



---

**AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: A DECADE IN REVIEW  
(2014-2024)**

---

*By*

Kedei Alfred Eyong

<b>Table of Contents</b>	
<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
<b>Analytical Questions</b> .....	2
<b>Key Insights</b> .....	2
<b>1. Goal Performance Across Clubs</b> .....	2
<b>Table 1. Top 6 Performance Summary (2014-2024)</b> .....	3
<b>2. Home-Away Goal Scoring</b> .....	4
<b>Figure 1. Distribution of Goals Among Participating Teams</b> .....	4
<b>Figure 2. Home Goal Distribution (2014 - 2024)</b> .....	5
<b>Figure 3. Away Goal Distribution (2014 - 2024)</b> .....	5
<b>Table 2. Goal Distribution by Team</b> .....	6
<b>3. Seasonal Trends</b> .....	6
<b>Table 3. Goal Summary per Year</b> .....	7
<b>Figure 4. Seasonal Distribution of Corners</b> .....	7
<b>4. Disciplinary Trends</b> .....	8
<b>Figure 5. Card Distribution Patterns</b> .....	8
<b>Table 4. Disciplinary Record: Red and Yellow Card Distribution (2014-2024)</b> .....	9
<b>Figure 6. Premier League Fouls</b> .....	10
<b>5. Referee Insights</b> .....	10
<b>Figure 7. Seasonal Count of Premier League Referees</b> .....	11
<b>Figure 8. Insights on EPL Referees</b> .....	12
<b>6. Match Insights</b> .....	12
<b>Figure 9. Halftime vs Fulltime Results</b> .....	13
<b>Figure 10. 2014 - 2024 EPL Performance Dashboard</b> .....	13
<b>Summary</b> .....	14
<b>Recommendations</b> .....	15

## Introduction

This report presents an in-depth analysis of performance metrics across ten Premier League seasons (2014 - 2024). The study is centered on goal patterns, seasonal trends disciplinary records, officiating statistics and match dynamics, offering strategic insights and actionable recommendations aimed at enhancing the performance of underperforming football clubs.

## Analytical Questions

- Which specific Premier League clubs have been the most prolific in goal scoring over the 2014-2024 period?
- Do teams that score a high number of goals overall also tend to have a strong record for scoring away from home?
- Which Premier League teams have consistently received the highest number of yellow and red cards, indicating a more aggressive playing style?
- Are there any teams with unusually low disciplinary records, such as a significantly low number of red cards relative to yellow cards?

## Key Insights

### 1. Goal Performance Across Clubs

The outcome of this analysis presents a wide disparity in the total number of goals scored by different teams. Some clubs consistently score a high volume of goals while others score significantly fewer. This highlights the difference in attacking prowess and potentially overall team strength across the league.

**High-Scoring Teams:** Findings indicate Manchester City (989 goals), Liverpool (876 goals), Chelsea (734 goals), Arsenal (777 goals), Tottenham Hotspur (770 goals), and Manchester United (662 goals) as the top goal-scoring clubs consistently at the top of the Premier League standings.

EPL Team	Man City	Liverpool	Chelsea	Arsenal	Tottenham	Man United
Goals	989	876	734	777	770	662

**Low-Scoring Teams:** Ipswich (18 goals), Middlesbrough (27 goals), Queens Park Rangers (42 goals), Huddersfield (50 goals), Cardiff (51 goals), Luton (52 goals), Hull City (86 goals), Sheffield United (94 goals), and Norwich City (100 goals) scored the least goals within the time period.

<b>EPL Team</b>	<b>Ipswich</b>	<b>Middlesbrough</b>	<b>QPR</b>	<b>Huddersfield</b>	<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>Luton</b>	<b>Hull</b>	<b>Sheffield United</b>	<b>Norwich</b>
<b>Goals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>

Although some teams indicate significant preference for scoring in front of their home crowd, it is notable that top performing teams possess strong attacking capabilities that translate well regardless of the venue. Manchester City and Liverpool are the highest-scoring teams for the entire decade. Manchester City scored a total of 989 goals while Liverpool scored 876 goals. Consistent goal performance is traceable to tactical game plan, player adaptability, and the ability to perform under pressure in challenging environments which are key success factors. The appointment of a highly influential manager or the acquisition of key players often coincides with a noticeable improvement in a team's performance and their ability to contend for the title.

To further illustrate the consistency and changes within the top tier of the league, Table 1 summarizes the performance of the top six teams in each season.

