

= Sam Allardyce =

Samuel " Sam " Allardyce ( / ˈæɪˈrdaɪs / ) ( born 19 October 1954 ) , known as " Big Sam " , is an English football manager and former professional player who is manager of the English national team .

Allardyce made 578 league and cup appearances in a 21 @-@ year career spent mostly in the Football League , as well as brief spells in the North American Soccer League and League of Ireland . A strong central defender , he had good awareness , heading skills and anticipation . He was signed by Bolton Wanderers from Dudley Town in 1969 and spent nine years at Bolton , helping the club to win the Second Division title in 1977 ? 78 . He spent the 1980s as a journeyman player , spending time with Sunderland , Millwall , Tampa Bay Rowdies , Coventry City , Huddersfield Town , Bolton Wanderers ( for a second spell ) , Preston North End , and West Bromwich Albion ( also working as assistant manager ) . During this time he helped Preston to win promotion out of the Fourth Division in 1986 ? 87 .

Moving into management , he took charge of Irish club Limerick in 1991 , leading the club to the League of Ireland First Division title in 1991 ? 92 . He returned to England to coach at Preston North End , also serving briefly as caretaker @-@ manager . He took up his first permanent management role in England at Blackpool in July 1994 , but was sacked after two years having narrowly failed to achieve promotion . He spent January 1997 to October 1999 in charge at Notts County , taking them to the Third Division title in 1997 ? 98 . He then returned to Bolton Wanderers as manager , leading the club to promotion out of the First Division via the play @-@ offs in 2001 , as well as a League Cup final and UEFA Cup qualification . Following a spell at Newcastle United from May 2007 to January 2008 , Allardyce managed Blackburn Rovers for a two @-@ year spell from December 2008 . He was appointed West Ham United manager in June 2011 , leading the club to promotion out of the Championship via the play @-@ offs in 2012 , before leaving West Ham in May 2015 after criticism from fans over his playing style . He was appointed Sunderland manager in October 2015 and saved the club from relegation . He was appointed as manager of the English national team in July 2016 .

Allardyce has been labelled as a long ball manager by some analysts , though has disputed this perception as " totally and utterly wrong " . He takes a modern , technology and statistics centred approach to tactics and coaching , and has been praised for his organisational and man @-@ management skills . He has been married since June 1974 , and has two children . In September 2006 , Allardyce , and his son , Craig , were implicated in a BBC Panorama documentary for taking " bungs " ( bribes ) ; they strongly denied the allegations and have never been charged with any offences .

= = Early life = =

Samuel Allardyce was born in October 1954 in a council house on the Old Park Farm Estate , Dudley , the son of Robert Allardyce ( 1916 ? 1989 ) and Mary Agnes Allardyce ( 1918 ? 1991 ) . His father was a police sergeant . Both parents originated from Scotland . He has an older sister , Mary , born in Scotland in 1939 and an older brother , Robert junior , born in 1951 . Allardyce was educated at Sycamore Green Primary School and later at Mons Hill School , failing his Eleven plus exam . He discovered in later life that he suffers from dyslexia . As a child , he supported Wolverhampton Wanderers and dreamed that one day he would play at and manage the club .

= = Club career = =

= = = Bolton Wanderers = = =

Allardyce spent his youth with semi @-@ professional side Dudley Town , making his debut at the age of 14 he quickly learned how to play centre @-@ half in the highly physical West Midlands (

Regional ) League . He trained with local Football League clubs West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers , and had an unsuccessful trial with Aston Villa . He was spotted by Bolton Wanderers just before leaving school at the age of 15 , and signed an apprenticeship with the club . To supplement his income before officially starting his apprenticeship he worked in a factory producing record decks . The Bolton under 18s were very successful , winning the Lancashire Youth Cup and reaching the quarter finals of the FA Youth Cup , and Allardyce quickly rose through the B team into the A team . He signed his first professional contract on his 17th birthday , receiving a £ 125 signing on fee and wages of £ 14 a week .

Manager Jimmy Armfield gave Allardyce his debut for the " Trotters " on 6 November 1973 , in a 2 ? 1 defeat League Cup to Millwall at Burnden Park . He made his Second Division debut eleven days later , in a 2 ? 1 defeat to Notts County . However he failed to establish himself in the first team under Armfield , and only got a run of games under new manager Ian Greaves , who played Allardyce in the last ten games of the 1974 ? 75 season after he sold Don McAllister to Tottenham Hotspur . He impressed during this short run , winning himself the club 's Young Player of the Year award .

