VOL. V · ISSUE 8

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE LOBSTER LEAGUE

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THE LOBSTER TIMES

GAMEWEEK EIGHT INQUEST

GAMEWEEK 08 · FINAL · BONUS APPLIED · RANKS VERIFIED

MANAGERS WORLDWIDE	GW8 GLOBAL AVERAGE	GW8 GLOBAL BEST	UNTIL GAMEWEEK 9
11,182,922	45	120	5 Days
Total FPL entries	10 of 21 beat it	Our best: 75	Deadline 31 Oct, 11:00 UTC

Twenty-one managers were required to account for Gameweek 8. Every figure in this edition is final: bonus applied, auto-substitutions processed, ranks verified against 11,182,922 managers worldwide. **Six managers captained a footballer who never took the field.** The best armband in the division belonged to **Gunner4Lyfe**, ranked 6.

Analyst Seizes First Place, Leaves 11 Points On The Bench, Calls It Within Tolerance

GAUCHO F.C. ANALYTICS FLOOR — Leader confirms the lead is 16 points, the Wildcard is intact and the Kinsky decision was statistically defensible.

Arsenal Fan Plays Bench Boost, Captain Plays Zero Minutes, Still Posts The Best Rank In The League

GUNNER4LYFE TRAINING FACILITY — Gabriel's haul, a moved armband and £2.5m of patience combine to lift the club 3 places.

Manager Fields Four Players Who Did Not Play, Scores 25 Points, Says It Was Probably Inevitable

FK JIZMAILA SARR, SOMEWHERE — The gameweek rank places the club in the bottom 4.2 percent of all humanity, a position the manager describes as roughly where the universe left him.

Man Drops 2 Places, Watches Captain Not Play, Declares The Season Over Again

EL COCHILOCO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES — Club confirms João Pedro captained, did not play, and was nevertheless left in the squad.

ALSO IN THIS EDITION

Bart's Team — Former Leader Drops To second, Describes Being 16 Points Behind As A Strategic Position

szobamela — Man With Three Chips Unused Scores 37 Points, Describes Them As Reserve Capital

Dang Football Club — Rookie Leaves 13 Points On Bench In One Week, Describes It As A Data-Gathering Exercise

Saka la bolsita — Manager Takes 4-Point Hit, Posts 61 Points, Credits Hard Yards

papoy — Captain Spends Gameweek On The Bench, Manager Describes It As A Personal Betrayal By The Universe

Red Lobster FC — Club Reports Strong Fundamentals Despite Gameweek Of Underperformance, Cites Headwinds

The Special Ones — Manager Starts Two Players Who Do Not Play And Still Climbs A Place, Says Football Owes Him Nothing

Camp Nou Way — Captain Does Not Play, Vice-Captain Scores 14, Manager Calls It Just How Things Were Meant To Go

MAD Baller — Captain Plays Twenty-Two Minutes, Manager Notes It Was Roughly What She Expected

sakadeez — Gambler Leaves Ten-Point Goalkeeper On The Bench, Says The House Always Wins

fc rtw — Man Makes Zero Transfers, Captains Palmer, Receives -2 Points And Holds fifteenth Out Of Sheer Inertia

are you aMAD — Club Named After Amad Diallo Still Has No Amad Diallo, Climbs 2 Places Anyway

Newpi — Man Captains Haaland For 16, Makes Zero Transfers, Describes It As Vibes

GP FC — Man Captains Cherki, Who Plays Forty-Five Minutes For 0, Falls 2 Places

Akatsuki — Captain And Vice-Captain Both Play Zero Minutes, Villain Declares Armband An Illusion

BruceBall — Man's Captain Plays No Minutes, Goalkeeper Takes The Armband For 14, Lad Says Nothing To Complain About

captain bruno — Man Pays 36 Points In Fees To Play Bench Boost, Banks Zero Bench Points, Remains twenty-first

THE TABLE · FINAL

#	+/–	CLUB	PTS	GW8	WORLD
01	0	Gaucho F.C.	577	60	0.6%
02	0	Bart's Team	561	57	1.7%
03	0	szobamela	523	37	10.2%
04	0	Dang Football Club	516	54	13.1%
05	▲1	Saka la bolsita	512	61	14.9%
06	▲3	Gunner4Lyfe	505	75	18.1%
07	▼2	El Cochiloco	502	44	19.3%
08	▼1	papoy	485	35	28.5%
09	▼1	Red Lobster FC	467	34	38.9%
10	▲1	The Special Ones	441	45	53.8%
11	▼1	FK Jizmaila Sarr	436	25	56.1%
12	▲1	Camp Nou Way	433	50	57.7%
13	▼1	MAD Baller	429	40	59.8%
14	0	sakadeez	408	34	69.1%
15	0	fc rtw	399	35	72.3%
16	▲2	are you aMAD	384	51	77.0%
17	0	Newpi	381	46	77.7%
18	▼2	GP FC	369	31	80.7%
19	0	Akatsuki	361	29	82.3%
20	0	BruceBall	346	61	84.9%
21	0	captain bruno	295	52	91.1%

INSIDE THIS EDITION

The Master Ledger · Global Standing, where every manager is measured against all 11,182,922 entrants · Gameweek 8 In Numbers · The Armband Audit · The Fixture Planner · Twenty-one full dossiers, each carrying twelve questions and a written verdict.

Highest: Gunner4Lyfe on 75. **Lowest:** FK Jizmaila Sarr on 25. **Captained a non-player:** Gunner4Lyfe, El Cochiloco, papoy, Camp Nou Way, Akatsuki, BruceBall.

The Master Ledger

ALL 21 CLUBS · GAMEWEEK 8 FINAL · VALUE AND BANK IN £M

#	+/–	CLUB	MANAGER	TOTAL	GW8	BENCH	HIT	TR	CHIPS	VALUE	BANK	CAPTAIN	ARM
01	0	**Gaucho F.C.**	**gian jaen**	**577**	**60**	**11**	**—**	**1**	**1**	**100.1**	**1.4**	**Haaland**	**16**
02	0	**Bart's Team**	Bart Simp	**561**	57	1	—	2	1	101.8	2.9	Haaland	16
03	0	**szobamela**	Jose Castrejon	**523**	37	9	—	0	3	100.5	0.0	Haaland	16
04	0	**Dang Football Club**	Khang Dang	**516**	54	13	—	1	1	100.8	2.6	Haaland	16
05	▲1	**Saka la bolsita**	Phillip Lopez	**512**	61	2	−4	6	3	99.9	0.0	Haaland	16
06	▲3	**Gunner4Lyfe**	Joshua Clarke	**505**	75	0	—	2	2	99.8	2.5	João Pedro	18
07	▼2	**El Cochiloco**	Alfonso Castrejon	**502**	44	7	—	1	1	102.2	0.3	João Pedro	16
08	▼1	**papoy**	Alexis Segura	**485**	35	6	—	2	1	100.6	0.6	B.Fernandes	4
09	▼1	**Red Lobster FC**	Neil Patel-Hernandez	**467**	34	0	—	0	3	100.3	0.0	Haaland	16
10	▲1	**The Special Ones**	Cameron Walker	**441**	45	0	—	0	4	100.7	0.0	Ødegaard	6
11	▼1	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	Aleksa Divcic	**436**	25	0	—	0	4	101.2	0.0	Haaland	16
12	▲1	**Camp Nou Way**	Abner Chavez	**433**	50	0	—	0	4	98.7	3.0	João Pedro	14
13	▼1	**MAD Baller**	Marie Drosche	**429**	40	4	—	0	3	99.0	0.2	Havertz	2
14	0	**sakadeez**	Drin Pacuku	**408**	34	10	—	1	2	102.6	0.5	Haaland	16
15	0	**fc rtw**	danny lopez	**399**	35	0	—	0	3	101.4	0.5	Palmer	−2
16	▲2	**are you aMAD**	Felix Holland	**384**	51	−1	—	1	3	101.2	4.2	Groß	0
17	0	**Newpi**	Nico Zarzaua	**381**	46	0	—	0	4	99.8	0.9	Haaland	16
18	▼2	**GP FC**	Chris Tran	**369**	31	1	—	0	2	100.7	0.3	Cherki	0
19	0	**Akatsuki**	Giancarlos Castaneda	**361**	29	2	—	0	4	99.7	0.6	João Pedro	0
20	0	**BruceBall†**	Alex Bruce	**346**	61	0	—	0	4	100.5	0.2	João Pedro	14
21	0	**captain bruno**	Nick Revia	**295**	52	0	−36	10	2	101.6	0.3	Cherki	0

Gameweek By Gameweek

POINTS SCORED IN EACH GAMEWEEK SO FAR

#	CLUB	GW1	GW2	GW3	GW4	GW5	GW6	GW7	GW8	TOTAL
01	Gaucho F.C.	39	115	77	92	50	64	80	60	**577**
02	Bart's Team	51	94	73	104	59	64	59	57	**561**
03	szobamela	55	105	62	84	52	57	71	37	**523**
04	Dang Football Club	44	64	75	95	49	67	68	54	**516**
05	Saka la bolsita	56	102	60	73	48	54	62	61	**512**
06	Gunner4Lyfe	70	63	89	57	49	53	49	75	**505**
07	El Cochiloco	60	111	49	72	38	61	67	44	**502**
08	papoy	34	117	58	73	52	67	49	35	**485**
09	Red Lobster FC	45	101	59	61	33	64	70	34	**467**
10	The Special Ones	83	84	38	74	42	58	37	45	**441**
11	FK Jizmaila Sarr	63	96	35	68	26	62	65	25	**436**
12	Camp Nou Way	52	59	37	90	51	46	48	50	**433**
13	MAD Baller	47	46	58	86	56	46	50	40	**429**
14	sakadeez	38	61	58	67	39	56	59	34	**408**
15	fc rtw	45	83	32	67	29	70	38	35	**399**
16	are you aMAD	32	57	40	49	49	40	66	51	**384**
17	Newpi	42	66	50	45	42	40	50	46	**381**
18	GP FC	33	63	43	71	51	51	42	31	**369**
19	Akatsuki	38	69	32	66	25	69	41	29	**361**
20	BruceBall	—	—	43	75	36	79	52	61	**346**
21	captain bruno	56	92	49	59	45	56	38	52	**295**

In Brief

Chips Played In Gameweek 8. Gunner4Lyfe (Bench Boost), captain bruno (Bench Boost)

Captaincy Without Minutes. 6 of 21 clubs captained a footballer who recorded no minutes.

Reserve Outscores Starter At 15 Of 21 Clubs. A substitute finished the week ahead of at least one starter in that many squads.

METHOD

Points are FPL's verified figures after bonus and auto-substitutions. **Arm** is the points actually delivered by the armband after any transfer to the vice-captain. **Chips** shows chips REMAINING of four.

Hit is the Gameweek 8 deduction only.

† Entered the league after Gameweek 1 and has contested fewer gameweeks than the rest of the table. · **+/–** shows places gained or lost against the previous table, with the number of places inside: green for a climb, red for a fall, amber for no change.

Global Standing

EVERY CLUB MEASURED AGAINST ALL 11,182,922 MANAGERS WORLDWIDE

How to read this page. Overall Rank is your cumulative position across the whole season. **Gameweek 8 Rank** is your position for this single week. Both are printed as your position out of **11,182,922** total managers, then converted to a percentile. **Lower is better** — a shorter bar is a stronger result, and a bar printed in vermilion means the bottom quartile of the world.

#	CLUB	OVERALL	OF	PCT	SEASON PERCENTILE	GW8 RANK	OF	PCT	WEEK PERCENTILE
01	**Gaucho F.C.**	64,390	11,182,922	**0.58%**		1,259,864	11,182,922	**11.27%**	
02	**Bart's Team**	190,754	11,182,922	**1.71%**		1,878,261	11,182,922	**16.80%**	
03	**szobamela**	1,138,667	11,182,922	**10.18%**		8,338,899	11,182,922	**74.57%**	
04	**Dang Football Club**	1,460,086	11,182,922	**13.06%**		2,578,039	11,182,922	**23.05%**	
05	**Saka la bolsita**	1,661,466	11,182,922	**14.86%**		1,154,303	11,182,922	**10.32%**	
06	**Gunner4Lyfe**	2,021,789	11,182,922	**18.08%**		103,860	11,182,922	**0.93%**	
07	**El Cochiloco**	2,162,832	11,182,922	**19.34%**		6,024,302	11,182,922	**53.87%**	
08	**papoy**	3,186,672	11,182,922	**28.50%**		9,188,456	11,182,922	**82.17%**	
09	**Red Lobster FC**	4,352,431	11,182,922	**38.92%**		9,230,490	11,182,922	**82.54%**	
10	**The Special Ones**	6,018,275	11,182,922	**53.82%**		5,402,601	11,182,922	**48.31%**	
11	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	6,279,634	11,182,922	**56.15%**		10,715,062	11,182,922	**95.82%**	
12	**Camp Nou Way**	6,454,584	11,182,922	**57.72%**		3,603,251	11,182,922	**32.22%**	
13	**MAD Baller**	6,681,786	11,182,922	**59.75%**		7,297,029	11,182,922	**65.25%**	
14	**sakadeez**	7,727,210	11,182,922	**69.10%**		9,395,431	11,182,922	**84.02%**	
15	**fc rtw**	8,082,322	11,182,922	**72.27%**		8,952,715	11,182,922	**80.06%**	
16	**are you aMAD**	8,606,552	11,182,922	**76.96%**		3,480,698	11,182,922	**31.13%**	
17	**Newpi**	8,692,850	11,182,922	**77.73%**		5,025,103	11,182,922	**44.94%**	
18	**GP FC**	9,022,104	11,182,922	**80.68%**		9,924,312	11,182,922	**88.75%**	
19	**Akatsuki**	9,207,627	11,182,922	**82.34%**		10,266,764	11,182,922	**91.81%**	
20	**BruceBall**	9,495,195	11,182,922	**84.91%**		1,005,075	11,182,922	**8.99%**	
21	**captain bruno**	10,188,108	11,182,922	**91.10%**		3,280,323	11,182,922	**29.33%**	

BEST IN THE WORLD

Gaucho F.C.

Overall 64,390 of 11,182,922 — the top **0.58%** of every manager alive.

BEST SINGLE WEEK

Gunner4Lyfe

GW8 rank 103,860 of 11,182,922 — top **0.93%** on 75 points.

WORST SINGLE WEEK

FK Jizmaila Sarr

GW8 rank 10,715,062 of 11,182,922 — the bottom **4.18%** of the planet.

Outperformed Their Season

WEEK PERCENTILE STRONGER THAN SEASON PERCENTILE

CLUB	SEASON	WEEK	SWING
BruceBall	84.9%	9.0%	**-75.9**
captain bruno	91.1%	29.3%	**-61.8**
are you aMAD	77.0%	31.1%	**-45.8**
Newpi	77.7%	44.9%	**-32.8**
Camp Nou Way	57.7%	32.2%	**-25.5**
Gunner4Lyfe	18.1%	0.9%	**-17.1**

Fell Below Their Season

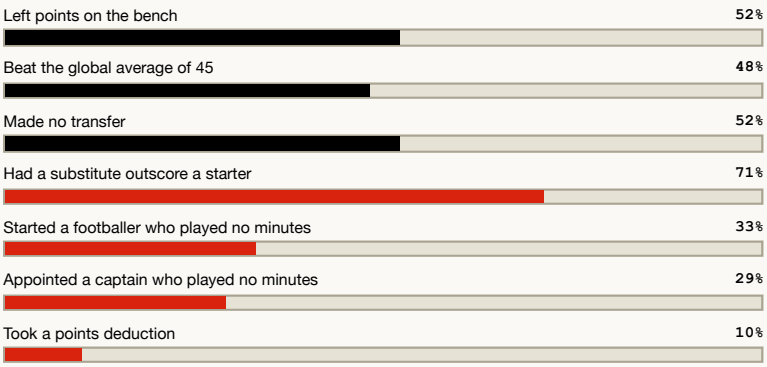
WEEK PERCENTILE WEAKER THAN SEASON PERCENTILE

CLUB	SEASON	WEEK	SWING
Bart's Team	1.7%	16.8%	**+15.1**
El Cochiloco	19.3%	53.9%	**+34.5**
FK Jizmaila Sarr	56.1%	95.8%	**+39.7**
Red Lobster FC	38.9%	82.5%	**+43.6**
papoy	28.5%	82.2%	**+53.7**
szobamela	10.2%	74.6%	**+64.4**

Distribution. 1 club sit inside the global top one percent (Gaucho F.C.). 2 sit inside the top ten percent. 9 of 21 are in the better half of the world. The league spans from **0.58%** to **91.10%**.

Statshot

HOW THE TWENTY-ONE CLUBS OF THIS LEAGUE SPENT GAMEWEEK 8



Computed from the verified Gameweek 8 squads. Percentages are rounded.

Notes From The Standings

FACTS FROM THE FINAL TABLE

Biggest climb: Gunner4Lyfe, 3 places.

Biggest fall: El Cochiloco, 2 places.

Top of the table: Gaucho F.C. on 577 points, a lead of 16 over Bart's Team.

Gameweek 8 average: 45. Global best: 120.

Gameweek 8 In Numbers

ALL FIGURES DERIVED FROM FINAL VERIFIED DATA

HIGHEST GAMEWEEK
75 pts
Gunner4Lyfe — top 0.93% worldwide

MOST POINTS BENCHED
13 pts
Dang Football Club left them on the bench

BUSIEST WINDOW
10 moves
captain bruno — cost –36 points

LOWEST GAMEWEEK
25 pts
FK Jizmaila Sarr — bottom 4.18% worldwide

LARGEST DEDUCTION
–36 pts
captain bruno on 10 transfers

ZERO-MINUTE CAPTAINS
6 clubs
Armband went to a player who did not play

Every Score, Ranked

PTS	CLUB	WORLD PCT	HIT
75	Gunner4Lyfe	0.9%	—
61	Saka la bolsita	10.3%	-4
61	BruceBall	9.0%	—
60	Gaucho F.C.	11.3%	—
57	Bart's Team	16.8%	—
54	Dang Football Club	23.1%	—
52	captain bruno	29.3%	-36
51	are you aMAD	31.1%	—
50	Camp Nou Way	32.2%	—
46	Newpi	44.9%	—
45	The Special Ones	48.3%	—
44	El Cochiloco	53.9%	—
40	MAD Baller	65.2%	—
37	szobamela	74.6%	—
35	papoy	82.2%	—
35	fc rtw	80.1%	—
34	Red Lobster FC	82.5%	—
34	sakadeez	84.0%	—
31	GP FC	88.8%	—
29	Akatsuki	91.8%	—
25	FK Jizmaila Sarr	95.8%	—

The Bench Graveyard

POINTS LEFT UNUSED, AND WHO LEFT THEM

PTS	CLUB	WHO SCORED ON THE BENCH
13	Dang Football Club	Kinsky 9, Ajayi 4
11	Gaucho F.C.	Kinsky 9, Slater 2
10	sakadeez	Trafford 10
9	szobamela	Kinsky 9
7	El Cochiloco	Pickford 1, De Cuyper 1, Hall 5
6	papoy	Hume 6
4	MAD Baller	Anderson 1, Lacroix 3
2	Saka la bolsita	Rudoni 2
2	Akatsuki	Verbruggen 2

ZERO-MINUTE CAPTAINS

Gunner4Lyfe → Isak · 18 pts
El Cochiloco → Haaland · 16 pts
papoy → Mbeumo · 4 pts
Camp Nou Way → Raya · 14 pts
Akatsuki → — · 0 pts
BruceBall → Raya · 14 pts

Combined return from those armbands: **66 points.**

CHIP INVENTORY

Full arsenals (6): The Special Ones, FK Jizmaila Sarr, Camp Nou Way, Newpi, Akatsuki, BruceBall.

Running dry (5): Gaucho F.C. (1), Bart's Team (1), Dang Football Club (1), El Cochiloco (1), papoy (1).

The league has spent 29 chips of a possible 84.

SELF-INFLICTED LOSSES

Transfers executed: **27**. Points paid in deductions: **40**. Points abandoned on benches: **65**.

