

Who's who on the BBC team

Television presentation team

Presenters

Manish Bhasin – Presenter



Manish Bhasin joined BBC Sport's *Football Focus* team first as a reporter in early 2004 and then as a presenter. Prior to this Manish worked on ITV's Central News programme and also presented *Soccer Sunday*.

At Central News East Manish presented in-depth coverage of the region's essential sport, including a comprehensive analysis of the financial crisis at Leicester City, and during his successful tenure Manish was nominated for Regional Sports Presenter or Commentator of the Year at the Royal Television Society Sport Awards.

Soccer Sunday was also nominated as best Regional Sports Actuality Programme as Manish hosted Football League highlights of the best action from the region's teams in a regular magazine format.

Previously Manish Bhasin spent five years at BBC Radio Leicester as a sports presenter/

commentator including the drive time *Drive At 5* programme presenting the latest news and sport. During this period Manish's highlights include reporting from Leicester Tigers' last-minute victory in the 2001 Rugby European Cup final (Leicester Tigers v Stade Francais) and again the following year at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium (Leicester Tigers v Munster).

Adrian Chiles – Presenter



West Brom-mad Adrian Chiles was born in Birmingham in 1967.

After graduating with a degree in English Literature from the University of London he attended a journalism course in Cardiff and worked as a sports reporter for, amongst others, *The News Of The World*.

Adrian joined the BBC originally for three weeks' work experience and by 1993 was presenting Radio 4's *Financial World Tonight*. In 1994 he started presenting *Wake Up To Money* on the then newly formed Radio Five Live – a programme which still runs today.

Adrian started presenting the late Wednesday night edition of Five Live's football phone-in, 606, in 2001. His Five Live show *Chiles On Saturday* won the Sports Category Gold Medal in the Sony Radio Awards in 2002. He is a presenter on *Working Lunch* on BBC Two on weekdays and presents *Match OfThe Day 2* on BBC Two on Sunday evenings. This year he presented the BBC's coverage of the African Cup of Nations.

Adrian has written and presented a number of other programmes for the BBC, including *So What Do You Do All Day?* – a look at the lives of some of Britain's highest profile figures.

Adrian is married with two children. He lists his interests as childcare, his wife, West Bromwich Albion, golf and cooking (in that order).

Gary Lineker – Presenter



Gary began his broadcasting career in earnest with Radio 5 in *Gary Lineker's Football Night* in 1992, and took over as the host of *Sunday Sport* on the relaunched Radio Five Live in 1995 after ending his playing career in Japan. His earliest stint as a TV pundit with the BBC was during the 1986 World Cup Finals following England's elimination by Argentina. Gary also joined BBC

Sport's TV team in 1995, appearing on *Sportsnight*, *Football Focus* and *Match OfThe Day*. He worked as a roving reporter during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, and became the regular presenter of *Football Focus* within BBC One's *Grandstand* for the new season. Gary presented highlights programmes during Euro 96, and hosted both live and highlights coverage of the 1998 World Cup Finals in France. He has been presenting *Match OfThe Day* since 1999 and was also a team captain on BBC One's hugely successful sports quiz *They Think It's All Over*. In November 2005, Gary was unveiled as BBC Sport's main presenter for their major golfing events such as The Open, and recently presented the BBC's coverage of The Masters.

Gary's other broadcasting work has included presenting *We Are The Champions*, reporting for *Wish You Were Here* and *When Lineker Met Maradona*, a new BBC documentary where Gary interviews Diego Maradona 20 years after they last met on a football pitch.

During his playing career, Gary Lineker was one of the best known and widely admired soccer players in the world, winning both the PFA Players' Player of the Year and Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year trophies.

He played for Leicester City, Everton, Barcelona, Tottenham Hotspur and Japanese team, Nagoya Grampus 8. A former England captain, Gary won the Golden Boot at the 1986 World Cup and helped take England to the World Cup semi-final in 1990. In 80 appearances for England his goal total of 48 for his country places him second on the all-time list behind Sir Bobby Charlton. During his spell at Barcelona he learned Spanish and while at Nagoya Grampus Eight he learnt Japanese. Gary and his wife, Michelle, have four sons.

Ray Stubbs – Presenter

Ray Stubbs has carved a successful career in sports broadcasting after playing professional football with Tranmere Rovers FC. He joined



Tranmere from school and was on the club's books for five years before switching to an administrative role with the club. He then spent three years with BBC Radio Merseyside as a reporter and presenter.

