

PREMIER LONDON DERBIES

THIRD YEARBOOK 2021-22.



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Contents

1. The Third Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Year Book for the 2021-22 season.
2. Summary of Results for PLDs Matches for Season 2021-22.
3. PLDs Final Table for Season 2021-22.
4. All-Time Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Points and Position Table at End of Season 2021-22.
5. PLDs Clubs v 'The Rest' in the Premier League Season 2021-22.
6. PLDs Goal Scorers and Assists for Season 2021-22.
7. PLDs 'Reds and Yellows' for Season 2021-22.
8. PLDs Players in Tony Cascarino's 'Team of the Week' Season 2021-22.
9. The 2022-23 Premier League Season So Far.

1. The Third Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Year Book for the 2021-22 Season.

Welcome to the Third Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Year Book for the Premier League (PL) 2021-22 season and year 2022. Once again we are giving you a short statistical summary and review of how our London based Clubs did in the FA PL and our PLDs mini-league, both current and All-Time, and ending with a resume of the current season 2022-23 to date.

Sandwiched between the disruption of the Covid-19 effected PL season 2020-21, and the expectations of the disjointed FIFA men's World Cup in Qatar of the 2022-23 season to come, the PL season of 2021-22 promised some normality. It belonged to **Chelsea** who finished as highest placed London Club in the PL on 3rd with 74 points, and again topped the PLDs mini-league with 7 wins in 10 matches. Congratulations to **Chelsea**.

Chelsea also reached both the FA Cup Final and EFL (English Football League) Final but lost both to **Liverpool** on penalties after 0-0 draws. Were these stigmata of the consequences of Roman Abramovich's ownership and association with President Putin whose Russia had invaded Ukraine in February 2022? It led to a time of embargo on transfers to and from **Chelsea** and home and away match ticket sales. Abramovich put the Club up for sale. In May 2021 at the end of the 20-21 season **Chelsea** had won the UEFA Champions League Final 1-0 v **Manchester City**, Abramovich's 19th trophy, under Head Coach Thomas Tuchel. By September 2022, early in this 2022-23 season, he was gone, along with star European players.

The season 2021-22 welcomed **Brentford** to the PL for the first time being the 50th Club into this top-flight division. Their first match on Friday 13 August 2021 was the opening match of the season and a memorable 2-0 victory over **Arsenal**. Despite a shaky mid-season patch, following which they were galvanised by the return to football of Denmark's Christian Eriksen, **Brentford** finished their first PL season in 13th place on 46 points.

The 2021-22 season brought intense North London rivalry. **Arsenal** recovered from losing their first 3 matches with the best possible tonic – a home North London derby win over **Tottenham Hotspur**. This was **Spurs'** first defeat after 3 straight 1-0 wins but was followed by 2 more PLDs defeats. After 10 matches their new Head Coach the likeable Nuno Espirito Santo was dismissed. **Arsenal**, under Mikel Arteta, went from strength to strength and were leading the **Lilywhites** in the race for 4th place in the PL and UEFA Champions League qualification, until the return North London derby on Thursday 12 May 2022. By then, Antonio Conte was in charge and a 3-0 win followed by 2 more meant **Spurs** finished in 4th place on 71 points. **Arsenal** were 5th on 69, and in the UEFA Europa League.

West Ham United had a season to remember under Manager David Moyes in his second spell at the Club. He had returned at the end of the 2020-21 season to keep the **Hammers** in the PL, and continued that progress in the 2021-22 season. The mid-field duo of Declan Rice and Thomas Soucek powered the team forward, and Michail Antonio and Jarrod Bowen found good goal scoring form. The result was contesting for a European football place throughout the season and finishing in 7th place with 56 points. This gave them a place in the UEFA Europa Conference League – a just reward for a good season.

Crystal Palace had their usual good-in-parts season under Patrick Vieira, finishing 12th with 48 points, a comfortable 10 points away from 17th, but equally 10 points away from a European competition place. Late in the season the **Eagles** met their former manager Roy Hodgson who had been recruited by **Watford** to try to keep them in the PL. **Crystal Palace's** 1-0 win relegated **Watford**. Roy Hodgson's last match in management was at **Chelsea** on 22 May 2022 being the last day of the season. The **Blues** won 2-1 but the wily Hodgson's substitutions had produced the **Hornets'** last PL goal for now. It was also farewell to popular, and just, Referee Mike Dean. Between them these distinguished servants of football had been involved in over 1,500 matches – thank you.

2. Summary of Results for Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Matches for Season 2021-22.

Summary of Results for Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Matches for Season 2021-22.