Combined waste in a single gameweek: **105 points**.

MOST OWNED IN THE LEAGUE

João Pedro 18/21 · **Haaland** 13/21 · **Raya** 12/21 · **B.Fernandes** 9/21 · **Groß** 9/21 · **Rogers** 9/21 · **Calafiori** 9/21 · **De Cuyper** 8/21 · **Ødegaard** 8/21 · **Palmer** 8/21 · **Guéhi** 7/21 · **Rice** 7/21

10 of 21 beat the global average of 45. 19 of 21 took no points deduction at all. Our best week, 75, finished 45 points short of the global best of 120.

Chip Matrix

FILLED SQUARE MEANS SPENT · OPEN SQUARE MEANS STILL AVAILABLE

#	CLUB	WILDCARD	FREE HIT	BENCH BOOST	TRIPLE CAPTAIN	LEFT	SPENT IN
01	**Gaucho F.C.**	□	■	■	■	1	Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Free Hit (GW4)
02	**Bart's Team**	■	□	■	■	1	Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Wildcard (GW4)
03	**szobamela**	□	□	□	■	3	Triple Captain (GW3)
04	**Dang Football Club**	□	■	■	■	1	Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Free Hit (GW4)
05	**Saka la bolsita**	□	□	□	■	3	Triple Captain (GW3)
06	**Gunner4Lyfe**	□	□	■	■	2	Triple Captain (GW3), Bench Boost (GW8)
07	**El Cochiloco**	■	□	■	■	1	Bench Boost (GW1), Triple Captain (GW3), Wildcard (GW6)
08	**papoy**	□	■	■	■	1	Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Free Hit (GW4)
09	**Red Lobster FC**	□	□	□	■	3	Triple Captain (GW7)
10	**The Special Ones**	□	□	□	□	4	—
11	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	□	□	□	□	4	—
12	**Camp Nou Way**	□	□	□	□	4	—
13	**MAD Baller**	□	□	■	□	3	Bench Boost (GW4)
14	**sakadeez**	■	□	□	■	2	Wildcard (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3)
15	**fc rtw**	■	□	□	□	3	Wildcard (GW2)
16	**are you aMAD**	■	□	□	□	3	Wildcard (GW4)
17	**Newpi**	□	□	□	□	4	—
18	**GP FC**	□	□	■	■	2	Triple Captain (GW4), Bench Boost (GW5)
19	**Akatsuki**	□	□	□	□	4	—
20	**BruceBall**	□	□	□	□	4	—
21	**captain bruno**	□	□	■	■	2	Triple Captain (GW4), Bench Boost (GW8)

The Armband Audit

WHO WAS CAPTAINED, WHO ACTUALLY WORE IT, AND WHAT IT RETURNED

#	CLUB	NAMED CAPTAIN	CLUB	MINS	RAW	MULT	ARMBAND FELL TO	EFFECTIVE	% OF GW
01	**Gaucho F.C.**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	27%
02	**Bart's Team**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	28%
03	**szobamela**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	43%
04	**Dang Football Club**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	30%
05	**Saka la bolsita**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	26%
06	**Gunner4Lyfe**	João Pedro	CHE	0	0	×1	**Isak**	**18**	24%
07	**El Cochiloco**	João Pedro	CHE	0	0	×0	**Haaland**	**16**	36%
08	**papoy**	B.Fernandes	MUN	0	0	×0	**Mbeumo**	**4**	11%
09	**Red Lobster FC**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	47%
10	**The Special Ones**	Ødegaard	ARS	90	3	×2	—	**6**	13%
11	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	64%
12	**Camp Nou Way**	João Pedro	CHE	0	0	×1	**Raya**	**14**	28%
13	**MAD Baller**	Havertz	ARS	22	1	×2	—	**2**	5%
14	**sakadeez**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	47%
15	**fc rtw**	Palmer	CHE	79	−1	×2	—	**−2**	−6%
16	**are you aMAD**	Groß	BHA	90	0	×2	—	**0**	0%
17	**Newpi**	Haaland	MCI	90	8	×2	—	**16**	35%
18	**GP FC**	Cherki	MCI	45	0	×2	—	**0**	0%
19	**Akatsuki**	João Pedro	CHE	0	0	×0	—	**0**	0%
20	**BruceBall**	João Pedro	CHE	0	0	×1	**Raya**	**14**	23%
21	**captain bruno**	Cherki	MCI	45	0	×2	—	**0**	0%

Captaincy Share

PLAYER	CLUBS	SHARE
Haaland	9	43%
João Pedro	5	24%
Cherki	2	10%
B.Fernandes	1	5%
Ødegaard	1	5%
Havertz	1	5%
Palmer	1	5%
Groß	1	5%

Vice-Captains Named

PLAYER	CLUBS
João Pedro	5
B.Fernandes	4
Raya	3
Rogers	2
Palmer	1
Isak	1
Haaland	1
Mbeumo	1

BEST ARMBAND IN THE LEAGUE

Gunner4Lyfe

Isak returned **18** points, which was 24% of the club's entire gameweek.

League Ownership

HOW MANY OF THE 21 CLUBS HELD EACH PLAYER IN GAMEWEEK 8, SPLIT BY SELECTION

PLAYER	POS	CLUB	£M	PTS	OWNED	STARTED	BENCHED
João Pedro	FWD	CHE	7.9	0	**18**	5	13
Haaland	FWD	MCI	15.7	8	**13**	13	0
Raya	GKP	ARS	6.2	7	**12**	12	0
Rogers	MID	CHE	8.0	1	**9**	9	0
Calafiori	DEF	ARS	6.0	1	**9**	9	0
B.Fernandes	MID	MUN	11.7	0	**9**	3	6
Groß	MID	BHA	6.2	0	**9**	8	1
Ødegaard	MID	ARS	6.8	3	**8**	8	0
De Cuyper	DEF	BHA	5.3	1	**8**	7	1
Palmer	MID	CHE	9.8	-1	**8**	6	2
Rice	MID	ARS	7.4	3	**7**	7	0
Guéhi	DEF	MCI	6.0	0	**7**	7	0
Mbeumo	MID	MUN	7.9	2	**6**	6	0
Calvert-Lewin	FWD	LEE	6.1	2	**6**	6	0
Cherki	MID	MCI	8.0	0	**6**	6	0
Gabriel	DEF	ARS	7.9	17	**5**	5	0

CAPTAINED WITHOUT MINUTES

Gunner4Lyfe, El Cochiloco, papoy, Camp Nou Way, Akatsuki, BruceBall captained a player who recorded no minutes, and the armband passed on by rule. Combined return from the armband: 66 points.

HIGHEST RETURNING ASSETS

Gabriel 17 pts, owned by 5 · **Konsa** 14 pts, owned by 4 · **N.Jackson** 13 pts, owned by 2 · **Hill** 11 pts, owned by 2 · **Tavernier** 10 pts, owned by 4 · **Trafford** 10 pts, owned by 1 · **Kinsky** 9 pts, owned by 3 · **Muharemović** 9 pts, owned by 3 · **Isak** 9 pts, owned by 3 · **Virgil** 9 pts, owned by 5

TRUE DIFFERENTIALS · OWNED BY ONE CLUB

Trafford 10 · **Leno** 8 · **Jacquet** 8 · **McBurnie** 8 · **Barnes** 8 · **Muñoz** 7 · **Evanilson** 6 · **Barcola** 6 · **Hume** 6 · **A.Becker** 6 · **Justin** 6 · **Bogle** 5 · **Egan** 4 · **E.Le Fée** 3 · **Richards** 3 · **Cash** 3 · **Xhaka** 3 · **Wilson** 3 · **Ajer** 2 · **van Ewijk** 2 · **Slater** 2 · **Tarkowski** 2 · **Gomez** 2 · **Kamada** 2 · **Rudoni** 2 · **Doku** 2 · **Schade** 2 · **Brobbey** 2 · **Davis** 2 · **Dasilva** 2 · **Enzo** 2 · **Dewsbury-Hall** 2 · **Kostoulas** 2 · **Marmoush** 2 · **Akpom** 1 · **Stach** 1 · **Pedro Porro** 1 · **Foden** 1 · **Anderson** 1 · **Vuskovic** 1 · **Manzambi** 1 · **Lammens** 1 · **Bentley** 0 · **Mykolenko** 0 · **Aït-Nouri** 0 · **Frimpong** 0 · **Janelt** 0 · **Matthews** 0 · **Keane** 0 · **Semenyo** 0 · **Reed** 0 · **Šeško** 0 · **J.Cuenca** 0 · **Austin** 0 · **Mukasa** 0 · **Furo** 0 · **Senesi** 0 · **Matheus N.** 0 · **Olusesi** 0 · **Kusi-Asare** 0 · **Lecomte** 0 · **Aina** 0 · **Forster** 0 · **L.Miley** 0 · **Mainoo** 0 · **Walle Egeli** 0 · **Benda** 0 · **O.Richards** 0 · **Shahar** 0 · **Woltemade** 0

The verdict. Haaland was the most popular captain, chosen by 9 clubs. A multiplier of ×0 means the named captain did not play, and the armband passed to the vice-captain by rule.

The Back Page

NOTICES, RECORDS AND THE WEEK AHEAD

NOTICE TO MANAGERS

The Gameweek 9 deadline falls on Saturday 31 October 2026 at 11:00 UTC. Team news is published before then and this newspaper recommends reading it.

A REMINDER ON ARITHMETIC

This league surrendered **40 points** to transfer deductions and abandoned **65 points** on benches in Gameweek 8 alone. No transfer is compulsory.

ON READING TEAM SHEETS

6 clubs appointed a captain who did not play. The information was published in advance and was available at no cost.

What Awaits In Gameweek 9

EVERY FIXTURE IN THE GAMEWEEK · DIFFICULTY AS RATED BY THE GAME

HOME	DIFF	AWAY	DIFF	KICK-OFF
CHE	4	MUN	4	Sat 31 Oct, 12:30
BOU	3	LEE	3	Sat 31 Oct, 15:00
BRE	3	NFO	3	Sat 31 Oct, 15:00
COV	3	SUN	2	Sat 31 Oct, 15:00
HUL	2	IPS	2	Sat 31 Oct, 15:00
MCI	3	BHA	5	Sat 31 Oct, 15:00
TOT	2	CRY	3	Sat 31 Oct, 17:30
AVL	2	FUL	3	Sat 31 Oct, 20:00
LIV	4	ARS	4	Sun 01 Nov, 16:30
NEW	3	EVE	3	Mon 02 Nov, 20:00

Difficulty is the game's own rating, 1 easiest to 5 hardest, from that club's perspective.

The Transfer Market

EVERY PLAYER BOUGHT AND SOLD ACROSS THIS LEAGUE IN GAMEWEEK 8

BOUGHT

Tavernier	4	10 pts
Palmer	2	-1 pts
Groß	2	0 pts
Rice	2	3 pts
Gibbs-White	1	2 pts
Leno	1	8 pts
Rudoni	1	2 pts
Evanilson	1	6 pts
Doku	1	2 pts

SOLD

Semenyo	3	0 pts
Tzolis	3	0 pts
Szoboszlai	2	0 pts
Sávio	1	0 pts
Palmer	1	-1 pts
Kinsky	1	9 pts
Gomez	1	2 pts
Kusi-Asare	1	0 pts
B.Fernandes	1	0 pts

MARKET NOTE

27 transfers were executed across this division. Tavernier was the most bought, by 4 clubs.

The Season So Far, In Records

EXTREMES RECORDED ACROSS EVERY GAMEWEEK PLAYED BY ANY CLUB IN THIS LEAGUE

HIGHEST WEEK	117 papoy GW2	MOST BENCHED	29 El Cochiloco GW6
LOWEST WEEK	25 Akatsuki GW5	BIGGEST HIT	−52 captain bruno GW7
BEST WORLD WEEK	6,422 Gunner4Lyfe GW3		
WORST WORLD WEEK	10,727,839 Akatsuki GW5		

The Fixture Planner

GAMEWEEKS 9 TO 13 · EVERY PREMIER LEAGUE SIDE · DIFFICULTY AS RATED BY THE GAME

How to read this page. Each cell shows the opponent, whether the fixture is home (H) or away (A), and the official difficulty rating from that club's perspective — **2 is kind, 3 is neutral, 4 is awkward, 5 is punishing**. **Total** adds the ratings together, so a lower total is a better run. The final column shows how many of this league's twenty-one clubs own at least one player from that side.

#	CLUB	GW9	GW10	GW11	GW12	GW13	TOTAL	OWNED BY
01	Spurs	CRY (H) 2	LEE (A) 3	IPS (H) 2	SUN (A) 3	FUL (H) 2	12	8
02	Coventry City	SUN (H) 3	EVE (A) 3	CRY (H) 2	LEE (A) 3	IPS (H) 2	13	4
03	Ipswich Town	HUL (A) 2	BOU (H) 3	TOT (A) 3	AVL (H) 3	COV (A) 2	13	7
04	Aston Villa	FUL (H) 2	MUN (A) 4	SUN (H) 3	IPS (A) 2	EVE (H) 3	14	4
05	Bournemouth	LEE (H) 3	IPS (A) 2	NFO (H) 3	FUL (A) 3	BHA (H) 3	14	8
06	Chelsea	MUN (H) 4	SUN (A) 3	LEE (H) 3	NFO (A) 3	CRY (H) 2	15	20
07	Crystal Palace	TOT (A) 3	LIV (H) 4	COV (A) 2	HUL (H) 2	CHE (A) 4	15	2
08	Everton	NEW (A) 3	COV (H) 2	BRE (A) 3	LIV (H) 4	AVL (A) 3	15	5
09	Sunderland	COV (A) 2	CHE (H) 4	AVL (A) 3	TOT (H) 2	LIV (A) 4	15	5
10	Arsenal	LIV (A) 4	HUL (H) 2	NEW (A) 3	MCI (H) 4	BRE (A) 3	16	20
11	Brighton	MCI (A) 5	BRE (H) 3	HUL (A) 2	NEW (H) 3	BOU (A) 3	16	15
12	Hull City	IPS (H) 2	ARS (A) 5	BHA (H) 3	CRY (A) 3	NFO (H) 3	16	7
13	Leeds	BOU (A) 3	TOT (H) 2	CHE (A) 4	COV (H) 2	MCI (A) 5	16	12
14	Man City	BHA (H) 3	NFO (A) 3	FUL (H) 2	ARS (A) 5	LEE (H) 3	16	21
15	Nott'm Forest	BRE (A) 3	MCI (H) 4	BOU (A) 3	CHE (H) 4	HUL (A) 2	16	7
16	Fulham	AVL (A) 3	NEW (H) 3	MCI (A) 5	BOU (H) 3	TOT (A) 3	17	7
17	Liverpool	ARS (H) 4	CRY (A) 3	MUN (H) 4	EVE (A) 3	SUN (H) 3	17	8
18	Man Utd	CHE (A) 4	AVL (H) 3	LIV (A) 4	BRE (H) 3	NEW (A) 3	17	15
19	Brentford	NFO (H) 3	BHA (A) 4	EVE (H) 3	MUN (A) 4	ARS (H) 4	18	8
20	Newcastle	EVE (H) 3	FUL (A) 3	ARS (H) 4	BHA (A) 4	MUN (H) 4	18	7

Where This League Is Exposed

THE EIGHT MOST WIDELY OWNED SIDES IN THIS DIVISION, AGAINST THEIR NEXT FIVE

CLUB	OWNED BY	5-GW TOTAL	RUN
Man City	21/21	16	neutral
Chelsea	20/21	15	neutral
Arsenal	20/21	16	neutral
Brighton	15/21	16	neutral
Man Utd	15/21	17	punishing
Leeds	12/21	16	neutral
Spurs	8/21	12	kind
Bournemouth	8/21	14	kind

Reading The Run

Spurs hold the kindest schedule across the next five gameweeks, with a combined difficulty of **12**. **Newcastle** hold the hardest at **18**.

12 clubs in this league still hold three or more chips. A Wildcard played into a kind run is worth considerably more than one played in a panic.

The Gameweek 9 deadline is **Saturday 31 October** at **11:00 UTC**.

GAUCHO F.C. ANALYTICS FLOOR —

Analyst Seizes First Place, Leaves 11 Points On The Bench, Calls It Within Tolerance

Leader confirms the lead is 16 points, the Wildcard is intact and the Kinsky decision was statistically defensible.

Gaucho F.C. gian jaen

RANK 01 OF 21 · 577 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
64,390	1,259,864	60/11	100.1
of 11,182,922 — top 0.58%	of 11,182,922 — top 11.27%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £1.4m · 1 transfers

STARTING XI · 60 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Ajer	BRE	4.5	2
DEF	Thomas	COV	4.0	1
DEF	Konsa	ARS	4.7	14
DEF	van Ewijk	COV	3.9	2
MID	E.Le Fée	SUN	5.7	3
MID	Tavernier	BOU	6.3	10
MID	Mbeumo	MUN	7.9	2
FWD	Calvert-Lewin	LEE	6.1	2
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16

BENCH · 11 PTS

GKP	Kinsky	TOT	4.4	0
MID	B.Fernandes ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
FWD	João Pedro **(V)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
MID	Slater	HUL	4.5	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Sávio	0 → Tavernier	10	+10

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~BENCH BOOST (GW2)~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ ~~FREE HIT (GW4)~~ WILDCARD

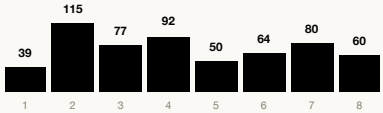
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	39	7,295,429	7,295,417	12	–
GW2	115	286,971	1,568,336	0	–
GW3	77	132,865	260,270	16	–
GW4	92	639,506	131,928	8	–
GW5	50	4,565,551	147,643	11	–
GW6	64	3,854,742	257,883	11	–
GW7	80	599,392	146,067	4	–
GW8	60	1,259,864	64,390	11	–

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
THIS CLUB	Gaucho F.C.	577	+0	1
BELOW	Bart's Team	561	-16	1

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You now sit first on 577 points with only a Wildcard left in the locker. Is that a leader's chip position or a leader's liability?

A. A Wildcard is the single chip with structural value, and holding it as the only survivor means every other instrument has already been harvested at peak yield. Having used Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Free Hit (GW4), the expected return on the spent assets is already banked in the table. The remaining chip is not a liability but the reserve against precisely the variance a leader should fear.

Q2. You scored 60 points against a global average of 45, with 1 transfer and no hit. Is that a dominant week or merely a competent one?

A. A 60-point week against a field average of 45 is a clear positive deviation, and it was delivered without surrendering a single point to a deduction. One transfer was sufficient because the squad was already configured for the fixtures at hand. Adding transactions to a functioning model only introduces noise.

Q3. Haaland took the armband and returned 16 points doubled. Your vice-captain João Pedro played zero minutes. How close did the insurance come to failing?

A. The armband sat on the highest-probability asset in the game and he resolved at the median, which is the correct outcome for a variance-reduction choice. The vice-captain was never required, so the fact that João Pedro did not feature is a non-event that cost nothing. Had the primary pick failed, the contingency was already priced in and that is all a contingency needs to be.

Q4. Your bench returned 11 points, with Kinsky alone providing a return on your bench that would have started for most managers. Where did the selection model fail?

A. Kinsky was ranked below the starting goalkeeper on projected clean-sheet probability, and a single adverse draw does not invalidate that ordering. A 11-point bench is the cost of carrying genuine cover rather than a fifth-choice outfield body. Over a full season the decision is positive expected value and I will not rewrite the process around one data point.

Q5. Bart's Team are 16 points behind you and hold only a Free Hit. Is that gap comfortable or fragile?

A. A gap of 16 points is smaller than a single decent captaincy swing, so comfort is the wrong word for it. What makes it robust is that the manager behind me has spent a Wildcard, which removes his only mechanism for a wholesale reset. I would call the position favourable rather than safe, and the distinction is the entire discipline.

Q6. You were ranked first after Gameweek 7 and lost nothing in the standings this week. Does a flat movement of 0 places mean the model is stable?