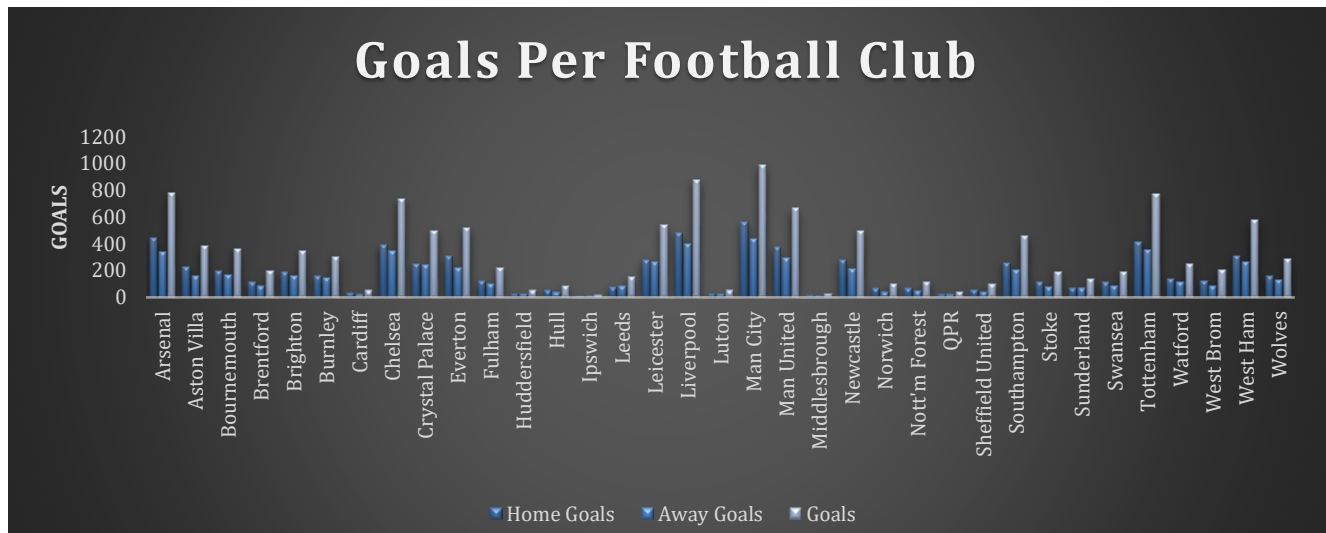
**Table 1. Top 6 Performance Summary (2014-2024)**

Season	1st Place	Points	2nd Place	Points	3rd Place	Points	4th Place	Points	5th Place	Points	6th Place	Points
2014-2015	Chelsea	87	Manchester City	79	Arsenal	75	Manchester United	70	Tottenham Hotspur	64	Liverpool	62
2015-2016	Leicester City	81	Arsenal	71	Tottenham Hotspur	70	Manchester City	66	Manchester United	63	West Ham United	62
2016-2017	Chelsea	93	Tottenham Hotspur	86	Manchester City	78	Liverpool	76	Arsenal	75	Manchester United	69
2017-2018	Manchester City	100	Manchester United	81	Tottenham Hotspur	77	Liverpool	75	Chelsea	70	Arsenal	63
2018-2019	Manchester City	98	Liverpool	97	Chelsea	72	Tottenham Hotspur	71	Arsenal	70	Manchester United	66
2019-2020	Liverpool	99	Manchester City	81	Manchester United	66	Chelsea	66	Leicester City	62	Tottenham Hotspur	59
2020-2021	Manchester City	86	Manchester United	74	Liverpool	69	Chelsea	67	Leicester City	66	West Ham United	65
2021-2022	Manchester City	93	Liverpool	92	Chelsea	74	Tottenham Hotspur	71	Arsenal	69	Manchester United	58
2022-2023	Manchester City	89	Arsenal	84	Manchester United	75	Newcastle United	71	Liverpool	67	Brighton & Hove Albion	62
2023-2024	Manchester City	91	Arsenal	89	Liverpool	82	Aston Villa	68	Tottenham Hotspur	66	Chelsea	63

**Source:** <https://www.premierleague.com/tables>

## 2. Home-Away Goal Scoring

Across the decade, a significantly higher number of goals were scored by home teams (6472 goals) in comparison with away teams (5242 goals). This numerical difference of 1230 goals strongly supports the concept of a home advantage in goal scoring in the Premier League. A higher percentage of home goals compared to away goals suggests a stronger reliance on home fixtures for scoring.



**Figure 1. Distribution of Goals Among Participating Teams**

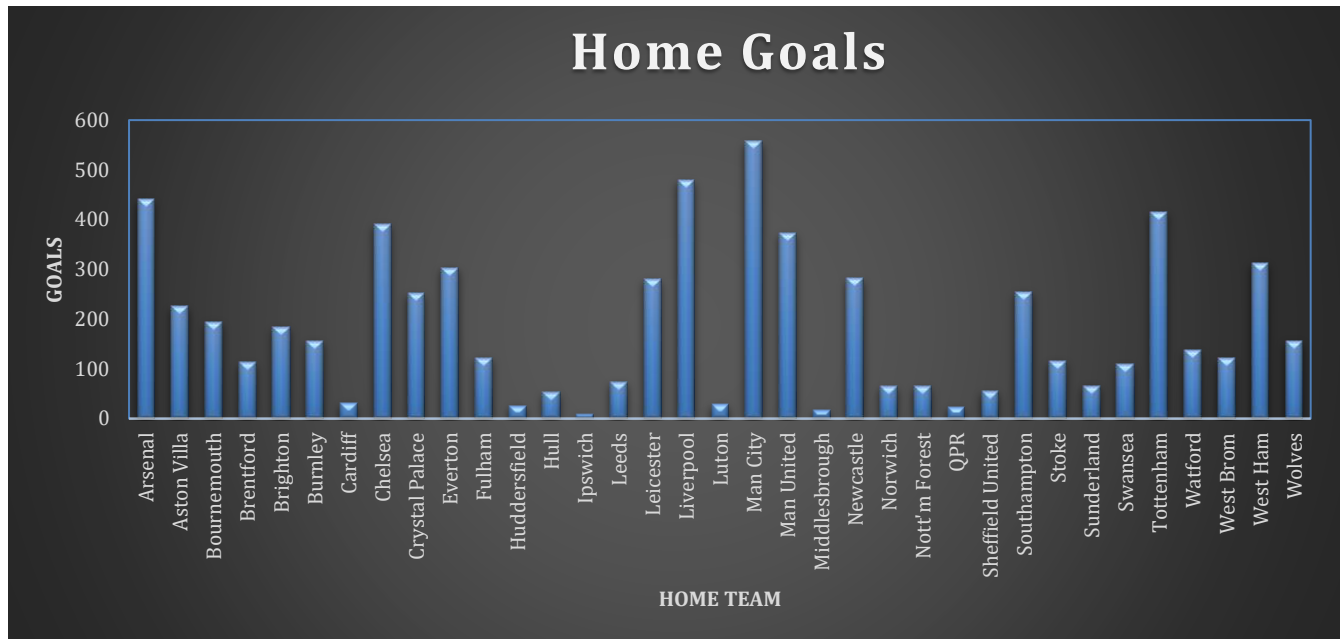
Teams that scored significantly more goals at home than away include:

- Man City (557 home goals, 432 away goals)
- Liverpool (479 home goals, 397 away goals)
- Chelsea (390 home goals, 344 away goals)
- Man United (373 home goals, 289 away goals)
- Tottenham (415 home goals, 355 away goals)
- Arsenal (441 home goals, 336 away goals)
- Everton (303 home, 217 away goals)
- Newcastle (281 home goals, 211 away goals)

Findings indicate strong tendency for teams with high number of goals to also have a strong record for scoring away from home. Top performing teams like Man City, Liverpool, Arsenal, Tottenham, Chelsea, and Man United feature prominently among teams with the highest number of away goals. Conversely, teams with lower overall goal tallies generally have much fewer away goals. This suggests that the ability to score consistently both at home and away, is a key factor in goal-scoring performance. While home



goals consistently outnumber away goals each year, both categories exhibit seasonal fluctuations and recent seasons recorded higher numbers for both, correlating with overall increase in goals per season.



**Figure 2. Home Goal Distribution (2014 - 2024)**



**Figure 3. Away Goal Distribution (2014 - 2024)**

**Table 2. Goal Distribution by Team**

Team	Home Goals	Away Goals	Goals
Arsenal	441	336	777
Aston Villa	225	157	382
Bournemouth	194	167	361
Brentford	112	82	194
Brighton	184	162	346
Burnley	155	144	299
Cardiff	31	20	51
Chelsea	390	344	734
Crystal Palace	252	240	492
Everton	303	217	520
Fulham	122	98	220
Huddersfield	26	24	50
Hull	52	34	86
Ipswich	8	10	18
Leeds	73	79	152
Leicester	280	259	539
Liverpool	479	397	876
Luton	28	24	52
Man City	557	432	989
Man United	373	289	662
Middlesbrough	17	10	27
Newcastle	281	211	492
Norwich	64	36	100
Nott'm Forest	65	48	113
QPR	23	19	42
Sheffield United	55	39	94
Southampton	254	199	453
Stoke	115	77	192
Sunderland	66	68	134
Swansea	108	83	191
Tottenham	415	355	770
Watford	137	109	246
West Brom	120	82	202
West Ham	312	262	574
Wolves	155	129	284
<b>Total</b>	<b>6472</b>	<b>5242</b>	<b>11714</b>

### 3. Seasonal Trends

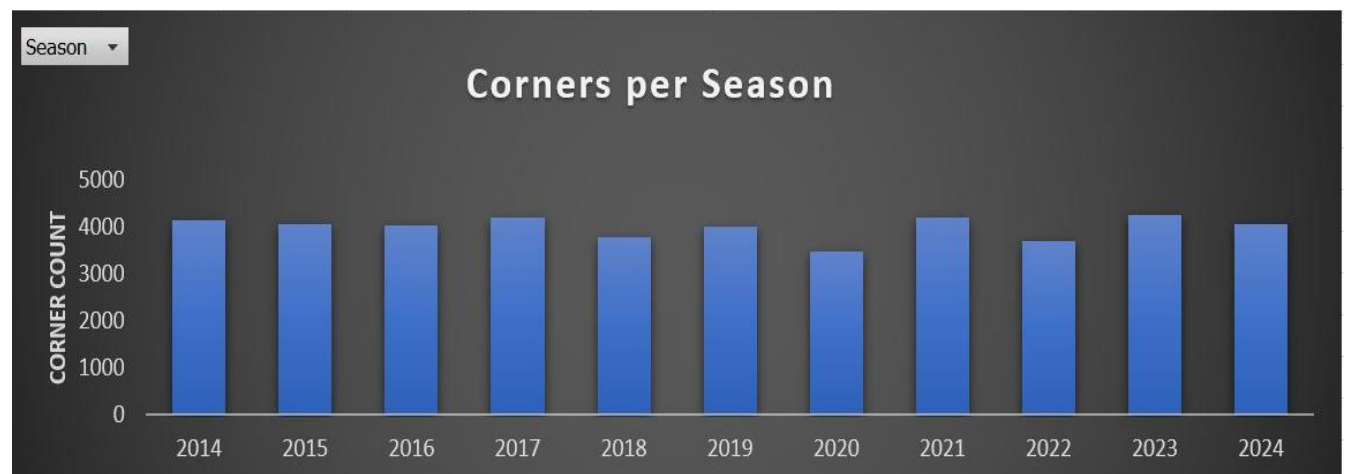
The premier league remains very entertaining with consistent high goal scoring, peaks and troughs, traceable to team strategies, player quality, and rule interpretations across different EPL seasons. Findings

indicate a relatively consistent distribution of results at halftime across the analyzed period. Moreover, away wins and draws appear to be less frequent than home wins at halftime. It is notable that a significant higher proportion of home wins is observed by the end of the match which suggests that home teams are more effective at securing a winning position in the second half. The total number of goals scored per season has fluctuated between roughly 950 and 1100 goals over the decade.