Bolton lost to Newcastle United after two replays in the FA Cup Fifth Round in the 1975 ? 76 season , and went on to miss out on promotion out of the league by a single point . They suffered similar disappointment in the 1976 ? 77 campaign , reaching the semi finals of the League Cup , and again finished just one point outside the promotion places . Promotion was finally achieved in the 1977 ? 78 season , as Bolton returned to the First Division as champions of the Second Division . Bolton consolidated their top flight status with a 17th place finish in 1978 ? 79 . However the 1979 ? 80 season proved difficult , and manager Greaves was sacked as the club went seven months without a league victory , whilst his replacement Stan Anderson was unable to steer the club away from relegation and a last place finish . Allardyce decided to leave Bolton at the end of the season as he felt that he was underpaid at Bolton and did not get on with Anderson .

== = Sunderland and Millwall == =

Allardyce was offered a contract by Norwich City manager John Bond , but the offer was bettered by Colin Addison at Derby County , and he verbally agreed a three year contract with Derby . However , before signing the contract he received a late offer from Ken Knighton to play for Sunderland on a £ 300 a week contract with a £ 20 ,000 signing on fee ? which more than quadrupled his wage at Bolton . Knighton appointed him as club captain . However Allardyce soon wearied of the long distance travel from Sunderland to his home in Bolton , and put in a transfer request when chairman Tom Cowie refused to help finance the purchase of a home in Sunderland . Cowie sacked Knighton late in the 1980 ? 81 season , leaving caretaker manager Mick Docherty in charge to steer the club out of the First Division relegation zone . New manager Alan Durban left Allardyce out of the team at the start of the 1981 ? 82 campaign , leaving Allardyce 's departure from Roker Park inevitable .

He was offered the chance to return to Bolton Wanderers , but manager George Mulhall was only able to offer 50 % of Allardyce 's wages at Sunderland . Instead he made a surprise £ 95 ,000 move to Third Division side Millwall , who were able to match Sunderland 's wages and also pay out a £ 30 ,000 signing on fee and a £ 10 ,000 loyalty bonus . Millwall player manager Peter Anderson had seen Allardyce as the successor to long serving central defender Barry Kitchener , and as Anderson was also a property developer he allowed Allardyce to live rent free in a six bedroom mansion . The " Lions " ended the 1981 ? 82 season in mid table , and Anderson was sacked in November 1982 . Chairman Alan Thorne offered Allardyce the vacant management position , but Allardyce rejected the offer as he felt that at aged 28 he was far too young to enter management . Instead it was George Graham who took up his first management position , and Graham immediately froze Allardyce out of the first team on both matchdays and training after Allardyce insisted that he would not report teammates who broke Graham 's rules . He came close to joining Charlton Athletic on a free transfer in March 1983 , but Charlton boss Lennie

Lawrence did not complete the move before the end of the transfer deadline . Graham agreed to pay Allardyce £ 15 @, @ 000 to cancel his contract , acting under the assumption that Allardyce would struggle to find a club willing to offer him £ 300 a week .

= = = Later career = = =

Allardyce wrote to every club in the top two divisions to inform them he was available on a free transfer , and privately lamented choosing his past clubs for financial rather than footballing reasons . Over the summer he played 11 games in the North American Soccer League for the Tampa Bay Rowdies , a club that shared facilities with the NFL 's Tampa Bay Buccaneers . Allardyce subsequently applied in his managerial career many modern practices of American football with regards to training , player management and tactics . He found playing difficult however , due to the heat and the all @-@ out attacking nature of his teammates , which led to him being frequently exposed at the back , though he found that the club 's masseurs managed to cure a long @-@ standing hamstring scar tissue problem .

Upon returning to the UK he joined Bobby Gould 's First Division Coventry City on a one @-@ year £ 300 a week contract . He was made captain , and though Coventry enjoyed a good first half to the 1983 ? 84 season they faltered badly in the second half of the season and finished just one place and two points above the relegation zone after beating Norwich City on the final day of the season . Midway through the campaign Gould had promised him a new two @-@ year contract , but following the poor end to the season he instead opted to release Allardyce .

In July 1984 , he was signed by Mick Buxton at Second Division Huddersfield Town . The move reunited him with Paul Jones , his former centre @-@ half partner at Bolton . Huddersfield finished in 13th place in the 1984 ? 85 season , and at the end of the campaign accepted an offer of £ 15 @, @ 000 from Bolton Wanderers , who offered Allardyce a three @-@ year contract . Bolton were then managed by Charlie Wright , who was the goalkeeper at Allardyce 's first spell with the club . However Wright was sacked in December 1985 , and his successor , Phil Neal , did not get along with Allardyce . Neal played himself at centre @-@ half and relegated Allardyce to the bench , despite Neal being a full @-@ back . Bolton reached the 1986 Football League Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium , which ended in a 3 ? 0 defeat to Bristol City , with Allardyce as an unused substitute .

