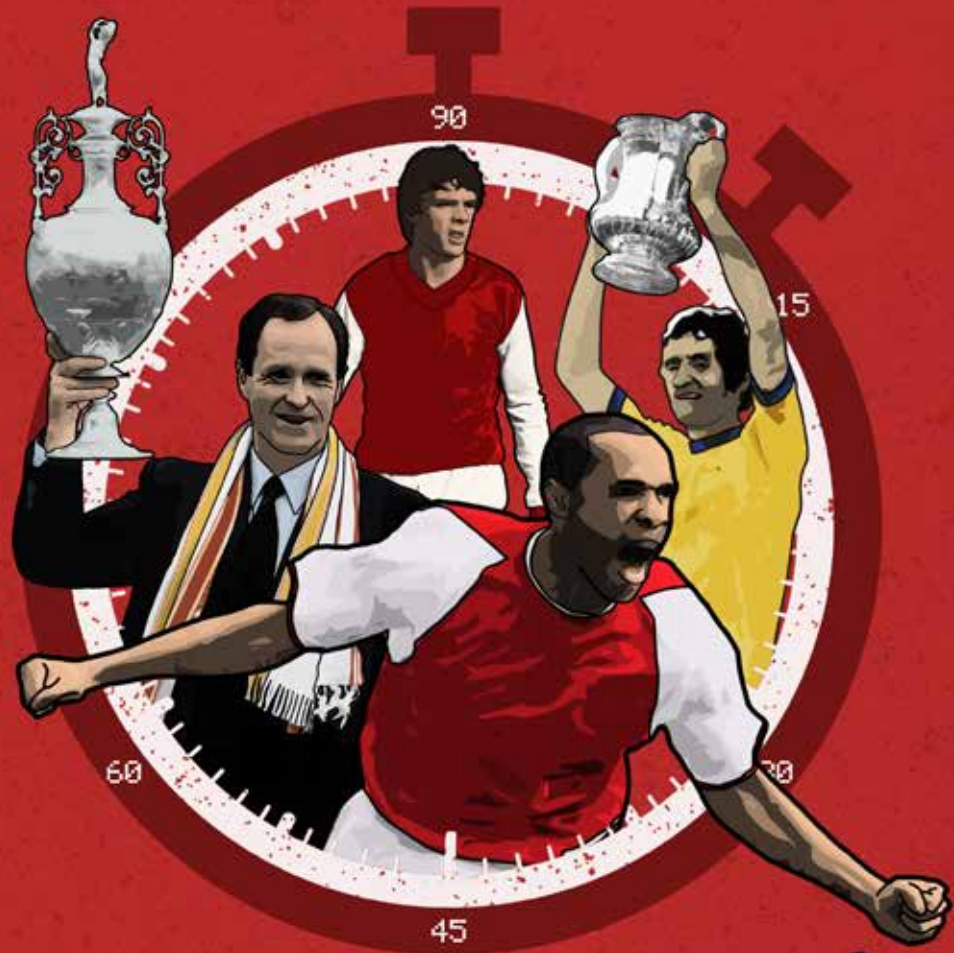


DAVID JACKSON



ARSENAL  
MINUTE  
BY MINUTE

Covering More Than 500 Goals,  
Penalties, Red Cards and  
Other Intriguing Facts



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# Contents

Acknowledgements . . . . .	11
Introduction . . . . .	13
Foreword . . . . .	15
10 Seconds. . . . .	20
20 Seconds. . . . .	21
21 Seconds. . . . .	22
29 Seconds. . . . .	23
44 Seconds. . . . .	24
2 Minutes. . . . .	25
3 Minutes. . . . .	26
4 Minutes. . . . .	28
5 Minutes. . . . .	31
6 Minutes. . . . .	32
7 Minutes. . . . .	33
8 Minutes. . . . .	35
9 Minutes. . . . .	36
10 Minutes. . . . .	38
11 Minutes. . . . .	39
12 Minutes. . . . .	42
13 Minutes. . . . .	44
14 Minutes. . . . .	47
15 Minutes. . . . .	49
16 Minutes. . . . .	52
17 Minutes. . . . .	55
18 Minutes. . . . .	57
19 Minutes. . . . .	59
20 Minutes. . . . .	61