In 1986, Ray moved to BBC Manchester as an assistant producer, working on a number of sports including snooker, darts and bowls, as well as *A Question Of Sport*. He also worked as a producer, reporter and presenter on BBC Two's investigative series *On The Line*, a series which saw him go to Italy in 1990 to report on England football fans at the World Cup Finals.

Later that year, Ray began working as a reporter on *Grandstand*, *Match OfThe Day* and *Sportsnight*. He reported from the Irish camp during the 1994 World Cup in America, and was the BBC's reporter-in-residence in the England camp during Euro 96 and the 1998 World Cup in France. He also co-hosted coverage of the 1998 Winter Olympics and co-presented coverage of the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Ray covered the last two World Cups for BBC Sport as well as the European Championships in 2000 and 2004.

Ray now presents *BBC Interactive Score* each week and is the regular presenter of the BBC's snooker and darts coverage. He is also an occasional presenter of *Match OfThe Day*.

Match Commentators

Simon Brotherton – Commentator



Simon Brotherton began his career in Birmingham with Radio WM, joining the BBC Radio 5 team in 1993. He now spends most of his broadcasting year as a commentator for *Match OfThe Day* and *Five Live*.

His credits include the 1998 and 2002 World Cups, Euro 96, Euro 2000 and 2004, the 1998 and 2002 European Champions League Finals and the 1999 UEFA Cup Final.

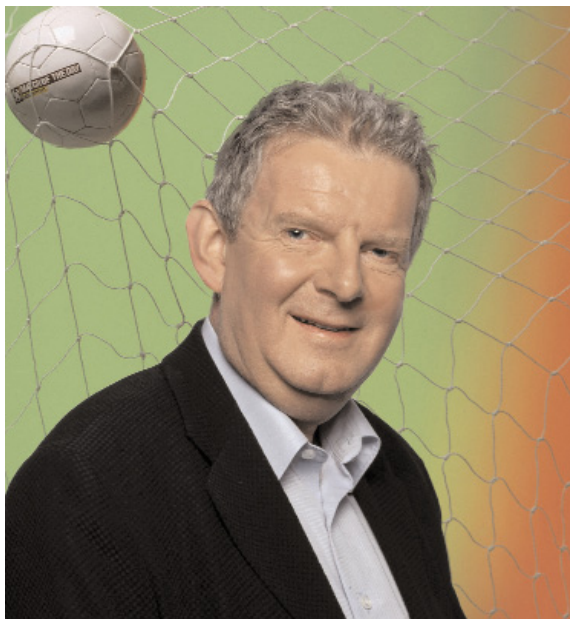
In addition Simon has commentated at three Olympic Games (Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004), covering a number of events including cycling and boxing. More recently Simon reported from the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Among Simon's non-football commitments, he has reported at 12 Tours de France and has covered boxing for the BBC, including world

title fights involving Lennox Lewis, Naseem Hamed and Frank Bruno.

Simon lives in West Sussex with his wife Sharon and their two daughters: Fleur, six, and Sophie, three.

John Motson – Commentator



John Motson is the voice of football. A veteran of almost 2,000 games, John has commentated on a spectacular 50 major finals. John's charisma and his ability to keep people listening has led to "Motty" being described as "an institution".

The son of a Methodist minister, John joined the *Barnet Press* newspaper as a junior reporter at the age of 18. A short freelance spell with BBC Radio Sheffield was followed by a switch to network radio in 1968, where he made his name as a sports presenter.

Motson became a junior member of the *Match OfThe Day* staff in 1971, following the departure of Kenneth Wolstenholme, and soon became one of its key commentators. Since 1979 he has been the BBC's main TV commentator for major cup finals – FA Cup, World Cup and European Championships.

During the 2002 World Cup, John lent his name and image to "Mini Motty", an internet pop-up toy specially created by BBC Sport Online. John was named the Royal Television Society's Sports Commentator of the Year in 2004 and received the same honour from *Four Four Two* magazine in 2005, and from the Variety Club and *FHM* and *Zoo* magazines in 2006.

John has also narrated over 30 football videos and published a number of books, including the most recent, *Motson's World Cup Extravaganza*. John received his OBE in June 2001 for services to broadcasting. His hobbies and interests include running half marathons, the cinema and reading thrillers. He also has a share in a couple of racehorses.

Guy Mowbray – Commentator



Since starting his career in 1993, Guy has commentated on the best domestic and international football.

Previously full-time Sports Editor for Eurosport's major footballing events, Guy won the Royal Television Society Sports Best Newcomer award for his commentary and presenting at the 1998 World Cup Final.

