to get beyond the group stage in their five other attempts.

UEFA club competition honours

- UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1970/71, 1997/98
- UEFA Super Cup: 1998

Ten-year record

- 2006/07:** UEFA Champions League - semi-finals
- 2005/06:** UEFA Champions League - first knockout round
- 2004/05:** UEFA Champions League - semi-finals
- 2003/04:** UEFA Champions League - semi-finals
- 2002/03:** UEFA Cup - first round
- 2001/02:** UEFA Cup - second round
- 2000/01:** UEFA Cup - first round
- 1999/00:** UEFA Champions League - quarter-finals
- 1998/99:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup - semi-finals
- 1997/98:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup - winners

2006/07 season

Domestic record: After two successive Premier League titles, Chelsea had to settle for second place behind Manchester United FC. They finished six points adrift but 15 ahead of nearest rivals Liverpool FC. Some revenge came with a 1-0 FA Cup final win against United at the new Wembley. It was their fourth success in the competition, and followed a 2-1 defeat of Arsenal FC in the English League Cup final.

European record: Chelsea were drawn in a tough Group A with the champions of Spain and Germany, FC Barcelona and Werder Bremen, along with the Bulgarian title-holders PFC Levski Sofia. Four victories and a draw from their six outings provided a first-placed finish in their group, two points clear of European champions Barcelona. FC Porto and Valencia CF were each dispatched 3-2 on aggregate in the first knockout round and quarter-finals respectively before Liverpool FC knocked Chelsea out in the semi-finals. A 1-1 draw over the two legs was followed by Liverpool's 4-1 win on penalties in the Anfield return.

Key facts

UEFA club competition

- Pld: 111 W: 60 D: 28 L: 23 GF: 187 GA: 89

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final)

- Pld: 58 W: 29 D: 16 L: 14 GF: 86 GA: 51

Valencia CF - Chelsea FC

MATCH PRESS KIT

Wednesday 3 October 2007 - 20.45CET

Mestalla Stadium, Valencia

European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

• Pld: 63 W: 32 D: 17 L: 14 GF: 94 GA: 51

Records

UEFA club competition

• Biggest win

13-0: Chelsea FC v FC Jeunesse Hautcharage
29.09.1971, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first round second leg

• Biggest home win

13-0: Chelsea FC v FC Jeunesse Hautcharage (see above for details)

• Biggest away win

0-8: FC Jeunesse Hautcharage v Chelsea FC
15.09.1971, UEFA Cup Winners' Cup first round first leg

• Heaviest defeat

5-1: FC Barcelona v Chelsea FC (aet)
18.04.2000, UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg

• Heaviest home defeat

0-2: Chelsea FC v Beşiktaş JK
01.10.2003, UEFA Champions League group stage

• Heaviest away defeat

5-1: FC Barcelona v Chelsea FC (see above for details)

UEFA Champions League (group stage to final only)

• Biggest win

0-5: Galatasaray SK v Chelsea FC
20.10.1999, UEFA Champions League group stage

• Biggest home win

4-0: Chelsea FC v Real Betis Balompíe
19.10.2005, UEFA Champions League group stage

• Biggest away win

0-5: Galatasaray SK v Chelsea FC (see above for details)

• Heaviest defeat

5-1: FC Barcelona v Chelsea FC (see above for details)

• Heaviest home defeat

0-2: Chelsea FC v Beşiktaş JK (see above for details)

• Heaviest away defeat

5-1: FC Barcelona v Chelsea FC (see above for details)

Last updated: 19.09.2007

Competition information

UEFA's most prestigious club competition was originally created as the European Champion Clubs' Cup for the 1955/56 season, before its revamping as the UEFA Champions League in 1992.

• **Format:** The UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco on 31 August saw the 32 teams divided into eight groups of four. Clubs from the same association could not be drawn into the same group. Each club plays one home and one away match against each other club in its group. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat. If two or more teams are equal on points on completion of the group matches, the following criteria are applied to determine the rankings.

- a) higher number of points obtained in the group matches played among the teams in question;
- b) superior goal difference from the group matches played among the teams in question;
- c) higher number of goals scored away from home in the group matches played among the teams in question;
- d) superior goal difference from all group matches played;
- e) higher number of goals scored;
- f) higher number of coefficient points accumulated by the club in question as well as its association, over the previous five seasons.

The eight group-winners and eight runners-up of the group stage qualify for the first knockout round, to be played over two legs on 19/20 February and 4/5 March 2007. The clubs that finish this stage in third position in their group move into the Round of 32 of the UEFA Cup. The clubs that finish this stage in fourth position in their group are eliminated from UEFA club competition for the season. This year's UEFA Champions League final is in Moscow on 21 May 2008.