Allardyce was offered the chance to join Tranmere Rovers , but instead joined Preston North End after being persuaded by manager John McGrath , who promised to make Allardyce the backbone of his team . Preston won promotion out of the Fourth Division in second @-@ place in 1986 ? 87 ( Allardyce was also named on the PFA Team of the Year ) , and consolidated their Third Division status with a 16th @-@ place finish in 1987 ? 88 . By this time Allardyce began considering his retirement as a player , and applied to management positions at York City and Notts County , and had an unsuccessful interview with Doncaster Rovers .

= = Style of play = =

Bolton fans gave him the nickname " Super Sam Bionic Man " due to his tough tackling approach and the way he quickly got up after heavy collisions whilst the opposition player would be left flat on the ground . Veteran manager Dave Bassett , a friend of Allardyce , once humorously remarked that " He was what I called a ball @-@ playing defender ... If he wasn 't playing with the ball he was playing with your balls . " He was uncomfortable in possession , and played simple balls to his nearest teammates when he found himself with the ball , whilst teammates would be reluctant to pass to him . He did however possess good awareness and heading skills , and his anticipation made up for his lack of pace .

= = Managerial career = =

== = Early career == =

Allardyce was hired as a player @-@ coach by Brian Talbot at West Bromwich Albion in February 1989 . He spent most of the rest of the 1988 ? 89 season at The Hawthorns managing and playing for the reserve team , before being promoted to first team coach in the summer , in a move that saw former first team coach Stuart Pearson demoted to reserve team coaching . Allardyce and Talbot were sacked in January 1991 following a defeat to Isthmian League side Woking in the FA Cup . He later worked as a part @-@ time coach at Bury , but manager Mike Walsh could not afford to keep him on the staff for the 1989 ? 90 season .

Allardyce then took up the role of player @-@ manager of Limerick , and guided the team to promotion into the top @-@ flight of the League of Ireland by finishing top of the First Division in 1991 ? 92 . They achieved promotion despite tremendous financial pressures , with Allardyce coaching and playing for the first team whilst the club board signed players as Allardyce had no knowledge of the Irish football scene .

After his season in Ireland , Allardyce returned to England for the start of the 1992 ? 93 season to coach at Preston North End under Les Chapman . Ten games into the season , however , Chapman was sacked and Allardyce was appointed caretaker manager . Despite a promising spell in charge , Allardyce did not get the job on a permanent basis , and in December 1992 Preston appointed John Beck as manager . Allardyce worked as youth team coach for 18 months , but later said the extreme long ball tactics Beck enforced upon the club were " indefensible " .

== = Blackpool == =

In July 1994 , Blackpool , West Lancashire derby rivals to Preston North End , appointed Allardyce as their new manager following the departure of Billy Ayre , agreeing a salary of £ 18 @,@ 000 a year . He signed defender Darren Bradshaw , midfielder Micky Mellon and spent a club record £ 245 @,@ 000 on Andy Morrison , who Allardyce described as a " horrible in @-@ your @-@ face " centre @-@ back and a " complete nutter " . He also changed the club 's backroom staff , hiring Bobby Saxton as his assistant , promoting player Phil Brown to a coaching role , and appointing Mark Taylor as physio , who would follow Allardyce to Blackburn and Newcastle . Blackpool finished the 1994 ? 95 season in 12th place after falling out of the promotion race with just one win in their final 11 games .

He spent £ 200 @,@ 000 on striker Andy Preece , and also brought in young defender Jason Lydiate and goalkeeper Steve Banks for the 1995 ? 96 campaign . Blackpool finished third , missing out on automatic promotion on the last day of the season , and were beaten in the play @-@ off semi @-@ finals by Bradford City . They had won 2 ? 0 away at Valley Parade , only to lose 3 ? 0 in the return leg at Bloomfield Road . Chairman Owen Oyston , while he was in a prison cell , sacked Allardyce shortly after the play @-@ off defeat . Allardyce then had a brief spell on the coaching staff under Peter Reid at Sunderland , working as director of the academy .