Aside from commentating, Guy is interested in a wide variety of sports including golf and cricket.

Jonathan Pearce – Commentator



Jonathan Pearce became a commentator on *Match OfThe Day* during the 2004/05 season following three years at BBC Radio Five Live. He started his career at BBC Radio Bristol in 1979 when his dream of being a professional footballer was shattered when he broke his leg at the age of 15.

His first match commentary was Bristol Rovers against Exeter City in the League Cup, and he became Sports Editor at the age of 23 at Radio West. In 1987 he moved to London and Capital Radio where he launched Capital Gold Sport a year later.

Jonathan has won several awards for his work including three Sony awards and the Variety Club Radio Person of the Year. He has commented on over 150 England internationals, three World Cups, four European Championships and over 20 Cup Finals.

Born in 1959 in Plymouth, Jonathan moved to Bristol at the age of seven. He is still a Bristol City FC fan, but his wife and three small children are Crystal Palace season ticket holders.

Jonathan studied English at Birmingham University. He now lives in Brighton.

Steve Wilson – Commentator



Steve joined BBC Sport in 1998 as a regular football commentator on Radio Five Live. In 2002 he joined BBC Television and shared his commentary duties between there and Five Live.

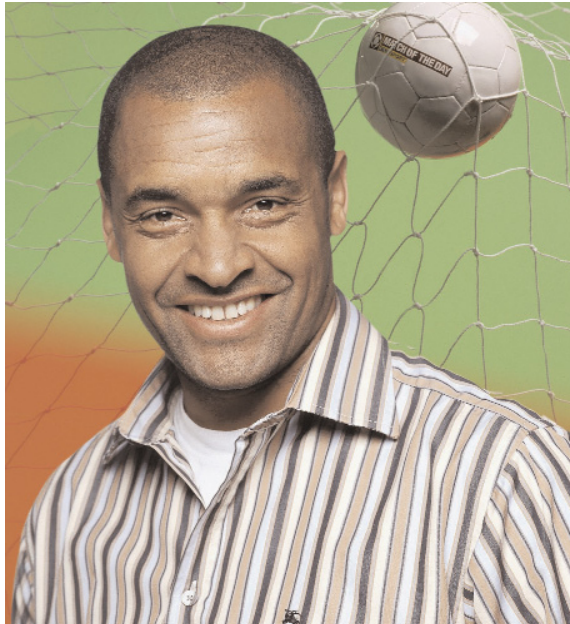
As well as football, he has covered the World Athletic Championships and the Commonwealth Games. In 2004 Steve was one of the main commentators for BBC TV at the European Championships in Portugal. He is also an integral member of the *Match OfThe Day* team on BBC One.

Co-commentators

Mark Bright – Co-commentator

Mark Bright was born on 6 June 1962. He joined Crystal Palace – the club where he was to make his mark – in 1986, following spells at Leicester City and Port Vale.

Bright – who formed a lethal strike duo with fellow BBC pundit Ian Wright – earned



Division Two's Golden Boot in 1988 season with a final tally of 24 goals. He played every game of the next campaign and his 12 goals in 1990 helped Palace gain promotion to the First Division.

The striker left the Eagles in 1992 for Sheffield Wednesday and later had a spell at Millwall before joining Swiss side FC Sion in 1997. Mark finished his career in 1999, helping Charlton Athletic reach the Premiership.

He started his media career as a match summariser for ITV and Sky, and worked for *The Big Breakfast* during the 1998 World Cup. Mark first appeared as a *Match Of The Day* pundit the following year, and also reported at Euro 2000, the 2002 World Cup and Euro 2004. He presented *Monday Night Football* and *The Mark Bright Show* for BBC Radio Five Live in 2000 and 2001 and went on to team up again with his former strike partner Ian Wright in *Wright And Bright*, for Five Live.

Mark has also presented a weekly football show called *Row Z* for BBC Choice and presented the Notting Hill Carnival live for the BBC in 2000. He is a regular pundit on BBC television and radio and is BBC London's sports presenter.

Mark is married with a son and lives in Middlesex. His other interests include boxing, reading and golf.

Mark Lawrenson – Co-commentator



Born in Lancashire, Lawrenson began his career at Preston North End, and also played for Brighton and Hove Albion before moving to Liverpool in 1981. He won many honours with the Merseysiders and formed a defensive partnership with Alan Hansen that is still regarded as one of the best ever in English club football.

“Lawro” was capped 39 times by the Republic of Ireland, before an Achilles injury brought his playing career to a premature end at the age of 30. After hanging up his boots, he managed Oxford United and worked alongside Kevin Keegan as a defensive coach at Newcastle.