A. Stability is the objective, and a movement of 0 places is the cleanest possible signature of a process that is not oscillating. Leaders who move every week are leaders who are reacting rather than modelling. I would be concerned only if the position changed without the inputs changing.

Q7. You made a single transfer, bringing in Tavernier for Sávio. Sávio returned nothing and Tavernier returned double figures. Was that skill or luck?

A. The decision was made on minutes security and fixture difficulty, and the outcome was a favourable draw from a distribution we judged to be favourable. I will take the ten-point return as confirmation but not as proof, because one sample proves very little. The instruction to the model remains unchanged, which is the sign it was not tuned to the result.

Q8. Your overall rank is 64,390 of 11,182,922 managers, the top 0.58 percent. Does a number like that change how you approach a lead of this size?

A. Being 64,390 out of 11,182,922 places this season in the extreme tail of the global distribution, and the tail is where variance is least forgiving. It does not change the process but it does raise the cost of a bad week, so I now weight downside protection more heavily. A leader with that standing needs fewer heroics and more arithmetic.

Q9. You hold £1.4m in the bank and a squad worth £100.1m. Is the cash doing any work?

A. That balance is a small buffer against a forced transfer, not an investment, and its value lies in being available without compromising the squad. A larger buffer would imply under-investment in the eleven and a smaller one would remove flexibility. The number is where the model says it should be.

Q10. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 1,259,864 of 11,182,922, the top 11.27 percent. Does that satisfy you when you are first overall in the league?

A. A top 11 percent week while leading is an acceptable result, because a leader does not need to win weeks but to avoid losing them. I banked 60 points against an average of 45, and the gap behind me held. The bench leak is the only item in the audit that I will review.

Q11. Bart Simp holds the Free Hit while you hold the Wildcard. Who has the stronger remaining optionality?

A. A Free Hit corrects one gameweek whereas a Wildcard corrects the squad for every gameweek that follows, so the asymmetry is considerable. Bart has remained close by removing risk, but a manager with a single-week patch is exposed to a structural problem that persists. I am content to be the one holding the larger instrument.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You lead on 577 points, overall rank 64,390 of 11,182,922, with Wildcard remaining and £1.4m banked, and 16 points between you and second. How do you convert a narrow lead into a defensible one?

Treat the Wildcard as strictly defensive, holding it until a fixture divergence or an injury cluster makes the squad structurally wrong, and resist every instinct to spend it merely to extend a lead. Fix the bench first, because 11 points left unused in a week is the most visible leak in the model, so use the banked transfer to secure a goalkeeper situation that does not leave nine points idle. With the rivals behind you holding only a Free Hit or a Wildcard each, the path is to keep the armband on the highest-floor forward, avoid hits entirely and let their remaining chips come to you.

DUBAI —

Former Leader Drops To second, Describes Being 16 Points Behind As A Strategic Position

Manager confirms the Free Hit is his only remaining chip and that a 1-point bench is the sign of a lean organisation.

Bart's Team

Bart Simp

RANK 02 OF 21 · 561 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
190,754	1,878,261	57/1	101.8
of 11,182,922 — top 1.71%	of 11,182,922 — top 16.80%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £2.9m · 2 transfers

STARTING XI · 57 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	Konsa	ARS	4.7	14
DEF	Gvardiol	MCI	5.8	1
DEF	Tarkowski	EVE	6.2	2
DEF	Diop	IPS	3.9	1
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
MID	Rogers **(V)**	CHE	8.0	1
MID	Tavernier	BOU	6.3	10
MID	Gibbs-White	NFO	7.9	2
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16

BENCH · 1 PTS

GKP	Bentley ⌀	COV	4.0	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
DEF	Mykolenko	EVE	4.6	0
FWD	Akpom	IPS	5.0	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Szoboszlai	0 → Gibbs-White	2	+2
Palmer	−1 → Tavernier	10	+11

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~BENCH BOOST (GW2)~~ · ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ · ~~WILDCARD (GW4)~~ · FREE HIT

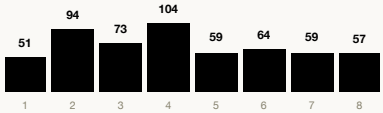
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	51	4,087,192	4,087,187	12	—
GW2	94	2,427,967	2,562,053	0	—
GW3	73	305,834	772,855	5	—
GW4	104	80,375	144,397	9	—
GW5	59	1,893,466	70,495	5	—
GW6	64	3,686,917	144,685	1	—
GW7	59	5,803,767	319,900	5	—
GW8	57	1,878,261	190,754	1	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Gaucho F.C.	577	+16	1
THIS CLUB	Bart's Team	561	+0	1
BELOW	szobamela	523	−38	3

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You sit second on 561 points, 16 behind the leader, with only a Free Hit left. Did you spend your chips too eagerly?

A. I spent them at the moment they were worth the most, which is why I am still within sight of first place with Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Wildcard (GW4) behind me. Others are hoarding chips like a tin of biscuits in a siege, and a chip in the locker has never scored a point. I am 16 points off the top and I would say that is the cheapest gap to close in the whole division.

Q2. You scored 57 points against a global average of 45, with 2 transfers and no hit. Why make two moves in a week the leaders only needed one?

A. Because the squad was a Palmer and a Szoboszlai short of what I wanted, and I do not leave problems lying around for the weekend. Tavernier arriving for Palmer was the best decision of the weekend and the numbers agree with me. A manager who makes two precise moves has a plan, and a manager who makes none has a hope.

Q3. Haaland took the armband and returned 16 points doubled. Does the captaincy get you any credit this week, given everyone at the top did the same thing?

A. Of course it does, because the alternative to the obvious captain is an expensive way of learning that the obvious captain was right. Haaland delivered, the armband worked and nobody in this league can accuse me of getting cute with it. When four of the top seven give the armband to the same man, the manager who explains it best is the one who deserves the credit.

Q4. Your bench returned 1 point. You are now carrying Bentley, Akpom and a Mykolenko who played seventy-odd minutes for nothing. Is that thin?

A. A bench that returns 1 point is a bench that did not need to return anything, because my starters did the work. I am not paying premium prices for people who sit and watch, and the leader who left eleven points on his is welcome to that philosophy. Every point my bench did not score is a point I did not waste money acquiring.

Q5. szobamela is 38 points behind you with a Wildcard and two chips more than you hold. Does that worry the frontrunner?

A. Not remotely, because a manager sitting 38 points back with a pile of unused chips is a manager who has not found a use for them yet. I would rather hold a smaller number of chips and a bigger number of points, and I do. If he wants to catch me he can start by spending something.

Q6. You were first for much of the early season and are now second after Gameweek 8. What happened to the lead?

A. The lead moved around the top of the table like a trophy at a family dinner, and this week it landed with Gaucho. I scored 57 points, kept pace and lost no places, because the standings did not change at all this week. Being 16 points behind with a stronger bench-management record is not the collapse some of you are hoping for.

Q7. Your vice-captain Rogers returned 1 point. Is he still next in line for the armband?

A. Rogers is in the side because he is a threat from the middle of the park, and one quiet weekend is not a reason to reconsider. The vice-captaincy is an insurance policy and this week the policy went unclaimed, which is the ideal outcome. He keeps the role until somebody in my squad plays their way past him.

Q8. You swapped Palmer for Tavernier and Szoboszlai for Gibbs-White. Palmer returned a negative score and Tavernier returned double figures. Was that foresight?

A. I would describe it as the natural result of watching the minutes and the fixtures rather than the reputation. Palmer's name is bigger than Tavernier's but the points were not, and I deal in points. I will not pretend the Gibbs-White move was the headline, but it was sound and it is not going to be the one I regret.

Q9. You hold £2.9m in the bank and a squad worth £101.8m. Why leave cash sitting idle?

A. That balance is deliberately liquid because an emergency transfer at short notice costs more than a small cash buffer ever will. The squad value is rising and it means my team is gaining on the market, which is the other kind of lead. Money that is sitting still is not wasted, it is waiting.

Q10. Your overall rank is 190,754 of 11,182,922, the top 1.71 percent. Does that matter more than the league?

A. Being 190,754 out of 11,182,922 is a verdict from the entire planet and I will be quoting it at dinner parties until May. The mini-league is twenty-one people I know personally and the global rank is the evidence that the plan works. I would like both, and I intend to have both.

Q11. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 1,878,261 of 11,182,922, the top 16.80 percent. Is a 57-point week good enough from a frontrunner?

A. A top 17 percent week is a standard I will accept from any manager and the average of 45 was beaten comfortably. I lost no ground in the standings and I was not forced into a hit, which is not what I would call a bad week. The weekends that count are the ones where the others are forced to make mistakes, and this was one of those.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You are second on 561 points, 16 behind the leader, with only a Free Hit left and £2.9m banked. What is the route back to first?

Keep the armband on Haaland and let the points arrive on their own, because the leader holds a Wildcard and a larger bench problem than you do, and both of those will cost him in time. Use the banked money for an upgrade at one position rather than two small sidegrades, and reserve the Free Hit strictly for a blank or double gameweek when it can swing a whole week. With a 16-point gap and the leader's Kinsky-style bench leaks recurring, the lead is borrowed and it will be called in.

SZOBAMELA HOUSE —

Man With Three Chips Unused Scores 37 Points, Describes Them As Reserve Capital

Sources confirm the transfer window was ignored, the bench was expensive and the espresso was excellent.

szobamela Jose Castrejon

RANK 03 OF 21 · 523 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
1,138,667	8,338,899	37/9	100.5
of 11,182,922 — top 10.18%	of 11,182,922 — top 74.57%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.0m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 37 PTS

GKP	Verbruggen	BHA	4.6	2
DEF	Diop	IPS	3.9	1
DEF	Maguire	MUN	4.7	0
DEF	Muharemović	LEE	5.1	9
MID	Gomez	BHA	5.0	2
MID	Mbeumo	MUN	7.9	2
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
FWD	Calvert-Lewin	LEE	6.1	2
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16
FWD	João Pedro **(V)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0

BENCH · 9 PTS

GKP	Kinsky	TOT	4.4	0
DEF	Aït-Nouri ⌀	MCI	5.2	0
DEF	Frimpong ⌀	LIV	5.2	0
MID	B.Fernandes ⌀	MUN	11.7	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW2)~~ · WILDCARD · FREE HIT · BENCH BOOST

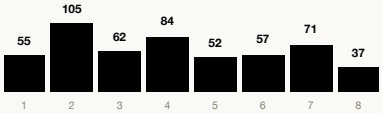
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	55	2,935,786	2,935,782	10	—
GW2	105	1,038,227	1,053,358	15	—
GW3	62	1,668,240	544,926	8	—
GW4	84	1,636,910	495,292	11	—
GW5	52	3,684,532	442,653	6	—
GW6	57	5,756,448	850,108	15	—
GW7	71	2,022,773	774,447	12	—
GW8	37	8,338,899	1,138,667	9	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Bart's Team	561	+38	1
THIS CLUB	szobamela	523	+0	3
BELOW	Dang Football Club	516	−7	1

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 37 points, below the global average of 45, in a week the leaders all scored comfortably above it. Is that a problem for a self-described contrarian?

A. A week below the average is exactly what a position with 3 chips unspent looks like when the fixtures are not kind. The managers who scored more have spent their ammunition and I have not, which is the real comparison. I will take a quiet weekend with a full armoury over a loud one with an empty cupboard.

Q2. You made 0 transfers this week and have never taken a hit. Is that discipline or neglect?

A. It is discipline, and the distinction matters enormously in a league where one man has paid points for the privilege of panicking. I rolled the transfer, kept my flexibility for later and spent my Saturday doing something more rewarding than refreshing a price-change website. The squad that carried me to third does not need emergency surgery.

Q3. You captained Haaland for 16 points doubled, as everyone else did. Where is the contrarian streak?

A. Sometimes the contrarian position is to be right, and this weekend being right meant doing what the planet did. I will not make a point of resisting an obvious decision when it also happens to be a correct one. The contrarianism returns the moment the fixtures give me a reason to be difficult.

Q4. Your bench returned 9 points, with Kinsky returning big numbers while sitting there. Why was a goalkeeper sat on the bench?

A. Kinsky is cover that I was not obliged to use and it is irritating that he delivered on the one weekend I did not. A bench of 9 points does tell me the starting eleven is where the value sits, which is the entire objective. I will review the goalkeeper situation but I do not intend to apologise for owning two.

Q5. Dang Football Club is 7 points behind you in the table. Is Khang Dang a threat?

A. Khang is a hard-working young man with a spreadsheet and a Wildcard, and I wish him well from a distance of 7 points. He is 7 points back and has used three chips to my one, which is a strange way to chase someone. I have no intention of looking over my shoulder until the shoulder becomes relevant.

Q6. You hold 3 chips: Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost. Is the reserve the threat of the league, or a museum?

A. It is a reserve and the managers above me have used their chips while I have kept mine, which is the real difference between us. Bart has 38 points on me and nothing but a Free Hit to show for it. I have a Wildcard, a Free Hit and a Bench Boost, and I intend to use them when the fixtures reward it.

Q7. Your vice-captain João Pedro started the weekend and returned 0 points. Did the armband setup cost you?

A. The vice-captain was never required to take the armband because the captain delivered, and so his contribution is largely academic. João Pedro is a good footballer who had a quiet weekend and I will not condemn him for it. The vice-captaincy is an insurance policy and I would rather not claim it.

Q8. You are third now and were third last week. Is this the ceiling or the floor?

A. This is the floor and I would like that printed in bold somewhere near the top of the page. I have climbed steadily without a Wildcard, without a Free Hit and without a Bench Boost, which means my best football is entirely unspent. The managers above me have played their best hands already.

Q9. You have £0.0m in the bank and a squad worth £100.5m. Is the squad fully invested?

A. Every pound is on the pitch, which is precisely where pounds are supposed to be. A bank balance of £0.0m means there is nothing in the vault, but I was not planning to buy anything. The value of £100.5m is the number I would like quoted.

Q10. Your overall rank is 1,138,667 of 11,182,922, the top 10.18 percent worldwide. How does that sit against your own expectations?

A. The top 10.18 percent of 11,182,922 people is a genuinely serious number and I intend to be insufferable about it. It confirms that third in this league is not a local accident but a globally competitive position. The only people ahead of me on that list are the ones who spent their chips first.

Q11. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 8,338,899 of 11,182,922, the bottom 25.4 percent of the planet. Do you accept this was a bad one?

A. Yes, and I will say so plainly, because a manager who cannot admit a poor week is destined to repeat it. A total of 37 against an average of 45 is not the standard I set, and the zero from a dormant section of the squad did not help. The saving grace is that I lost no places and I still have every chip.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit third on 523 points, 38 behind second place and 54 off the top, overall rank 1,138,667 of 11,182,922, with 3 chips intact: Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost. What is the blueprint for first?

Your chip reserve is the deepest in the top five and the squad is the leak, because a week of 37 points and a bench worth 9 suggests the structure is not producing. Use the Wildcard in the next suitable window to rebuild around guaranteed starters and stop carrying players who sit on the bench and return nothing, then deploy the Bench Boost only when the bench is genuinely playing. With three chips against the leaders' one apiece, holding your nerve is the strategy, but nerve alone will not close a gap of 54 points.

DANG FC ANALYTICS FLOOR —

Rookie Leaves 13 Points On Bench In One Week, Describes It As A Data-Gathering Exercise

Manager confirms Kinsky and Ajayi both scored and neither was in the team.

Dang Football Club Khang Dang

RANK 04 OF 21 · 516 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
1,460,086	2,578,039	54/13	100.8
of 11,182,922 — top 13.06%	of 11,182,922 — top 23.05%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £2.6m · 1 transfers

STARTING XI · 54 PTS

GKP	Verbruggen	BHA	4.6	2
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Gabriel	ARS	7.9	17
DEF	Richards	CRY	4.9	3
MID	Kamada	CRY	5.0	2
MID	Tavernier	BOU	6.3	10
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
FWD	Calvert-Lewin	LEE	6.1	2
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16

BENCH · 13 PTS

GKP	Kinsky	TOT	4.4	0
FWD	João Pedro **(V)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
DEF	Ajayi	HUL	4.2	0
MID	Janelt ⌀	BRE	5.0	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Semenyo 0 → Tavernier 10 +10

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~BENCH BOOST (GW2)~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ ~~FREE HIT (GW4)~~ WILDCARD

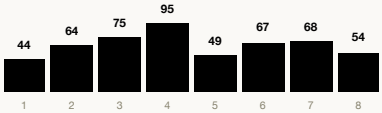
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	44	6,124,842	6,124,832	6	—
GW2	64	8,153,601	7,384,022	0	—
GW3	75	194,210	4,498,301	14	—
GW4	95	420,819	2,095,006	17	—
GW5	49	4,929,425	2,099,042	20	—
GW6	67	3,041,061	1,940,807	14	—
GW7	68	3,003,214	1,827,741	4	—
GW8	54	2,578,039	1,460,086	13	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	szobamela	523	+7	3
THIS CLUB	Dang Football Club	516	+0	1
BELOW	Saka la bolsita	512	-4	3

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You left 13 points on the bench, the largest of any manager in the top seven. Was that a mistake or a hypothesis?

A. I would like to characterise it as a hypothesis that produced extremely clear results, which is the whole point of the exercise. Kinsky and Ajayi delivered while I had them sitting down, and I have updated the model accordingly. I now have a spreadsheet that confirms I should have started them and a feeling that I already knew.

Q2. You scored 54 points against a global average of 45, with 1 transfer and no hit. Is that progress?

A. It is progress in the sense that I beat the average, and I will take that over a result that confirms my fears. The single transfer was Tavernier for Semenyo and it worked immediately, which is encouraging for a man who made the decision at two in the morning. I am cautiously pleased and I am also rechecking the numbers.

Q3. Haaland took the armband and returned 16 points doubled. Was that a safe choice or an overthought one?

A. It was the choice that the data supported and, to my relief, the choice that my gut also supported, which rarely happens. I considered three alternatives and rejected all of them on the grounds that none would have scored sixteen. The vice-captain played no minutes so the armband did not move.

Q4. Gabriel returned a huge score from your defence. Does that make up for the bench?

A. It makes up for some of it, and I will not pretend that a single great defender outweighs a bench that cost me 13 points. Gabriel is the best signing I have made all season and I would like it noted that he was started. The remaining problem is the selection process, and I am working on it.

Q5. Saka la bolsita are 4 points behind you and szobamela are 7 ahead. Which direction are you looking?

A. Both, constantly, which my family has described as a medical concern. szobamela are 7 points away and Saka la bolsita are 4 points behind, which means the whole of the middle of the table is within one good weekend. I am running a simulation to establish which of them is more likely to blink first.

Q6. You used Bench Boost in Gameweek 2, Triple Captain in Gameweek 3 and Free Hit in Gameweek 4, keeping only the Wildcard. Was that sequence planned?

A. It was planned in the sense that I wrote it down and then changed it twice, so the version that happened was the third draft. The chips delivered what I asked of them and the Wildcard is the one I have kept for when the squad genuinely needs rebuilding. I have colour-coded the options and I do not intend to show anyone.

Q7. Your vice-captain João Pedro sat on the bench and returned 0 points. Why is a vice-captain not playing?

A. João Pedro was a calculated risk that did not pay off, and I have logged it under the heading of lessons learned. A vice-captain who does not play is not a catastrophe as long as the captain does, which Haaland did. I will review the situation and probably talk myself into keeping him anyway.

Q8. You are fourth and were fourth last week. Is a movement of 0 places a sign of stability or stagnation?

A. I would call it stability, although I accept that I would call anything stability if it meant I did not have to explain it. The table did not change and the points came in, which is exactly what the model predicted, apart from the bench. I am treating this as a quiet success.

Q9. You hold £2.6m in the bank and a squad worth £100.8m. What is the plan for that cash?

A. The plan is to use it on one meaningful upgrade rather than three cosmetic ones, which I have confirmed with a flowchart. A balance of £2.6m is more than most managers have and I intend to spend it wisely. I have not yet decided where, and I will decide again tomorrow.

Q10. Your overall rank is 1,460,086 of 11,182,922, the top 13.06 percent. Does that reassure you?

