

PREMIER LONDON DERBIES

YEARBOOK 2019-2020.



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1. Welcome to the First Premier London Derbies Yearbook for 2019-20 season.

Hello and welcome to the first Premier London derbies year book based on the Premier London derbies (PLDs) Friday blog for the season 2019-2020. Premier London derbies are those matches played between the London Clubs in the Premier League each season. Together these Clubs and matches form what we have called the PLDs mini-league. The PLDs weekly blog (www.premierlondonderbies.com) reviews the scores, statistics and incidents in each Premier League London derby; previews the next upcoming one; and comments on topics of football interest which are current and effect football in general and our London Clubs in particular.

This first year book summarizes the results and stats of the matches between the London Clubs **Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Tottenham Hotspur** and **West Ham United** playing against one another in the PLDs mini-league for the 2019-20 season; where each is in the PLDs “all-time” league table; how each performed against the rest of the Premier League Clubs in the 2019-20 season; and where each stands in the ranking of all the Premier League Clubs in the 28 seasons of the Premier League since its inception in the 1992-1993 season. The 2020-21 season is well underway already and we shall look briefly ahead at that. Enjoy the read!

2. Overview of the Premier London Derbies season 2019-2020.

The 2019-20 season was the 28th of the Premier League and what a season it was. If nothing more it may well become known as the longest ever on record. What a season to start a football blog (www.premierlondonderbies.com) but the coronavirus Covid-19 world pandemic and Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system ensured there was no shortage of talking points.

The 2019-20 season started optimistically on Friday 9 August with a match between **Liverpool**, who were to become Champions, and newly promoted **Norwich City** who were relegated again at the end of the season. The first PLDs match of the season was a north London one between **Arsenal** and **Tottenham Hotspur** on 1 September 2019. As cases of Covid-19 rapidly increased in the New Year, and hospital admissions grew along tragically with the death toll, it became obvious that social distancing was needed to the point of a Lockdown, and mass spectator events and sports could not continue. The Premier League season was therefore paused on 7 March, restarted on 19 June, and finally finished on Sunday 26 July 2020, with a full fixture list which included **Crystal Palace v Tottenham Hotspur** as the last PLDs match of the season, almost 11 months after the first.

A season which ended without spectators in our grounds; in which the power of the TV Channels and the importance of advertising revenue became apparent; and in which livelihoods and the future of the whole “football pyramid” as we know it was threatened. If that had not been enough we also had the influence of VAR, in its first season of use in the Premier League, to contend with. It had already provided many

contentious talking points when stadiums were full, and that continued amongst the broadcasting punditry and fans during Lockdown in front of their TV screens. When we take into account the points effected by VAR decisions either awarding goals for in matches or disallowing goals against then there were potential changes for all our Clubs. **Tottenham Hotspur** benefitted the most from VAR decisions going their way, without which they would have had 6 less points and dropped 4 places to 10th and out of European football. **West Ham United** suffered most, having 5 goals for disallowed which would have given them 6 points more and put them well clear of relegation worries in 13th. **Chelsea** would have gained a point and a position making UEFA Champions League qualification more comfortable. **Arsenal** would have lost 2 points and 1 place, but qualified for the Europa League through their record 14th F.A. Cup win. **Crystal Palace** would have had 1 less point and 1 lower place with therefore less Premier League prize money.

VAR is here to stay and globally FIFA itself has taken over its running from the International Football Association Board who make football's laws, and there are changes for this season. More importantly Covid-19 is here to stay as well and although the professional game continues there are still no spectators nor any sign of when there will be.

3. Premier League London Derbies results for season 2019-2020.

CLUB	Arsenal	Chelsea	Crystal Palace	Tottenham Hotspur	West Ham United	Watford
Arsenal	W. 3 D. 5 L. 2 GF. 18 GA. 16	1 v 2	2 v 2	2 v 2	1 v 0	3 v 2
Chelsea	2 v 2	W. 7 D. 1 L. 2 GF. 20 GA. 11	2 v 0	2 v 1	0 v 1	3 v 0
Crystal Palace	1 v 1	2 v 3	W. 3 D. 4 L. 3 GF. 11 GA. 15	1 v 1	2 v 1	1 v 0
Tottenham Hotspur	2 v 1	0 v 2	4 v 0	W. 4 D. 4 L. 2 GF. 16 GA. 11	2 v 0	1 v 1
West Ham United	1 v 3	3 v 2	1 v 2	2 v 3	W. 4 D. 0 L. 6 GF. 15 GA. 17	3 v 1
Watford	2 v 2	1 v 2	0 v 0	0 v 0	1 v 3	W. 0 D. 4 L. 6 GF. 8 GA. 18

