

= Hatem Ben Arfa =

Hatem Ben Arfa ( Arabic : هاتم بن عرفة , French pronunciation : [ at?m b?na?fa ] ; born 7 March 1987 ) is a French footballer who plays as a winger and an attacking midfielder for Paris Saint @-@ Germain . He has been described as " one of the best @-@ rated talents in France " , but has been criticised by the media and players alike for lacking discipline .

Ben Arfa 's career started in the Île @-@ de @-@ France region , where he trained at AC Boulogne @-@ Billancourt and Versailles . In 1999 , he was selected to attend the Clairefontaine academy . He spent three years there before leaving for Lyon , where he won four Ligue 1 titles . In his early career at Lyon , he played as a centre forward , but moved into a winger role during the 2007 ? 08 season . In the summer of 2008 , Ben Arfa signed with rivals Marseille for ? 11 million in a move that required the intervention of the Ligue de Football Professionnel . With Marseille , he won the 2009 ? 10 league title , his fifth overall , as well as the Coupe de la Ligue in 2010 . After two years at Marseille , Ben Arfa joined English club Newcastle United on loan for the 2010 ? 11 season . The deal was made permanent later in the season .

Ben Arfa spent four years at Newcastle , with a loan spell at Hull City in his final season at the club . He signed for Nice in January 2015 , but was unable to make his debut until August , having already represented Newcastle United Reserves and Hull City the previous season . He scored seventeen goals in thirty @-@ two league appearances for Nice , attracting the interest of several European clubs , and signed for Paris Saint @-@ Germain on 1 July 2016 .

Ben Arfa is a former French youth international and has played at all levels for France . At the under @-@ 17 level , he was a part of the team that won the 2004 UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Championship . Ben Arfa was called up to the senior team for the first time in October 2007 for a UEFA Euro 2008 qualifying match against the Faroe Islands . He has made fifteen appearances for France , scoring twice .

= = Club career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Ben Arfa was born into a family with a football history . His father was the former Tunisian international footballer Kamel Ben Arfa . Ben Arfa began his career in France at ASV Châtenay @-@ Malabry . After two years at the club , he moved a few miles north to Montrouge CF 92 . In 1998 , Ben Arfa joined sporting club AC Boulogne @-@ Billancourt . The following year , he was selected to attend the Clairefontaine academy . While at Clairefontaine , he was a part of A la Clairefontaine , a documentary series which chronicled the lives of some of France 's top young footballers during their time at the academy . During the series , an episode showed Ben Arfa getting into an argument with Abou Diaby . While training at Clairefontaine during the weekdays , he played for FC Versailles on the weekends .

= = = Lyon = = =

Already labeled a prodigy at the age of fifteen , Ben Arfa joined Lyon , a club that had just won its first ever Ligue 1 championship . In August 2004 , after spending two years in the youth divisions of the Lyon academy , he signed his first professional contract , agreeing to a three @-@ year deal despite late interest from English club Chelsea and Dutch outfit Ajax . Along with fellow youth player Karim Benzema , he was promoted to the senior squad and was assigned the number 34 shirt .

Ben Arfa made his professional debut on the opening day of the 2004 ? 05 season against Nice . Lyon won the match 1 ? 0 with a goal from Giovane Élber , a few minutes after Ben Arfa had come on . After making a few substitute appearances , he made his first start on 11 September 2004 in a 2 ? 1 victory over Rennes playing 56 minutes . Ben Arfa scored his first professional goal two months later on 10 November in a Coupe de la Ligue match against Lille , converting from the

penalty spot in extra time to give Lyon a 2 ? 1 lead , though Lille scored two late goals , beating Lyon 3 ? 2 . He made his UEFA Champions League debut in a group stage match against Manchester United coming on as a substitute for Sidney Govou .