" We had missed promotion to the First Division by a point . Yet it had all been done on next @-@ to @-@ nothing , and during the months leading towards the end of the season , I hardly ever saw Owen Oyston . But he always assured me that , no matter what , my job would be safe . I turned up for that meeting having been told it was to discuss new terms . Instead , I was told that I was being sacked . It was cold , calculated , pre @-@ planned , whatever . I walked out of there with ? 10 @,@ 000 , no job , and desperately worried that my reputation would be damaged forever . "

== = Notts County == =

In January 1997 , Allardyce made his return to football as manager of struggling Division Two club Notts County . He arrived too late to save them from relegation in 1996 ? 97 , and in his autobiography described how the players " would not respond " to his coaching methods as they went 18 games without a win and pressure mounted on Allardyce . However he held on to his job , and led the club to promotion as champions of Division Three at the end of the 1997 ? 98 season ,

built upon a three @-@ man defence and a mid @-@ season run of ten consecutive wins . County broke several club and national records , winning the title by a 19 @-@ point margin and becoming the first post @-@ war side to win promotion in March .

Despite the success , chairman Derek Pavis refused to spend money on transfers , and as a result fell out with Allardyce . Allardyce was eventually allowed to spend £ 50 @,@ 000 on striker Kevin Rapley , who helped the club to steer clear of relegation at the end of the 1998 ? 99 campaign . In the summer he signed midfielder Craig Ramage and utility player Clayton Blackmore . Allardyce remained in charge at Meadow Lane until 14 October 1999 , when he resigned his post at Notts County to return to Bolton Wanderers .

= = = Bolton Wanderers = = =

= = = Promotion out of Division One = = =

Allardyce was appointed manager of Bolton Wanderers following Colin Todd 's departure , who had resigned in protest at the sale of Per Frandsen as the club attempted to raise funds for the new Reebok Stadium . He inherited a talented squad , which included Eiður Guðjohnsen , Jussi Jääskeläinen , Mark Fish , Claus Jensen , Dean Holdsworth , Bo Hansen , Michael Johansen , and Ricardo Gardner . However he was forced to sell Andy Todd , son of Colin Todd , after he broke assistant manager Phil Brown 's jaw in a team bonding session . Despite being in the bottom half of the table when he took over , Bolton reached the 1999 ? 2000 Division One play @-@ offs , losing to Ipswich Town , and had an eventful run to the League Cup and FA Cup semi @-@ finals , only missing out on the 2000 FA Cup Final after a penalty shoot @-@ out defeat to Aston Villa . He blamed referee Barry Knight for the play @-@ off defeat , who he accused of being biased against Bolton . Allardyce was rewarded for turning the club around with a ten @-@ year contract , though the terms of the contract only entitled him to a one year 's compensation pay if he was sacked .

In summer 2000 , Guðjohnsen and Jensen were sold for £ 4 million each . Allardyce focused on spending money to improve the club 's facilities and backroom staff , believing that money spent in these areas would allow Bolton to compete with clubs who had bigger budgets and paid bigger wages than Bolton could afford . On the playing front he spent £ 400 @,@ 000 on striker Michael Ricketts and £ 1 @.@ 5 million to bring back Frandsen from Blackburn , and also signed utility player Ian Marshall and Bradford City loanee Isaiah Rankin . Teenager Kevin Nolan was also promoted from the youth team , whilst 35 @-@ year @-@ old defender Colin Hendry arrived on loan . Bolton reached the play @-@ off final at the Millennium Stadium in 2000 ? 01 , where they beat Preston North End 3 ? 0 to achieve promotion to the Premier League after a three @-@ year absence .

= = = Premier League survival = = =

Building for the 2001 ? 02 Premier League campaign , Allardyce signed France international defender Bruno N 'Gotty from Marseille in a loan deal which was eventual made into a permanent one after N 'Gotty established himself as a key first team player . He also brought in Henrik Pedersen from Silkeborg IF for £ 650 @,@ 000 , though otherwise remained loyal to the players that had won promotion the previous campaign . They recorded a 5 ? 0 win at Leicester City on the opening day , then beat Middlesbrough and Liverpool to secure nine points from their first three games . After six games without a win , Bolton then recorded a shock 2 ? 1 victory over Manchester United on 20 October . However their form dropped , and so in the January transfer window Allardyce brought in Danish midfielder Stig Tøfting , German striker Fredi Bobic ( on loan ) , and World Cup @-@ winning attacker Youri Djorkaeff . Djorkaeff scored both goals in a 2 ? 1 win over Charlton Athletic on 23 March and Bobic scored a hat @-@ trick in a 4 ? 1 win over Ipswich Town on 6 April ; the victory over Ipswich proved to be essential as Bolton ended the season in 16th place on 40 points , ahead of Ipswich who were relegated with 36 points .