**Table 3. Goal Summary per Year**

Year	Goals
2014	1035
2015	977
2016	1067
2017	1084
2018	1032
2019	1062
2020	909
2021	1108
2022	1025
2023	1222
2024	1193
<b>Total</b>	<b>11714</b>

Findings indicate a relatively stable number of corners awarded each season, approximately 3300 and 3600 corners per season. This denotes consistent attacking patterns and defensive clearances leading to corners during the time period.

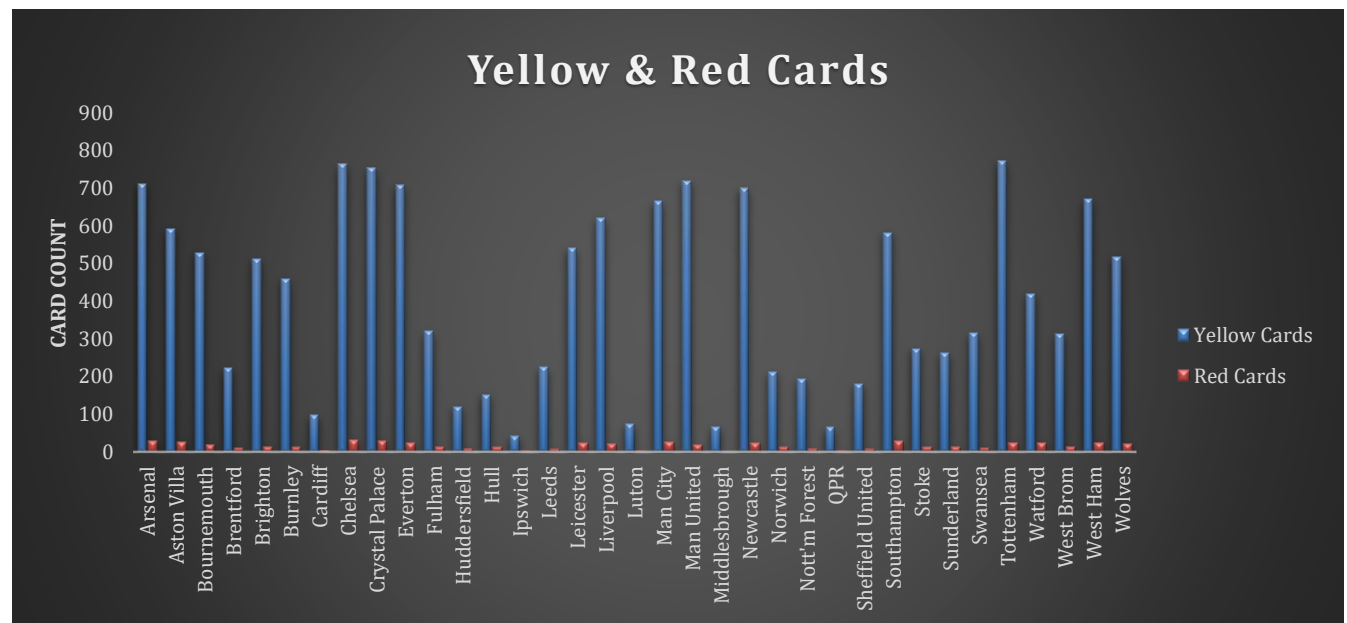


**Figure 4. Seasonal Distribution of Corners**



#### 4. Disciplinary Trends

Each season presents varying disciplinary trends based on the outcome of officiating referees and VAR incidents. The number of cards issued per season is influenced by playing style and the level of strictness. The number of fouls committed per season has fluctuated over the 2014-2024 period with about 7500 to 9000 fouls per season. Increased fouls are traceable to intensive aggressiveness and rough defensive tactics which result in yellow and red cards. Across all listed clubs, there is a significantly higher number of yellow cards (14354) issued compared to red cards (536). This indicates that cautions are far more frequent disciplinary actions than sending offs in the Premier League.



**Figure 5. Card Distribution Patterns**

Premier League teams that have consistently received a high number of yellow and red cards are:

Chelsea: Ranks high in yellow cards and receives highest red cards (763 yellow cards & 30 red cards)

Crystal Palace: Ranks high in both yellow and red cards (753 yellow cards & 29 red cards)

Arsenal: Features prominently for both categories (711 yellow cards & 28 red cards)

Tottenham: Receives highest yellow cards and ranks high in red cards (771 yellow cards & 24 red cards)

Everton: Ranks high for both yellow and red cards (708 yellow cards & 24 red cards)