The following season , Ben Arfa switched to the first team number 18 shirt , but his substitute @-@ to @-@ start ratio was still high as seven of his 12 appearances were as a substitute . He made his first Champions League start in a 2 ? 1 victory over Norwegian club Rosenborg , providing the assist on the game @-@ winning goal scored by the Brazilian Fred in the last minutes of the match . Ben Arfa scored his first league goal during the 2006 ? 07 season against Sedan just before half @-@ time . The goal proved to be the winner as Lyon won the match 1 ? 0 .

After the departure of wingers Florent Malouda and Sylvain Wiltord , new manager Alain Perrin preferred the more modern 4 ? 3 ? 3 formation , and moved Ben Arfa to left wing for the 2007 ? 08 season . Ben Arfa quickly adapted to the position and scored his first goal in a 5 ? 1 demolition of Metz on 15 September , though his performance was overshadowed by a Karim Benzema hat trick . Arguably his best performances in a Lyon shirt came in a period of 12 days , during which he played a league match on 28 October against Paris Saint @-@ Germain and a Champions League game against German club VfB Stuttgart on 7 November . He scored two goals in each match with both results being in favor of Lyon . Following the season , he was named the National Union of Professional Footballers ( UNFP ) Young Player of the Year .

Despite rumors of a rift between himself and Benzema , Ben Arfa signed a contract extension with Lyon in March 2008 until 2010 . However , his career at Lyon reached an impasse after he got into a training session scuffle with Sébastien Squillaci .

= = = Marseille = = =

Despite reported interest from English clubs Everton , Manchester United , Arsenal , and Spanish club Real Madrid , rumors of a move to rivals Marseille began to surface . On 28 June 2008 , Lyon confirmed that a proposed transfer to Marseille had been cancelled for the time being . However , Ben Arfa confirmed to the local La Provence newspaper on 29 June that he had signed for the southern coast club and would not return to Lyon for pre @-@ season training the following day . La Provence later reported that Ben Arfa had in fact missed training in Lyon on 30 June , confirming his intentions .

Ben Arfa officially joined Marseille on 1 July 2008 for ? 12 million , with future incentives to be included later , after an agreement was reached between Marseille and Lyon in a meeting organized by the Ligue de Football Professionnel . As a result of the disagreement over the transfer , in December 2008 , Ben Arfa told the local Lyon newspaper Le Progrès that his former team lacked class and was not a great team . Ben Arfa was presented to the media and had his first training session with the club the same day . He was given the number 20 shirt . On 16 July , Ben Arfa was involved in another training session bust @-@ up , this time with striker and France international Djibril Cissé . Cissé later joined English club Sunderland on loan .

Ben Arfa made his league debut on the opening day of the season in a 4 ? 4 draw with Rennes . He scored his first goal for Les Marseillais in that match . He continued in form scoring six times in his first 11 matches . However , his reputation for controversy continued to haunt him when he was involved in another dispute , this time with the Cameroon international Modeste M 'bami during a warm up session ahead of the club 's UEFA Champions League match against Liverpool . The two had to be separated by Ronald Zubar . Controversy arose again following Marseille 's 4 ? 2 loss to Le Classique rivals Paris @-@ Saint Germain . He drew the ire of manager Eric Gerets after his refusal to leave the bench to warm up . Ben Arfa later said he was injured much to the chagrin of Gerets , but later apologized for the incident to the media and Gerets himself . Upon his return to the squad , Ben Arfa responded by scoring a goal and providing the assists on both the other goals in a 3 ? 1 victory over Saint @-@ Étienne .

Ben Arfa switched to the number 10 shirt for the 2009 ? 10 season and made his debut on the opening match day of the season in a 2 ? 0 away victory over Grenoble appearing as a substitute in the 68th minute . The following week , he earned his first start of the season against Lille and

assisted the winning goal scored by Brandão . Controversy surfaced again , however , when , on 8 October 2009 , Ben Arfa was fined ? 10 @,@ 000 by the club for missing a training session . Ben Arfa blamed the absence on airport delays as he was in Tunisia visiting family members during the international break . A month later , on 18 November , he got into a heated argument with manager Didier Deschamps during a training session , for which Ben Arfa later apologized . Under Deschamps in the first half of the season , Ben Arfa appeared in 15 of the club 's 20 league matches and only played the full 90 minutes in two matches , a 2 ? 1 defeat against Monaco and a 2 ? 0 defeat to Auxerre .