A. It does, in a restrained way, because being 1,460,086 out of 11,182,922 is a number I would have accepted in August without a second thought. I keep checking it to make sure it has not changed and it keeps being the same. The overthinking has apparently been working.

Q11. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 2,578,039 of 11,182,922, the top 23.05 percent. Satisfied?

A. A top 23 percent week with a bench that cost 13 points is a result that I find both encouraging and annoying. 54 points against an average of 45 is good and it could have been better, which is how I judge everything. I will take it and then spend the evening working out what the number would have been.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You are fourth on 516 points, 7 behind third and 61 off the lead, overall rank 1,460,086 of 11,182,922, with Wildcard left and £2.6m banked. What is the plan to climb?

Fix the bench first, because 13 points left behind in one week is the most expensive leak in the squad, and the quickest remedy is to put Kinsky and Ajayi-type cover where it will actually play. Hold the Wildcard until the fixtures or injuries make a rebuild clearly worthwhile, and use the banked £2.6m on one decisive upgrade instead of several tentative ones. The gap of 61 points is closable if you stop second-guessing the eleven and start trusting them, because the data has been right more often than you have.

SAKA LA BOLSITA TRAINING GROUND —

Manager Takes 4-Point Hit, Posts 61 Points, Credits Hard Yards

Club makes 6 transfers in a single week and the lads responded, according to the gaffer.

Saka la bolsita

Phillip Lopez

RANK 05 OF 21 · 512 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
1,661,466	1,154,303	61/2	99.9
of 11,182,922 — top 14.86%	of 11,182,922 — top 10.32%	world avg 45 · hit −4	bank £0.0m · 6 transfers

STARTING XI · 61 PTS

GKP	Leno	FUL	4.5	8
DEF	Gabriel	ARS	7.9	17
DEF	Muharemović	LEE	5.1	9
DEF	Diop	IPS	3.9	1
DEF	Thomas	COV	4.0	1
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
MID	Palmer **(V)**	CHE	9.8	-1
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16
FWD	Evanilson	BOU	6.2	6

BENCH · 2 PTS

GKP	Matthews ⌀	CRY	4.0	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
MID	Rudoni	COV	4.9	0
DEF	Maguire	MUN	4.7	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Kinsky	9 →	Leno	8	-1
Gomez	2 →	Rudoni	2	+0
Kusi-Asare	0 →	Evanilson	6	+6
B.Fernandes	0 →	Palmer	-1	-1
Szoboszlai	0 →	Groß	0	+0
Tzolis	0 →	Rice	3	+3

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ · WILDCARD · FREE HIT · BENCH BOOST

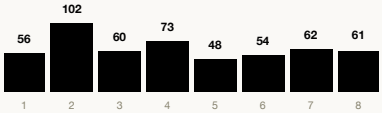
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	56	2,677,595	2,677,591	2	—
GW2	102	1,364,487	1,213,143	2	—
GW3	60	2,292,832	759,785	7	—
GW4	73	4,160,326	1,178,088	1	—
GW5	48	5,099,293	1,272,665	4	—
GW6	54	6,652,922	1,983,984	0	—
GW7	62	4,805,874	2,191,475	3	—
GW8	61	1,154,303	1,661,466	2	-4

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	**Dang Football Club**	516	+4	1
THIS CLUB	**Saka la bolsita**	512	+0	3
BELOW	**Gunner4Lyfe**	505	-7	2

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You made 6 transfers and took a 4-point hit, and you scored 61 points. Was the overhaul worth it?

A. At the end of the day you have to roll your sleeves up and make the big calls, and the lads responded to the manager. A 4-point hit is a small price when the performance is a week like that, and the lads gave one hundred and ten percent. I always said it was a game of two halves and this week the second half belonged to us.

Q2. You scored 61 points against a global average of 45. How does the gaffer rate it?

A. Look, it is a good result and the boys deserve the credit, but there is a lot of work still to do. We beat the average by a distance and we keep our feet on the ground, because you are only as good as your last match. It is a marathon and not a sprint, and this weekend we ran well.

Q3. Haaland took the armband and returned 16 points doubled. Did the captain deliver?

A. The big man stood up when it mattered and that is what captains do. Haaland is a top, top player and when you give him the armband he gives you the goods. Every manager in the top seven would tell you the same, and the proof is in the pudding.

Q4. Your vice-captain Palmer returned -1 points. Is that a concern?

A. Palmer will be disappointed with that, but he is a class act and class is permanent. One quiet match does not make a bad player, and he will bounce back, because the lad has the quality. You cannot judge a footballer on ninety minutes, or in his case seventy-nine.

Q5. You made six changes, including Leno for Kinsky, who was on three other benches. Did you read the game correctly?

A. Leno did the business and you cannot argue with the points, even if Kinsky did marginally better elsewhere. It is a results business and the goalkeeper delivered when we needed him. You make the decision on the day and live with the consequences, like a man.

Q6. Gunner4Lyfe are 7 points behind you and Dang Football Club are 4 ahead. Who is the rival?

A. We take one game at a time and we respect everybody, so I will not single anyone out. Dang Football Club are 4 points ahead and Gunner4Lyfe are 7 behind, so there is everything to play for. It is a tight league and the cream will rise to the top.

Q7. You moved from sixth to fifth, a movement of 1 place up. Is it deserved?

A. It is hard work and the lads showed real character, and the table never lies. We went up by 1 place and that is a reward for the graft in the dressing room. I will not get carried away, because the season is long.

Q8. You have 3 chips left: Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost. When do you play them?

A. You play the cards when the time is right and not before, because a good manager knows when to twist and when to stick. We have all the options open and the squad is in a great place going forward. The chips will come out when the fixtures say so, and not a moment earlier.

Q9. You hold £0.0m in the bank and a squad worth £99.9m. Is that deliberate?

A. We spent every penny on the lads and the cupboard is bare, which is how a proper club is run. A bank balance of £0.0m is the mark of a manager who backs his squad, and the value of £99.9m shows that the plan is sound. You cannot take it with you, so you might as well put it on the pitch.

Q10. Your overall rank is 1,661,466 of 11,182,922, the top 14.86 percent. Fair reflection?

A. It is a fair reflection of a decent campaign so far, and the lads should be proud. Being 1,661,466 out of 11,182,922 is the foundation of something, and we build on foundations, one brick at a time. There is plenty more to come, and the best is yet to be.

Q11. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 1,154,303 of 11,182,922, the top 10.32 percent. How do you feel?

A. A top 10 percent week is a performance and a half, and the gaffer is delighted. We got 61 points against an average of 45 and the boys put in a shift, even after the 4-point hit. It is the sort of display that wins you matches.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You are fifth on 512 points, 4 behind Dang Football Club, overall rank 1,661,466 of 11,182,922, with Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost untouched and £0.0m banked. What is the way forward?

Stop paying for hits that the squad does not need, because a 4-point deduction is a self-inflicted wound that the lads have to make up before they can move forward, and one big week does not justify a habit. Keep the armband on Haaland and use the Wildcard when the fixtures and injuries truly demand it, saving the Free Hit and Bench Boost for a double or a blank. You have three chips in hand and you are only 4 points off fourth, and if you stay patient the table will come to you.

GUNNER4LYFE TRAINING FACILITY —

Arsenal Fan Plays Bench Boost, Captain Plays Zero Minutes, Still Posts The Best Rank In The League

Gabriel's haul, a moved armband and £2.5m of patience combine to lift the club 3 places.

Gunner4Lyfe Joshua Clarke

RANK 06 OF 21 **505 PTS**

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
2,021,789	103,860	75/0	99.8
of 11,182,922 — top 18.08%	of 11,182,922 — top 0.93%	world avg 45 · hit –0 · bench boost live	bank £2.5m · 2 transfers

STARTING XI · 75 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	Gabriel	ARS	7.9	17
DEF	Lacroix	CHE	5.9	3
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
DEF	Cash	AVL	4.3	3
MID	Doku	MCI	7.5	2
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
MID	Barcola	LIV	8.1	6
MID	Xhaka	SUN	5.4	3
FWD	Isak **(V)**	LIV	9.0	18
FWD	N.Jackson	AVL	6.7	13

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Sánchez ⌀	CHE	4.9	0
FWD	João Pedro **(C)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
DEF	Keane ⌀	EVE	4.7	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Grealish	0 → Groß	0	+0
Semenyo	0 → Doku	2	+2

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ ~~BENCH BOOST (GW8)~~ WILDCARD FREE HIT

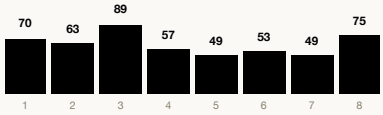
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	70	529,737	529,735	12	—
GW2	63	8,213,707	4,180,581	6	—
GW3	89	6,422	568,295	3	—
GW4	57	8,472,953	2,038,413	0	—
GW5	49	4,929,425	2,043,638	3	—
GW6	53	7,124,857	2,831,844	4	—
GW7	49	8,440,662	3,761,512	10	—
GW8	75	103,860	2,021,789	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Saka la bolsita	512	+7	3
THIS CLUB	Gunner4Lyfe	505	+0	2
BELOW	El Cochiloco	502	−3	1

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You played your Bench Boost this week and your bench returned 0 points. Was that a wasted chip?

A. I will not call it wasted when the week came in at 75 points, the best in the top seven, and I rose 3 places on the back of it. The bench itself scored nothing, I admit, and that is a lesson for the next chip and not a verdict on the Arsenal way. The Bench Boost is gone but the Wildcard and the Free Hit are still here.

Q2. You scored 75 points against a global average of 45, with 2 transfers and no hit. Is this your breakthrough week?

A. This is what a squad built on Arsenal defenders does when the fixtures are kind, and I will enjoy every minute of it. Two sensible transfers, Doku and Groß, and the rest left alone, because the Gabriel-shaped engine was already running. 75 points against an average of 45 is the answer to anyone who doubted the plan.

Q3. You captained João Pedro, who played zero minutes. The armband moved to Isak for 18 points. Did that save the week?

A. It saved the week completely, and I would like to thank the vice-captaincy system for existing. João Pedro did not leave the bench and the armband passed to Isak, who delivered 18 points doubled. I will say honestly that I would have preferred to captain the right man the first time.

Q4. Gabriel returned a monster score from your defence. Are you now insufferable about Arsenal?

A. I was insufferable about Arsenal before Gabriel scored so heavily, so the gap between my usual behaviour and my current behaviour is small. A centre-back delivering that haul is the proof that defending is the best form of attack. Raya and Ødegaard also contributed, and I would like the record to show Arsenal were the foundation.

Q5. El Cochiloco are 3 points behind you and Saka la bolsita are 7 ahead. What does a climb of 3 places feel like?

A. It feels like a long time coming and I will not pretend otherwise. I am 7 points behind Saka la bolsita and 3 ahead of El Cochiloco, so I have the pleasure of looking up and the discomfort of looking down. The climb from ninth to sixth is the best news I have had since the transfer window.

Q6. Your vice-captain Isak is the man who actually took the armband. Was that planned?

A. Planned is a strong word, but I did choose the vice-captain with care, and that care was rewarded this weekend. Isak returned 9 points before the armband doubled it, and I will gladly take the credit for that. The vice-captaincy is a safety net and it caught me.

Q7. You have used Triple Captain (GW3), Bench Boost (GW8) and hold Wildcard, Free Hit. What is the plan for the rest?

A. The Wildcard waits for the moment the squad needs a rebuild and the Free Hit waits for a blank gameweek. I have spent the chips that gave me the best returns and kept the ones that protect me. Arsenal fans know the value of patience, and I have had plenty of practice.

Q8. You hold £2.5m in the bank and a squad worth £99.8m. Is that cash waiting for a purpose?

A. That money has been sitting in the account like a war chest, and I am delighted to say it is still earning respect. A balance of £2.5m gives me room to make a proper upgrade when the moment comes. A squad value of £99.8m is not a number I intend to apologise for.

Q9. Your overall rank is 2,021,789 of 11,182,922, the top 18.08 percent. How does it feel to sit there?

A. It feels like vindication, and I would like the full top 18.08 percent noted in the record. Being 2,021,789 out of 11,182,922 is a rank I would not have predicted a few weeks ago, and I did not predict it then. The lads at the Emirates have been good to me, and I intend to return the favour.

Q10. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 103,860 of 11,182,922, the top 0.93 percent. Your best week of the season. Reaction?

A. Being in the top 1 percent of the planet is a feeling I want to bottle, and I will certainly remember it. 75 points against an average of 45 is a gap that is not common in my history. I would like to say it was always going to happen, but the honest truth is that it was a bit of a surprise.

Q11. You were ninth last week and are now sixth. Do you believe you can go higher?

A. I believe in Arsenal and I believe in the process, and I will let the points do the talking. The table has a way of rewarding patience, and I am sitting 7 points behind the next man. There is a long way to go, but I am moving in the right direction.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You are sixth on 505 points, 7 behind fifth and 72 off the lead, overall rank 2,021,789 of 11,182,922, with Wildcard, Free Hit remaining and £2.5m banked. How do you keep climbing?

Stop captaining players before their team sheet is confirmed, because the armband landing on a man with zero minutes only worked this week because the vice-captain was in form, and that will not always be the case. Keep the Arsenal defenders that are delivering and use the banked £2.5m to fix the bench so a future Bench Boost is not spent on four dead cheques. With a Wildcard and a Free Hit still in hand and a gap of 72 points to the lead, patience and a clean captaincy decision are all that separate you from the top four.

EL COCHILOCO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES—

Man Drops 2 Places, Watches Captain Not Play, Declares The Season Over Again

Club confirms João Pedro captained, did not play, and was nevertheless left in the squad.

El Cochiloco Alfonso Castrejon

RANK 07 OF 21 · 502 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
2,162,832	6,024,302	44/7	102.2
of 11,182,922 — top 19.34%	of 11,182,922 — top 53.87%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.3m · 1 transfers

STARTING XI · 44 PTS

GKP	Verbruggen	BHA	4.6	2
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Gvardiol	MCI	5.8	1
DEF	Konsa	ARS	4.7	14
MID	Gibbs-White	NFO	7.9	2
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
MID	Schade	BRE	6.2	2
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
FWD	Haaland **(V)**	MCI	15.7	16
FWD	Calvert-Lewin	LEE	6.1	2

BENCH · 7 PTS

GKP	Pickford	EVE	5.5	0
FWD	João Pedro **(C)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	0
DEF	Hall	NEW	5.3	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Gonzalo	2 → Calvert-Lewin	2	+0

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~BENCH BOOST (GW1)~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ ~~WILDCARD (GW6)~~ FREE HIT

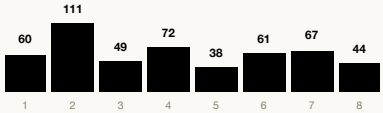
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	60	1,785,496	1,785,494	0	—
GW2	111	512,876	442,465	1	—
GW3	49	6,328,965	664,410	19	—
GW4	72	4,590,434	1,145,917	10	—
GW5	38	8,792,938	1,896,308	8	—
GW6	61	4,551,923	2,130,542	29	—
GW7	67	3,146,712	2,032,828	6	—
GW8	44	6,024,302	2,162,832	7	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Gunner4Lyfe	505	+3	2
THIS CLUB	El Cochiloco	502	+0	1
BELOW	papoy	485	−17	1

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You captained João Pedro, who played zero minutes. The armband moved to Haaland for 16 points. Is that a rescue or a consolation?

A. It is a consolation dressed as a rescue, and I will not be fooled by it. I gave the armband to a man who never took the field and the vice-captain had to carry the load, which is a perfect summary of my season. Haaland did well and I will remember it fondly as the last good thing to happen.

Q2. You scored 44 points against a global average of 45, with 1 transfer and no hit. Was that even a result?

A. It was a result in the sense that points were recorded, and nobody could say that I tried to avoid it. 44 points against 45 is a performance that history will note and then ignore. I made a single transfer and it did nothing, which is exactly how the week went.

Q3. You dropped 2 places, from fifth to seventh. Did you see it coming?

A. I saw it coming a month ago and I told nobody because nobody listens to me. The table is moving down by 2 places and it feels like a long goodbye. I will say it was inevitable and I will say it again next week.

Q4. Your bench returned 7 points, including Hall and Pickford. Did the bench cost you the week?

A. A bench of 7 points is a cruel detail in an already cruel week, and Hall scoring five while sitting there is the sort of thing that finds me. It is not the reason I dropped, but it is the reason I was angry. I will sit with that for a while.

Q5. Gunner4Lyfe are 3 points ahead of you. Is that gap closable?

A. It is closable in the sense that every gap is closable, and it will be closed by somebody else overtaking me first. Gunner4Lyfe are 3 points up the road and I am watching them leave. I will wave from here.

Q6. You have used Bench Boost (GW1), Triple Captain (GW3), Wildcard (GW6) and hold only Free Hit. Did you spend too soon?

A. I spent them all in the belief that they would help, and that belief has now been tested by evidence. Bench Boost in Gameweek 1, Triple Captain in Gameweek 3 and the Wildcard in Gameweek 6 all felt like good ideas, which is the most worrying part. The Free Hit is the last card and I am afraid to look at it.

Q7. Your vice-captain Haaland took the armband and returned 8 points before doubling. Why was he not captain from the start?

A. Because I am a man who prefers the dramatic route, and it appears the dramatic route wins over the sensible one every time. Haaland did the job once the armband moved to him and he did it well, and I will accept that as proof of my sound judgment on the vice-captaincy. It is a small comfort and I will treasure it.

Q8. You hold £0.3m in the bank and a squad worth £102.2m, the highest value in the top seven. Does that comfort you?

A. A squad worth £102.2m should comfort a rational man, but I have never been one of those. The value rises while the points fall, and that is the saddest sentence I can think of. A bank of £0.3m is a small mercy and I will use it for something small.

Q9. Your overall rank is 2,162,832 of 11,182,922, the top 19.34 percent. Does that matter?

A. Being 2,162,832 out of 11,182,922 should matter, and I know it should, and yet it does not move me. The top 19.34 percent is a fine place to suffer, and I intend to do it with dignity. I will mention it only when I need to be reminded that things could be worse.

Q10. Your Gameweek 8 rank was 6,024,302 of 11,182,922, the bottom 46.1 percent of the planet. Is it as bad as it looks?

A. It is worse than it looks, because the number only tells you where I finished and not how I felt. A week of 44 points against an average of 45 puts me in the bottom 46.1 percent and I will carry that into the next gameweek. I am not angry, I am just disappointed in the universe.

Q11. You were fifth last week and are now seventh. Where does the slide end?

A. It ends when it ends, and I do not think it has the courtesy to tell me in advance. I have fallen to seventh and the only positive is that I am still in the top seven. I would rather not know the bottom.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You are seventh on 502 points, 75 off the lead, overall rank 2,162,832 of 11,182,922, with only Free Hit left and £0.3m banked. Is there any way back?

There is, and it begins with refusing to captain a player before the team sheet, because your armband went to a man with zero minutes and was saved only by a vice-captain who happened to be Haaland. Keep the Free Hit for a genuine blank, and make your transfers early and with conviction so the bench stops holding points that belong in the eleven. A gap of 75 points is not insurmountable, and what stands between you and the top is a few clean decisions and a little less melodrama.