4. Final Positions for Clubs in PLDs mini-league season 2019-2020.

CLUB	WIN	DRAW	LOST	G.F .	G.A	G. Diff	Points
Chelsea (4)	3H/4A	1H	1H/1A	20	11	+9	22
Tottenham Hotspur (6)	3H/1A	1H/3A	1H/1A	16	11	+5	16
Arsenal (8)	2H/1A	2H/3A	1H/1A	18	16	+2	14
Crystal Palace (14)	2H/1A	2H/2A	1H/2A	11	15	-4	13
West Ham United (16)	2H/2A	None	3H/3A	15	17	-2	12
Watford (19)	None	3H/1A	None	8	18	-10	4

The number in brackets shows the Club's final position in the Premier League.

Congratulations to **Chelsea** the champions of the PLDs mini-league for the second season in a row. **Tottenham Hotspur** were again second and now have more wins than defeats in the all-time PLDs ranking. **West Ham United** despite doing the double over the Blues slipped down to 5th, changing places with **Crystal Palace**. The **Arsenal** were again mid table in 3rd but with 3 points less than last season like Spurs. **Watford** were bottom of this league and relegated as next to bottom of the

Premier League, so we shall not have to decide whether they are a true PLDs Club for now.

5. All time Premier London Derbies record at start of season 2020-21.

CLUB	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	POINTS	WIN%
Chelsea	256	132	68	56	464	51.6
Arsenal	256	129	71	56	458	50.4
Tottenham Hotspur	256	92	75	89	351	35.9
West Ham United	220	69	48	103	255	31.4
Crystal Palace	105	25	25	55	100	23.8
Fulham	129	25	32	72	107	19.4

This table includes only the Clubs in the Premier League for this season 2020-2021. Watford, relegated at the end of last season, are not usually included in a London derbies all-time record. Other London Clubs who have been in the Premier League are Charlton Athletic (10W, 1D, 5L), Queens Park Rangers (7W, 4D, 3L), and A.F.C. Wimbledon (8W, 6D, 2L). Presumably only money is likely to bring them back again.

The top three Clubs are the only ones to have been in the Premier League since its beginning in 1992, but it looks like it will always be between Chelsea and Arsenal to top this all-time record since their win percentages (win%) are so much higher than those of Tottenham Hotspur or West Ham United. Crystal Palace played their 100th

Premier League London derby in the 2019-2020 season and won their 100th point in their last match against Spurs. Fulham are back in the Premier League and will play PLDs matches again this season after their promotion as EFL Championship play-off final winners.

6. London Clubs v The Rest in the Premier League for season 2019-20.

CLUB	WON	DRAWN	LOST	G.F .	G.A	G.DIFF	POINTS
Chelsea (4)	8H/5A	2H/3A	4H/6A	49	43	+6	44
Tottenham Hotspur (6)	9H/3A	2H/5A	3H/6A	45	36	+9	43
Arsenal (8)	8H/3A	4H/5A	2H/6A	38	32	+6	42
Crystal Palace (14)	4H/4A	3H/3A	7H/7A	20	35	-15	30
Watford (19)	6H/2A	3H/3A	5H/9A	28	46	-18	30
West Ham United (16)	6H/2A	4H/5A	6H/7A	34	45	-11	27

The number in brackets after the Club's name shows their final position in the Premier League.

Watford are included in this table and got more points from "The Rest" than **West Ham United** but were relegated. The PLDs match on 24 August 2020 after the season restart, which the Hornets lost 1-3 at home to the Hammers really was a "6-pointer". The Hammers 6 points taken from **Chelsea**, top of both this table and the PLDs mini-league, were also vital. The top 3 positions in this table are the same as in the PLDs final table but closer in points. **Tottenham Hotspur's** North London derby win made all the difference for them in the Premier League, as did **Chelsea's**

double over Spurs. **Arsenal** finished strongly in the Premier League after the restart, and with their F.A. Cup win found an easier way into the **Europa League** than Spurs in the end. **Crystal Palace** have an interestingly symmetrical record home and away, having lost momentum with the Covid-19 enforced break, and playing badly after restart. It looks overall that playing London derby matches does influence the chances of one of our Premier London derbies Clubs getting into the “top 6” for European football, winning the Premier League, or avoiding relegation.