Ben Arfa 's play during the 2010 portion of the season earned praise from both Deschamps and sporting director José Anigo . On 10 January 2010 , Ben Arfa scored his first goal of the season against amateur club Trélissac in the Coupe de France . A month later , he was instrumental in Marseille 's 5 ? 1 victory over Valenciennes assisting on the opening goal scored by Lucho González . Later that month , Ben Arfa scored an away goal in the first leg of the club 's UEFA Europa League tie against Danish club FC København . In the return leg in Marseille , Ben Arfa struck again , scoring the opening goal in the 43rd minute . Marseille won the match 3 ? 1 and the tie 6 ? 2 on aggregate . On 27 February , he scored his first league goal of the season in a 3 ? 0 victory over Paris Saint @-@ Germain . Ben Arfa 's play in the month of February was validated when he was named the UNFP Player of the Month . Marseille won all four of the league matches the team contested with Ben Arfa starting all of them . On 7 April , Ben Arfa converted a penalty in a 3 ? 0 win over Sochaux . The victory placed the club at the top of the table , and they remained there for the rest of the season and clinched the title on 5 May with a 3 ? 1 win over Rennes . Ben Arfa appeared as a substitute in the match .

= = = = Departure from Marseille = = = =

On 22 July 2010 , reports surfaced suggesting that English club Newcastle United were looking to sign Ben Arfa . After being questioned , Newcastle 's manager Chris Hughton denied the reports . Five days later , Ben Arfa 's agent declared that Newcastle were indeed interested in the player , along with German clubs Hoffenheim and Werder Bremen , Turkish club Galatasaray , and Italian club A.C. Milan . On 9 August , a season @-@ long loan with an option to make the move permanent was reportedly being negotiated between the two clubs . However , a loan @-@ fee for the deal could not be reached with Newcastle offering £ 650 @,@ 000 ; £ 350 @,@ 000 short of what Marseille wanted . On 12 August , Marseille president Jean @-@ Claude Dassié announced that Ben Arfa would not be moving to Newcastle and even went as far as to say that an offer from the club had not even existed .

Similar to his actions in leaving Lyon , Ben Arfa responded to the statement by telling the French sports newspaper L 'Equipe that he would not be returning to La Commanderie , Marseille 's training facility , and would not play with the team for the remainder of the season . He also stated that his relationship with Deschamps had turned sour and was beyond repair . Ben Arfa confirmed his intentions by travelling to Newcastle upon Tyne , without authorization , with hopes that Newcastle and Marseille would come to an agreement . After returning to Marseille , he missed several training sessions with his parent club and was , subsequently , left off the match day squad for two league matches against Valenciennes and Lorient . Ben Arfa 's number 10 was later given to new signing André @-@ Pierre Gignac , which signaled a transfer was imminent .

On 19 August , a proposed move to Werder Bremen failed to come to fruition after the club 's sporting director Klaus Allofs declared that the club was not interested in Ben Arfa , despite reports of Werder Bremen offering Marseille a transfer fee of ? 8 million . On 27 August , Dassié confirmed that the club had reached an agreement on a loan fee with Newcastle for the transfer of Ben Arfa with personal terms being the only stumbling block in the deal . Marseille agreed to a £ 2 million loan fee . Newcastle had been set to pay Marseille another £ 5 million if Ben Arfa had made 25 club appearances in the 2010 ? 11 season , which would have made the transfer permanent .