Allardyce manage to sign another big name on a free transfer for the 2002 ? 03 season , bringing in 28 @-@ year @-@ old Nigeria captain Jay @-@ Jay Okocha , who four years previously had been purchased by Paris Saint @-@ Germain for £ 14 million . He also brought in Spanish central defender Iván Campo on loan from Real Madrid . He sold 2001 ? 02 top @-@ scorer Michael Ricketts to Middlesbrough for £ 3 @-@ 5 million , bringing in Pierre @-@ Yves André on loan as his replacement . Bolton struggled all season , but managed to avoid relegation with a final day win over Middlesbrough .

Looking to avoid another relegation battle , Allardyce made a number of signings in preparation for the 2003 ? 04 season , the most significant of which were Brazilian defender Emerson Thome , Greece international Stelios Giannakopoulos , and target @-@ man striker Kevin Davies . Allardyce 's side finished eighth in the league and reached the League Cup final , in what was his first major domestic final appearance as a player or manager . Bolton lost 2 ? 1 to Middlesbrough in the final , though Allardyce blamed referee Mike Riley for not giving a late penalty for an alleged handball by Ugo Ehiogu .

= = = Venture in Europe = = =

Now an established Premier League club , Bolton signed veteran internationals Gary Speed and Fernando Hierro , aged 35 and 36 respectively . Speed and Hierro went into midfield , while Tunisia international Radhi Jaïdi was played at centre @-@ back after arriving on a free transfer from Espérance ; he was played alongside another new arrival , Israel defender Tal Ben Haim , who was recommended by Allardyce 's son Craig . He also brought in Senegal striker El Hadji Diouf on a season @-@ long loan from Liverpool , who he would eventually sign permanently for £ 3 million . After a good start to the season , Allardyce was offered the Newcastle United job , but turned it down and instead signed a new five @-@ year contract with Bolton as he felt the Bolton squad to be more talented . Bolton went on to finish in sixth place in 2004 ? 05 to win qualification to the UEFA Cup for the first time in the club 's history .

Bolton reached the Round of 32 in the UEFA Cup in 2005 ? 06 , beating Lokomotiv Plovdiv ( Bulgaria ) in the First Round and successfully negotiating through the Group stage after beating Zenit Saint Petersburg ( Russia ) , and drawing with Sevilla ( Spain ) , Beşiktaş ( Turkey ) and Vitória Guimarães ( Portugal ) , before losing to Marseille ( France ) in the knock @-@ out stages . Allardyce 's success with Bolton resulted in the FA putting him on a short @-@ list of four people to succeed Sven @-@ Göran Eriksson as England manager after the 2006 FIFA World Cup , alongside Alan Curbishley , Steve McClaren and Martin O 'Neill . He was interviewed for the position and was told by FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick that the final choice would be between him and McClaren , however the FA eventually decided to give the job to McClaren . Allardyce was also again offered the Newcastle job and was this time keen to take it , but Newcastle chairman Freddie Shepard broke off contract negotiations after electing to appoint caretaker @-@ manager Glenn Roeder on a full @-@ time basis . Allardyce 's team seemed unaffected by speculation on his future or by their European exploits , and ended the season in eighth position .

Keen to strengthen Bolton for a European push in the 2006 ? 07 season , Allardyce signed France international striker Nicolas Anelka from Fenerbahçe for a club record £ 8 million . He also signed Ivory Coast defender Abdoulaye Méité from Marseille , and in an unusual sequence of events made a £ 400 @-@ 000 profit on Dietmar Hamann , who changed his mind about joining Bolton and signed with Manchester City a day after signing a pre @-@ contract agreement with Bolton ; Manchester City agreed to pay Bolton £ 400 @-@ 000 in compensation . However Allardyce 's relationship with chairman Phil Gartside became increasingly strained as Gartside refused to sanction greater transfer spending to finance a push for UEFA Champions League qualification . On 29 April 2007 , Allardyce resigned with the club in fifth place with two games of the season left to play , and the following day his assistant Sammy Lee was announced as his replacement .

= = = Newcastle United = = =

Allardyce was offered the Manchester City job , but the offer was withdrawn after Thaksin Shinawatra 's purchase offer of the club was accepted . On 15 May 2007 , Newcastle United announced that Allardyce had signed a three @-@ year contract to succeed Glenn Roeder as manager . Ironically Newcastle then also had a change of owners , as Mike Ashley completed his takeover of the club . The sales of Scott Parker and Kieron Dyer raised £ 13 million , allowing Allardyce to sign Australia international striker Mark Viduka ( free transfer ) , utility man Alan Smith ( £ 6 million ) , midfielder Geremi Njitap , controversial midfielder Joey Barton ( £ 5 @.@ 5 million ) , left @-@ back José Enrique ( £ 6 @.@ 3 million ) , right @-@ back Habib Beye ( £ 2 million ) , and defender Abdoulaye Faye . Newcastle enjoyed a good start to the season , beating Allardyce 's former club Bolton 3 ? 1 on the opening day in a run of five wins and two draws from the opening nine league games . However they then had a series of disappointing results in the run @-@ up to Christmas , and after gaining only one point from a possible six from bottom @-@ of @-@ the @-@ table Wigan and Derby . Allardyce parted company with Newcastle United on 9 January 2008 . He had gone into the meeting with chairman Chris Mort expecting to be told Newcastle had signed a new player , not expecting that Ashley and Mort had decided to instead sign Kevin Keegan to return as manager .