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION —

Captain Spends Gameweek On The Bench, Manager Describes It As A Personal Betrayal By The Universe

The armband was passed to the vice-captain at the last moment, which the club is treating as a mercy it did not deserve.

papoy Alexis Segura

RANK 08 OF 21 · 485 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
3,186,672	9,188,456	35/6	100.6
of 11,182,922 — top 28.50%	of 11,182,922 — top 82.17%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.6m · 2 transfers

STARTING XI · 35 PTS

GKP	Verbruggen	BHA	4.6	2
DEF	Bogle	LEE	4.7	5
DEF	Gvardiol	MCI	5.8	1
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Diop	IPS	3.9	1
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
MID	Tavernier	BOU	6.3	10
MID	Mbeumo **(V)**	MUN	7.9	4
MID	Stach	LEE	6.0	1
FWD	Brobbey	SUN	5.7	2
FWD	Haaland	MCI	15.7	8

BENCH · 6 PTS

GKP	Palmer ⌀	IPS	4.0	0
MID	B.Fernandes **(C)** ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
DEF	Hume	SUN	4.2	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Muñoz	7 → Bogle	5	−2
Tzolis	0 → Tavernier	10	+10

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~BENCH BOOST (GW2)~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ ~~FREE HIT (GW4)~~ WILDCARD

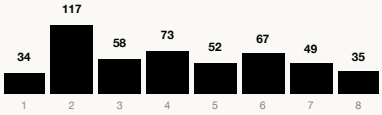
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	34	8,092,223	8,092,210	13	—
GW2	117	240,774	1,938,967	0	—
GW3	58	2,894,534	1,427,529	5	—
GW4	73	4,160,326	1,784,772	9	—
GW5	52	3,865,901	1,600,241	21	—
GW6	67	3,041,061	1,530,764	1	—
GW7	49	8,440,662	2,490,208	3	—
GW8	35	9,188,456	3,186,672	6	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	El Cochiloco	502	+17	1
THIS CLUB	papoy	485	+0	1
BELOW	Red Lobster FC	467	−18	3

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 35 points against a global average of 45 and slipped from seventh to eighth. Was it as bad as it looked?

A. It was worse, because I watched every minute of it and I am the only person who can never unsee it. Falling 1 place down the table is the kind of quiet disgrace that does not even earn a headline of its own. I take full responsibility and I would like it noted that nobody has asked me to.

Q2. Your captain B.Fernandes did not play a minute, so the armband slid to Mbeumo, who returned 4. Is that a rescue or an insult?

A. It is both, delivered by the same fixture list at the same moment. Mbeumo did his best, but 4 points from a double armband is hardly the hero's welcome I had imagined when I made the choice. A captain who does not play is the purest form of failure because there is nothing to even blame him for.

Q3. Your bench returned 6 points, with Hume alone taking six. Did the wrong eleven start?

A. Of course the wrong eleven started, because that is the only kind I have ever managed to select. Six points sat quietly behind the white line watching the lads in front of him achieve considerably less. I would apologise to Hume personally but I suspect he is better off not knowing me.

Q4. Your transfer of Tavernier for Tzolis was a clear hit, while Bogle for Muñoz was a small loss. Does one good call redeem the week?

A. Tavernier returned ten points, which is the only moment of competence my team has shown since the clocks changed. The Bogle deal gave me five where I would have had seven, so even my victories arrive with a footnote. I refuse to be comforted and I am deeply suspicious of the one that worked.

Q5. You have spent Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Free Hit (GW4), leaving only Wildcard. Did you burn the matches too early?

A. I lit every chip in the first four weeks as though the world were ending, and it has now been several weeks of staring at the ash. The Wildcard is all that remains and I treat it like a lifeboat on a ship I personally steered into the rocks. At least the empty chip tray is honest about the sort of manager I am.

Q6. El Cochiloco sit 17 points clear above you, and Red Lobster FC are only 18 behind. Which of those keeps you awake?

A. Both, and I have tried alternating them in case the sleeplessness gets bored. 17 points to the club above is a gap that feels enormous at midnight and merely large at breakfast. Red Lobster FC breathing down my neck by 18 is simply the universe making sure I never relax.

Q7. You made two transfers and took a hit of 0. Is that restraint or avoidance?

A. It is restraint of the sort practised by a man who has simply run out of hope. Zero points of deduction is the only line on my record that I can look at without wincing. I made two sensible moves and the week still turned on a bench decision, which tells you everything about my relationship with fate.

Q8. Your club is named papoy, after the Minions. Is the squad's performance still in the spirit of the name?

A. It is more in the spirit than I would like, because the tactical briefings really are just shouting in a high pitch for four days. We submit a lineup, we hope for the best, and then we scream at a television on Saturday. The name was meant as a joke and it has aged into a diagnosis.

Q9. Your squad value is £100.6m with £0.6m in the bank. Any comfort in the numbers?

A. The squad is worth exactly what it deserves and not a penny more, which is a sentence I have been rehearsing for weeks. £0.6m in the bank is a small pile of pennies that I look at the way a man looks at a sinking boat. If I could spend it on a better decision-maker I would, but they do not sell those.

Q10. Your overall rank is 3,186,672 of 11,182,922, the top 28.50 percent worldwide. Does that soften the blow?

A. Being 3,186,672 out of 11,182,922 means millions of strangers are having a worse season than me, which I find mildly medicinal. Every one of them that is ahead of me managed to keep a captain on the pitch, though. The global rank is a comfort and the armband is a scar.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 9,188,456 of 11,182,922, the top 82.17 percent, on 35 points. Is that survivable?

A. Top 82.17 percent sounds generous until you remember it is a polite way of saying below average, and I have the average of 45 to prove it. I have processed it, filed it, and decided to tell nobody, which is why you are hearing it from the newspaper. We will move forward with the quiet shame that has carried this club through every previous week.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit eighth on 485 points, 92 off the top, overall rank 3,186,672 of 11,182,922, holding only Wildcard after Bench Boost (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3), Free Hit (GW4). How do you rebuild from here?

Your structural problem is not talent but the sequence of chips, because spending Bench Boost, Triple Captain and Free Hit by Gameweek 4 has left you exposed to a captain who sits out entirely. Adopt a rule that your captain must be a player with confirmed minutes at the deadline and name the vice with equal care, so a benched B.Fernandes cannot repeat this week. Hold the Wildcard for the December fixture swing, bank the £0.6m, and rebuild around the Tavernier-type returners rather than chasing names.

RED LOBSTER FC INVESTOR RELATIONS—

Club Reports Strong Fundamentals Despite Gameweek Of Underperformance, Cites Headwinds

Management reiterates full confidence in a strategy that returned 34 points against an average of 45.

Red Lobster FC

Neil Patel-Hernandez

RANK 09 OF 21 **467 PTS**

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
4,352,431	**9,230,490**	**34/0**	**100.3**
of 11,182,922 — top **38.92%**	of 11,182,922 — top **82.54%**	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.0m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 34 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	Maguire	MUN	4.7	0
DEF	Davis	IPS	4.0	2
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Pedro Porro	TOT	5.3	1
DEF	Dasilva	COV	4.0	2
MID	Mbeumo	MUN	7.9	2
MID	Cherki **(V)**	MCI	8.0	0
MID	Gibbs-White	NFO	7.9	2
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16
FWD	Wissa	NEW	6.1	1

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Dubravka ⌀	TOT	4.0	0
MID	Semenyo ⌀	MCI	8.2	0
MID	Reed ⌀	FUL	4.3	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW7)~~ | WILDCARD | FREE HIT | BENCH BOOST

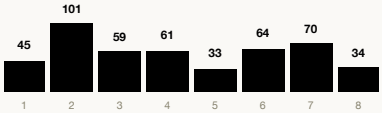
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	45	5,859,118	5,859,109	11	—
GW2	101	1,480,702	2,439,660	7	—
GW3	59	2,650,992	1,805,607	1	—
GW4	61	7,451,423	3,145,812	14	—
GW5	33	9,843,805	4,554,323	2	—
GW6	64	3,913,165	4,166,573	0	—
GW7	70	2,480,601	3,578,253	0	—
GW8	34	9,230,490	4,352,431	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	**papoy**	485	+18	1
THIS CLUB	**Red Lobster FC**	467	+0	3
BELOW	**The Special Ones**	441	−26	4

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 34 points against a global average of 45 and slipped from eighth to ninth. How do you frame the quarter?

A. We are viewing this as a timing difference rather than a structural concern, and we remain confident in our long-term roadmap. A shortfall of 34 points against 45 is well within the range of normal volatility for a business of our scale. We will provide a fuller update once the numbers are more favourable.

Q2. Haaland carried the armband for 16 points while your vice Cherki returned 0. Was the captaincy a good use of resources?

A. Our captaincy function delivered precisely what the business case promised, which was 16 points from the single largest line item in the portfolio. The vice-captain contributed 0 points, which we consider a non-core asset that remains under review. Overall we are comfortable with the allocation.

Q3. You made no transfers this week and took a hit of 0. Is inaction a strategy?

A. We prefer to describe it as a disciplined hold period designed to preserve optionality across the balance sheet. Zero transfers means zero execution risk, which our stakeholders have consistently told us they value. The board will revisit the position once the market offers a more compelling entry point.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points because every substitute stayed on the touchline. Is that a leaner operating model?

A. A bench return of 0 points demonstrates exactly the cost discipline our investors expect from a lean organisation. Nobody on the substitutes list was required, so nobody on the substitutes list was a drag on earnings. We regard unused capacity as an investment in resilience.

Q5. You used your Triple Captain last week and still have Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost. Was that front-loading the right call?

A. The Triple Captain was deployed in line with our stated roadmap and has been fully expensed in last week's results. With 3 chips remaining we retain meaningful strategic flexibility going into the next quarter. We will continue to evaluate the optimal deployment window with the appropriate stakeholders.

Q6. papoy are 18 points above you and The Special Ones sit 26 behind. How do you describe the competitive landscape?

A. The landscape remains competitive, with papoy ahead by 18 points and The Special Ones trailing by a margin of 26. We do not comment on competitors other than to say we respect them and intend to outperform them. Our market position is stable and our guidance is unchanged.

Q7. You fell from eighth to ninth, a loss of 1 place. Is this a trend?

A. A single data point does not constitute a trend, and we would caution analysts against extrapolating from one reporting period. We acknowledge the movement of 1 place down and have flagged it for the leadership offsite. Management remains laser-focused on getting back to the top of the league.

Q8. Your club is named Red Lobster FC. Does the brand still carry weight in the league?

A. The brand carries tremendous equity, and we believe our endless-shrimp positioning is a durable differentiator. We have no plans to rebrand, restructure, or reconsider the seafood strategy at this time. The name is an asset and the results are a temporary external factor.

Q9. Your squad value is £100.3m with £0.0m in the bank. How do you describe your capital position?

A. Our capital position is strong, with £0.0m in the bank providing a modest but responsible liquidity buffer. A squad value of £100.3m reflects careful stewardship of the asset base through a challenging environment. We have no plans to raise additional capital this quarter.

Q10. Your overall rank is 4,352,431 of 11,182,922, the top 38.92 percent worldwide. Is that a headline metric?

A. Top 38.92 percent out of 11,182,922 participants is a headline metric we are proud to present to the board. It demonstrates durable performance against the entire global market and not just our peer group. We will continue to report it prominently in all external communications.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 9,230,490 of 11,182,922, the top 82.54 percent, on 34 points. Was the quarter a miss?

A. It was a modest miss against internal forecasts but remained solidly in the upper half of the global league. We attribute the shortfall to external headwinds, specifically the unavailability of several attackers on the field. We expect a rebound as conditions normalise.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit ninth on 467 points, 110 off the top, overall rank 4,352,431 of 11,182,922, with 3 chips left — Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost — and zero hits taken. What is the actionable recommendation?

Your position is sound but passive, since a Triple Captain already deployed and three chips intact mean the weakness is in-week team selection rather than in chip strategy. Use the £0.0m in the bank and a free transfer to move the underperforming midfielders who delivered single digits, and give the armband to the highest-ceiling attacker rather than a guaranteed floor. Reserve the Wildcard for the fixture swing, because with Bench Boost and Free Hit also available you can outlast the managers above who are running out of tools.

THE SPECIAL ONES TRAINING COMPLEX —

Manager Starts Two Players Who Do Not Play And Still Climbs A Place, Says Football Owes Him Nothing

A gameweek score of 45 was described as the football Gods being fair, which the manager feels is the most they have ever been.

The Special Ones Cameron Walker

RANK 10 OF 21 **441 PTS**

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
6,018,275	**5,402,601**	**45/0**	**100.7**
of 11,182,922 — top **53.82%**	of 11,182,922 — top **48.31%**	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.0m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 45 PTS

GKP	Donnarumma	MCI	5.5	1
DEF	Virgil **(V)**	LIV	6.4	9
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Jacquet	LIV	5.1	8
DEF	Ajayi	HUL	4.2	4
MID	B.Fernandes ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
MID	Saka ⌀	ARS	9.5	0
MID	Ødegaard **(C)**	ARS	6.8	6
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
MID	McGinn	AVL	5.4	6
FWD	Isak	LIV	9.0	9

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Steele ⌀	BHA	4.0	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
FWD	Šeško ⌀	MUN	6.9	0
DEF	Mendy ⌀	HUL	4.1	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD~~ ~~FREE HIT~~ ~~BENCH BOOST~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN~~

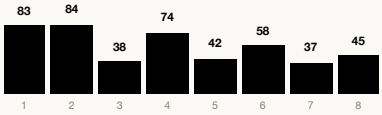
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	83	55,917	55,917	1	—
GW2	84	4,114,227	618,053	1	—
GW3	38	9,460,121	1,805,607	11	—
GW4	74	4,155,710	3,885,308	3	−20
GW5	42	7,325,912	4,438,980	0	—
GW6	58	5,455,737	4,516,229	3	—
GW7	37	10,292,812	6,004,269	3	—
GW8	45	5,402,601	6,018,275	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	**Red Lobster FC**	467	+26	3
THIS CLUB	**The Special Ones**	441	+0	4
BELOW	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	436	−5	4

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 45 points, exactly in line with the average of 45, and climbed from eleventh to tenth. A fair result?

A. I have learnt not to ask whether football is fair, only whether it is honest, and this week it was both. We were an average side on an average day, and in this league that is enough to gain 1 place up. I will not get carried away and I will not complain, because I have already done enough complaining for one lifetime.

Q2. Ødegaard took the armband for 6 points while your vice Virgil returned 9. Was the wrong man captain?

A. I will not criticise Ødegaard, because he did what he does and he did it professionally. The vice-captain Virgil returned 9 points, which is a lesson I will keep in a drawer and take out when I need to be humble. You make a decision, you live with the decision, and you do not blame the player.

Q3. Bruno Fernandes and Saka both started for you and neither played a minute. Whose fault is that?

A. It is my fault, and I will say so clearly because nobody else in this building will. Two starters with zero minutes is a hole in the team that you can only blame on the manager and on nobody else. I have asked the staff to bring me both of their injury reports and I promise to read them before Friday.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points, yet a lot of quality sat on it. Is a pure bench the same as a clean sheet?

A. A bench of 0 points is a bench that did its job by not being needed, and I am proud of that discipline. Substitutes who sit quietly are professionals who understand the hierarchy and who wait their turn. The only trouble is that two men in my eleven needed that bench far more than the bench ever needed them.

Q5. You used no chips and hold all four — Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain. Are you hoarding or waiting?

A. I am waiting, because a chip played in the wrong week is a trophy given away for free. We have 4 chips in the armoury and a manager who knows exactly how expensive it is to use them badly. When the time is right I will use them, and not one minute earlier.

Q6. Red Lobster FC sit 26 points above you while FK Jizmaila Sarr trail by 5. Where do you look?

A. I do not look up and I do not look down, I look at the next match and at the eleven men in front of me. 26 points to the side above is a gap that closes one gameweek at a time, not through speeches. 5 points to the side below is a cushion, and a cushion is a thing you sit on, never a thing you rely on.

Q7. You made no transfers and took no hit, bank at £0.0m. Why stand still?

A. Standing still is a decision, and I made it with my eyes open and a hit of 0 on the board. You do not trade a player on one bad weekend because a manager who does that will never build anything lasting. I will review the squad when the facts change and not when the mood does.

Q8. Your club is named The Special Ones. Is that still a fair description?

A. The name was given with confidence and I try to live up to it with humility, which is the opposite of how it started. We are special when the results say so and ordinary when they do not, and this week they said ordinary. I have never minded being ordinary on the way to being something more.

Q9. Your squad value is £100.7m. Is the squad worth what you paid for it?

A. A squad is worth exactly what it wins, and at £100.7m we have not yet won enough to say it is worth the money. The investment is sound and the players are good, but football is not a spreadsheet and I will not pretend otherwise. We keep working and we let the table decide.

Q10. Your overall rank is 6,018,275 of 11,182,922, the top 53.82 percent worldwide. Is that where a Special One belongs?

A. Top 53.82 percent out of 11,182,922 managers is respectable, and respectable is a place you build from, not a place you hide in. Nobody in this club believes it is where we belong, and nobody in this club intends to stay there. The rank is a start and not a destination.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 5,402,601 of 11,182,922, the top 48.31 percent, on 45 points. Fair assessment?

A. It was a fair result for a fair team, solid enough to climb and modest enough to stay humble. A rank of 5,402,601 will not be remembered, and I think that is exactly the point I am trying to make to the dressing room. We do not win titles on days we are remembered, we win them on the days nobody notices.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit tenth on 441 points, 136 off the top, overall rank 6,018,275 of 11,182,922, with all 4 chips intact — Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain — and zero hits. How do you turn patience into a title?

Your intact chip set is the strongest asset in the league, but two blank starters this week show your squad depth is the real weakness. Use the free transfer to remove the players who miss minutes and replace them with nailed starters, and give the armband to the highest-ceiling asset like Virgil or Isak rather than a captain who returned 6. Then deploy the Bench Boost only once all fifteen are secure, because your route up the table is rotation-proofing the squad rather than adding new names.

FK JIZMAILA SARR, SOMEWHERE—

Manager Fields Four Players Who Did Not Play, Scores 25 Points, Says It Was Probably Inevitable

The gameweek rank places the club in the bottom 4.2 percent of all humanity, a position the manager describes as roughly where the universe left him.

FK Jizmaila Sarr Aleksa Divcic

RANK 11 OF 21 **436 PTS**

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
6,279,634	10,715,062	25/0	101.2
of 11,182,922 — top 56.15%	of 11,182,922 — top 95.82%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.0m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 25 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	J.Cuenca ⌀	FUL	4.4	0
DEF	James ⌀	CHE	5.2	0
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Maguire	MUN	4.7	0
MID	B.Fernandes **(V)** ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
MID	Palmer	CHE	9.8	-1
MID	Foden	MCI	6.8	1
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Austin ⌀	TOT	4.0	0
MID	Bendito Mantato ⌀	MUN	4.4	0
MID	Mukasa ⌀	MCI	4.5	0
FWD	Furo ⌀	BRE	4.5	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD~~ ~~FREE HIT~~ ~~BENCH BOOST~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN~~

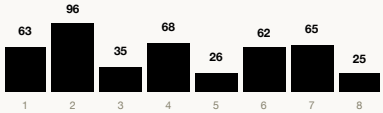
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	63	1,282,719	1,282,717	0	—
GW2	96	2,267,822	1,563,840	0	-4
GW3	35	9,780,896	3,583,662	0	—
GW4	68	5,573,250	3,913,410	0	—
GW5	26	10,649,288	5,905,729	0	—
GW6	62	4,256,311	5,442,106	0	—
GW7	65	3,791,356	5,002,946	0	—
GW8	25	10,715,062	6,279,634	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	The Special Ones	441	+5	4
THIS CLUB	FK Jizmaila Sarr	436	+0	4
BELOW	Camp Nou Way	433	-3	4

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 25 points against a global average of 45, a gameweek rank of 10,715,062. What happened?

A. Four of my starters did not appear on the pitch, which is a sort of record in an otherwise unremarkable career. 25 points against an average of 45 is simply what happens when you field men who are not there. I do not feel particularly bad about it, because feeling bad would require expecting something else.

Q2. Haaland took the armband for 16 points while your vice B.Fernandes returned 0. Anything go right?

A. Haaland did his job, which makes him the only person on the entire team sheet who can say so. 16 points from the armband is the one decent number on a page of bad ones, so it feels pointless to celebrate it. The vice-captain returned 0 points, and I suppose that is also a kind of answer.

Q3. Cuenca, James, Bruno Fernandes and João Pedro all started and played zero minutes. Did you check the team news?

A. I checked, and then I forgot, and then it was Saturday and the damage was done. Four blanks in an eleven is not so much a mistake as a lifestyle, and I am not going to defend it. If someone tells me they were injured I will nod, because it does not change the score.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points because all four substitutes also stayed on the touchline. Is that consistency?

