	CHAMPIONSHIP
	LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP   P D L F A GD Pts   46 31 13 2 99 32 67 106   46 26 12 8 76 46 30 90
1 Reading 2 Sheffield U	46 22 15 9 77 53 24 81
3 Watford 4 Preston NE 5 Leeds U	46 20 20 6 59 38 19 78   46 21 15 10 57 38 19 78   46 21 12 13 67 48 19 75   46 21 12 13 67 48 19 75
6 Crystal Palace 7 Wolverhampton W	46 16 19 11 50 42 46 16 15 15 62 65 -3 63 46 16 15 15 62 65 -9 62
8 Coventry C 9 Norwich C	46 18 8 20 66 67 -1 61 46 17 10 19 66 67 -1 60 16 12 18 58 59 -1 60
10 Luton T 11 Cardiff C 12 Southampton	46 13 19 14 49 50 -1 50 46 17 7 22 54 63 -9 58 46 17 7 56
13 Stoke C	46 13 17 16 39 66-13 56 46 14 14 18 53 66-13 56 46 14 14 18 51 59 -8 54
15 Ipswich T 16 Leicester C	46 13 15 18 46 54 -8 54 46 14 12 20 46 54 -8 54 46 14 12 18 49 55 -6 52
17 Burnley 18 Hull C 19 Sheffield W	46 13 13 20 39 52-13 52 46 10 20 16 53 67-14 50 46 10 20 16 53 65-15 50
20 Derby Co 21 QPR	46 12 14 20 50 42
22 Crewe Alex 23 Millwall 24 Brighton & HA	46 8 17 21 35 61-27 40 46 7 17 22 39 71-32 38 46 7 17 22 39

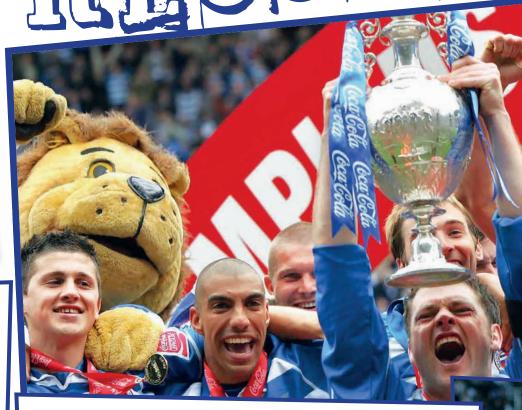
FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 2005-06

# WHY IT MATTERED

**Reading** fans will always remember the 2005-06 season. Not only did the team get promoted to the Premier League for the first time, they also broke two Football League records.

One was for the **most points** in a season. The other was for the **longest run between defeats** – an amazing 33 matches! As you might expect, their manager **Steve Coppell** was voted as the Manager of the Year.





## THE STORY OF THE SEASON

**Reading** got off to a bad start, losing their first match 2-1 at home to **Plymouth**. But they then went on an amazing run, with only one more loss. That came six months later when they were beaten 3-2 at **Luton**.

Reading didn't go to the top of the table until 22nd November – that day, they won at **Ipswich** while the previous leaders **Sheffield United** drew at **Wolves**. The two teams remained first and second for the rest of the season.

Reading won the league in style with a 5-0 victory over **Derby** in April. Going into their last game at home to **Queens Park Rangers**, Reading needed to score three goals to reach 100 for the season. But they fell just one short, winning 2-1. Five Reading players were voted into the Championship Team of the Season.

In the play-off semi-finals, Watford beat Crystal Palace while Leeds knocked out Preston. In the final, Watford easily beat Leeds 3-0.

It was a nightmare year for the three teams who got relegated – **Crewe**, **Millwall** and **Brighton** were in the bottom three places for most of the season. The Royals' incredible season saw them go 33 matches unbeaten and fly past the 100-point mark, leaving their rivals in the dust!



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

A member of England's 2018 World Cup squad was playing in the Championship this season — Ashley Young, who was then with Watford

# WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

**Reading** continued their good form the following season in the **Premier League**. They finished eighth and just missed out on qualifying for the **UEFA Cup** (now the Europa League) by one point! This led to **Steve Coppell** being voted as Manager of the Year again.

The other two promoted teams, **Watford** and **Sheffield United**, both struggled and were relegated.

Surprisingly, Reading also went down the next year, 2007-08. They have only spent one season in the Premier League since, in 2012-13, and are now in the **Championship**.



First and second clash as Reading battle it out with Sheffield United

#### THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2005-06

Top scorer Marlon King, Watford (21) Champions Reading Runners-up Sheffield United Play-off final Watford 3 Leeds United O Relegated Crewe Alexandra, Millwall, Brighton & Hove Albion Watford and Leeds in the play-off final

### **TOP FACT**

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Neil Warnock, who was Sheffield United manager at the time, is a promotion expert. Taking Cardiff into the Premier League in 2018 was his eighth promotion, a record!