= = = Blackburn Rovers = = =

On 17 December 2008 , Allardyce was appointed as manager of Blackburn Rovers on a three @-@ year contract , succeeding Paul Ince who left the club in 19th place with just three wins from 17 games . Allardyce 's first game in charge was a 3 ? 0 victory over Stoke City at Ewood Park three days later . This was the first game of a nine @-@ game unbeaten run . He strengthened the team by spending £ 2 million on Sunderland winger El Hadji Diouf and brought in defender Gaël Givet on loan from Marseille . Allardyce finished his first season in charge with a 0 ? 0 draw with West Bromwich Albion and a final league position of 15th .

Blackburn were forced to sell talismanic Paraguay striker Roque Santa Cruz to Manchester City and defender Stephen Warnock to Aston Villa for a combined £ 21 @.@ 5 million to balance the books . Allardyce was permitted to bring in defensive midfielder Steven N 'Zonzi from Amiens for £ 500 @,@ 000 , Croatia international forward Nikola Kalini? from Hajduk Split for £ 6 million , and Pascal Chimbonda from Tottenham Hotspur for £ 2 @.@ 5 million . In the 2009 ? 10 season , Blackburn reached the League Cup semi @-@ final against Aston Villa , but lost over two legs . Blackburn remained mid @-@ table for the duration of the season , and finished tenth with a final day victory away at Aston Villa .

The club was put up for sale in summer 2010 , and Allardyce was offered the job of managing Al @-@ Ahli Dubai , but could not secure permission to leave Blackburn without paying compensation to the club and so remained in charge at Ewood Park . Ironically , Allardyce was sacked by new owners the Venky 's on 13 December 2010 , with Rovers placed 13th in the league . He was replaced by one of his coaches , Steve Kean , whose agent Jerome Anderson was a highly influential figure with the Venky family .

= = = West Ham United = = =

Allardyce was appointed as manager of then @-@ recently relegated West Ham United on 1 June 2011 , signing a two @-@ year contract . He vowed to play " attractive football " in getting West Ham back to the Premier League , according to the " traditions of the club , " and rejected the claims that he played dull , long @-@ ball football at previous clubs . He signed Abdoulaye Faye , Kevin Nolan , Joey O 'Brien and Matt Taylor . Faye , Nolan and O 'Brien had all played under Allardyce at his former club Bolton Wanderers while Taylor was a Bolton player who had joined after Allardyce left the club . He made striker John Carew West Ham 's fifth signing of the season , on a free transfer , followed by defender George McCartney from Sunderland on a season @-@ long loan , strikers Sam Baldock from Milton Keynes Dons and midfielder Papa Bouba Diop on a free transfer . He concluded his summer transfer window signings on deadline day by bringing in midfielders David

Bentley from Tottenham Hotspur and Henri Lansbury from Arsenal , both on season @-@ long loans , as well as utility man Guy Demel from Hamburg for an undisclosed fee . Nicky Maynard , Ricardo Vaz Tê and Ravel Morrison followed in the 2011 winter transfer window . Over the course of the 2011 ? 12 season a total of 25 players left the club while 19 were signed . In March 2012 , despite standing in third place in the Championship , Allardyce 's style of football was again questioned . Fans called for more passing of the ball and football played on the pitch and not in the air . On 19 May 2012 , West Ham were promoted back to the Premier League after only one season in the Championship after beating Blackpool 2 ? 1 the play @-@ off Final . Allardyce described this promotion as his best ever achievement .

A busy transfer window for the summer of 2012 saw Allardyce bring in eleven players , including his former Bolton goalkeeper Jussi Jääskeläinen , defender Mohamed Diamé , Mali international striker Modibo Maïga , Wales international centre @-@ back James Collins , defensive midfielder Alou Diarra , winger Matt Jarvis , England striker Andy Carroll ( on loan from Liverpool ) and Israel international midfielder Yossi Benayoun . West Ham finished the 2012 ? 13 season in tenth place , and Allardyce renewed his contract at West Ham by signing a new two @-@ year deal .

