

Gauthier Ganaye

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Profile

French national born on May 14, 1988, I am a seasoned football CEO with extensive experience across three countries. Fluent in both English and French, I excel in leadership, media relations, and player trading. I am married to Catherine, a UK citizen, and I am a proud father of three: Gaston, Pénélope, and Gabrielle. I am eager to embrace new challenges and leverage my international network to drive growth and success.

Professional Experience

CEO, RWD Molenbeek

Eagle Football Group

June 2022 – May 2023

- Successfully led the club's transition following its historic promotion to Belgium's top division, implementing structural improvements aligned with first-division standards.
- Facilitated synergies within the Eagle Football Group to enhance player development.
- Achieved a record transfer for the club with the sale of Zakaria El Ouahdi to KRC Genk.
- Focused on executive negotiations, providing strategic support while the Chairman made key football decisions.

President, AS Nancy

January 2021 – May 2023

- Served as non-executive President while concurrently leading KV Oostende, focusing on public relations with French governing bodies and media.
- Strengthened the club's presence in the French football landscape through strategic communication and stakeholder engagement.

Executive President / CEO, KV Oostende

June 2020 – June 2023

- Guided the club through three seasons in the Belgian top tier with limited financial resources, emphasising a youth-oriented recruitment strategy and a distinct style of play.
- Generated approximately €30 million in player trading, including notable sales of Arthur Theate to Bologna FC and Jack Hendry to Club Brugge.
- Achieved operational success without additional funding from ownership.

President/CEO, OGC Nice

January 2019 – September 2019

- Increased revenue by 20% across sponsorship, hospitality, and ticketing during a transitional period prior to the club's sale to INEOS.
- Successfully managed player sales, including Allan Saint-Maximin to Newcastle United, achieving a cash flow objective of €25 million received upfront before mid-July.
- Finalised the sale of the club at a record price in the history of French football.

CEO, Barnsley Football Club

June 2017 – January 2019

- Developed a robust network within the English football pyramid, implementing a data-driven recruitment strategy in collaboration with Billy Beane.
- Achieved a positive transfer balance and enhanced the club's national and international profile through strategic PR campaigns.
- Led the club to immediate promotion back to the EFL Championship after relegation, successfully transferring notable players including Ethan Pinnock, Jacob Brown, Cauley Woodrow, and Kieffer Moore, all now playing in the Premier League.

Marketing and Development Director, Racing Club de Lens

November 2016 – May 2017

- Oversaw the club's global marketing and commercial strategy post-acquisition by Atletico Madrid, driving international brand development.

General Secretary, Racing Club de Lens

July 2015 – November 2016

- Managed the operational efficiency of all club departments and facilitated international and domestic player transfers.

Legal Director, Racing Club de Lens

August 2013 – July 2015

- Established the legal department, ensuring compliance across corporate, commercial, and labor law while supporting the club's operational needs.
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Education

EDHEC Business School

Management Certificate, 2010-2011

Faculté Libre de Droit de Lille

Graduated with a thesis on enhancing the competitiveness of French football clubs.

- 2nd Year Masters - Accounting and Finance Law (Top of Class), 2010-2011
 - 1st Year Masters - Accounting and Finance Law, 2009-2010
 - Bachelor's Degree - Accounting and Finance Law, 2006-2009
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Skills and Interests

- **Languages:** Fluent in English and French; basic proficiency in German and Italian.
 - **Technical Skills:** Proficient in Word, Excel, KeyNote, PowerPoint; experienced with StatsBomb, SkillCorner, Transferlab, and Transferroom.
 - **Interests:** Passionate about sports, particularly football; enjoys history, politics, and travel. Hobbies include golf, karate, and tennis.
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Media Highlights

- Featured as the youngest CEO in the EFL: [The Mirror](#)
- Recognised for innovative PR initiatives at Barnsley FC: [Daily Mail](#)
- Profiled as the youngest Chairman in France: [Le Figaro](#)