A. Technically it is consistency, in that nobody on the bench did anything and nobody in the eleven did much more. A bench of 0 points means I lost nothing by not using it, which is the kind of comfort you only notice when you are desperate. At least the substitutes are reliable in their absence.

Q5. You made no transfers and took a hit of 0, with all four chips untouched. Why not act?

A. I thought about acting, and then I thought about how little it would change anything. 4 chips are still in the cupboard because none of them seemed worth opening for a season like this one. I will use them eventually, probably on a week when it does not matter.

Q6. You fell from tenth to eleventh, a move of 1 place down. Does the table still interest you?

A. The table interests me in the way the weather interests a man in a basement. The Special Ones are 5 points above and Camp Nou Way are 3 below, and neither number is going to alter how the afternoon feels. I check it every week and I am never surprised.

Q7. Your gameweek score is among the lowest in the league while your season total is 436. Which one is real?

A. They are both real, which is the most unsettling part. A total of 436 says I am competent and a gameweek of 25 says I am not, and I have decided to simply keep both on file. The truth is a shrug somewhere in the middle.

Q8. Your club is named FK Jizmaila Sarr. Does the name still carry a lot of expectation?

A. The name carries no expectation, which is why it has lasted so long. Nobody asks for much from a club named after a joke about a Senegalese winger, and so nobody is disappointed. It is the only form of risk management I have ever practised.

Q9. Your squad value is £101.2m with £0.0m in the bank. Is money the problem?

A. Money has never been the problem, and £0.0m in the bank is a quiet admission of that. A squad worth £101.2m should not be fielding four absentees, but that is a failure of attention and not of funds. You cannot buy your way out of not checking the team news.

Q10. Your overall rank is 6,279,634 of 11,182,922, the top 56.15 percent worldwide. Does a number like that register?

A. Top 56 percent of 11,182,922 managers is a statistic I find hard to take seriously after this week. It suggests the rest of the world is also not checking its team news. There is, I suppose, comfort in a shared apathy.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 10,715,062 of 11,182,922, the bottom 4.2 percent, on 25 points. How do you reconcile it?

A. I do not reconcile it, I let it sit next to the season rank and hope they get along. Being in the bottom 4.2 percent of the planet for a week is a small embarrassment and a very large inconvenience. Next week will probably look similar, and I have made peace with that.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit eleventh on 436 points, 141 off the top, overall rank 6,279,634 of 11,182,922, with 4 chips intact — Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain — and £0.0m in the bank. How do you fix the damage?

The fix is mechanical, because four blank starters means the Wildcard or a Free Hit is a rational response rather than a luxury, and with all four chips still available you can afford to use one. Replace Cuenca, James and Pedro with nailed starters, check the team news before the deadline instead of after it, and keep Haaland in the armband since he returned 16 points when almost nothing else worked. Your chip position is the best in the group, so a reset now costs far less than another week of fielding men who are not on the pitch.

CAMP NOU WAY, SUNNY—

Captain Does Not Play, Vice-Captain Scores 14, Manager Calls It Just How Things Were Meant To Go

A gameweek rank of 3,603,251 put the club in the top 32.22 percent, which the manager describes as a pleasant surprise he did not plan.

Camp Nou Way

Abner Chavez

RANK 12 OF 21 **433 PTS**

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
6,454,584	3,603,251	50/0	98.7
of 11,182,922 — top 57.72%	of 11,182,922 — top 32.22%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £3.0m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 50 PTS

GKP	Raya **(V)**	ARS	6.2	14
DEF	Virgil	LIV	6.4	9
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
DEF	Senesi ⌀	TOT	5.7	0
DEF	Gabriel	ARS	7.9	17
MID	Enzo	MCI	6.9	2
MID	Cunha	MUN	7.9	1
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
MID	Gibbs-White	NFO	7.9	2
FWD	João Pedro **(C)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
FWD	Calvert-Lewin	LEE	6.1	2

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Sánchez ⌀	CHE	4.9	0
DEF	Matheus N. ⌀	MCI	5.9	0
MID	Olusesi ⌀	TOT	4.4	0
FWD	Kusi-Asare ⌀	FUL	4.4	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD~~ ~~FREE HIT~~ ~~BENCH BOOST~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN~~

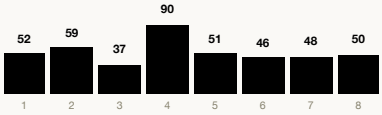
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	52	3,770,915	3,770,910	2	—
GW2	59	8,746,454	7,027,324	0	—
GW3	37	9,502,808	7,994,540	0	—
GW4	90	834,741	5,793,085	0	—
GW5	51	4,210,352	5,464,308	0	—
GW6	46	8,890,480	6,227,117	0	—
GW7	48	8,783,493	6,739,736	0	—
GW8	50	3,603,251	6,454,584	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	436	+3	4
THIS CLUB	**Camp Nou Way**	433	+0	4
BELOW	**MAD Baller**	429	−4	3

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 50 points against a global average of 45, the best score in this part of the table, and climbed from thirteenth to twelfth. Pleased?

A. Pleased is a strong word, but I did smile when I saw it, which counts for something. 50 points against 45 is a very nice score and I will take it with a cup of tea and a quiet nod. We gained 1 place up and I did not even have to try.

Q2. Your captain João Pedro played zero minutes, so the armband passed to Raya, who returned 14. Were you aware that was going to happen?

A. I had no idea, but I am delighted by how well it worked out. João Pedro did not play, Raya stepped in with 14 points, and the whole thing went off without a single decision from me. Sometimes the system is smarter than the person operating it.

Q3. Gabriel scored 17 points for you while Senesi and João Pedro both played no minutes. Did the lineup balance out?

A. It balanced out beautifully, in the sense that one very good defender cancelled out two very absent ones. Gabriel did something remarkable and Senesi did something quiet, and I am fine with both. The team is a group effort even when half the group is on holiday.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points, with the whole bench staying unused. Any regrets?

A. None whatsoever, because a bench of 0 points means the starting eleven did the work. The substitutes were comfortable, rested, and presumably enjoying the view. I like it when nobody on the team has to be disturbed.

Q5. You made no transfers and kept all four chips — Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain. Is there a plan?

A. The plan is to keep not having a plan, which has worked surprisingly well so far. We still have 4 chips and no particular idea when to use them, and that feels like a healthy way to live. A hit of 0 points has been the only constant, and I am very happy with it.

Q6. FK Jizmaila Sarr sit 3 points above you while MAD Baller trail by 4. Does the table keep you awake?

A. I slept wonderfully, thank you, and the table can sort itself out without my help. 3 points to FK Jizmaila Sarr is a small gap and 4 to MAD Baller is a comfortable one, and that suits me. If I climb I climb and if I fall I fall, and either way the sun still comes up.

Q7. You rose from thirteenth to twelfth this week. Is momentum building?

A. Momentum is a word I have heard other managers use, and it sounds very tiring. I moved 1 place up and nothing about my mood changed in the slightest. If the team wants to keep going up, I will not stand in its way.

Q8. Your club is named Camp Nou Way. Is that the dream?

A. The dream is to go to the Camp Nou one day and look around, and the team name is a gentle reminder of that. If the results go well, that is a lovely bonus, and if they do not, nobody here will mind. A name should be a smile and not a pressure.

Q9. Your squad value is £98.7m with £3.0m in the bank. Any plans for the money?

A. I have not given it a lot of thought, which is probably why there is still £3.0m sitting there. A squad of £98.7m seems like a perfectly fine amount to have, and I do not feel the need to optimise it. Money is more fun when you are not worried about it.

Q10. Your overall rank is 6,454,584 of 11,182,922, the top 57.72 percent worldwide. Does that matter to you?

A. Top 57.72 percent out of 11,182,922 people is a very nice thing to put on a mug, and I might do that. It does not change the way I pick my team or the way I sleep. I am happy to be somewhere in the pleasant part of the middle.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 3,603,251 of 11,182,922, the top 32.22 percent, on 50 points. Surprised?

A. Pleasantly surprised, in the way you are when someone hands you a free coffee. Top 32.22 percent of 11,182,922 people is a lovely feeling, and I am enjoying it while it lasts. I expect the next week to be less dramatic, and I am fine with that as well.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit twelfth on 433 points, 144 off the top, overall rank 6,454,584 of 11,182,922, with all 4 chips intact — Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain — and £3.0m banked. Is it time to be more ambitious?

Yes, because you have the best chip position in the group and your best gameweek score yet, so this is the moment to turn luck into a plan. Name a captain who actually starts, since João Pedro played zero minutes and only the vice-captain Raya saved you with 14, and spend the £3.0m on a nailed forward to replace João Pedro. Then keep the Wildcard for the winter, because a relaxed manager with four chips can still make the most of a good week.

MAD BALLER OPERATIONS ROOM —

Captain Plays Twenty-Two Minutes, Manager Notes It Was Roughly What She Expected

A gameweek score of 40 against an average of 45 was filed under routine.

MAD Baller Marie Drosche

RANK 13 OF 21 · 429 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
6,681,786	7,297,029	40/4	99.0
of 11,182,922 — top 59.75%	of 11,182,922 — top 65.25%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.2m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 40 PTS

GKP	A.Becker	LIV	5.5	6
DEF	Virgil	LIV	6.4	9
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Hill	BOU	5.5	11
MID	Palmer	CHE	9.8	-1
MID	Mbeumo	MUN	7.9	2
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
FWD	Havertz (C)	ARS	7.5	2
FWD	Thiago	BRE	7.8	5
FWD	Calvert-Lewin	LEE	6.1	2

BENCH · 4 PTS

GKP	Lecomte ⌀	FUL	4.0	0
MID	Szoboszlai (V) ⌀	LIV	6.7	0
MID	Anderson	MCI	6.3	0
DEF	Lacroix	CHE	5.9	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~BENCH BOOST (GW4)~~ · WILDCARD · FREE HIT · TRIPLE CAPTAIN

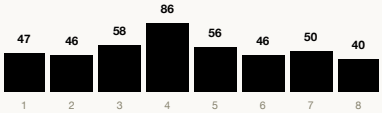
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	47	5,282,781	5,282,775	2	—
GW2	46	9,677,087	8,450,538	3	—
GW3	58	2,739,548	7,794,882	5	—
GW4	86	1,437,717	5,910,037	0	—
GW5	56	2,495,788	5,109,269	5	—
GW6	46	8,890,480	5,954,101	8	—
GW7	50	8,384,585	6,398,798	14	—
GW8	40	7,297,029	6,681,786	4	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Camp Nou Way	433	+4	4
THIS CLUB	MAD Baller	429	+0	3
BELOW	sakadeez	408	-21	2

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 40 points against a global average of 45 and slipped from twelfth to thirteenth. How do you read that?

A. I read it as slightly below average, which is what the numbers say. 40 points against 45 is not a disaster and not a triumph, and I see no reason to dress it up. We dropped 1 place down and we will deal with it on Friday.

Q2. Havertz took the armband for 2 points while your vice Szoboszlai returned 0. Was that the right pick?

A. It was a defensible pick that did not work out, which happens. Havertz lasted twenty-two minutes and returned 2 points, and the vice-captain Szoboszlai sat on the bench and returned 0. Both picks were logical and neither was lucky.

Q3. Your best returns were Hill with 11 and Virgil with 9, while Palmer lost a point. Is that a balanced team?

A. The defence did its job and the attack did not, which is a balance of sorts. Hill and Virgil produced twenty points between them and Palmer cost me one. I would like it to be the other way around, but I am not going to pretend otherwise.

Q4. Your bench returned 4 points, with Lacroix taking three and Anderson one. Did the wrong players start?

A. The bench returned 4 points, which is a small amount and not worth a great deal of regret. Lacroix and Anderson would not have changed the picture by much even if they had started. I will leave the lineup as it is and move on.

Q5. You used Bench Boost in Gameweek 4, leaving Wildcard, Free Hit, Triple Captain. Was that the right time?

A. It was a reasonable time based on what I knew then, and I have no complaint. Our record shows Bench Boost (GW4), and with 3 chips still in hand I retain flexibility. I will use the rest when the numbers support it.

Q6. Camp Nou Way are 4 points above and sakadeez are 21 below. Who are you watching?

A. I am watching both, because that is what a table is for. 4 points to Camp Nou Way is catchable and 21 over sakadeez is a cushion that is not large. I will adjust if either number changes.

Q7. You made no transfers and took a hit of 0. Why no moves?

A. I did not see a transfer that improved the team enough to justify the risk. Zero moves and a hit of 0 is a clean sheet for the week, and I am comfortable with that. If the situation changes I will act and not before.

Q8. Your club is named MAD Baller. Does the name describe the squad?

A. The name is a pun on my surname and not a promise of any kind. The squad is more sensible than the name suggests, which is the way I prefer it. I have no plans to change either.

Q9. Your squad value is £99.0m with just £0.2m in the bank. Is that tight?

A. It is tight, and that is by design. A squad of £99.0m with £0.2m spare means almost everything is invested in players and not sitting in an account. If I need to raise funds I will sell, and it will be a quick decision.

Q10. Your overall rank is 6,681,786 of 11,182,922, the top 59.75 percent worldwide. Is that where you expected to be?

A. It is roughly where I expected, a respectable position in the top 60 percent of 11,182,922 managers. It is not a position that excites me and it is not a position that worries me. I will aim to improve it, as I do every week.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 7,297,029 of 11,182,922, the top 65.25 percent, on 40 points. Fair?

A. It was fair, and I do not see any reason to dispute it. A rank of 7,297,029 is a normal result on a normal weekend, and it fits the overall picture. I will take it, learn from it, and move on to the next fixture.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit thirteenth on 429 points, 148 off the top, overall rank 6,681,786 of 11,182,922, with 3 chips left — Wildcard, Free Hit, Triple Captain — and £0.2m banked. What is the plan?

Your position is solid but your captain Havertz played only twenty-two minutes, so the first fix is naming a starter with a reliable ninety-minute role. Use your remaining chips with care, saving the Triple Captain for a double gameweek and the Wildcard for the fixture swing, since the tight £0.2m limits ordinary transfers. Keep Hill and Virgil, who produced the best returns this week, and rework the midfield where Palmer lost a point.

SAKADEEZ CASINO FLOOR —

Gambler Leaves Ten-Point Goalkeeper On The Bench, Says The House Always Wins

Trafford's clean sheet and bonus were enjoyed from the bench by a manager who insists he was only one decision away from a jackpot.

sakadeez Drin Pacuku

RANK 14 OF 21 · 408 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
7,727,210	9,395,431	34/10	102.6
of 11,182,922 — top 69.10%	of 11,182,922 — top 84.02%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.5m · 1 transfers

STARTING XI · 34 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
DEF	Kayode	BRE	4.6	4
MID	Belloumi	HUL	5.2	4
MID	Cherki	MCI	8.0	0
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
MID	Groß	BHA	6.2	0
FWD	Haaland **(C)**	MCI	15.7	16
FWD	Wissa	NEW	6.1	1
FWD	João Pedro **(V)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0

BENCH · 10 PTS

GKP	Trafford	LEE	5.0	0
MID	Saka ⌀	ARS	9.5	0
DEF	Aina ⌀	NFO	4.3	0
DEF	Mendy ⌀	HUL	4.1	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Ødegaard	3 →	Rogers	1	−2

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD (GW2)~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW3)~~ FREE HIT BENCH BOOST

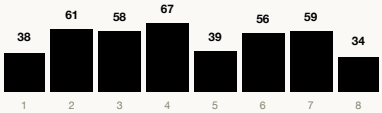
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	38	7,485,080	7,485,068	23	—
GW2	61	8,496,386	8,078,310	8	—
GW3	58	2,894,534	7,364,909	14	—
GW4	67	6,008,864	6,977,258	8	—
GW5	39	8,567,043	7,723,223	10	−4
GW6	56	6,250,672	7,484,174	17	—
GW7	59	6,002,305	7,241,188	2	—
GW8	34	9,395,431	7,727,210	10	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	MAD Baller	429	+21	3
THIS CLUB	sakadeez	408	+0	2
BELOW	fc rtw	399	−9	3

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You scored 34 points against a global average of 45, with 10 points left on the bench. Was it a bad beat?

A. It was the worst beat of my life, because the money was sitting right there on the table. 34 points against an average of 45 would have been much closer if I had simply picked the right goalkeeper. The house won this week, but the house does not always win.

Q2. Haaland took the armband for 16 points while your vice João Pedro returned 0. Did the big bet pay off?

A. Haaland paid out, and I would put the same chips on him next week without hesitation. 16 points from the armband is the only line of the evening that went my way. The vice-captain returned 0 points, but a vice is just the insurance you never want to cash in.

Q3. Trafford scored 10 points on your bench while Raya, in your eleven, scored 7. Was that a mistake?

A. It was the kind of mistake that a gambler makes only once and remembers forever. Ten points is the jackpot and I left it on the bench, which is a sentence I will tell nobody at the casino. Raya was fine, but fine is not what you play for.

Q4. You swapped Ødegaard for Rogers, which cost you a couple of points. Was it a calculated risk?

A. Every move is a calculated risk, and this one simply landed on the wrong side of the odds. Ødegaard would have returned three and Rogers delivered one, which is a small loss on a bet I would make again. You do not win big by only picking the safe options.

Q5. You have used Wildcard (GW2), Triple Captain (GW3) and still hold Free Hit, Bench Boost. Are you holding anything back?

A. I am always holding something back, because a gambler without a final chip is just a man with empty pockets. The Wildcard and Triple Captain have both come and gone, and 2 chips are left to chase the losses. The Bench Boost will return my money with interest when the time is right.

Q6. MAD Baller are 21 points above you and fc rtw are 9 below. How do you feel about the odds?

A. The odds are long, but I have won from worse positions at lower tables. 21 points to MAD Baller is a gap I can close with one hot weekend and a lucky captain. 9 over fc rtw is a margin I intend to defend with the same stubbornness that got me here.

Q7. You were fourteenth last week and you are fourteenth now, so the table is unchanged. Is that a stalemate?

A. A stalemate is just a pause between hands, and I am ready to raise as soon as the cards turn. The table is unchanged, which is exactly where a patient gambler wants to be before a run. I have not lost the table and I have not lost my nerve.

Q8. Your club is named sakadeez. Is it a lucky name?

A. The name is a joke that I stopped finding funny some weeks ago. I keep it for superstition because changing it now would be tempting fate. A gambler never touches the lucky charm after a loss.

Q9. Your squad value is £102.6m with £0.5m in the bank. Do you have a war chest?

A. A squad of £102.6m is a decent stack of chips, and £0.5m in the bank is the spare change I keep for emergencies. I would never keep much cash on the table because money not in play is money not winning. If a hot tip lands I will move the funds without a second thought.

Q10. Your overall rank is 7,727,210 of 11,182,922, the top 69.10 percent worldwide. Is that a winning hand?

A. Top 69 percent of 11,182,922 managers is a good hand, though not a winning one. I am still in the game and I still have chips, which is all a gambler asks for. One big week would turn this around, and I intend to find it.

Q11. Your Gameweek rank was 9,395,431 of 11,182,922, the top 84.02 percent, on 34 points. Is that disappointing?

A. It is disappointing only because I know how close the jackpot was, and I can still see the goalkeeper on my bench. Top 84.02 percent sounds fine, but the average of 45 was within reach and I let it slip. I will bet bigger next week, because I have never learned any other way to play.

THE LEDGER · VERDICT AND INSTRUCTION

You sit fourteenth on 408 points, 169 off the top, overall rank 7,727,210 of 11,182,922, with 2 chips left — Free Hit, Bench Boost — and £0.5m banked. Is it time to stop gambling?

No, but it is time to gamble with a plan, because 10 points stranded on your bench is the leakage that has held you here. Pick your goalkeeper based on fixtures and start whoever is in form, and swap the benched names who return nothing for premium picks with guaranteed minutes. Keep the Bench Boost for a week when all fifteen are secure, since your best path up the table is to turn that stranded return into points instead of watching it from the bench.