21 Minutes.	66
22 Minutes.	69
23 Minutes.	71
24 Minutes.	73
25 Minutes.	74
26 Minutes.	77
27 Minutes.	79
28 Minutes.	81
29 Minutes.	82
30 Minutes.	83
31 Minutes.	84
32 Minutes.	87
33 Minutes.	88
34 Minutes.	91
35 Minutes.	92
36 Minutes.	95
37 Minutes.	98
38 Minutes.	100
39 Minutes.	102
40 Minutes.	104
41 Minutes.	107
42 Minutes.	108
43 Minutes.	110
44 Minutes.	111
45 Minutes.	113
45+1 Minute	116
45+2 Minutes.	118
45+4 Minutes.	120
46 Minutes.	121
47 Minutes.	122
48 Minutes.	125
49 Minutes.	126

50 Minutes.	127
51 Minutes.	131
52 Minutes.	132
53 Minutes.	134
54 Minutes.	137
55 Minutes.	138
56 Minutes.	141
57 Minutes.	142
58 Minutes.	145
59 Minutes.	148
60 Minutes.	149
61 Minutes.	153
62 Minutes.	155
63 Minutes.	157
64 Minutes.	159
65 Minutes.	160
66 Minutes.	164
67 Minutes.	166
68 Minutes.	168
69 Minutes.	171
70 Minutes.	174
71 Minutes.	177
72 Minutes.	178
73 Minutes.	181
74 Minutes.	182
75 Minutes.	184
76 Minutes.	186
77 Minutes.	188
78 Minutes.	190
79 Minutes.	193
80 Minutes.	195
81 Minutes.	198

82 Minutes . . . . .	. 200
83 Minutes . . . . .	. 203
84 Minutes . . . . .	. 206
85 Minutes . . . . .	. 208
86 Minutes . . . . .	. 210
87 Minutes . . . . .	. 212
88 Minutes . . . . .	. 215
89 Minutes . . . . .	. 219
90 Minutes . . . . .	. 224
90+1 Minute . . . . .	. 227
90+2 Minutes . . . . .	. 228
90+3 Minutes . . . . .	. 230
90+4 Minutes . . . . .	. 232
90+5 Minutes . . . . .	. 234
90+6 Minutes . . . . .	. 235
92 Minutes . . . . .	. 236
96 Minutes . . . . .	. 237
99 Minutes . . . . .	. 238
100 Minutes . . . . .	. 239
101 Minutes . . . . .	. 240
103 Minutes . . . . .	. 241
105 Minutes . . . . .	. 242
108 Minutes . . . . .	. 243
109 Minutes . . . . .	. 244
111 Minutes . . . . .	. 245
120 Minutes . . . . .	. 246
120+1 Minutes . . . . .	. 247
120+3 Minutes . . . . .	. 249
Penalty shoot-outs. . . . .	. 250

# Introduction

Arsenal FC have an extraordinary history and *Arsenal: Minute by Minute* takes you through the Gunners' matchday history and records the historic goals, incidents, memorable moments and the minute they happened in. From Arsenal's early beginnings and successes to the days of domestic domination; from the great Herbert Chapman era, the Tom Whittaker glory days, Bertie Mee's exciting side of the late 1960s and early 1970s, George Graham's Gunners teams through to Arsène Wenger's Invincibles. Learn about the club's most historic moments or simply relive some truly unforgettable moments from Arsenal's glorious past. You will also discover just how many times a crucial goal has been scored at the same minute so often over the years. From goals scored in the opening few seconds to the last-gasp extra-time winners that have thrilled generations of fans at Highbury, the Emirates or around the world. Included are every goal description from The Invincibles's 49-match unbeaten run – all 112 of them – and countless goals from Thierry Henry, Ian Wright, Alan Sunderland, Liam Brady, Nicolas Anelka and a cast of hundreds from the magnificent players who have graced this club. Legends such as Cliff Bastin and Charlie George are included of course, as well as the odd disappointing moments that Gunners fans will remember well and have played their part in in the club's history.