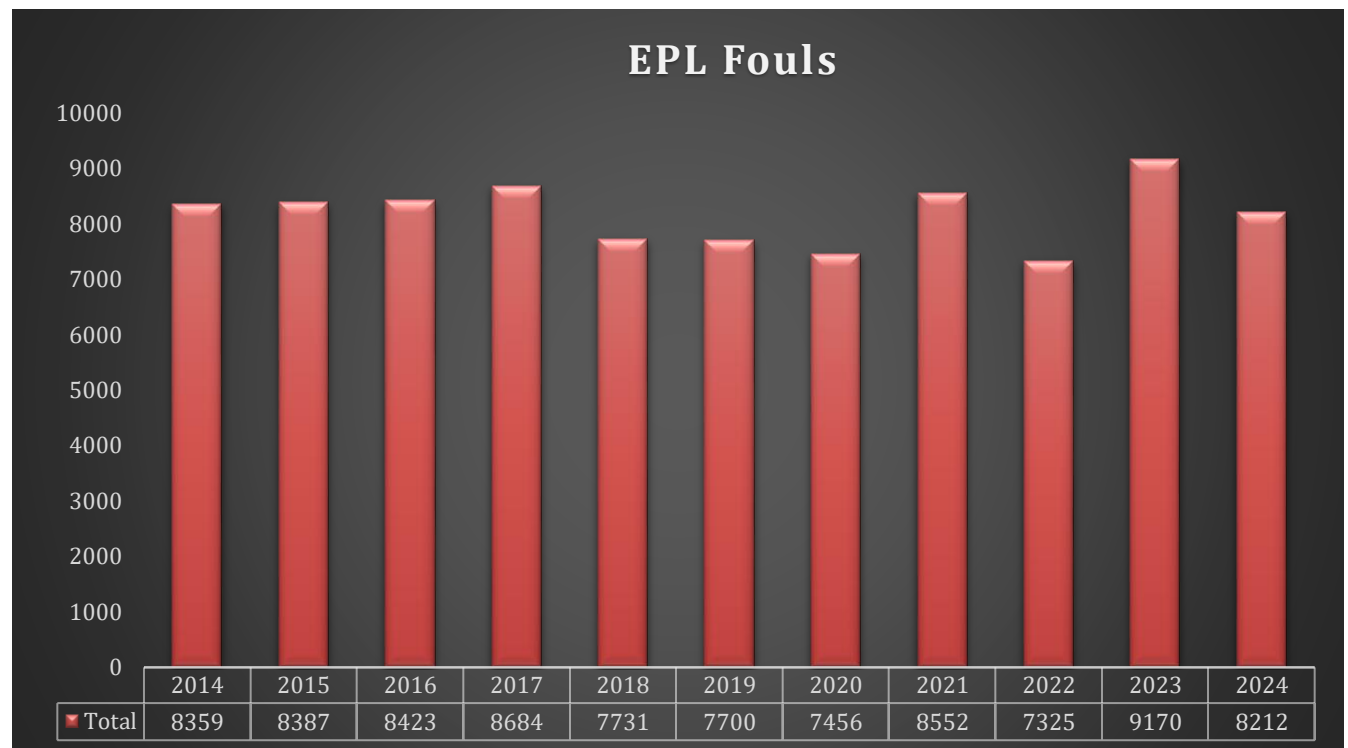
West Ham: Ranks high in both yellow and red card counts (670 yellow cards & 24 red cards)

Man City: Receives high number of both yellow and red cards (667 yellow cards & 25 red cards)

**Table 4. Disciplinary Record: Red and Yellow Card Distribution (2014-2024)**

<b>Football Clubs</b>	<b>Yellow Cards</b>	<b>Red Cards</b>
Arsenal	711	28
Aston Villa	592	25
Bournemouth	529	19
Brentford	222	9
Brighton	511	13
Burnley	459	11
Cardiff	96	3
Chelsea	763	30
Crystal Palace	753	29
Everton	708	24
Fulham	319	12
Huddersfield	120	8
Hull	152	11
Ipswich	41	1
Leeds	223	6
Leicester	541	23
Liverpool	621	21
Luton	74	2
Man City	667	25
Man United	718	19
Middlesbrough	67	0
Newcastle	700	23
Norwich	211	11
Nott'm Forest	192	8
QPR	64	2
Sheffield United	179	7
Southampton	582	28
Stoke	274	11
Sunderland	262	13
Swansea	314	9
Tottenham	771	24
Watford	418	24
West Brom	312	12
West Ham	670	24
Wolves	518	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>14354</b>	<b>536</b>

