

A potted history of Tottenham Hotspur

Legend has it that members of Hotspur Cricket Club, boys from Tottenham Grammar School and St John's Middle Class, moved a motion to form a football club, also to be called Hotspur, in a meeting held under a gas lamp on the High Road, Tottenham, little more than a goal-kick away from the current stadium, back in 1882.

Hotspur FC became Tottenham Hotspur in 1884 and in 1885, played the club's first competitive fixture against St Albans in the London Association Cup, a 5-2 victory.

The Club flourished and in 1899, moved to its current site with accommodation for 35,000. The stadium became known as White Hart Lane and the first match was a friendly against Notts County.

The team was moving fast as well. The Southern League title arrived in 1900 and incredibly, the FA Cup followed in 1901. Spurs remain the only non-league club to win the competition after the formation of the Football League.

Entry into the Football League was gained in 1908 with promotion from the Second Division into the First Division secured at the first attempt.

The team was up and down over the next years with relegation back to the Second Division (1915), promotion (1920), relegation (1928), promotion (1933) and relegation (1935) but by the late 1940s, something special was happening.

Manager Arthur Rowe's 'push and run' team – playing a quick, pass and move style of football – won the Second Division title in 1949-50 and followed up with the First Division championship in 1950/51, the Club's first top-flight crown.

Bill Nicholson - and England's World Cup winning manager, Alf Ramsey - were both in that team and Nicholson, 'Mr Tottenham', a man who dedicated his life to the Club after arriving in 1936, would take Spurs to new levels in the early 1960s, the 'glory, glory' years.

It started with the historical 'double' of the First Division championship and FA Cup in 1960/61 with the likes of Danny Blanchflower, Dave Mackay, John White, Cliff Jones and Bobby Smith achieving what many believed was the impossible.

Yet Nicholson strengthened the next season with the arrival of all-time goalscoring great Jimmy Greaves in December, 1961. The FA Cup was retained in 1962 and then more history, the first British club to win a European trophy with the European Cup Winners' Cup landed in style, a 5-1 thrashing of Atletico Madrid in the final in Rotterdam, 1963.

The Club's fifth FA Cup followed in 1967 and then another golden spell with the League Cup (1971, 1973) and the UEFA Cup (1972) in the trophy cabinet at White Hart Lane.

Nicholson departed as manager in 1974 and a difficult period ended in relegation in 1978.

But the Club bounced back immediately again. New manager Keith Burkinshaw signed Argentina's 1978 World Cup winners Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa and the emergence of a host of youth players – Glenn Hoddle, Paul Miller, Micky Hazard, Mark Falco - saw the FA Cup landed again in 1981 and 1982 and the UEFA Cup in 1984 – the UEFA final won against Anderlecht on penalties in one of most dramatic nights in the Club's history.

Paul Gascoigne inspired the next FA Cup win under Terry Venables in 1991 and we were founder members of the new Premier League in 1992/93. The League Cup was claimed for a third time in 1999 and then again in 2008, as we came from behind to topple Chelsea at Wembley thanks to goals from Dimitar Berbatov and Jonathan Woodgate.

We achieved qualification into the Champions League – the new format of the European Cup – for the first time after a fourth-place finish in 2009/10 – secured in style with a late win at rivals Manchester City - and inspired by the performances of Gareth Bale, reached the quarter-finals of the competition, knocked out by Real Madrid after beating AC Milan in the San Siro.

Mauricio Pochettino took over in the summer of 2014 and led the team back into the Champions League with a Club-best third place in the Premier League in 2015/16, followed by a best-ever finish of second place in the Premier League. That was on the back of an unbeaten record in our final season at White Hart Lane – we closed the doors for the final time after 118 years with a win against Manchester United on 14 May, 2017. At the end of the season, our captain, Hugo Lloris, lifted the World Cup for France – the first Spurs player to do so.

Our new era dawned on 3 April, 2019 and the official opening of our world-class new stadium. Built on the same site as the Lane, we have a home that is the envy of the sporting world, seating 62,850.

We reached the pinnacle of European football in 2019. Lucas Moura's unforgettable hat-trick against Ajax took us through to the final against Liverpool in Madrid – unfortunately, we lost out 2-0 at Atletico's Wanda Metropolitano.

Football closed down due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic in March, 2020, before returning in June, 2020, now with Jose Mourinho at the helm. Ryan Mason took over towards the end of the 2020/21 season, and led us out at the League Cup Final, where we were runners-up to Manchester City – the crowd restricted to 7,773 due to COVID-19.

Antonio Conte led us back into the Champions League in 2022, a memorable end to the 2021/22 campaign saw Heung-Min Son win the Golden Boot. Harry Kane broke the club's long-standing all-time goalscoring record by hitting number 267 to overtake Jimmy Greaves in February, 2023. Harry departed for Bayern Munich with 280 goals to his name.

The glory, glory days returned in May, 2025 when Ange Postecoglou led us to victory in the UEFA Europa League – Brennan Johnson's goal enough for victory in the final against Manchester United in Bilbao, and a glorious parade down the High Road.