Away	Arsenal	Brentford	Chelsea	Crystal Palace	Tottenham Hotspur	West Ham United
Home						
Arsenal		2 v 1	0 v 2	2 v 2	3 v 1	2 v 0
		19/2/2022	22/08/2021	18/10/2021	26/09/2021	15/12/21
Brentford	2 v 0		0 v 1	0 v 0	0 v 0	2 v 0
	13/8/21		16/10/2021	12/2/2022	23/4/2022	10/4/22
Chelsea	2 v 4	1 v 4		3 v 0	2 v 0	1 v 0
	20/4/22	1/4/2022		14/8/2021	23/1/2022	24/4/22
Crystal Palace	3 v 0	0 v 0	0 v 1		3 v 0	2 v 3
	4/4/22	21/8/2021	19/2/2022		11/9/2021	1/1/2022
Tottenham Hotspur	3 v 0	2 v 0	0 v 3	3 v 0		3 v 1
	12/5/22	2/12/2021	19/09/2021	26/12/2021		20/3/22
West Ham United	1 v 2	1 v 2	3 v 2	2 v 2	1 v 0	
	1/5/22	3/10/2021	4/12/2021	28/8/2021	24/10/2021	

(This summary excludes any matches against **Watford** who lost all 10 home and away.)

3. F.A. Premier League London derbies (PLDs) Final Table for Season 2021-22 .

Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Final Positions for Season 2021-2022.

<u>Club</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>GD</u>	<u>Points</u>
Chelsea	3H/4A	0H/0A	2H/1A	18	11	+7	21
Arsenal	3H/2A	1H/0A	1H/3A	15	17	-2	16
Brentford	2H/2A	2H/1A	1H/2A	11	7	+4	15
Tottenham Hotspur	4H/0A	0H/1A	1H/4A	12	13	-1	13
Crystal Palace	2H/0A	1H/3A	2H/2A	12	14	-2	10
West Ham United	2H/1A	1H/0A	2H/4A	12	18	-6	10

(This table does not include matches against **Watford** who lost all their 10 fixtures.)

Congratulations to **Chelsea** who are once again Premier London Derbies (PLDs) mini-league Champions for the Premier League (PL) season 2021-22. Their 7 wins giving 21 points means they have pulled further away from **Arsenal** at the top of the 'All-Time Running PLDs table'. **The Blues** also had the best goal difference (GD) being +7 goals. **The Gunners** were in second place with 5 wins and one draw for their 16 points but a negative GD of -2.

The only other Club with a positive GD (of +4) were PL newcomers **Brentford** in a very creditable 3rd place with 15 points. One of their 4 wins (2Home /2Away) was their opening PL match of the 2021-22 season when they beat **Arsenal** 2-0. **Tottenham Hotspur** were as usual 'also-rans' in this mini-league. Their 13 points came from 4 home wins and one away draw. Half of their 10 PLDs matches were lost, 4 away from home, giving GD -1.

Crystal Palace and **West Ham United** each secured 10 points. Although **The Hammers** had 3 wins (2H/1A), to **The Eagles** two (2H), they were bottom due to an inferior negative GD of -6 to -2. All 6 Clubs survived the 2021-22 PL season although **Watford** did not. They lost all 10 of their matches against PLDs Clubs. For the 2022-23 PL season our Clubs will be joined by once again promoted **Fulham** hoping not to become the eternal 'Yo-Yo' club.

4. All-Time Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Points and Position Table at End of Season 2021-22.

All-Time Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Points and Position Table at End of Season 2021-22.

<u>Club</u>	<u>played</u>	<u>won</u>	<u>drawn</u>	<u>lost</u>	<u>points</u>	<u>win%</u>	<u>pts/game</u>
Chelsea	276	146	69	61	507	52.9	1.89
Arsenal	276	140	75	61	495	50.1	1.79
Tottenham Hotspur	276	99	80	97	379	35.9	1.37
West Ham United	240	75	53	112	278	31.3	1.16
Crystal Palace	125	28	33	64	117	22.4	0.94
Brentford	10	4	3	3	15	40.0	1.50

The All-Time PLDs contest continues to be a two-horse race whichever way you look at it. **Chelsea** again topped the PLDs mini-league at the end of the 2021-22 season, and have further pulled away from their closest rivals **Arsenal** at the top of the rolling All-time PLDs table as above. Congratulations to **Chelsea** on being the first London Club to get over 500 Premier League (PL) points from fellow London Clubs in these PLDs matches. **Arsenal** have just kept their win percentage (Win %) above 50%. Both Clubs were close to their overall PL points per game (pts/game) averages of 1.89 in PLDs v 1.95 in PL (**Chelsea**) and 1.79 in PLDs v 1.82 in PL (**Arsenal**).