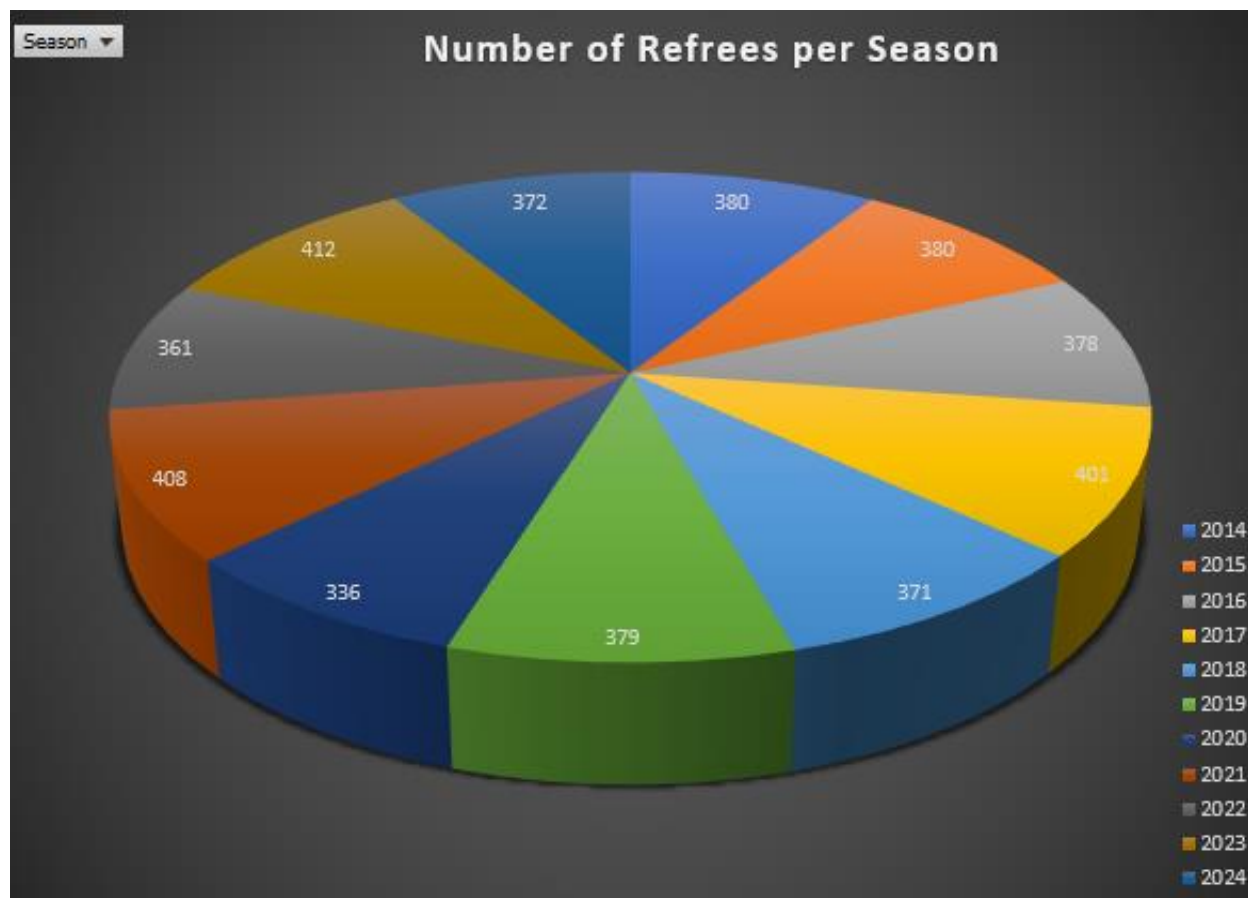
Teams with high yellow card totals include Arsenal (711), Chelsea (763), Crystal Palace (753), Everton (708), Manchester United (718), Newcastle (700), Tottenham (771), and West Ham (670) while teams with high red card totals include Arsenal (28), Chelsea (30), Crystal Palace (29), and Southampton (28). Conversely, some teams have relatively low card counts, suggesting a less aggressive playing style or fewer seasons in the league during this period. Examples of teams with low total cards are Ipswich (41 yellow, 1 red), Middlesbrough (67 yellow, 0 red), Luton (74 yellow, 2 red), Cardiff (96 yellow, 3 red), Huddersfield (120 yellow, 8 red) and Middlesbrough (67 yellow cards, 0 red).



**Figure 6. Premier League Fouls**

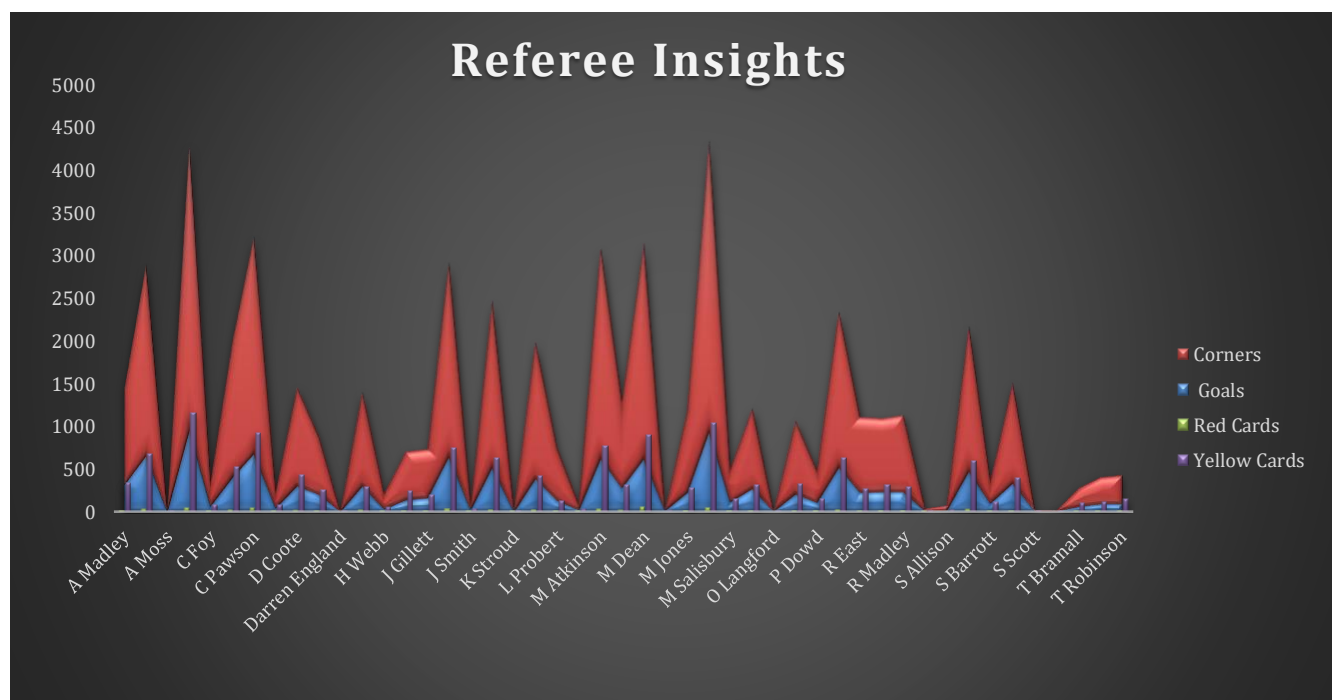
## 5. Referee Insights

The total number of referee appearances across the period is listed as 4177. The statistics for goals, corners, red cards, and yellow cards vary considerably depending on the referee assigned to the match. Findings indicate that the number of referees officiating in the EPL each season between 2014 and 2024 has remained relatively stable, fluctuating within 336 to 412 each season, suggesting a consistent pool or a managed rotation of officials over the decade.