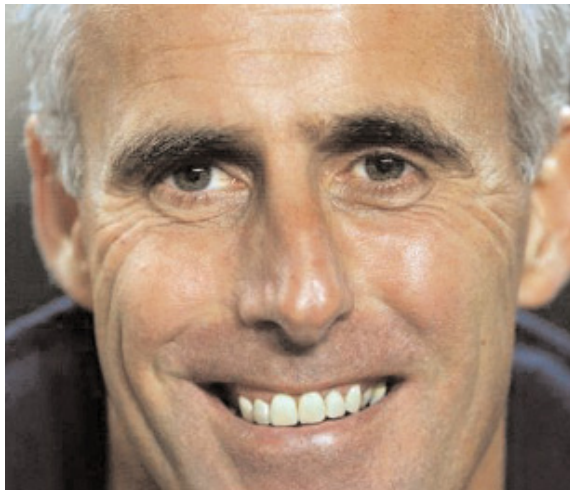
Mark joined BBC Television's football team as a pundit on *Match Of The Day* in June 1997, often teaming up with old club-mate Hansen.

Mark is also a regular studio guest on *Football Focus*, and continues to work alongside the likes of Alan Green and Mike Ingham as an

expert summariser for Radio Five Live and has presented the fan phone-in 606.

Mark was part of the *Match OfThe Day* team which covered the 2002 World Cup Finals in South Korea and Japan, and one of the BBC's panel of pundits for Euros 2000 and 2004. He will co-commentate on all of the BBC's England games in this World Cup.

Mick McCarthy – Co-commentator



Mick McCarthy was born in Barnsley on 7 February 1959 and made his debut for his hometown club as an 18-year-old in 1977. He went on to become a stalwart of the defence in the Tykes team that won promotion from the old Fourth division to the Second.

He moved on to Manchester City in 1983 and won the first of his 57 Eire caps a year later. Mick later left City for Celtic, helping the Bhoys to the Scottish League and Cup double in 1988, but soon left for a brief spell with Lyon in the French league.

By March of 1990 Mick was back in England, at Millwall, becoming player-manager a year later.

After hanging up his boots, he spent several seasons at Millwall before succeeding Jack Charlton as Ireland manager in 1996.

After a dramatic falling out with captain Roy Keane at the 2002 World Cup, Mick led his men to a heartbreakingly unlucky defeat on penalties against Spain in the last 16. He further enhanced his reputation when he joined the BBC's panel of pundits for the remainder of the tournament and added his own Yorkshire wit to the coverage, having previously made a success of the role at Euro 2000.

Mick left the Irish job after a disappointing start to their Euro 2004 campaign; during his tenure he lifted Ireland from 54th to 13th in FIFA's world rankings. However, his involvement in the Euro 2004 tournament continued with him being part of the BBC team.

He was back in football management in March 2003 when he took over at struggling Premiership side Sunderland, but was unable to prevent them being relegated. Sunderland were promoted back to the top league in 2005 but parted company with McCarthy in March 2006.

Gavin Peacock – Co-commentator



Football is in Gavin Peacock's blood: his father, Keith, played over 500 games for Charlton Athletic.

Gavin became a professional footballer straight from school, joining QPR in 1984. He also played for Gillingham (where his dad was manager), Bournemouth, Newcastle United and Chelsea. He ended his career back at QPR, retiring at the end of the 2001/2002 season after having made 134 appearances for the Blues.

The Eltham-born midfielder is now enjoying a successful career in the media, working regularly as a summariser for Five Live and regularly appearing as a guest on *Football Focus* and *Score* on BBCi.

When not working, Gavin indulges in his other big sporting passion, golf.

Studio analysts

Marcel Desailly – Studio analyst



Born in Ghana, Marcel moved to France when he was four years old. Marcel made his professional debut aged 17 for Nantes. After six seasons at Nantes, Marcel transferred to Marseilles where he won the European Cup in 1993. He went on to lift the European Cup in 1994, only this time with AC Milan, to whom he was transferred in November 1993.

Marcel won two Serie A championships at AC Milan in 1994 and 1996 as well as the European Super Cup in 1994 and 1998. It was in the summer of 1998 that Desailly signed for Chelsea for £4.6million where he was quickly nicknamed “The Rock”.

Trophies proved harder to come by at Stamford Bridge than at the San Siro and one winner’s medal apiece in the FA Cup and Charity Shield, both in 2000, seem scant reward for six year’s solid service at Chelsea.