In contrast third placed **Tottenham Hotspur**, who have not yet had 100 PLDs wins, had a far better PL points per game average at 1.87 than PL one of 1.37 in the 2021-22 season. The same is true of **West Ham United's** averages (1.47 v 1.16 respectively) and those of **Crystal Palace** (1.26 v 0.94). **Brentford's** first PL and PLDs season statistics are too small to compare.

5. Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Clubs v 'The Rest' in the Premier League season 2021-22.

Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Clubs v 'The Rest' in the Premier League Season 2021-22.

<u>Club.</u>	<u>P.L.</u>	<u>won</u>	<u>drawn</u>	<u>lost</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>points</u>
Arsenal	(5/69)	10H/7A	1H/1A	3H/6A	46	31	53
Brentford	(13/46)	5H/4A	1H/3A	8H/7A	37	49	31
Chelsea	(3/74)	6H/8A	7H/4A	1H/2A	58	22	53
Crystal Palace	(12/48)	5H/4A	7H/4A	2H/6A	38	32	38
Tottenham Hotspur	(4/71)	9H/9A	1H/3A	4H/2A	57	27	58
West Ham United	(7/56)	7H/6A	4H/3A	3H/5A	48	33	46

If the results of the 10 PLDs matches each of our London Clubs have played are taken from their full results at the end of the Premier League (PL) season we can see how each Club performed against those PL Clubs based outside London (aka 'The Rest'). An analysis of these figures is shown in the table above.

Once again **Tottenham Hotspur** are the 'Mr Jekyll and Dr Hyde' of the PLDs Clubs when it comes to their performances against fellow PLDs Clubs home and away and 'The Rest'. **Chelsea** may have finished one place higher than **Spurs** in the PL being 3rd with 74 points v 71, but **The Lilywhites** obtained 58 of their 71 points (81.7%) against 'The Rest' as opposed to **The Blues** 53 of 74 (71.6%). Only **West Ham United**, who had a very successful PL season finishing 7th, obtained as high a percentage of their PL points v 'The Rest' (46 of 56 or 82%). It gave them a place in the UEFA Europa Conference League. **Spurs** also had 9 home and 9 away wins against 'The Rest'. This was 1 more than **Arsenal** and 4 more than **Chelsea**.

In their first season in the PL **Brentford** finished 13th with 31 of their 46 points (67.4%) from non-PLDs Clubs. This was the lowest percentage of all the London Clubs. They were also the only PLDs Club with a negative goal difference against the other PL Clubs. **Chelsea** had the best goal difference of +36 goals. **Crystal Palace** finished 2 points and one place above **The Bees** but had to get 38 of their 48 points (78.1%) from 'The Rest'. It all comes back to the dominance of **Arsenal** and **Chelsea** in our PLDs London derby matches.

6. Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Goal Scorers and Assists for Season 2021-22.

Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Goal Scorers and Assists for Season 2021-22.

<u>Club.</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Scorers</u>
Arsenal	15	8 Smith Rowe 4; Saka 3 and 2 assists
Brentford	11	7 Mbeumo 2 and 3 assists; 3 players 2 each
Chelsea	18	13 Thiago Silva 3; Mount 1 goal and 4 assists; Alonso 1 goal and 3 assists
Crystal Palace	12	8 Edouard 4; Olise 1 goal and 2 assists
Tottenham Hotspur	10	3 Son 6; Kane 3 (1 pen) and 2 assists
West Ham United	10	5 Antonio 3 and 2 assists; Lanzini 3 (2 pens)

NB. This table does not include matches against Watford, and highlights top scorers.

The PLDs 'top-scorer' for the season 2021-22 was *Son Heung-min* of **Tottenham Hotspur** with 6 goals on his way to a joint share of the Premier League (PL) 'Golden Boot' with *Mohamed Salah* of **Liverpool** with 23. Son scored in all the home games except against **Chelsea**, and **Spurs'** only PLDs away goal at The Emirates Stadium. He made no assists.

Emile Smith Rowe (**Arsenal**) and *Odsonne Edouard* (**Crystal Palace**) both scored 4, but made no assists. Three players each scored 3 goals and made 2 assists: *Michail Antonio* (**West Ham United**); *Harry Kane* (**Tottenham Hotspur**); and *Bukayo Saka* (**Arsenal**). *Manuel Lanzini* (**West Ham United**) scored 3 goals, 2 of which were penalties. The most assists were made by *Mason Mount* (**Chelsea**) with 4, but he only scored 1 goal.