**Figure 7. Seasonal Count of Premier League Referees**

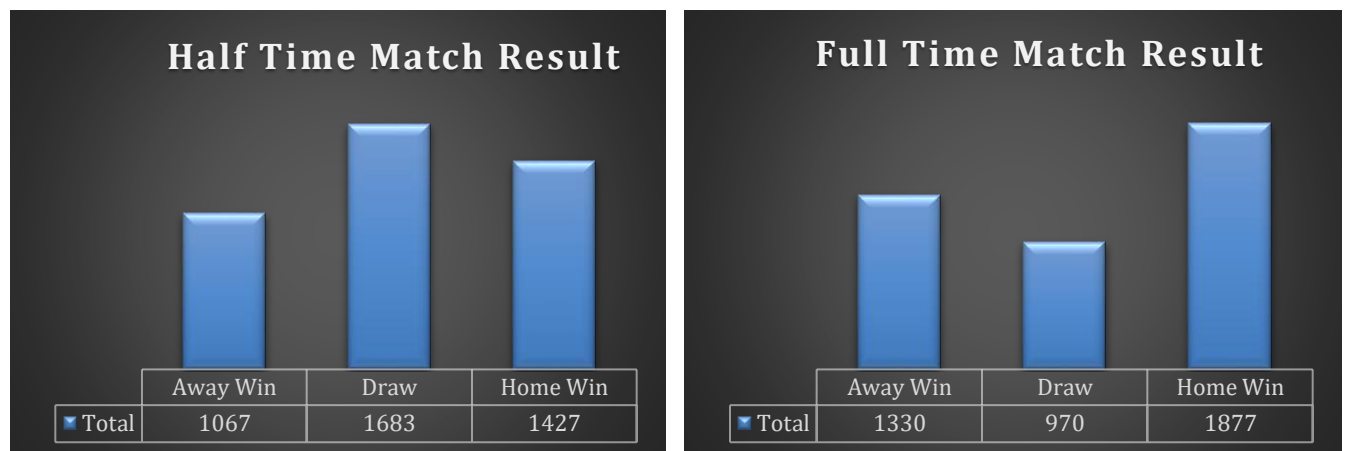
- Referees overseeing matches with most goals - A Taylor (950 goals), M Oliver (940 goals), M Dean (621 goals), M Atkinson (618 goals), and A Marriner (651 goals)
- Referees overseeing matches with most corners - M Oliver (4311 corners), A Taylor (3873 corners), M Dean (2533 corners), A Marriner (2244 corners) and M Atkinson (2490 corners)
- Referees issuing the most red cards - M Dean (43 red cards), P Dowd (37 red cards), P Tierney (37 red cards), and M Oliver (43 red cards)
- Referees issuing the most yellow cards - M Oliver (1032 yellow cards), A Taylor (979 yellow cards), M Dean (839 yellow cards), C Foy (758 yellow cards) and C Pawson (920 yellow cards)