7. London Clubs in the first 28 seasons of the Premier League (1992 to 2020).

Only 6 Clubs have played all the 1076 matches of the 28 seasons of the Premier League since its first season in 1992-93, and that includes 3 of our PLDs Clubs, **Arsenal**, **Chelsea** and **Tottenham Hotspur**. Of the other 3 PLDs Clubs currently in the Premier League **West Ham United** have played 920 matches over 24 seasons, **Fulham** 532 in 14 seasons, and **Crystal Palace** 426 in 11 seasons. The table here shows the top 10 Clubs ranked on points gained from their matches played, together with **Wimbledon** (316 matches in 8 seasons), **Charlton Athletic** (304 in 8), and **Queen's Park Rangers** (278 in 7), as other London Clubs who have played in the Premier League, together with **Watford** (226 in 7). In all 49 different Clubs have played in the Premier League, and Southampton are the only other Club to have played more than 20 seasons (810 matches in 21 seasons).

CLUB	PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOAL DIFF	POINTS	WIN %	POINTS/ GAME
Manchester United (1)	1076	666	236	174	+1090	2234	61.9	2.08
Arsenal (2)	1076	579	274	223	+840	2011	53.8	1.87
Chelsea (3)	1076	578	263	235	+783	1997	53.7	1.86
Liverpool (4)	1076	561	265	250	+780	1948	52.1	1.81
Tottenham Hotspur(5)	1076	462	268	346	+255	1654	42.9	1.54

Everton (6)	1076	390	306	380	+34	1476	36.2	1.37
Manchester City (7)	886	417	199	270	+466	1450	47.1	1.64
Newcastle United (8)	958	357	245	356	-6	1316	37.3	1.37
Aston Villa (9)	962	325	283	354	-95	1258	33.8	1.31
West Ham United (10)	920	300	237	383	-218	1137	32.6	1.24
Southampton (11)	810	253	221	336	-159	980	31.2	1.21
Fulham (17)	532	157	141	234	-174	612	29.5	1.15
Crystal Palace (19)	426	121	106	198	-158	472	28.4	1.11
Wimbledon (24)	316	99	94	123	-88	391	31.3	1.24
Charlton Athletic (26)	304	93	82	129	-100	361	30.6	1.19
Queens Park Rangers (29)	278	81	65	132	-92	308	29.1	1.11
Watford (33)	266	67	61	138	-165	262	25.2	0.98

Any ranking based on points won will of course reflect the number of matches played and on this basis the “top 6” in the table is what it is. It reflects the work of a limited number of people besides the players. First and foremost is Sir Alex Ferguson, Manager of top ranked Club Manchester United between 1992 and 2013, and therefore responsible for the majority of their massive 2,234 points total.

Arsenal's Arsene Wenger managed more Premier League matches than Sir Alex (828 v 810) over the years 1996 to 2018, and again is the main driver in their second spot. For third placed **Chelsea** the major influence in their success is Roman Abramovich's investment, with perhaps their best known Manager Jose Mourinho

only contributing to 211 of their matches in his two spells there. He is ranked 10th in the order of matches managed in the Premier League with 334. David Moyes of **West Ham United** (4th with 549) and Steve Bruce of Newcastle United (7th with 434) are the only other Managers in that top ten list still managing in the Premier League.

Such is the points gap between Manchester United and the rest that it is difficult to see them being overtaken even in the next 10 to 15 seasons unless there is a complete collapse in English football structure or investment is withdrawn from them. The much narrower points gaps between **Arsenal** in 2nd, **Chelsea** in 3rd and Liverpool in 4th may lead to changes in their positions over the next 3 to 5 seasons. Absent from the top 6 are Manchester City who have only played 23 seasons and 886 matches in the Premier League but are closing fast in points on 6th placed Everton with 1450 points won against the Toffees 1476. If, however, we look at other ways of ranking in this table City have already overtaken them and 5th placed **Tottenham Hotspur** on percentage of games played won ("Win%") and points won per game played (pts/game). Manchester United still reign supreme on all these criteria being the only Club with a Win% of more than 60% and more than 2 points per game average.