= = = = Newcastle United ( loan ) = = = =

On 27 August 2010 , Ben Arfa agreed to personal terms with Newcastle and , the following day , the club confirmed that it had signed Ben Arfa on a season @-@ long loan . He made his debut on 11 September 2010 , appearing as a substitute in a 2 ? 0 defeat at home to Blackpool . He scored his first goal for Newcastle on his full debut on 18 September in the 1 ? 0 victory against Everton . On 3 October , Ben Arfa suffered a broken tibia and fibula in his left leg while playing in a league match against Manchester City . The injury came as a result of a tackle by opposing midfielder Nigel de Jong . On 5 January 2011 , Marseille and Newcastle both confirmed on their websites that they had reached an agreement for the permanent transfer of Ben Arfa to Newcastle with the player agreeing to a four and a half year contract . The transfer fee was undisclosed .

Ben Arfa spent most of his rehabilitation in his home city of Paris recuperating at the Clairefontaine ( football ) academy . In January 2011 , it was reported by the English media that Ben Arfa had undergone another surgery in November 2010 to repair complications that were preventing his shin bones from healing properly . On 23 February , Newcastle manager Alan Pardew confirmed that Ben Arfa was running and could return to the team in April . However , days later , Pardew revealed that he wasn 't prepared to rush the player 's rehabilitation process and that Ben Arfa probably wouldn 't be available until May , stating " I am going to protect him . I can 't just throw him in " . Ben Arfa returned to training with Newcastle on 5 April . He participated fully in warm @-@ ups with the first @-@ team , but spent the majority of the training session doing light training and fitness work . Ben Arfa ultimately failed to make any more appearances with the team in the 2010 ? 11 season .

= = = Newcastle United = = =

After continuing his rehabilitation during the summer , ahead of the 2011 ? 12 season , Ben Arfa began participating in friendly matches with the senior team . He made his return to the team on 15 July 2011 in a match against Conference National club Darlington . Five days later , in the team 's pre @-@ season tour of the United States , he sustained an ankle injury in a match against Sporting Kansas City . Ben Arfa ventured back to his home country to rehab the injury and returned to Newcastle on 18 September . He was , subsequently , named to the first @-@ team to participate in the team 's Football League Cup tie against Nottingham Forest on 21 September . Ben Arfa made his season debut in the match against Nottingham Forest appearing as a substitute . Three days later , he made his Premier League return , coming on as a substitute in a 3 ? 1 win over Blackburn Rovers . On 26 December 2011 , after going the majority of the autumn campaign without scoring a goal , Ben Arfa scored his first goal of the season in a 2 ? 0 away win over Bolton .

On 7 January 2012 , Ben Arfa scored Newcastle 's opening goal in its FA Cup third round tie against Blackburn Rovers . The goal , described by BBC Sport as " magical " , drew the match 1 ? 1 and Newcastle later went on to win the tie 2 ? 1 . On 22 January 2012 , Ben Arfa scored in Newcastle 's 5 ? 2 defeat to Fulham at Craven Cottage . Two months later , Ben Arfa scored the opener in Newcastle 's away league match against Arsenal . The hosts , however , won the match 2 ? 1 . On 25 March , he scored one goal and provided the assists on the other two goals in a 3 ? 1 victory against West Brom . Two weeks later , on Easter Monday , Ben Arfa scored again against Bolton Wanderers . The goal , described as " a moment of genius " by British publication The Independent , as he was passed the ball just inside his own half , he proceeded to turn and speed past 4 Bolton players , showing incredible control in doing so , and slotted it past Bolton goalkeeper Ádám Bogdán , the goal was the opener and Newcastle went on to win the match 2 ? 0 .