FC RTW —

Man Makes Zero Transfers, Captains Palmer, Receives -2 Points And Holds fifteenth Out Of Sheer Inertia

Armband produced a negative return while the vice-captain sat on the pitch behaving responsibly.

fc rtw danny lopez

RANK 15 OF 21 · 399 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
8,082,322	8,952,715	35/0	101.4
of 11,182,922 — top 72.27%	of 11,182,922 — top 80.06%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.5m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 35 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
DEF	Gabriel	ARS	7.9	17
DEF	Diop	IPS	3.9	1
DEF	Justin	LEE	4.5	6
MID	Palmer **(C)**	CHE	9.8	−2
MID	Rogers **(V)**	CHE	8.0	1
MID	Dewsbury-Hall	EVE	6.6	2
FWD	Wissa	NEW	6.1	1
FWD	Havertz	ARS	7.5	1

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Forster ⌀	BOU	4.0	0
MID	L.Miley ⌀	NEW	5.5	0
MID	B.Fernandes ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD (GW2)~~ · FREE HIT · BENCH BOOST · TRIPLE CAPTAIN

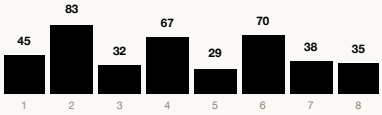
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	45	5,859,118	5,859,109	2	—
GW2	83	4,312,527	4,886,627	12	—
GW3	32	10,065,680	7,076,488	9	—
GW4	67	5,853,718	6,720,172	3	—
GW5	29	10,505,807	7,884,609	12	—
GW6	70	2,166,538	6,823,800	20	—
GW7	38	10,184,155	7,709,768	7	—
GW8	35	8,952,715	8,082,322	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	sakadeez	408	+9	2
THIS CLUB	fc rtw	399	+0	3
BELOW	are you aMAD	384	−15	3

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You captained Palmer and the armband returned -2 points. How does a doubled captain finish below zero?

A. I handed my most trusted player the armband and he handed me a deficit, which is a very efficient way of ruining a Saturday. A negative score doubled is the kind of arithmetic you only read about in cautionary tales. I would like it noted that he played Palmer for most of the match and still managed it.

Q2. Your vice Rogers returned 1 points. Did you consider the alternative?

A. Of course I considered it, in the same way you consider every road you did not take at two in the morning. Rogers offered a small, quiet return while my captain went the other way entirely. A man with my luck does not get the vice-captain promotion he is owed.

Q3. You made 0 transfers this week and took a -0 hit. Did restraint do this to you?

A. I have spent seven weeks tinkering and the one week I leave the squad alone it posts 35 points. That is the universe teaching me that restraint is not a strategy either. I will go back to fidgeting at the next deadline out of pure superstition.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points. At least the substitutes were not heroes this time?

A. For once the bench behaved and nobody sat there collecting points I should have been taking. It is a strange feeling to have no one to blame in the dugout. I am forced to accept that this week the eleven did it all by themselves.

Q5. You scored 35 points against a league average of 45. Where does that put you?

A. It puts me in the dock with the evidence stacked up against me. Thirty-five against forty-five is not a close contest and I am not going to dress it up. I did the minimum and the minimum was not enough.

Q6. Your gameweek rank was 8,952,715 of 11,182,922, the bottom 19.9 percent. Does that hurt?

A. It hurts the way a slow puncture hurts, quietly and with a lot of walking home afterwards. Finishing 8,952,715 out of 11,182,922 is a number that follows you around the office. I will treat it as data and not as a personality.

Q7. You are still fifteenth, unchanged on last week's fifteenth. Is stability a victory?

A. In a week like this one, staying exactly where I am is a small miracle and I am taking it. I am 15 points clear of the man below me, which is not much of a moat. I hold my ground by accident and I will describe it as discipline in the group chat.

Q8. You are 178 points off the top on 399. How realistic is a comeback?

A. It is more realistic than it looks and less realistic than I tell people. The gap is large but this league has a habit of rearranging itself when chips are played. I just need a few weeks of my team behaving like the one I thought I picked.

Q9. You burned your Wildcard early. Was that a mistake?

A. With hindsight that Wildcard feels like spending your savings on scratch cards that all came up blank. The squad looked broken at the time and I panicked in a very expensive way. Chips used so far are Wildcard (GW2) and I would like a refund.

Q10. You still hold Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain. What is the plan for 3 chips?

A. The plan is to sit on them until the calendar gives me a window where they can do real damage. A Free Hit in a blank and a Bench Boost in a double can move fifty points in a fortnight. I am waiting for the schedule to help me rather than forcing the issue.

Q11. Your squad is worth £101.4m with £0.5m banked. Is that a platform?

A. It is a decent platform for a man who does not trust himself with the keys. I have enough cash to act when I see something real and enough sense to know I rarely see something real. Value is fine and judgement is the weak link.

Q12. Your overall rank is 8,082,322 of 11,182,922, the top 72.27 percent. What is the verdict?

A. That is a harsh number and it is also completely accurate about my season. Sitting at 8,082,322 of 11,182,922 is where a manager ends up after a premature Wildcard and a captain that returned -2. I have earned every position of that ranking.

ARE YOU AMAD—

Club Named After Amad Diallo Still Has No Amad Diallo, Climbs 2 Places Anyway

Captain returned nothing, vice-captain returned the goalkeeper's seven and a substitute somehow lost a point.

are you aMAD Felix Holland

RANK 16 OF 21 **384 PTS**

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
8,606,552	3,480,698	51/-1	101.2
of 11,182,922 — top 76.96%	of 11,182,922 — top 31.13%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £4.2m · 1 transfers

STARTING XI · 51 PTS

GKP	Raya **(V)**	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	Muharemović	LEE	5.1	9
DEF	Kayode	BRE	4.6	4
DEF	Hall	NEW	5.3	5
DEF	Lacroix	CHE	5.9	3
DEF	O'Nien	SUN	3.9	9
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
MID	Groß **(C)**	BHA	6.2	0
FWD	Kostoulas	BHA	5.8	2
FWD	Haaland	MCI	15.7	8

BENCH · -1 PTS

GKP	Steele ⌀	BHA	4.0	0
MID	Mainoo ⌀	MUN	5.5	0
MID	Palmer	CHE	9.8	0
FWD	Walle Egeli ⌀	IPS	4.5	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Tzolis	0 →	Palmer	-1	-1

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD (GW4)~~ | FREE HIT | BENCH BOOST | TRIPLE CAPTAIN

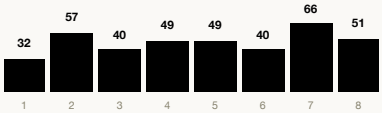
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	32	8,317,724	8,317,710	0	–
GW2	57	9,028,243	8,684,022	0	–
GW3	40	9,045,286	8,950,768	0	–
GW4	49	9,652,782	9,215,579	7	–
GW5	49	4,929,425	9,066,895	0	–
GW6	40	9,963,627	9,275,972	0	–
GW7	66	3,646,633	8,850,424	0	–
GW8	51	3,480,698	8,606,552	-1	–

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	fc rtw	399	+15	3
THIS CLUB	are you aMAD	384	+0	3
BELOW	Newpi	381	-3	4

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. Your club is called are you aMAD and Amad Diallo has never been in your squad. You still moved up 2 places. Is the branding actionable?

A. Naming a football club after a winger who plays twenty-five minutes a fortnight was my first unforgivable error. I have gone up 2 places on the strength of absolutely nothing branded. The name is a joke, the squad is a muddle, and the manager is tired.

Q2. You captained Groß, who played ninety minutes and returned 0 points from the armband. What happened?

A. He ran around for the full match and produced precisely nothing, which is a very British kind of performance. Doubling zero is the most honest bit of arithmetic in this entire hobby. I will remember it fondly in the way you remember a dentist.

Q3. Your vice Raya returned 7 points. Did you check?

A. I checked on Sunday night and I immediately wished I had not. The vice-captain delivered seven points while my captain delivered none, and the armband sat on the wrong shoulder. Every week I discover a better option in hindsight and every week I decline to learn from it.

Q4. You made 1 transfer, Tzolis out and Palmer in, at a cost of -0. Palmer returned -1. Was there a thesis?

A. The thesis was that Palmer was a premium asset and Tzolis was not. Palmer then scored below the man I sold, which is the sort of thing that only happens to me. It cost nothing in hits and about a point in dignity.

Q5. Your bench returned -1 points. How does a substitute score below zero?

A. A negative return from a man on the bench is a new low even for this squad. I did not know it was physically possible to lose points while wearing a bib. It is the single most me thing that has ever happened.

Q6. You scored 51 points against an average of 45, with a gameweek rank of 3,480,698, the top 31.13 percent. Did you notice?

A. I noticed, and I immediately assumed somebody had misread the table. Beating the average is not a sentence I expected to say in this column. I will enjoy it quietly until it ends.

Q7. You moved up 2 places to sixteenth, up from eighteenth. Does a climb make you happy?

A. A climb is the thing that makes me suspicious, because happiness in this game is usually followed by a bill. I am 15 points off the man above and 3 clear of the man below. Both numbers are small enough to be dangerous.

Q8. You are 193 points off the top on 384. Is there a route back?

A. There is a route in the same way there is a route to the moon, and the cost is about the same. The leaders have got a long way ahead and I have not done anything remarkable to close it. I will keep plodding on and call it patience.

Q9. You used a Wildcard earlier in the season. What did it buy you?

A. It bought me a squad that was marginally better and a long evening of regret. Chips used so far are Wildcard (GW4), and that is a list I would prefer to read as a warning. I would do it all again, which is the worst thing I can say about myself.

Q10. You still hold Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain, which is 3 chips. What is the plan?

A. The plan is to hold them until a blank or a double makes them useful and not just decorative. Three chips and a mood this low is a combination I will not waste on a quiet week. I will probably play one on a whim and regret it by Saturday.

Q11. Your squad is worth £101.2m with a very large £4.2m in the bank. Why is that money not working?

A. That is a question my accountant would ask and my team selection would ignore. A bank that big means I have been avoiding the market like a tax return. I will spend it the day I find something worth buying, which has not happened yet.

Q12. Your overall rank is 8,606,552 of 11,182,922, the top 76.96 percent. Verdict?

A. The number is exactly as tired as I am. Being at 8,606,552 of 11,182,922 is not a crisis, it is a condition. I will carry on and keep making my modest, regrettable choices.

NEWPI —

Man Captains Haaland For 16, Makes Zero Transfers, Describes It As Vibes

Holds all four chips and has not, as far as can be established, looked at any of them.

Newpi Nico Zarzaua

RANK 17 OF 21 · 381 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
8,692,850	5,025,103	46/0	99.8
of 11,182,922 — top 77.73%	of 11,182,922 — top 44.94%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.9m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 46 PTS

GKP	Pickford	EVE	5.5	1
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Virgil	LIV	6.4	9
DEF	Giles	HUL	4.0	2
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
MID	B.Fernandes (V) ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
MID	Szoboszlai ⌀	LIV	6.7	0
MID	Belloumi	HUL	5.2	4
FWD	McBurnie	HUL	5.5	8
FWD	Gonzalo	FUL	6.0	2
FWD	Haaland (C)	MCI	15.7	16

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Benda ⌀	NFO	4.5	0
DEF	O.Richards ⌀	NFO	3.9	0
DEF	O'Reilly ⌀	MCI	6.3	0
MID	Bendito Mantato ⌀	MUN	4.4	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD~~ ~~FREE HIT~~ ~~BENCH BOOST~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN~~

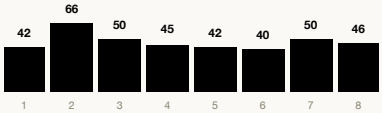
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	42	6,633,932	6,633,922	0	—
GW2	66	7,731,394	7,330,843	0	—
GW3	50	5,669,648	7,253,107	0	—
GW4	45	10,059,556	8,260,867	0	—
GW5	42	7,659,886	8,430,724	1	—
GW6	40	9,861,291	8,779,388	0	—
GW7	50	8,229,920	8,790,539	2	—
GW8	46	5,025,103	8,692,850	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	are you aMAD	384	+3	3
THIS CLUB	Newpi	381	+0	4
BELOW	GP FC	369	−12	2

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You captained Haaland and the armband returned 16 points, well over a third of your 46. Was that planned?

A. I picked the biggest name on the screen because the screen was telling me to. The armband paid out sixteen points and I felt very clever for about an hour. I would love to claim a strategy but I mostly followed the waves.

Q2. Your vice B.Fernandes did not play, so you were one injury away from a different week. Did you know?

A. I had no idea there was a plan B and I am delighted to learn there was one. The vice-captain sat out and the captain turned up, which is the best sort of luck. I try not to worry about problems that have not appeared on the beach yet.

Q3. You made 0 transfers and paid a hit of exactly -0. Is that deliberate?

A. I did nothing at all this week, which was either a plan or a nap. Doing nothing and scoring 46 points against an average of 45 feels like the most efficient work I have done. If the squad works I would hate to disturb it.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points. A big fat zero.

A. Zero from four footballers is honestly quite funny when you sit with it for a moment. The bench is decoration as far as I am concerned, it just fills the empty squares on the screen. As long as the eleven on the grass are running about, the rest is scenery.

Q5. You scored 46 points for a gameweek rank of 5,025,103, the top 44.94 percent. How did you handle it?

A. I handled it by going for a long swim and not checking my phone until the evening. A slightly above average score barely ruffles the surface at my altitude. I was a touch surprised to see a respectable number beside my name.

Q6. You are seventeenth, unchanged on last week's seventeenth. How does stability feel?

A. Stability feels like floating on my back with the sun on my face. I am 12 points clear of the man below and 3 behind the man above, and none of that bothers me. The tide will sort it out eventually.

Q7. You are 196 points off the top on 381. Do you care?

A. I care in a gentle, long-term, oceanic sort of way. The leaders are a long way off but they cannot catch waves like I do. I will keep paddling and see where the swell takes me.

Q8. You have used none chips so far. Why leave them all untouched?

A. Because I genuinely forgot they were there until somebody mentioned them in the group chat. I like the idea of unspent ammunition more than the idea of spending it. A chip in the pocket is a calm chip.

Q9. You hold all 4 chips: Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain. Do you know what they all do?

A. I know the Wildcard lets you change everything and the Free Hit lets you change everything but only once. The other two I will look up when the moment feels right. I imagine they are as intuitive as the rest of the game.

Q10. Your squad is worth £99.8m with £0.9m banked. Is there a plan for the cash?

A. I have not looked at the bank since the first week, and it has been quietly growing like a plant. The cash is there if I need it and I will need it right about never. If an exciting name appears I might shout and buy him.

Q11. Your overall rank is 8,692,850 of 11,182,922, the top 77.73 percent. Does it matter?

A. It is a number on a screen and the ocean does not care about numbers. I am a very average player in a very large pool, and I am comfortable with that. The waves tomorrow will be better.

Q12. What is your plan for the next gameweek?

A. The plan is the same as last week, which is to have a plan and then forget it. I will probably leave Haaland where he is and think about the rest later. Surf is up and the deadline can wait.

GP FC INCIDENT ROOM —

Man Captains Cherki, Who Plays Forty-Five Minutes For 0, Falls 2 Places

Post-mortem scheduled. The proprietary spreadsheet remains offline.

GP FC

Chris Tran

RANK 18 OF 21 · 369 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
9,022,104	9,924,312	31/1	100.7
of 11,182,922 — top 80.68%	of 11,182,922 — top 88.75%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.3m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 31 PTS

GKP	Donnarumma	MCI	5.5	1
DEF	Gvardiol	MCI	5.8	1
DEF	Virgil	LIV	6.4	9
DEF	Ajayi	HUL	4.2	4
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
DEF	Giles	HUL	4.0	2
MID	Ødegaard	ARS	6.8	3
MID	Cherki **(C)**	MCI	8.0	0
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
FWD	Thiago	BRE	7.8	5
FWD	Marmoush	TOT	7.0	2

BENCH · 1 PTS

GKP	Dubravka ⌀	TOT	4.0	0
MID	B.Fernandes **(V)** ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
FWD	João Pedro ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
MID	Cunha	MUN	7.9	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW4)~~ ~~BENCH BOOST (GW5)~~ WILDCARD FREE HIT

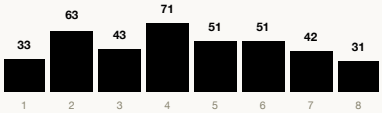
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	33	8,210,955	8,210,941	10	—
GW2	63	8,213,707	8,275,906	15	—
GW3	43	8,358,471	8,526,386	8	—
GW4	71	4,719,974	7,906,202	3	—
GW5	51	4,365,979	8,441,155	0	−16
GW6	51	7,498,946	8,389,532	24	—
GW7	42	9,665,645	8,708,745	2	—
GW8	31	9,924,312	9,022,104	1	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Newpi	381	+12	4
THIS CLUB	GP FC	369	+0	2
BELOW	Akatsuki	361	−8	4

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You captained Cherki, who played forty-five minutes and returned 0 points. What did the model say?

A. The model said he was a reliable starter and a safe pick, and the model was running on stale assumptions. Forty-five minutes is a partial outage and a full loss of confidence. I have filed a ticket against myself and I expect no response.

Q2. Your vice B.Fernandes played zero minutes. Was there a failover plan?

A. There was a failover plan, and it also failed, which is the most on-brand sentence of my season. The vice-captain did not play so the armband had nowhere useful to go. I have never seen a redundancy plan collapse so completely.

Q3. You made 0 transfers and took a -0 hit. Why such a quiet week?

A. After the last few incidents I put the whole team into maintenance mode. No hits, no changes and no new bugs are the only safe state I have found. The cost of a transfer is measured in points but the cost of a mistake is measured in sleep.

Q4. Your bench returned 1 point. Is that the Bench Boost working?

A. The Bench Boost was spent weeks ago and that is a sentence I have to live with. A single point from the bench this week is the legacy of that decision. There is no rollback for chips.

Q5. You scored 31 points against an average of 45, a gameweek rank of 9,924,312, the bottom 11.3 percent. What went wrong?

A. Everything went wrong in a way that was entirely predictable and logged in advance. Thirty-one against forty-five is not a rounding error, it is a production failure. I have started a root cause analysis and my coffee has not helped.

Q6. You fell 2 places to eighteenth from sixteenth. How does that feel?

A. It feels like watching a dashboard turn red one panel at a time. Two places is not a catastrophe, but it is a trend, and trends are what keep me awake. I am 12 points behind the man above and 8 clear of the man below.

Q7. You are 208 points off the top on 369. Is it recoverable?

A. Recovery is theoretically possible but my confidence in the infrastructure is low. The gap is large and my uptime has been poor. I will not promise a fix before I have identified the fault.

Q8. You used a Triple Captain and a Bench Boost earlier. Were those the right calls?

A. The chips used so far are Triple Captain (GW4), Bench Boost (GW5), and I would like to say they were executed flawlessly. They were deployed on the best data I had and they delivered the kind of return you would normally apologise for. I have since added a note to my runbook to never do that again.

Q9. You still hold Wildcard, Free Hit. What is the deployment schedule?

A. I hold 2 chips and I will not deploy either without a staging environment. A Wildcard and a Free Hit are my last meaningful interventions and I am treating them as such. I would like a change freeze until the next planned maintenance window.

Q10. Your squad is worth £100.7m with £0.3m in the bank. Any resources to spare?

A. There is a small buffer and I intend to preserve it. I do not want to introduce new cost to a system that is already running at a loss. Spending money on a fix is how you get a bigger incident.

Q11. Your overall rank is 9,022,104 of 11,182,922, the top 80.68 percent. How do you read that?

A. I read it as a warning light that has been on for some time. Being at 9,022,104 of 11,182,922 is not catastrophic but it is not where I imagined this ending up. I would like to restore service and learn something.

Q12. What is the plan for the next gameweek?

A. The plan is to keep the changes small and the expectations smaller. I will review the logs, rebuild the spreadsheet and try not to touch production on a Friday. If it breaks again I am going outside.

AKATSUKI MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY —

Captain And Vice-Captain Both Play Zero Minutes, Villain Declares Armband An Illusion

All four chips remain sealed in what he refers to only as the forbidden vault.