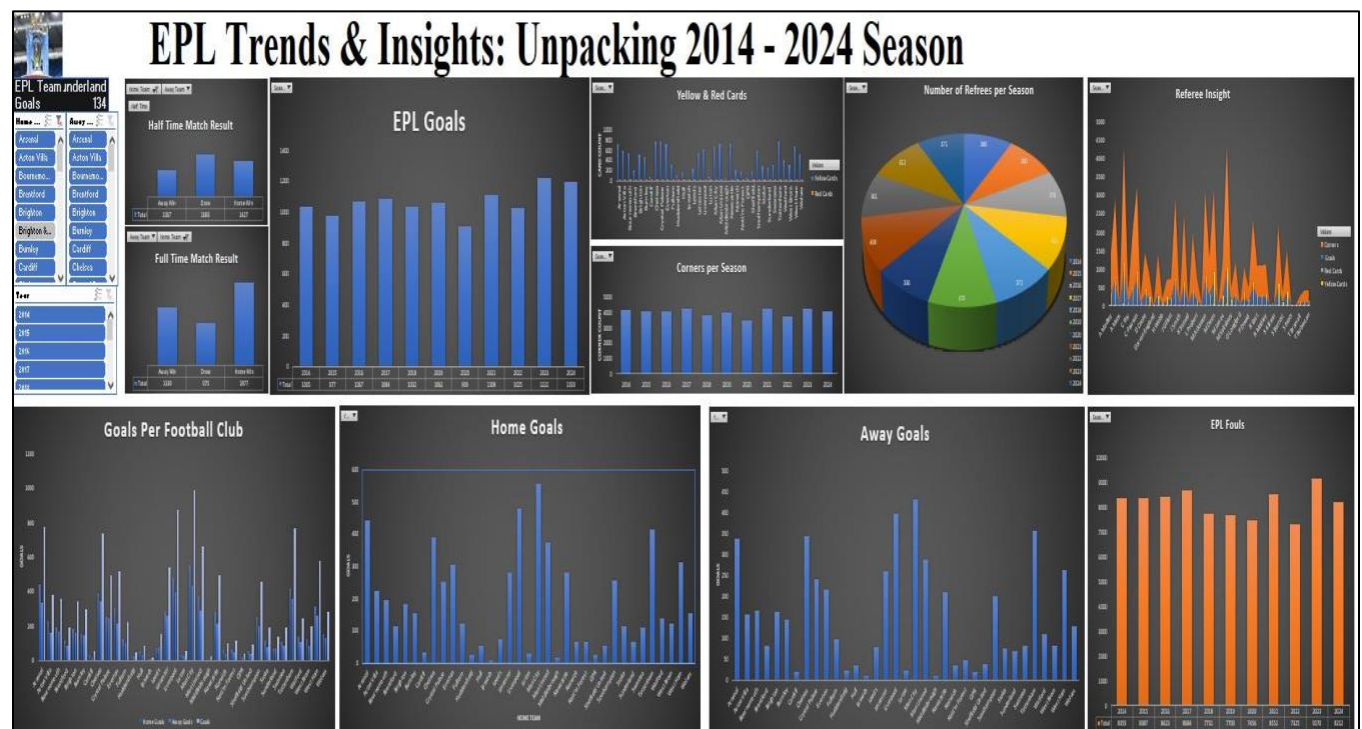
**Figure 8. Insights on EPL Referees**

## 6. Match Insights

The number of goals per season has varied, with a low of 909 in 2020 and highs of 1222 in 2023 and 1193 in 2024 which indicates a more attacking league in recent times. The total number of goals across the decade is 11,714 goals. Similarly, the number of fouls per season has also fluctuated, ranging from 7325 in 2021 to 9170 in 2023. The total number of fouls over the decade is 89,999. The total number of corners per season is 43,925 corners. Findings indicate strong numerical evidence of the home advantage. Over the 4177 matches played, Home Wins are the most frequent outcome at full time (1877), significantly outnumbering Draws (970) and Away Wins (1330) while Draws (1683) were the most common result at half time, followed by Home Wins (1427) and Away Wins (1067). This strongly indicates that home teams are more likely to secure a win or overturn a deficit in the second half, while draws are frequently broken. The cumulative number of goals scored across all matches in the Premier League during this decade is 11714 goals.



**Figure 9. Halftime vs Fulltime Results**



**Figure 10. 2014 - 2024 EPL Performance Dashboard**



## Summary

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the English Premier League (EPL) between 2014 - 2024 seasons, examining key performance indicators, team dynamics, and tactical evolutions. Over the past decade, the league has witnessed significant shifts in team dominance and a continuous adaptation of playing styles. The data reveals sustained success of top clubs, the emergence of new contenders, and an ever-increasing global appeal driven by captivating football. These trends collectively paint a picture of a dynamic and fiercely competitive league that continues to evolve both on and off the pitch.

The decade witnessed the crowning of several different champions, each with their own compelling narrative. Manchester City emerged as a dominant force, securing the Premier League title on five occasions during this period. This sustained success points towards a potentially superior model of club management and significant financial backing. Modelling their approaches could enhance performance in the highly competitive Premier League.

The consistency of performance among all title-winning teams throughout the decade provides a broader understanding of the factors contributing to sustained success in the Premier League. Some champions demonstrated consistent high-level performance across multiple seasons, while others experienced more fluctuating outcomes. Clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool, and Chelsea frequently featured in the top six positions for the majority of this period, although their precise rankings within that group experienced fluctuations from season to season. The sustained presence of these clubs at the top highlights the strength of their underlying infrastructure, their established global brand recognition, and their consistent ability to attract and retain high-quality players.

The decade represents a period of significant evolution and the performance metrics across the ten seasons reveal underlying trends in the League's competitive landscape. The average number of goals scored per season offers a baseline for understanding the league's attacking intensity. Data indicates a slight inclination towards higher scoring rates in the latter half of the decade which may be attributed to a greater emphasis on attacking football philosophies adopted by managers, coupled with the continuous improvement in the quality of attacking players entering the league. Moreover, advancements in coaching methodologies focusing on forward play could also be a contributing factor. EPL is likely to remain a dominant force in global football, attracting top talent and captivating audiences worldwide.

## **Recommendations**

The increasing influence of data analytics in football provides clubs with valuable insights into player performance, opponent analysis, and tactical effectiveness. Clubs should invest in data analysis capabilities and encourage tactical innovation to gain a competitive edge.

To ensure a sustainable pipeline of talent and potentially reduce reliance on expensive transfers, clubs should implement best practices in coaching, facilities, and personalized training programs which nurture players capable of competing at the highest level. The Homegrown Player Rule aims to encourage this development and clubs should strategically leverage their academies to meet these requirements effectively.

For financial security, clubs should prioritize responsible financial management and avoid excessive risk-taking to ensure their long-term viability within the league.

While the Premier League benefits from significant financial investment, the widening gap between the wealthiest and less affluent clubs can impact long-term competitive balance. The league should promote greater financial parity through enforcement of financial fair play regulations and exploring models for more equitable revenue distribution among clubs.

Recognizing the crucial role of fans, clubs should develop comprehensive fan engagement strategies that cater to diverse audiences through open communication, inclusive and engaging matchday experiences, and leveraging digital platforms to connect with supporters globally.

By considering these recommendations, Premier League clubs and the league itself can strive for a future characterized by greater competitive balance, sustainable financial practices, continued talent development, and strong connections with their global fanbase.