Despite having a disrupted pre @-@ season due to his participation in Euro 2012 , Ben Arfa enjoyed a good start to the new Premier League season . On the opening weekend of the season he won and converted a penalty that gave Newcastle a 2 ? 1 victory over Tottenham . Two weeks later he scored with a spectacular 25 @-@ yard drive , on his weaker right foot , to earn Newcastle a point in a 1 ? 1 draw against Aston Villa . He injured his hamstring during December , and made his comeback against Anzhi Makhachkala in the Europa League on 7 March 2013 , his 26th birthday . He then developed an injury which kept him out of the team until the second leg of the Europa League quarter final against Benfica on the 11 April 2013 when he came on as a second @-@ half

substitute . Ben Arfa scored the equaliser in a 2 ? 1 away win at Loftus Road from the penalty spot as Newcastle confirmed their Premier League status for the next season .

Ben Arfa started the 2013 ? 14 season in a rich vein of form , securing Newcastle 's first win of the season by scoring an individual goal against Fulham and scoring and making an assist in the following game against Aston Villa . Ben Arfa 's third goal of the season when the Frenchman converted a late penalty away at Crystal Palace to help Newcastle ease to 3 ? 0 victory .

= = = Hull City ( loan ) = = =

On 2 September 2014 , Ben Arfa signed for Hull City on a season @-@ long loan . He made his debut on 15 September , replacing fellow debutant Abel Hernández for the final 11 minutes of a 2 ? 2 home draw against West Ham United . In December 2014 , however , Ben Arfa unexpectedly left England , with Hull manager Steve Bruce later admitting he did not know where the player was and that his career with Hull appeared to be over .

On 4 January 2015 , Ben Arfa was released from his Newcastle United contract .

= = = Nice = = =

On 5 January 2015 , Ben Arfa signed a deal with Ligue 1 side Nice , stating that " Even if Real Madrid had called at that moment , my mind was made up . " He said that he had returned to France because " There are people here who trust me , who do not judge me as some people want to judge me through the press . "

Ben Arfa would be ineligible to play for the club , due to a rule that a player can only play for two clubs in a single season , having already played for both Newcastle United and Hull City . On 3 February , Ben Arfa told a press conference his deal with Nice had been terminated , however , on 9 June , Nice would re @-@ sign Ben Arfa at the start of the 2015 ? 16 Ligue 1 season .

Ben Arfa made his debut for Nice against AS Monaco on 14 August 2015 at home . He scored his first goal for his new club against Troyes from the penalty spot . The game ended 3 ? 3 . In the next match , Ben Arfa scored a solo goal against Caen .

= = = Paris Saint @-@ Germain = = =

On 1 July 2016 , amidst reported interest from all over Europe , Ben Arfa signed for Paris Saint @-@ Germain on a two @-@ year deal , after his contract ran out at Nice .

= = International career = =

= = = Youth = = =

Ben Arfa has earned caps with all of France 's youth teams . With the under @-@ 16 team , he made ten appearances scoring seven goals . Ben Arfa made his debut with the team at the 2003 edition of the Aegean Cup in Turkey . He scored his first goal in the tournament on 12 January in a 3 ? 2 win over Belgium . The victory assured France a third @-@ place finish . At the Montaigu Tournament , Ben Arfa scored a team @-@ leading six goals . He scored two goals in the team 's 8 ? 0 win over Gabon in the opening match . In the following match , Ben Arfa scored the final goal in the team 's 3 ? 0 win over Russia and , in the final group stage match , bagged another double in a 3 ? 1 victory over England . He capped the tournament by scoring a goal in the final against Italy , though France lost the match 5 ? 1 .

Ben Arfa made his debut with the under @-@ 17 team in the opening match of the season against Sweden converting a first @-@ half hat @-@ trick in a 5 ? 2 victory . In the Tournio de Val @-@ de @-@ Marne , Ben Arfa scored two goals as France were crowned champions without conceding a goal . At the 2004 UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Football Championship , Ben Arfa , alongside

teammates Samir Nasri , Benzema , and Jérémy Menez contributed to the team winning the competition . Ben Arfa appeared in all five matches and scored goals against Northern Ireland , Turkey and Portugal . In total with the under @-@ 17s , he made 17 appearances and scored a team @-@ high 11 goals . Because of his increased playing time with Lyon , Ben Arfa missed a significant portion of playing time with the under @-@ 18 team . He made his debut on 15 March 2005 , playing in a 3 ? 3 draw with Germany . Ben Arfa appeared in the final three matches of the season for the team to bring his appearance total to four . He scored no goals .