8. Goal Scorers and Assists in the Premier London Derbies season 2019-20.

Although **Chelsea** scored the most goals (20) it was **Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang** who top scored in the PLDs matches with 8 goals only one of which was a penalty. He also scored those precious 2 goals in the F.A. Cup Final v **Chelsea** and was second in the Premier League rankings with 22 goals in total. Well done and no wonder **Arsenal** wanted to keep him! Joint second were *Jordan Ayew* who scored 5 of **Crystal Palace's** 11 PLDs goals, and *Willian Borges da Silva* was **Chelsea's** top scorer also with 5 of which 3 were penalties.

The top 10, or rather top 11, PLDs scorers for the 2019-2020 season are here:

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Arsenal) **8 (1 penalty)**

Jordan Ayew (Crystal Palace) **5**

Willian (Chelsea) **5 (3 penalties)**

Tammy Abraham (Chelsea) **4**

Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur) **4 (1 penalty)**

Heung-Min Son (Tottenham Hotspur) **4**

Michail Antonio (West Ham United) **3**

Olivier Giroud (Chelsea) **3**

Sebastien Haller (West Ham United) **3**

Alexandre Lacazette (Arsenal) **3**

Christian Pulisic (Chelsea) **3**

Five other players scored 2 goals each; 30 players scored a single goal each; and there were 3 own goals, all in favour of Spurs by Palace's *Patrick Van Aanholt*, the Hammer's *Tomas Soucek*, and the Blues' *Anton Rudiger*, who had a mixed season against Spurs in all. That makes 88 goals in the PLDs matches for 2019-2020.

Regards assists, for which more credit is now being given, only 3 PLDs players were in the Premier League top 20 for the 2019-2020 season being: *Heung-Min Son* (Spurs) 4th equal with 10; *Willian* (Chelsea) 11th equal on 7; and teammate *Cesar Azpilicueta* 19th equal on 6 assists. Manchester City's *Kevin De Bruyne* on 20 assists, with champions Liverpool's fullbacks *Trent Alexander-Arnold* second (13) and *Andrew Robertson* third (12).

9. Reds and Yellows in the Premier London Derbies season 2019-20.

We sometimes hear that there is more passion and commitment in the football played in the North East and North West and particularly in the great Liverpool and Manchester derby rivalries. If yellow and red cards are an indicator then in this last Premier League season there were only 3 reds, none of them for particularly heinous crimes, in the PLDs matches. One might expect David Luiz of **Arsenal** to be one of our 3 players, particularly away at his old club **Chelsea**, where he took Tammy Abraham out from behind for a straight red card and penalty. The other 2 players are more surprising being **Arsenal's** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang for a forward's misplaced, rather than reckless, tackle on **Crystal Palace's** Max Meyer, and **Tottenham Hotspur's** Heung-Min Son. Neither player had a yellow card in other PLDs matches.

Son's red card was surrounded in drama and controversy. In a home match he was tackled by **Chelsea's** Anton Rudiger and appeared to "climb up" him with his feet when getting up. Rudiger fell as if pole-axed and Son received a straight red. Later in the game Rudiger complained to the Referee that he had heard racist chants against him. The media jumped heavily on the anti-racist stance against Spurs, but subsequent investigations by both the home Club and the Metropolitan Police led to only a visiting fan being incriminated.

If Son and Spurs were unlucky with their red card they made up for it with yellows as the table/list here shows:

CLUB	HOME YELLOW	AWAY YELLOW	TOTAL	PLAYERS	CARDS/ PLAYER
Chelsea	6	9	15	9	1.67
Crystal Palace	10	9	19	9	2.1
West Ham United	10	10	20	13	1.54
Arsenal	14	10 (2 red)	24	14	1.71
Watford	14	14	28	13	2.15
Tottenham Hotspur	19 (1 red)	14	33	17	1.94

Chelsea, winners of the PLDs in 2019-20 on points, top this table too with the best disciplinary record having only 15 yellows awarded against them. Only 9 players received yellows and 6 of those 2 each, one of whom was Jorginho who had the third worse record in the Premier League with 10 yellows in all. **Crystal Palace** had the second best disciplinary record with again 9 players receiving 19 yellows, but strangely the player who received most (12) in the Premier League was their Captain Luka Milivojevic. Perhaps not enough passion in PLDs matches?