Allardyce 's main signing of summer 2013 was Andy Carroll , for a £ 15 million fee from Liverpool , whilst he also spent an undisclosed fee on winger Stewart Downing , again from Liverpool , to provide crosses for Carroll to convert into goals . He also signed goalkeeper Adrián on a free transfer from Real Betis . However Allardyce 's plans were disrupted when Carroll picked up a long @-@ term injury , which left Allardyce regretting the transfer , especially as he had chosen Carroll instead of signing Swansea City 's Wilfried Bony , who went on to score 16 league goals in the 2013 ? 14 campaign . Allardyce was awarded the Premier League Manager of the Month for February 2014 following a run of four wins and one draw in their five Premier League games . In April 2014 , during an away game against West Bromwich Albion , a section of West Ham fans expressed their distaste at the style of football played under Allardyce by displaying a banner which read " Fat Sam Out , killing WHU " . The following month some supporters hung a banner bearing the legend " Fat Sam Out " outside the mansion owned by club chairman , David Sullivan , in Theydon Bois , Essex . Despite protests , on 20 May 2014 , the club announced that Allardyce would be staying as manager and would be supported by new attacking coach Teddy Sheringham for the 2014 ? 15 season to " ensure the team provides more entertainment " and to " improve the club 's goal tally " .

In summer 2014 Allardyce signed powerful midfielder Cheikhou Kouyaté , left @-@ back Aaron Cresswell , attacker Enner Valencia , right @-@ back ( on loan from Arsenal ) Carl Jenkinson , striker Diafra Sakho , defensive midfielder Alex Song ( on loan from Barcelona ) , midfielder Morgan Amalfitano , and forward Mauro Zárate . In October 2014 , pundits like BBC 's Robbie Savage were commenting about the team 's " more attractive and attacking playing style " or " the statistics [ that ] show the progress that West Ham have made in the last few months . " Allardyce was awarded the Premier League Manager of the Month for October 2014 after three wins for West Ham out of four games played that month . Allardyce left West Ham on 24 May 2015 , the final day of the season , after his contract was not renewed . Allardyce stated that " I didn 't want to stay . I suppose you could say it was mutual if they didn 't want me to stay either " . His West Ham side had finished 12th in the 2014 ? 15 season , one place higher than in the 2013 ? 14 season .

= = = Sunderland = = =

On 9 October 2015 , Allardyce was named the new Sunderland manager , replacing Dick Advocaat . When Allardyce was appointed , Sunderland sat 19th in the Premier League table with three points from their first eight games of the season . Signing a two @-@ year contract , he became the first manager to have managed both Newcastle United and Sunderland . On 25 October , in his second game as manager , he guided Sunderland to a 3 ? 0 win against rivals and his former club Newcastle United . However , after a run of 5 defeats in a row in December , Sunderland headed into the second half of the season in the relegation zone with only 12 points from 19 games .

In the January transfer window he signed centre @-@ backs Lamine Koné and Jan Kirchhoff and attacking midfielder Wahbi Khazri . On 6 February 2016 , Sunderland scored two late goals to draw



2 @-@ 2 with Liverpool at Anfield , having trailed 2 @-@ 0 with ten minutes remaining . Later that week winger Adam Johnson was sacked by the club after pleading guilty to one count of sexual activity with a child and one charge of grooming . Sunderland remained in the relegation zone for much of the remainder of the 2015 ? 16 season , before they boosted their survival chances by beating Norwich City 3 ? 0 at Carrow Road on 16 April , closing the gap on 17th @-@ place Norwich to just one point . Allardyce successfully led Sunderland to safety from relegation after beating Everton 3 ? 0 on 11 May , a result which also ensured the relegation of rivals ( and one of his former clubs ) Newcastle United . Allardyce earned praise for his management of Sunderland from some pundits , particularly for his organized approach and emphasis on a strong defence .

= = = England = = =

On 22 July 2016 , Allardyce signed a two @-@ year contract to become manager of the England national team .

= = Managerial style = =

Allardyce is a keen proponent of sports science and using technology and innovative techniques in coaching his teams , such as prozone and yoga . Martin Hardy of The Independent described him as " one of the pioneers of sports science in English football " . Former players and pundits have cited his preparation as his main strength , which allows his teams to have better organisation and defensive stability . Former Bolton player Kevin Davies also highlighted Allardyce 's man @-@ management skills as a strength .

