

= 1991 ? 92 Arsenal F.C. season =

The 1991 ? 92 season was the 94th season of competitive football played by Arsenal . The club , managed by George Graham , entered the season as Football League First Division champions , with only one defeat in the previous campaign . In spite of scoring the most goals in the division , Arsenal ended the season in fourth position , ten points behind league champions Leeds United . The club exited the FA Cup after defeat by Fourth Division opponents Wrexham and fell at the same stage of the Football League Cup to fellow First Division club Coventry City . Arsenal represented England in the European Cup ; the club was the first to do so since the ban on English teams from playing in European club competitions . Their time in the competition was brief however as Portuguese team Benfica eliminated them in the second round .

Arsenal signed striker Ian Wright for a club record fee of £ 2 @. @ 5 million in September 1991 . Defender Pål Lydersen and midfielder Jimmy Carter later joined the club . Stuart Young moved to Hull City , whereas Michael Thomas joined Liverpool .

After undertaking a series of friendlies , Arsenal played Tottenham Hotspur in the Charity Shield and drew 0 ? 0 to share the honour . Defeats by Everton and Aston Villa set the tone for the league season as the team were left with much to do ; a poor run of form during the Christmas and New Year period effectively ruled the team out of retaining the championship . Arsenal finished the season strongly however ? unbeaten in 16 matches , to end the campaign in fourth place . Wright was Arsenal 's top goalscorer with 26 goals .

= = Background = =

Arsenal 's failure to retain the league championship in the 1989 ? 90 season prompted manager George Graham to make changes to improve his side ; he signed goalkeeper David Seaman and Swedish winger Anders Limpar in the close season . Arsenal made a good start to the league campaign , but had two points deducted in October 1990 , after ten of their players were involved in a brawl with Manchester United players , in a match at Old Trafford . In December , captain Tony Adams was sentenced to four months ' imprisonment for drink driving . Despite these setbacks , Arsenal lost only one league match all season ( away to Chelsea ) and finished on 83 points , seven ahead of runners @- @ up Liverpool . They also reached the FA Cup semi @- @ finals , where they faced Tottenham Hotspur . Midfielder Paul Gascoigne scored from a free kick after just five minutes and Tottenham went on to win 3 ? 1 , ending hopes of a second Double . Nevertheless , the impressive league form prompted Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson to comment that Arsenal had the platform to " do really well next season " , particularly in Europe .

It was the last season that Arsenal played in front of their famous North Bank terrace , which was being demolished over the summer of 1992 to make way for a new all @- @ seater stand which was scheduled for completion during 1993 , by which time Highbury was set to have an all @- @ seater capacity of just under 40 @, @ 000 . These changes were necessary due to the Taylor Report , which required all clubs in the highest two divisions of English football to have an all @- @ seater stadium by August 1994 .

= = = Transfers = = =

Striker Ian Wright moved from Crystal Palace to Arsenal a month into the season ; at £ 2 @. @ 5 million he became the club 's most expensive signing yet . Palace chairman Ron Noades revealed the club had offered the player a new deal , but " Ian was hankering for a move . He wanted to play in Europe and Arsenal was the club he wanted to join . " Arsenal paid £ 500 @, @ 000 each for midfielder Jimmy Carter and Pål Lydersen , a Norwegian defender . Graham and Lydersen were in attendance for Norway 's international match against the Soviet Union in September 1991 ; he later agreed personal terms to join Arsenal . In December 1991 , Michael Thomas left Arsenal and moved to Liverpool , the club he famously scored against to win the league title for Arsenal in 1989 .

Loan out

= = Pre @-@ season and friendlies = =

In preparation for the forthcoming season , Arsenal played a series of friendlies . The tour of Sweden was a success , with three wins in the space of a week . Arsenal then travelled back to England and beat Plymouth Argyle , before hosting Celtic , Panathinaikos and Sampdoria at Highbury . Arsenal ended their pre @-@ season with a 3 ? 1 victory against Watford , who staged their centenary match . Three further friendlies were played in 1992 , one of which was a testimonial for Barry Fry , the manager of Barnet .