

WHO ARE YA?!

# SHEFFIELD UN

The Blades are on the up and looking for a Premier League return

Sheffield United were the first football team to be called "United", which is the most popular name for clubs in the English leagues. They have played in all four divisions, were one of the **founder members of the Premier League in 1992** and have played there for three seasons in total. The last time was in 2006-07. This season their target is to reach the **Championship play-offs!**

## THE MANAGER

**Chris Wilder** became the United manager in 2016 after getting Northampton Town promoted from League Two. In his first season he took United up too, from League One to the **Championship**. Wilder played for United as a defender and supported the team as a boy.

## THE HISTORY

Sheffield United joined the Football League in 1892-93 when its second division was created. This began a great era for the club. They were **promoted straight away** and then finished second in the top division in 1896-97. The next season they went one better and were



**MASCOT**  
CAPTAIN BLADE

Leon Clarke, Simon Moore and Jake Wright celebrate promotion at Bramall Lane

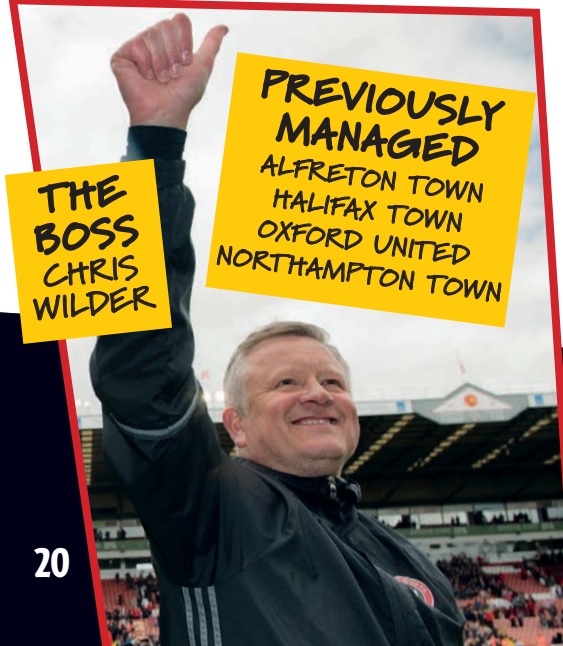
crowned **champions of England!** They followed that up by **winning the FA Cup** in 1899, and again in 1902. United's goalkeeper during this time was **William "Fatty" Foulke**, who weighed as much

as 24 stone. He was surely the heaviest goalkeeper ever to play professional football but was famous for making great saves! **United have won the FA Cup four times so far**, but they are all in the distant past – the most recent was a 1-0 win over Cardiff in 1925. More recently they reached an **FA Cup semi-final in 2014** while they were in League One, but lost 5-3 to Hull. They also reached the League Cup semi-finals the next season but lost to Tottenham.



Jose Baxter celebrates United's first goal in the 2014 FA Cup semi-final

Keeper William Foulke makes himself look big



**PREVIOUSLY MANAGED**  
ALFRETON TOWN  
HALIFAX TOWN  
OXFORD UNITED  
NORTHAMPTON TOWN

**THE BOSS**  
CHRIS WILDER

# ITED

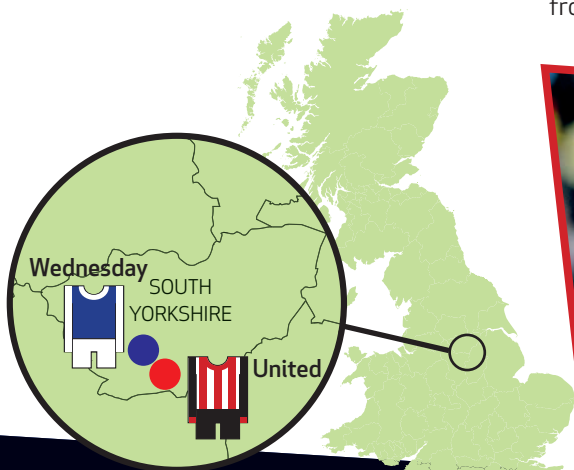
**NICKNAME**  
**THE BLADES**

## THE STADIUM

Bramall Lane was opened in 1855 and was a **cricket ground** at first. Until 1973 the football ground only had three sides with part of the cricket pitch, used by the Yorkshire County Cricket team, taking up the fourth side! It was one of only two grounds to have hosted both **England international football and cricket matches** (the other is The Oval in London). The first football game at the stadium was between the two oldest clubs in the world, Sheffield FC and Hallam, in 1862. **The record attendance is a whopping 68,287**, which was set at an FA Cup fifth-round tie against Leeds United in 1936. These days **the stadium holds 32,702**.

## THE FANS

Sheffield United fans call themselves "**Blades**", and that is also the club's official nickname. The name comes from Sheffield's biggest industry, which is making metal cutlery. United supporters are famous for belting out their club anthem, "**Greasy chip butty**", from Bramall Lane's Kop stand in the build-up to a match!



1973  
BRAMALL LANE HOSTS ITS LAST GAME OF CRICKET ON AUGUST 7TH BETWEEN YORKSHIRE & LANCASHIRE

1889



**HOME SHIRT**

## THE RIVALS

United have a huge rivalry with their neighbours **Sheffield Wednesday**. When the two play it is called the **Steel City Derby**, because Sheffield is so well known for making steel. They have played each other 129 times, with United winning 46 matches to Wednesday's 42. In 1993 the whole city had a big day out at Wembley when **United played Wednesday in an FA Cup semi-final**. The match was watched by **75,000** fans but, unfortunately for United, they lost 2-1. Blades fans will have been much happier about the derby this season though – they thrashed Wednesday 4-2 away at Hillsborough!

## THE STAR PLAYERS

Experienced striker **Leon Clarke** is the top scorer this season. He has played for 12 different clubs – including Sheffield Wednesday! United fans have high hopes for young attacking midfielder **David Brooks**. Another popular player is Scottish midfielder **John Fleck**, who scored the goal that clinched promotion from League One last season!

## THE CLUB

- Founded** 1889
- Colours** Red and white stripes
- Nickname** The Blades
- Stadium** Bramall Lane
- Record Attendance** 68,287
- Record Win** 10-0 v Port Vale, 1892 & v Burnley, 1929
- Record Defeat** 13-0 v Bolton Wanderers, 1890
- Most Appearances** Joe Shaw, 714, 1945-66
- Most Goals** Harry Johnson, 201, 1916-31
- Honours**  
League: 1898  
FA Cup: 1899, 1902, 1915, 1925
- Top Fact** United have played in red and white stripes for all of their 125 years in the League!
- FIFA 18 Rating** \*\*\*



**LEGEND**  
**JOE SHAW**



John Fleck in action this season

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1978, United nearly bought the legendary Diego Maradona, when he was only 17! But they decided that he cost too much money and signed another player from Argentina, Alex Sabella, instead.