• **Locally-trained players rule:** In February 2005, UEFA announced the 'A' list that teams submit for UEFA club competitions will continue to be limited to 25 players, and from season 2007/08, at least six places will be reserved for players trained by the club's own football academy of which half can be players trained by other clubs from within the same association of the said club. The 'B' list will also continue to exist - involving an unlimited number of Under-21 players who have been at the club for two seasons. In 2006/07, the number of locally-trained players required began at four but the current six will rise to eight in 2008/09, with up to half of each figure allowed to be association trained.

A club-trained player is defined as a player who has been registered for a minimum of three seasons with the club between the age of 15 and 21, whereas an association-trained player is one who has been registered for at least three seasons by the club or by other clubs affiliated to the same association between the age of 15 and 21. UEFA is concerned some clubs are not training enough of their own players, but simply taking them from elsewhere. The proposed measures have the objective of creating a better balance in domestic competitions, preventing clubs from simply 'hoarding' players in squads and creating a system whereby locally-trained players would be given a greater opportunity to play regularly in club sides - ensuring a large reservoir of talent for national teams as a consequence.

• **Player registration:** UEFA regulations state that for all UEFA Champions League matches from the start of the first knockout round, a club may register a maximum of three new eligible players within their squad of 25 for the remaining matches in the current competition. Such registration must be completed by 1 February at the latest. One player from the above quota of three who has played UEFA club competition matches for another competing club in the current season may exceptionally be registered, provided that the player has not been fielded by another club in the UEFA Champions League this season.

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Legend

:: All-time statistics

The all-time record of the competing clubs in UEFA club competition.

UEFA club competition: These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in UEFA club competition defined as the European Champion Clubs' Cup, the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup (1960-1999), the UEFA Cup, the UEFA Super Cup (1973 -), the UEFA Intertoto Cup and the European/South American Cup (1960-2004). Matches in the Inter-Cities' Fairs Cup and the 1972 Super Cup are included only for information as these were not held under UEFA auspices, while the FIFA Club World Cup is excluded.

Goals for/against: Goals totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (eg. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored from the penalty mark during a penalty shoot-out after a tie ended in a draw.

:: Squad list

The eligible list of players ordered first by playing position and then numeric order.

Current season - UCLQ: Total UEFA Champions League appearances in qualifying rounds only.

Current season - UCL: Total UEFA Champions League appearances from the group stage onwards prior to the current matchday.

All-time - UCL: Total appearances in the UEFA Champions League from the 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

All-time - UEFA: Total appearances in UEFA club competition (as defined above) including all qualifying round matches. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records in the competition.

Age: based on the date press kit was last updated

BL: Booking list (*: misses next match if booked, S: suspended)

:: Match officials

The match officials appointed to officiate the fixture.

UCL: Total matches officiated in the UEFA Champions League from 1992/93 season, group stage to final only. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

UEFA: Total matches officiated in UEFA club competition including all qualifying round matches. Matches where the official has acted as the fourth official are not included in these statistics. These are the official statistics considered valid for communicating official records.

:: Competitions

Club competitions

ECCC: European Champion Clubs' Cup/UEFA Champions League

UCUP: UEFA Cup • **UCWC:** UEFA Cup Winners' Cup

SCUP: UEFA Super Cup • **UIC:** UEFA Intertoto Cup

National team competitions

EURO: UEFA European Football Championship • **U21:** UEFA European Under-21 Championship

WC: FIFA World Cup • **CONFCUP:** Confederation Cup

FRIE: Friendly internationals • **U21FRIE:** Under-21 friendly internationals

U21: UEFA European Under-21 Championship

U19: UEFA European Under-19 Championship • **U18:** UEFA European Under-18 Championship

:: Competition stages

F: Final

GS: Group stage

GS1: First group stage

GS2: Second group stage

KO1: First knockout round

PR: Preliminary round

QF: Quarter-finals

QR: Qualifying round

QR1: First qualifying round

QR2: Second qualifying round

FT: Final tournament

QR3: Third qualifying round

R1: First round

R2: Second round

R3: Third round

R4: Fourth round

SF: Semi-finals

1/8: Eighth-finals

1/16: Sixteenth-finals

1st: first leg

2nd: second leg

P-O: Play-off

:: Other Abbreviations

AP: Appearances

Comp.: Competition

D: Drawn

DoB: Date of birth

GA: Goals against

GF: Goals for

L: Lost

Nat.: Nationality

N/a: Not Applicable

No: Number

Pld: Matches played

Pos.: Position

Pts: Points

R: Sent off (red card)

Res.: Result

W: Won

Y: Booked

Y/R: Sent off (yellow card then direct red)

:: Statistics

(-) : Denotes player substituted

(*) : Denotes player dismissed/sent off

(+) : Denotes player introduced

(+/-) : Denotes player introduced and substituted