

# FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 2005-06

# THE SEASON WHEN... READING WERE RECORD

COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Reading	46	31	13	2	99	32	67	106
2 Sheffield U	46	26	12	8	76	46	30	90
3 Watford	46	22	15	9	77	53	24	81
4 Preston NE	46	20	20	6	59	30	29	80
5 Leeds U	46	21	15	10	57	38	19	78
6 Crystal Palace	46	21	12	13	67	48	19	75
7 Wolverhampton W	46	16	19	11	50	42	8	67
8 Coventry C	46	16	15	15	62	65	-3	63
9 Norwich C	46	18	8	20	56	65	-9	62
10 Luton T	46	17	10	19	66	67	-1	61
11 Cardiff C	46	16	12	18	58	59	-1	60
12 Southampton	46	13	19	14	49	50	-1	58
13 Stoke C	46	17	7	22	54	63	-9	58
14 Plymouth Arg	46	13	17	16	39	46	-7	56
15 Ipswich T	46	14	14	18	53	66	-13	56
16 Leicester C	46	13	15	18	51	59	-8	54
17 Burnley	46	14	12	20	46	54	-8	54
18 Hull C	46	12	16	18	49	55	-6	52
19 Sheffield W	46	13	13	20	39	52	-13	52
20 Derby Co	46	10	20	16	53	67	-14	50
21 QPR	46	12	14	20	50	65	-15	50
22 Crewe Alex	46	9	15	22	57	86	-29	42
23 Millwall	46	8	17	21	35	61	-27	40
24 Brighton & HA	46	7	17	22	39	71	-32	38



## 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.



Steve Coppell – 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

# BREAKERS

## 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

Watford and Leeds in the play-off final

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP 2005-06

Top scorer Marlon King, Watford (21)  
Champions Reading  
Runners-up Sheffield United  
Play-off final Watford 3 Leeds United 0  
Relegated Crewe Alexandra, Millwall, Brighton & Hove Albion

## TOP FACT

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!