Allardyce also has a reputation for using long ball tactics , though has said that this reputation is a perception that is " totally and utterly wrong " . Former Newcastle player Lee Clark stated that " I 've heard all the stuff that gets thrown at Sam . The long ball merchant thing and what have you . But all I can say is , from working with him , never once did I hear him talk about long balls . He 's massive on set @-@ plays and massive on the organisation of the team but that 's only right , that 's football and that 's what happens . "

Criticism of his perceived long @-@ ball tactics became more intense as he managed West Ham United in the Premier League , including discontent from West Ham 's own supporters . In January 2014 , following a 0 ? 0 draw at Stamford Bridge , Chelsea manager , José Mourinho criticised West Ham 's football , likening it to " football from the 19th century " . In October 2014 , Allardyce claimed his reputation for playing long ball football was " not founded in fact " and had been used as an excuse by opposing managers such as Arsène Wenger , David O 'Leary , Graeme Souness and Rafael Benítez following defeats by sides managed by Allardyce . Allardyce wrote in his autobiography that " when they hit a 50 @-@ yard ball it was a cultural pass ; when we did it , it was a hopeful hoof " .

= = Personal life = =

He met his future wife Lynne while still a youth team player at Bolton Wanderers , and the pair married on 1 June 1974 . They had a son , Craig ( 9 June 1975 ) , and daughter , Rachael ( 21 April 1979 ) . He was given an honorary doctorate by the University of Bolton in July 2010 . In addition to his football career , Allardyce has also run a number of businesses , including a motor spares firm , a fast @-@ food restaurant , a social club , a pub , a piano bar , and a pub restaurant . He published his autobiography , Big Sam , in October 2015 .

= = = Corruption allegations = = =

On 19 September 2006 , Allardyce , and his son , Craig , were implicated in a BBC Panorama documentary , Undercover : Football 's Dirty Secrets , which alleged that he had taken " bungs " ( bribes ) from agents for signing certain players . Two agents , Teni Yerima and Peter Harrison ,

were secretly filmed , each separately claiming that they had paid Allardyce through his son . Allardyce denies ever taking , or asking for , a " bung " . Others implicated of wrongdoing were Harry Redknapp , Kevin Bond , and Frank Arnesen . As a result of the allegation , Allardyce refused to speak to the BBC . While he also stated he was going to sue the broadcaster to clear his name , Allardyce failed to issue libel proceedings as he was advised that suing for damage to reputation was a costly and time @-@ consuming process . The final report of the Stevens inquiry published in June 2007 expressed concerns regarding the involvement of Craig Allardyce in a number of transactions , stating that : " The inquiry remains concerned at the conflict of interest that it believes existed between Craig Allardyce , his father Sam Allardyce ? the then manager at Bolton ? and the club itself . " Allardyce stated that the inquiry was a public relations exercise and that the conclusion of a " conflict of interest " was " innuendo , without any facts " .

In January 2013 , Allardyce received " substantial " , but undisclosed , damages from former Blackburn Rovers manager Steve Kean . In 2011 , Kean had been recorded in a bar in Hong Kong falsely alleging that Allardyce had been sacked from his post at Blackburn Rovers because he was a crook .

In February 2014 , Daniel Taylor , chief football writer for The Guardian and The Observer , wrote that West Ham player and England prospect Ravel Morrison felt he had come " under considerable pressure " from Allardyce to sign up with football agent Mark Curtis , who represents Allardyce himself and a number of other West Ham players , including Kevin Nolan , James Tomkins , Jack Collison , Matt Jarvis , Andy Carroll , and Jussi Jääskeläinen . Agent Curtis had been charged and eventually cleared by the Football Association during the 2008 investigation into Luton Town 's illegal transfer dealings . Curtis responded to the allegations by saying it is " nonsense " , while Allardyce talked of Morrison complaining about " a groin injury " while the club 's medical staff could find " no problem " , and made a reference to the player 's " disciplinary issues in the past . " Morrison was eventually loaned out to Championship side Queens Park Rangers for the remainder of the 2013 ? 14 season .

= = Statistics = =

= = = As a player = = =

Sourced from The English National Football Archive

= = = As a manager = = =

As of match played 15 May 2016 .

= = Honours = =

= = = As a player = = =

Bolton Wanderers

Football League Second Division : 1977 ? 78

Preston North End

Football League Fourth Division promotion : 1986 ? 87

Individual

Football League Fourth Division PFA Team of the Year : 1986 ? 87

= = = As a manager = = =

Limerick

League of Ireland First Division : 1991 ? 92

Notts County

Football League Third Division : 1997 ? 98

Bolton Wanderers

Football League First Division play @-@ offs : 2001

West Ham United

Football League Championship play @-@ offs : 2012

Individual

Football League First Division Manager of the Month : January 2001

Premier League Manager of the Month : August 2001 , November 2003 , January 2004 , December 2006 , February 2014 , October 2014