Four **Brentford** players scored 2 goals each, and as a team they scored more goals away (7) than at home (4). The only PLDs 'own goals' were scored at **Spurs**, by *Serge Canos* of the **Bees** and *Kurt Zouma* of the **Hammers**.

7. PLDs 'Reds and Yellows' for Season 2021-22.

Premier London Derbies (PLDs) 'Reds and Yellows' for Season 2021-22.

<u>Club</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Yellows</u>	<u>Reds</u>
Arsenal	11	14 (6H/8A)	none
	Gabriel, Holding, Saka, Xhaka 2 each		
Brentford	5	9 (4H/5A)	none
	Canos 3; Norgaard and Jansson 2 each		
Chelsea	10	12 (5H/7A)	none
	Jorginho and Sarr 2 each		
Crystal Palace	8	8 (6H/2A)	Zaha x 2 Y = Red
	All 8 players, including Zaha, had 1 Yellow card each.		
Tottenham Hotspur	5	5 (3H/2A)	Tanganga x 2 Y=Red
	All 5 players, including Tanganga, had 1 Yellow card each.		
West Ham United	11	12 (8H/4A)	Dawson straight Red
	Coufal x 2 Y = Red		

NB. Table does not include matches v Watford against whom Brentford had 5 Yellows!

Overall in the PLDs matches of the 2021-22 PL season 50 players received one or more single 'Yellow Cards' totalling 60 cautions. 32 were awarded to home (H) players and 28 to away (A) players. Four 'Red Cards' were given, all in away matches, to four separate players. Three were for double Yellows and one was a straight red. That went to *Craig Dawson* of **West Ham United**, whose team-mate *Vladimir Coufal* also had a Red for a double Yellow.

This gives **The Hammers** the worst on-pitch disciplinary record of the 2021-22 season with 11 players cautioned and 14 Yellows received, the same number as **Arsenal**. **The Gunners** had 4 players receiving 2 Yellows each in separate matches, but no Reds.

Brentford and **Tottenham Hotspur** both had only 5 players disciplined, but although **Spurs** had less Yellows in total (7 v 9) they also had a Red for a double Yellow by *Japhet Tanganga* away to **Crystal Palace**. Seven of **The Bees'** 9 Yellows were collected by 3 players – *Sergi Canos* (2H/1A), *Christian Norgaard* (2A), *Pontus Jansson* (H/A) – with Canos having the most single Yellows (3) of any PLDs player in London derbies.

The 4th Red card went to *Wilfred Zaha* of **Crystal Palace**, who had a double Yellow away to **Spurs**. He also had a home Yellow making him the most cautioned **Eagles'** player, his 7 colleagues getting one each. **Chelsea** shared their 12 Yellows (5H/7A) between 10 players, with only *Jorginho* and *Malang Sarr* getting two each. Perhaps anyone was prepared to foul for the team and a result, rather than a few 'doing the dirty work' and risking a suspension.

8. Premier London Derbies players in Tony Cascarino's 'Team of the Week' Season 2021-22.

Premier London Derbies Players in Tony Cascarino's 'Team of the Week' Season 2021-22.

<u>Club.</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Times picked v all PL</u>	<u>Times v PLDs</u>
Arsenal	12	25	8
	Saka 6 (2), Ramsdale 3, Tomiyasu 3 (1), White 3		
Brentford	9	13	5
	Toney 3, Eriksen 2		
Chelsea	13	22	11
	Alonso 3 (3), James 2 (1), Mendy 2 (1), Thiago Silva 2 (1), Chillwell 2 (1), Hudson-Odoi 2 (1), Rudiger 2		
Crystal Palace	6	10	5
	Gallagher 3 (2), Mitchell 2 (1), Zaha 2 (1)		
Tottenham Hotspur	13	24	1
	Son 5, Kane 2, Romero 2, Hojbjerg 2, Dier 2, Davies 2		
West Ham United	7	13	5
	Antonio 3 (2), Rice 3 (1), Zouma 2 (1), Lanzini 2 (1), Benrahma 2		

Tony Cascarino, the former international striker and now football writer, picks a 'Team of the Week' published in 'The Times' newspaper 'The Game' section on Mondays after the weekend Premier League (PL) matches. This analysis shows the number of players from each PLDs Club picked to play in the 'Team of the Week' over the 2021-22 season. The numbers against each player indicate how many times they were picked, and the number in brackets the number of times that was against a PLDs Club e.g. *Marcos Alonso* of **Chelsea** was picked 3 times and each time following a performance against a PLDs Club. **Watford** here count as a non-PLDs Club.