Akatsuki Giancarlos Castaneda

RANK 19 OF 21 · 361 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
9,207,627	10,266,764	29/2	99.7
of 11,182,922 — top 82.34%	of 11,182,922 — top 91.81%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.6m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 29 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	Egan	HUL	4.1	4
DEF	Muñoz	NFO	5.3	7
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Guéhi	MCI	6.0	0
MID	Wilson	LEE	6.2	3
MID	Cherki	MCI	8.0	0
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
MID	Rogers	CHE	8.0	1
FWD	Wissa	NEW	6.1	1
FWD	Gonzalo	FUL	6.0	2

BENCH · 2 PTS

GKP	Verbruggen	BHA	4.6	0
DEF	O'Reilly ⌀	MCI	6.3	0
MID	B.Fernandes **(V)** ⌀	MUN	11.7	0
FWD	João Pedro **(C)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD~~ ~~FREE HIT~~ ~~BENCH BOOST~~ ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN~~

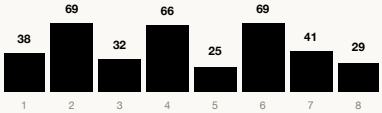
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	38	7,485,080	7,485,068	6	—
GW2	69	7,298,005	7,477,299	0	—
GW3	32	10,103,345	8,526,386	4	—
GW4	66	6,351,768	8,392,757	17	-4
GW5	25	10,727,839	9,205,108	8	-4
GW6	69	2,389,494	8,577,226	12	—
GW7	41	9,907,283	8,882,063	8	—
GW8	29	10,266,764	9,207,627	2	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	GP FC	369	+8	2
THIS CLUB	Akatsuki	361	+0	4
BELOW	BruceBall	346	-15	4

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You captained João Pedro, who played zero minutes. Your vice B.Fernandes also played zero minutes. What does that mean?

A. It means the armband was a hollow vessel and nobody in the sanctuary could fill it. Neither of the two men I chose set foot on the field, and so no doubling reached my score. The heavens have mocked me twice in a single weekend.

Q2. You scored 29 points against an average of 45, for a gameweek rank of 10,266,764, the bottom 8.2 percent. How do you explain it?

A. True pain is not something you avoid; it is something you must pass through before the world can be remade. Finishing beneath so many mortals is the crucible in which genuine power is forged. This league laughs now because it cannot see what is being assembled in the dark.

Q3. You made 0 transfers and took a -0 hit. Why did you stay your hand?

A. A true villain does not waste points on impatient moves. The silence of the sanctuary is not weakness, it is the quiet before the storm. Every transfer I did not make is a seal I did not break.

Q4. Your bench returned 2 points. Does that please you?

A. Two points from the shadows is an offering the underworld accepts with great reluctance. My substitutes are merely the foot soldiers of a larger design. They shall have their day when the real war begins.

Q5. You are nineteenth, unchanged from nineteenth. How do you feel about standing still?

A. I am a mountain and a mountain does not move for the weather. I am 8 points behind the man above and 15 ahead of the man below, and I shall crush both in time. They will remember this position as the last place they ever felt safe.

Q6. You are 216 points off the top on 361. Do you accept the gap?

A. The gap is a rumour whispered by those who have never seen the vault. Those above me have spent their chips and I have spent only my patience. When the vault opens, they will understand the scale of my plans.

Q7. You have used none chips so far. Why none?

A. Because power spent early is power wasted, and I have not wasted a single ounce. The forbidden vault holds all four of my chips and none has been touched by a mortal hand. When the moment comes, there will be no warning.

Q8. You hold all 4 chips: Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain. What will you do with them?

A. I will play them in an order that has been written in the stars, or at least in a notebook I keep under my cloak. A Wildcard to remake the world, a Free Hit to strike once and vanish, a Bench Boost to awaken the sleepers, and a Triple Captain to end the age. This league has no idea what is coming.

Q9. Your captain João Pedro did not play. Why trust him?

A. Trust is a luxury and I do not trust anyone, least of all a man who stays off the pitch. I made a choice that the universe rejected, and I accept the lesson with cold fury. The next captain will be chosen in the dark and he will not disappoint.

Q10. Your squad is worth £99.7m with £0.6m banked. Is that an arsenal?

A. It is an arsenal that sleeps, and it will wake at the moment of my choosing. The bank holds only a little but a little is enough for the first strike. I have never needed much to bring a kingdom to its knees.

Q11. Your overall rank is 9,207,627 of 11,182,922, the top 82.34 percent. How do you view it?

A. It is a number assigned by lesser minds to a man they do not understand. I sit at 9,207,627 of 11,182,922 and I will not remain there. When the time comes, the ranking will rewrite itself in my name.

Q12. What is the plan for the next gameweek?

A. The plan is hidden in the shadows and revealed only to those who survive the night. I will select a captain who plays and a vice who plays, and the world will tremble. Until then, the sanctuary is silent.

NORTHUMBERLAND —

Man's Captain Plays No Minutes, Goalkeeper Takes The Armband For 14, Lad Says Nothing To Complain About

Best score of the gameweek in this league's bottom seven, with not a single transfer made.

BruceBall Alex Bruce

RANK 20 OF 21 · 346 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
9,495,195	1,005,075	61/0	100.5
of 11,182,922 — top 84.91%	of 11,182,922 — top 8.99%	world avg 45 · hit –0	bank £0.2m · 0 transfers

STARTING XI · 61 PTS

GKP	Raya **(V)**	ARS	6.2	14
DEF	O'Nien	SUN	3.9	9
DEF	Shahar ⌀	NEW	4.0	0
DEF	Konsa	ARS	4.7	14
MID	Barnes	NEW	6.1	8
MID	Palmer	CHE	9.8	-1
MID	Cherki	MCI	8.0	0
MID	McGinn	AVL	5.4	6
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
FWD	João Pedro **(C)** ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
FWD	Haaland	MCI	15.7	8

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Dubravka ⌀	TOT	4.0	0
DEF	James ⌀	CHE	5.2	0
DEF	O'Reilly ⌀	MCI	6.3	0
FWD	Woltemade ⌀	NEW	5.9	0

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

No transfers executed in Gameweek 8.

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~WILDCARD~~ · ~~FREE HIT~~ · ~~BENCH BOOST~~ · ~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN~~

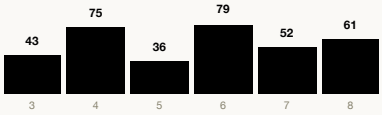
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW3	43	8,150,207	10,253,246	0	—
GW4	75	3,624,717	10,057,988	0	—
GW5	36	9,176,671	10,160,838	0	—
GW6	79	712,130	9,855,285	0	—
GW7	52	7,774,732	9,812,001	0	—
GW8	61	1,005,075	9,495,195	0	—

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	Akatsuki	361	+15	4
THIS CLUB	BruceBall	346	+0	4
BELOW	captain bruno	295	-51	2

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. Your captain João Pedro did not play, so the armband went to Raya for 14 points. Did you plan that?

A. I did not plan it but I will take it, pet. The lad in goal got the armband because the other lad was not on the pitch, and he did the business. That is football, and it is the best bit of luck I have had all season.

Q2. Your vice Raya returned 7 points. Was that the difference?

A. Aye, it was the whole difference and I will not pretend otherwise. Seven points doubled to fourteen turned a nothing week into a decent one. I would have been in the bin without the lad.

Q3. You made 0 transfers and took a -0 hit. No changes at all?

A. I do not make changes for the sake of it, son. The team did the business, and if a lad is doing the business I leave him to it. A hit is just throwing points down the drain.

Q4. Your bench returned 0 points. Not a thing from the dugout?

A. Not a thing, and I am not bothered, because the bench is there to be there. When the eleven are doing the work the others can sit and watch. That is what a bench is for in my book.

Q5. You scored 61 points against an average of 45, a gameweek rank of 1,005,075, the top 8.99 percent. Satisfied?

A. Satisfied is not a word I use, but I will say it was a proper week. Sixty-one points is a score a man can be proud of and I will buy a pint for it. The best part is I did it without a single change.

Q6. You are twentieth, unchanged from twentieth, despite the big week. Why no climb?

A. That is the cruel part, because I scored well and still did not move. I am 15 behind the man above and 51 clear of the man below, and neither is a gap I can cry about. A big week lifts you slowly when you are as far back as I am.

Q7. You are 231 points off the top on 346. Is there a way back?

A. There is a way back if you keep scoring weeks like this one, son. I am not worried about the gap, I am worried about the next kick of the ball. Football does not owe you anything but it gives you chances.

Q8. You have used none chips so far. Why none?

A. Chips are for the lads who need them, and I have not needed them yet. I am keeping them in the drawer for the right day. When the time is right I will play them without a second thought.

Q9. You hold all 4 chips: Wildcard, Free Hit, Bench Boost, Triple Captain. What is the plan?

A. The plan is to wait for the right moment and then smash them in all at once. A Bench Boost on a double week or a Free Hit on a blank is the sort of thing that wins leagues. I am a patient man and I have a lot of chips.

Q10. Your captain João Pedro played no minutes. Will you stick with him?

A. I will have a word with the lad before the weekend and see what the physio says. He is a good player and I do not hold a grudge over one week. A captain that does not play is no good to anyone, mind.

Q11. Your squad is worth £100.5m with £0.2m banked. Any room?

A. There is not a lot of room but there is enough, and I will not waste it. I like a tidy bank and a tidy team and I keep them both that way. Spending for the sake of it is for the young lads.

Q12. Your overall rank is 9,495,195 of 11,182,922, the top 84.91 percent. How do you take it?

A. I take it on the chin like a man should. A rank at 9,495,195 of 11,182,922 is not where I want to be but it is where I am. I will work on it, week by week, one match at a time.

CAPTAIN BRUNO TRADING FLOOR —

Man Pays 36 Points In Fees To Play Bench Boost, Banks Zero Bench Points, Remains twenty-first

Trader churned ten players inside a single window and re-bought two he had already sold.

captain bruno Nick Revia

RANK 21 OF 21 | 295 PTS

OVERALL RANK	GAMEWEEK 8 RANK	GW8 / BENCH	SQUAD / BANK
10,188,108	3,280,323	52/0	101.6
of 11,182,922 — top 91.10%	of 11,182,922 — top 29.33%	world avg 45 · hit –36 · bench boost live	bank £0.3m · 10 transfers

STARTING XI · 35 PTS

GKP	Raya	ARS	6.2	7
DEF	De Cuyper	BHA	5.3	1
DEF	Vuskovic	BHA	5.1	1
DEF	Hill	BOU	5.5	11
DEF	Calafiori	ARS	6.0	1
MID	Rice	ARS	7.4	3
MID	Palmer	CHE	9.8	–1
MID	Cherki (C)	MCI	8.0	0
MID	Mbeumo	MUN	7.9	2
MID	Manzambi	AVL	6.0	1
FWD	Isak	LIV	9.0	9

BENCH · 0 PTS

GKP	Lammens	MUN	4.9	1
FWD	João Pedro (V) ⌀	CHE	7.9	0
DEF	Lacroix	CHE	5.9	3
FWD	N.Jackson	AVL	6.7	13

GAMEWEEK 8 TRANSFERS

Virgil	9	→ Hill	11	+2
Thiago	5	→ Isak	9	+4
Dewsbury-Hall	2	→ Manzambi	1	–1
J.Timber	0	→ Virgil	9	+9
Calvert-Lewin	2	→ Thiago	5	+3
Rogers	1	→ Rice	3	+2
Tarkowski	2	→ Vuskovic	1	–1
Groß	0	→ Dewsbury-Hall	2	+2
Guéhi	0	→ Lacroix	3	+3
Semenyo	0	→ Mbeumo	2	+2

CHIPS · STRUCK THROUGH ARE SPENT

~~TRIPLE CAPTAIN (GW4)~~ ~~BENCH BOOST (GW8)~~ WILDCARD FREE HIT

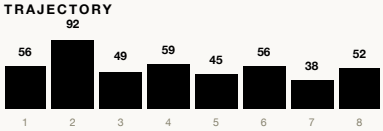
SEASON RECORD

	PTS	GW RANK	OVERALL	BENCH	HIT
GW1	56	2,677,595	2,677,591	4	—
GW2	92	2,880,185	3,896,617	12	–12
GW3	49	6,418,443	5,816,208	11	–12
GW4	59	8,053,373	6,394,768	21	—
GW5	45	6,593,067	8,071,311	18	–24
GW6	56	6,350,744	8,512,165	17	–16
GW7	38	10,292,643	9,905,496	13	–52
GW8	52	3,280,323	10,188,108	0	–36

IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS

	CLUB	PTS	DIFF	CHIPS
ABOVE	BruceBall	346	+51	4
THIS CLUB	captain bruno	295	+0	2

TRAJECTORY



THE INQUEST · TWELVE QUESTIONS

Q1. You made 10 transfers and paid a -36 deduction, the largest in this league. Did that go to plan?

A. When market conditions deteriorate you rebalance the portfolio aggressively rather than sitting on a losing position. Ten trades in a single window is a liquidity manoeuvre and the penalty is simply the cost of execution. I accept that it looks insane on paper and I would like the record to show it also felt insane.

Q2. You played your Bench Boost this week and the bench returned 0 points. Was the chip worth the hit?

A. The chip was triggered on the strength of a fully refreshed squad and the numbers did not cooperate. A bench that returns 0 is a bench that did not pay its fees. I accept the loss on the position and I am already hunting for the next opportunity.

Q3. You captained Cherki, who played forty-five minutes and returned 0 points from the armband. What happened?

A. I put the armband on a liquid asset and he was withdrawn from the market at half time. A zero doubled is still a zero and I will not dress it up as a tactical success. I should have taken the profit on a better name earlier in the week.

Q4. Your vice João Pedro played zero minutes. Did you hedge badly?

A. I hedged with a position that did not trade and that is the definition of a bad hedge. A good portfolio has cover and I had nothing but air. I would like a refund on the whole notion of risk management.

Q5. You sold Virgil and bought him back in the same window, and did a similar dance with Thiago and Dewsbury-Hall. Why?

A. Round trips are a legitimate rebalancing technique and the market had not yet priced in my brilliance. I sold into weakness and bought into strength and I am confident the long view will vindicate me. I also accept that the hit for every extra trade is precisely what the cost column says.

Q6. You scored 52 points against an average of 45, a gameweek rank of 3,280,323, the top 29.33 percent. Did the churn work?

A. Gross output was strong and net output was ruined by the hit column. Hill returned eleven, Isak returned nine and Virgil returned nine, and I still paid a premium for every one of them. I was right about the football and wrong about the accounting.

Q7. You are twenty-first, unchanged from twenty-first. How do you feel at the bottom?

A. I feel like an investor who has diversified into a hole. I am 51 points behind the man above and I am the last name in the table. The only direction left is up and I am a bull by nature.

Q8. You are 282 points off the top on 295. Can you close it?

A. The gap is a rounding error compared with the volatility I can create in a single window. If I get two good weeks and no hits I am back in the conversation. I have models, and most of the models say yes.

Q9. You have used Triple Captain (GW4), Bench Boost (GW8). Was that spending sensible?

A. The Triple Captain was a speculative position that did not mature and the Bench Boost was a late entry into a falling market. I will not call either a disaster, only a learning event with a premium attached. The trading floor remembers every one of them.

Q10. You still hold Wildcard, Free Hit. Which one next?

A. I hold 2 chips and both are cash in the vault. A Wildcard lets me liquidate everything without the hit and a Free Hit lets me speculate for a single week with no consequences. I am waiting for a window where the odds are on my side.

Q11. Your squad is worth £101.6m with £0.3m banked. Is that a position of strength?

A. The portfolio is valued highly and the cash is thin, which is how I like to run it. I own a lot of assets that have not yet repaid their entry price. When the market turns I will be very well placed.

Q12. Your overall rank is 10,188,108 of 11,182,922, the top 91.10 percent. What is the plan for the next gameweek?

A. The overall number is exactly as bad as the table says and I will not argue with it. For the next gameweek I will freeze the terminal, stop churning and let the squad breathe. A man cannot trade his way out of a hole he has traded himself into.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK —

Five Days To Gameweek 9

TO ALL 21 MANAGERS OF THE LOBSTER LEAGUE

DEADLINE 31 OCT 2026 AT 11:00 UTC

Gameweek 8 is final. Bonus points are applied, auto-substitutions are processed, and every rank printed in this edition has been verified against **11,182,922** managers worldwide.

6 of you captained a player who did not play. 65 points were left on benches and 40 points were paid in deductions. The next gameweek starts with the same table and a new set of fixtures.

GAMEWEEK 8, FOR THE RECORD

Managers worldwide	11,182,922
Global average	45
Global best score	120
Our best	75
Our worst	25
Points paid in deductions	40
Points left on benches	65
Captained a non-player	6
Best world rank	0.58%

What To Do Before The Deadline

- **Check team news before the deadline.** Confirm your captain is named and fit. Gameweek 8 showed that a named captain who does not play costs the whole armband.
- **Let free transfers bank where it is free.** Holding a transfer you do not need yet is cheaper than taking a hit. Only move when a change is clearly worth it.
- **Re-time your chips against the fixtures.** Use the planner page: Wildcards suit a broken squad, Free Hits suit a blank, Bench Boost suits a double.
- **Audit your bench for players who do not play.** A bench of non-players means one injury becomes a guaranteed zero, because there is no automatic rescue.
- **Watch the price changes, but calmly.** Prices move overnight. Buy what you need, not what you think will rise by a tenth.
- **Set a reminder for the deadline.** The deadline is Saturday 31 October at 11:00 UTC. Put it in your phone today.

A Word For Each Of You

01	**Gaucho F.C.**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 60 points, ranked 1,259,864 in the world, and sits 1 in the league on 577.
02	**Bart's Team**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 57 points, ranked 1,878,261 in the world, and sits 2 in the league on 561.
03	**szobamela**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 37 points, ranked 8,338,899 in the world, and sits 3 in the league on 523.
04	**Dang Football Club**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 54 points, ranked 2,578,039 in the world, and sits 4 in the league on 516.
05	**Saka la bolsita**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 61 points, ranked 1,154,303 in the world, and sits 5 in the league on 512.
06	**Gunner4Lyfe**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 75 points, ranked 103,860 in the world, and sits 6 in the league on 505.
07	**El Cochiloco**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 44 points, ranked 6,024,302 in the world, and sits 7 in the league on 502.
08	**papoy**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 35 points, ranked 9,188,456 in the world, and sits 8 in the league on 485.
09	**Red Lobster FC**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 34 points, ranked 9,230,490 in the world, and sits 9 in the league on 467.
10	**The Special Ones**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 45 points, ranked 5,402,601 in the world, and sits 10 in the league on 441.
11	**FK Jizmaila Sarr**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 25 points, ranked 10,715,062 in the world, and sits 11 in the league on 436.
12	**Camp Nou Way**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 50 points, ranked 3,603,251 in the world, and sits 12 in the league on 433.
13	**MAD Baller**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 40 points, ranked 7,297,029 in the world, and sits 13 in the league on 429.
14	**sakadeez**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 34 points, ranked 9,395,431 in the world, and sits 14 in the league on 408.
15	**fc rtw**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 35 points, ranked 8,952,715 in the world, and sits 15 in the league on 399.
16	**are you aMAD**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 51 points, ranked 3,480,698 in the world, and sits 16 in the league on 384.
17	**Newpi**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 46 points, ranked 5,025,103 in the world, and sits 17 in the league on 381.
18	**GP FC**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 31 points, ranked 9,924,312 in the world, and sits 18 in the league on 369.
19	**Akatsuki**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 29 points, ranked 10,266,764 in the world, and sits 19 in the league on 361.
20	**BruceBall**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 61 points, ranked 1,005,075 in the world, and sits 20 in the league on 346.
21	**captain bruno**	Finished Gameweek 8 on 52 points, ranked 3,280,323 in the world, and sits 21 in the league on 295.

See you on the other side.

THE LOBSTER TIMES · GAMEWEEK 9 DEADLINE 31 OCTOBER 2026

PLAY WELL.
BENCH NOBODY WHO SCORES.

League 467763 · 21 managers · 11,182,922 managers worldwide · Gameweek 8 data final (data_checked = true) · global average 45, global best 120.