Tottenham Hotspur were bottom of this mini-league with 19 home match yellows and 33 in total. 17 players were involved with Harry Winks, doing his midfield destroyer job, getting 5 to add to his 4 in the Premier League. Also on 9 yellows and

thereby joint 8th in the Premier League were Watford's Abdoulaye Doucoure and Will Hughes with the relegated Hornets second to bottom of this table too.

West Ham United and **Arsenal** were mid-table despite the Gunners' 2 red cards. The Hammers had the lowest "cards per player" score with 20 yellows between 13 players that is 1.54 each. Their highest yellows scorer in the full Premier League was Issa Diop joint 17th on 8 along with the Gunners' Alexandre Lacazette and Spurs' Moussa Sissoko, all by coincidence French. Another Gunner, Granit Xhaka, lived up to his hardman and name reputation with 10 in the Premier League but only 2 in the PLDs reviewed here.

All in all not too bad individual or Club disciplinary records, so maybe the passion goes elsewhere, but certainly not amongst the crowds after the 2019-20 season restarted.

10. The season ahead.

With the necessary extension of the 2019-2020 Premier League due to the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic the 2020-2021 season started late on the weekend of 12/13 September 2020. A shortened new season means there has been fixture congestion already. The demands of TV broadcasting, on which football so much depends now, have led to spreading the matches over the 4 days of Friday to Monday, and mid-week too.

The PLDs matches started on the first Saturday when newly promoted **Fulham** welcomed **Arsenal** to Craven Cottage. It was not a happy return to the Premier League or PLDs for the Cottagers going down 0-3! PLDs have been coming thick and fast, and here are the fixture dates, results and Blog posting dates (www.premierlondonerbies.com) where you can read more of the season so far.

12 September 2020: **Fulham 0 v 3 Arsenal**, (Blog 18 September 2020)
<https://premierlondonerbies.com/the-arsenal-up-and-running-and-ready-to-go-again/>

19 September 2020: **Arsenal 2 v 1 Westham United** (Blog 25 September 2020)
<https://premierlondonerbies.com/arsenal-capitalize-on-west-hams-bad-luck/>

3 October 2020: **Chelsea 4 v 0 Crystal Palace** (Blog 9 October 2020)
<https://premierlondonerbies.com/chelsea-and-jorginho-jump-to-it/>

18 October 2020: **Tottenham Hotspur 3 v 3 West Ham United** (Blog 23 October 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/welcome-back-gareth-bale-plus-ca-change/>

24 October 2020: **Fulham 1 v 2 Crystal Palace** (Blog 30 October 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/wilfried-zaha-begins-to-show-his-worth/>

7 November 2020: **West Ham United 1 v 0 Fulham** (Blog 13 November 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/additional-time-is-fulhams-undoing/>

29 November 2020: **Chelsea 0 v 0 Tottenham Hotspur** (Blog 4 December 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/stalemate-in-roman-abramovichs-1000th-chelsea-match/>

6 December 2020: **Tottenham Hotspur 2 v 0 Arsenal** (Blog 11 December 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/spurs-striking-duo-leave-arsenal-behind/>

13 December 2020: **Crystal Palace 1 v 1 Tottenham Hotspur** (Blog 18 December 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/palace-share-the-points-first-with-spurs-and-the-n-west-ham/>

15 December 2020: **West Ham United 1 v 1 Crystal Palace** (Blog 18 December 2020)

<https://premierlondonderbies.com/palace-share-the-points-first-with-spurs-and-the-n-west-ham/>

21 December 2020: **Chelsea 3 v 0 West Ham United** (Blog 22 December 2020)
<https://premierlondonderbies.com/chelsea-back-in-the-top-5-of-fapl/>

26 December 2020: **Arsenal 3 v Chelsea 1** (Blog 01 January 2021)
<https://premierlondonderbies.com/as-january-comes-are-arsenal-looking-another-way/>

There was to be a 13th PLDs match in 2020 on the evening of 30 December when **Tottenham Hotspur** were due to play **Fulham**. However in the afternoon, amid a national worsening of the Covid-19 pandemic, the match had to be postponed with **Fulham** players and staff affected. Only 12 PLDs matches have been played in 2020, with 18 more hopefully to come in 2021. “Keep Safe”, enjoy your football, and here’s to a happier and healthier New Year!

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