Chelsea have the joint highest number of individual players selected (13) for 'The Team of the Week', accounting for 22 selections, of which 11 were in matches against another PLDs Club. In contrast, **Tottenham Hotspur** also with 13 players selected and 2 more selections (24 v 22) had only 1 in a PLDs match – goalkeeper *Hugo Lloris* in the 1-0 away defeat to **West Ham United**. Five of the **Spurs'** selections went to *Son Heung-min*, who finished the 2021-22 season sharing the Golden Boot, on 23 goals, with *Mo Salah* of **Liverpool**.

Arsenal had the most selections overall at 25, with 8 in PLDs matches, and the most selected player with 6 of which 2 were in PLDs matches being *Bukayo Saka*. Only *Marcos Alonso* of **Chelsea** beat that, with all 3 of his selections in London derbies.

Newcomers Brentford had 10 players selected with *Ivan Toney* having 3 (none in PLDs matches) of their 13 overall of which 5 were in London derbies. **West Ham United** had similar figures with 3 selections each for *Michail Antonio* (2 PLDs) and *Declan Rice* (1 PLDs). *Conor Gallagher*, on loan to **Crystal Palace** from **Chelsea**, also had 3 selections of which 2 were in PLDs matches. This may be seen as a rather 'soft' collection of statistics but Chelsea were our top Premier London Derbies Club in 2021-22, and both *Bukayo Saka* and Son Heung-min had very good individual seasons, going on to play for their countries in the FIFA World Cup.

9. The 2022-23 Premier League Season So Far.

There has been no clear, 19 matches, mid-season point to this disjointed FA Premier League (PL) 2022-23 season interrupted by the FIFA men's Football World Cup in Qatar from 18 November to 18 December 2022. **Arsenal** are the team of the season so far and lead the PL with 50 points from 19 games – a stunning 2.63 points per game (pts/g). Qualification for the UEFA Champions League seems certain, and the PL title highly probable. Their closest rivals are **Manchester City** with 45 from 20 (2.25 pts/g), followed by transformed **Newcastle United** and revitalised **Manchester United**, both on 39 from 20 (1.95 pts/g) divided by **The Toons'** superior goal difference, despite fewer wins and 9 draws.

Tottenham Hotspur are the next highest placed Premier London Derbies (PLDs) Club in 5th place with 33 points from their 20 matches (1.65 pts/g). A UEFA Champions League place looks increasingly unlikely and any European football not a certainty, unless they can find consistency. At least one key player has admitted mental fatigue following the World Cup.

After 20 matches **Fulham** had 31 points (1.55 pts/g) in 6th place, and are having a very good season. They are right to dream of European football, which they had under Roy Hodgson. **Brentford** too are going well (30 from 20 giving 1.50 pts/g) in 8th, but need to be wary of last season's stumble. **Crystal Palace** are on a poor run and lie 12th with 24 from 20 (1.2 pts/g). They desperately need some goals and wins to strengthen their position of safety.

That leaves two 'sleeping giants' among our PLDs Clubs to discuss – **Chelsea** and **West Ham United**. At **Chelsea's** last match of the 2021-22 season, on 22 May 2022, the Club introduced their new co-owner the American financier Todd Boehly. Head Coach Thomas Tuchel described this as a 'mood changer'. Something certainly was, as established European stars and others left the Club, and Tuchel himself was dismissed in September 2022 after a weak start to the season. Graham Potter of **Brighton and Hove Albion** was brought in but 'the blues' continue for **The Blues** who are out of the FA Cup, the EFL/Carabao Cup and after 20 matches are languishing in 10th with 29 points (1.45 pts/g). If their very expensive January 2023 transfer window signings come good, injured players recover, and Graham Potter finds his magic management touch again, some level of European football is not out of reach.

The real losers this season are **West Ham United**, who have really fallen from grace. They are 16th on 18 points from 20 matches (0.9 pts/game) having been in the relegation positions already. In the UEFA Europa Conference League they have won all 6 matches, but only 5 in the PL so far! Their mid-field, so influential last season, is misfiring and they are not scoring goals. Head Coach David Moyes is looking increasingly beleaguered, and if **The Hammers** are relegated – with or without him – Captain and England International Declan Rice is bound to go. **Arsenal** are tipped as strong suitors unless **Chelsea** trump them with 100 million pounds or US dollars or Euros! What was that about Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules again?

If you have enjoyed reading this 2021-22 PLDs Yearbook and are a follower of our blog, then please kindly consider making a donation to Water Aid at <https://www.wateraid.org/>

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you again at www.premierlondonderbies.com