The foursome of Ben Arfa , Nasri , Benzema , and Menez returned to international play together for under @-@ 19 duty . The four were joined by Issiar Dia , Blaise Matuidi , and Serge Gakpé with the objective of winning the 2006 UEFA European Under @-@ 19 Football Championship . In the first round of qualification for the tournament , Ben Arfa scored his lone goal in the opening match against Wales as France advanced through the round undefeated . Due to injury , Ben Arfa was absent from the final round of qualification for the tournament and , despite going undefeated in the round , France were eliminated after being beaten on points by Scotland . Ben Arfa only made one competitive appearance with the under @-@ 21 team , appearing in a 2009 UEFA Under @-@ 21 Championship qualification match against Romania .

= = = Senior = = =

Before representing France , Ben Arfa was eligible to represent Tunisia and was offered a place in the 2006 World Cup , held in Germany . Like Sami Khedira he turned down the opportunity , preferring to continue his career with the French national team . Ben Arfa was called up to the senior team for the first time on 10 October 2007 by Raymond Domenech to replace the injured Louis Saha and played in the Euro 2008 qualifying matches against the Faroe Islands and Lithuania . This move stunned critics of Domenech as they expected striker David Trezeguet to get the call @-@ up . Ben Arfa made his debut on 13 October when he came on for Franck Ribéry in the 64th minute and scored the last goal in France 's 6 ? 0 victory over the Faroe Islands . Ben Arfa was , however , omitted from Domenech 's final 23 @-@ man Euro 2008 squad on 28 May .

On 25 February 2010 , after a long period without a call @-@ up , Ben Arfa returned to the team , alongside teammates Steve Mandanda and Benoît Cheyrou , after being called up for France 's friendly match with Spain on 3 March . On 11 May , he was named to the 30 @-@ man preliminary list by Domenech to play in the 2010 World Cup , but failed to make the final 23 .

After going nearly two years without representing France internationally , on 5 August 2010 , Ben Arfa was called up to the senior team by new manager Laurent Blanc for the team 's friendly match against Norway on 11 August 2010 . Ben Arfa made his return to the team in the match appearing as a half @-@ time substitute for Moussa Sissoko . He scored the opening goal of the match in a 2 ? 1 defeat . On 29 May 2012 Ben Arfa was included in France 's 23 man squad for UEFA Euro 2012 , making his first start in the final game of Group D , losing 2 ? 0 to Sweden .

On 12 May 2016 , Ben Arfa was named on the standby list for France 's UEFA Euro 2016 squad .

= = Personal life = =

Ben Arfa was born in the Paris suburb of Clamart , and was raised in Châtenay @-@ Malabry . His father Kamel Ben Arfa , a former Tunisian international footballer , arrived in France in 1973 settling in Saint @-@ Michel , Aisne to work in a foundry . He later starred for a local club in the commune . Ben Arfa describes himself as a moderately practising Muslim .

= = Career statistics = =

= = = Club = = =

As of 1 May 2016

== International ==

As of 17 November 2015 .

== International goals ==

== Honours ==

== Club ==

Lyon

Ligue 1 : 2004 ? 05 , 2005 ? 06 , 2006 ? 07 , 2007 ? 08

Coupe de France : 2007 ? 08

Trophée des champions : 2006 , 2007

Marseille

Ligue 1 : 2009 ? 10

Coupe de la Ligue : 2009 ? 10

Trophée des Champions : 2010

== International ==

France

UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Championship : 2004

== Individual ==

UNFP Young Player of the Year : 2007 ? 08

UNFP Player of the Month : February 2010

UNFP Team of the Year : 2015 @-@ 16