For a club who once proudly had a terrace named the Clock End, time has always been important to Gunners fans. Now you can see just when those historic, brilliant

## ARSENAL: MINUTE BY MINUTE

or occasionally seemingly run-of-the-mill goals were scored, and whether there is any truth in the myth that nobody scores more late goals than Arsenal – particularly during the Arsène Wenger era – and just how many goals resulted in a 1-0 to The Arsenal ...

Enjoy, relive and recall ...



# Foreword

**By Malcolm Macdonald (1976–79)**

**Appearances: 108 Goals: 57**

In football, matches are defined by minutes and each of the 90 standard minutes played has its own unique life. Whether it's a first-minute goal, a last-minute goal or even one midway through the first half or whatever, every goal matters and that's why *Arsenal: Minute by Minute* was so enjoyable to read.

I'm particularly pleased some of my 57 Arsenal goals are in here, because I remember most of them with great clarity. A player will rarely remember the minute they scored their goals in, unless it is the first or last minute of a half, of course.

My career came to an end while I was at Highbury due to a complicated knee problem that went unnoticed by numerous medical professionals and by the time the problem was discovered, it was too late for me and at 29, I was forced to retire. I scored 29 in my first season and 26 in my second, with my third season effectively ended by injury. It's possible I would have had three or four more years at Highbury had I stayed fit; I might have passed Cliff Bastin's record or I might not have – I'll never know – but for those first two years, I absolutely loved being an Arsenal player.

The last goal I scored for the Gunners was at Stamford Bridge against Chelsea. I remember it well – but I don't remember the minute it was scored in. There was doubt whether I'd ever be fully fit again and though Terry Neill

had toyed with playing me in the FA Cup Final against Manchester United the week before, he didn't and he was quite right because Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton were magnificent that day.

Chelsea had been relegated, which as a boyhood Fulham fan was fine by me, and the fact I scored in that game as well was particularly special. We had been losing 1-0 and my goal came after the break to earn us a 1-1 draw. It was also my last goal for Arsenal as my loan spell with Djurgårdens in Sweden, which had been meant to build my fitness up over the summer, only accelerated my knee injury and by the time I returned to London, I had grave doubts about my career because I'd already had two knee operations and the specialists were convinced there was nothing wrong with my knee. To cut a long story short, the surgeon who had removed my cartilage at Newcastle had made a mess and because of those errors, the damage to my knee was irreparable. Believe it or not, the specialist who discovered the issues was called Bram Stoker and as this was something of a horror story, it was quite fitting. It took a long time to discover the issue and the third operation which removed the congealed blood that had hardened and caused me so much pain meant I would never play again.

The irony is I was playing the best football of my life and I was scoring goals and playing with some fantastic players, including the best player I'd ever played alongside in Liam Brady. I thoroughly enjoyed playing alongside Frank Stapleton and I'd like to think my hard-edged attitude and the way I pushed him as hard as I could helped make him into a much better player.

But that's all in the past now. Back to scoring goals and one of my favourite games was a 5-3 win over my

## FOREWORD

former club Newcastle United at Highbury. I'd never got on with the Newcastle manager Gordon Lee and for whatever reason, he just didn't like me. He once called me a 'headline grabber' and I said, 'Then how stupid are you? If I'm scoring goals I will be in the headlines, so would you prefer I didn't score anymore?' In the build-up to this game, he had spoken to a newspaper and really dug me out very publicly. He slaughtered me, but I hadn't seen it until Alan Ball brought it to my attention and told all my team-mates to read it. He put it on the noticeboard and on the day of the match, he reminded everyone about the article by saying, 'Listen up, today's the day this guy [me] gets his own back on that bastard!' Due to the freezing conditions, the *Match of the Day* cameras had switched to Highbury because we had undersoil heating. I scored three goals that day and though we were 5-1 up, Newcastle pulled a couple of goals back to make it a bit more respectable, but it was a great day for me and shoved Gordon Lee's words back down his throat.

So back to minutes. The quickest goals I scored in my career were for Newcastle, where I scored one after ten seconds against QPR and an even quicker one in a friendly against St Johnstone, where I scored straight from the kick-off with maybe five seconds or less on the clock.

And if I said 2, 32, 52, 56 and 87, it would mean more to me than most supporters – those were the minutes I scored my five goals in one England game against Cyprus.

So, I'll sign off with an Arsenal goal that I very definitely know the minute it was scored in and that was an injury-time winner away to Manchester United – because it earned me £600! On the journey to Manchester, Liam Brady mentioned that we were 3/1 to win the game. That was big odds in a two-horse race so Liam offered to get a

## ARSENAL: MINUTE BY MINUTE

mate of his to put a bet on us to win the game, so Liam, Geordie Armstrong, Alan Ball and myself – each of us putting £200 on.

During the game, we went 1-0 down to a Gordon Hill goal but in the second half, I managed to level the scores. We'd kept the bet between the four of us because even back then, you weren't allowed to bet on matches for obvious reasons, but we'd backed ourselves to win, so I felt there was no real issue. The game went into injury time when the ball came to Frank Stapleton who let fly from about 25 yards and arrowed a shot into the top corner to win the game. The four of us mobbed him and carried him on our shoulders and he had no idea why we were going so mad. So, to me, 90+3 equals £600!

Hope you enjoy the book and I hope your favourite moments have made it in here – just don't ask me which minute they happened in ...

**Malcolm Macdonald,  
Newcastle, April 2019**

# Arsenal: Minute by Minute

*The clock is ticking ...*

# 10 seconds

## **28 April 1980**

Alan Sunderland gives Arsenal a dream start in the FA Cup semi-final second replay at Villa Park. Having drawn the previous two semi-final encounters against the Merseysiders, the Gunners race out of the blocks with a blistering start to the game. From the kick-off, the ball is played to right-back Pat Rice who launches a long ball towards the edge of the Liverpool box, where it is flicked on into the path of Sunderland who somehow squeezes between two defenders before firing a low shot past Ray Clemence to put Arsenal 1-0 up and send half the stadium delirious in the process.

# 20 seconds

**4 May 2013**

Arsenal's quickest Premier League goal to date comes when the Gunners take the lead with only 20 seconds on the clock away to Queens Park Rangers. Armand Traoré's poor header falls to Tomáš Rosický who then finds Mikel Arteta in the box, and the Spanish playmaker slips a clever pass to Theo Walcott who makes no mistake with a clinical finish to score what will prove to be the only goal of the game at Loftus Road.

# 21 seconds

**25 September 2002**

The Gunners take the lead in no time at all away to PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League group-stage clash in Holland. In their first attack of the game, Arsenal win possession and the ball is played out to the left for Thierry Henry, who skips past one challenge before looking up and spotting Gilberto Silva's dash into the box. Henry's perfectly timed cross allows the Brazilian to finish from close range with the clock on just 20.7 seconds. Rapid!



# 29 seconds

## 23 December 1978

Alan Sunderland gets Arsenal off to an incredible start at White Hart Lane on what will be an unforgettable day for all Gunners fans – and Sunderland in particular. As both teams battle for possession, John Pratt attempts a pass back into his own half to find centre-back John Lacy, but Sunderland is first to the ball and his low shot hits the keeper and flies into the net off the underside of the crossbar.

# 44 seconds

## 5 February 2001

Theo Walcott gives Arsenal the lead at St James' Park inside the first minute. In what will prove to be an extraordinary game of two halves, Walcott races on to a pass and clear of the last man before placing a low shot past the Newcastle United keeper from the edge of the box to open the scoring.

# 2

## **16 March 2014**

Title-chasing Arsenal score with virtually the first attack of the game in the North London derby at White Hart Lane. Tomáš Rosický plays the ball in from the right to Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain who miscontrols the pass but inadvertently returns the ball to Rosický, who instinctively lets fly with a stunning shot from the corner of the box that arrows into the top left of the Spurs net to send the Gunners fans wild – it will be the only goal of the game and is a strike worthy of settling any contest.

## **28 February 2004**

Robert Pires opens the scoring against Charlton with less than 100 seconds played at Highbury. By Arsenal standards of the day, it's a fairly simple goal, with Freddie Ljungberg and Thierry Henry exchanging passes inside the Charlton box before Ljungberg crosses low into the six-yard box and Pires taps home from a yard or so out at the far post – it's his 50th goal for the club.