But it was at international level that Marcel was to reach his zenith. Highlights were of course his part in France’s victory in the 1998 World Cup, an achievement for which he was awarded the Legion d’Honneur and which cemented his position as one of the world’s greatest centrebacks. He succeeded Didier Deschamps as national team captain after the World Cup. Between his first game against Sweden in 1993 and his last against Greece in Euro 2004 Marcel amassed 116 caps, more than any other French player.

Since retiring from international football and leaving Chelsea in the summer of 2004, Marcel has continued his career in Qatar playing for Al Gharafa and Qatar Sports Club. Marcel will be 38 in September this year.

Lee Dixon – Studio analyst

Lee Dixon is one of the most respected defenders in Premiership history and played over 600 games with Arsenal.

Lee was very much a player who worked his way to the top, beginning his career at Burnley before spells at Chester, Bury and Stoke. His big break was being signed in January 1988 by George Graham who paid £350,000 to bring Lee to Highbury.

Lee made his England international debut in April 1990 in a World Cup warm-up game

against Czechoslovakia. He went on to win another 21 caps but injury and misfortune meant he failed to play in a major championship.



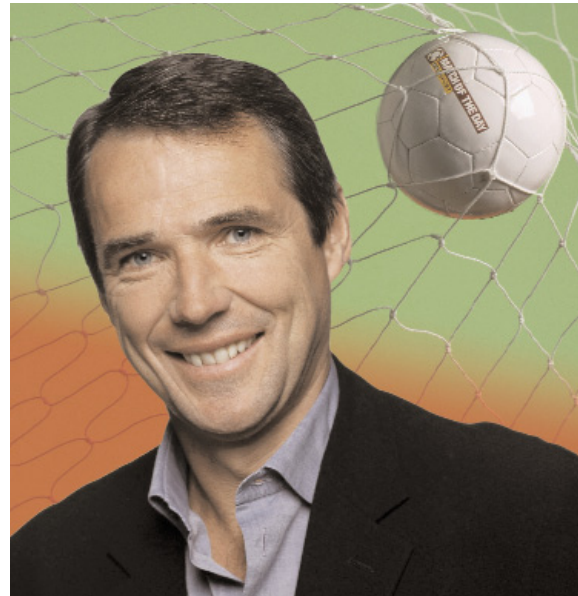
But any international disappointment was replaced by domestic joy. Over 14 years he won four league titles, three FA Cups and a European Cup Winners' Cup. Lee joined the BBC in August 2004, appearing as a pundit on BBCi's *Score*, and is a regular guest on *Match Of The Day*, *Football Focus* and *MOTD2*.

Alan Hansen – Studio analyst

Until a knee injury ended his playing career in 1991, Alan Hansen was one of the most successful British soccer players of all time. He is the only person to have won all of the honours available at club level at least twice and captained the Liverpool side to an historic double in 1986. A keen tactical understanding of the game has made him the face of BBC television's *Match Of The Day* along with Gary Lineker.

Alan has also presented a number of BBC football themed documentaries including *The Sack Race*, *The Football Millionaires* and, more recently, *Life After Football*. A keen golfer (he has

a handicap of 3), Alan's other interests include tennis and the theatre.



Born in June 1955, Hansen began his career at Partick Thistle in 1973, making 108 appearances before his move to Merseyside in 1977. He made 621 appearances for Liverpool, captaining the team between 1985 and 1990. During his 14 years at Anfield, Alan won eight Championships, three European Cups, two FA Cups, four League Cups and one League Super Cup. He was also capped 26 times by Scotland.

Alan lives in Southport with his wife and two children.

Leonardo – Studio analyst

Brazilian World Cup winner Leonardo Nascimento de Araujo was born on 5 September 1969 in Niteroi, Brazil.

The attacking midfielder began his career with Flamengo in 1987 at the age of 17. He won the Brazilian league championship at Flamengo before moving to Sao Paulo in 1990, winning his second championship a year later.

Leonardo moved to Spanish giants Valencia in 1991 and had two seasons in La Liga before

returning to Sao Paulo for a brief stint. In 1994 he teamed up with Brazilian legend Zico at the Kashima Antlers of the newly formed J League in Japan and won the title with them in 1996.



In 1994 also he was part of the successful Brazilian squad at the World Cup, although he missed the latter stages through suspension after being sent off in the second round for elbowing American Tab Ramos.

In 1996 Leonardo moved to Paris Saint-Germain and picked up a Cup Winners' Cup medal with them in 1997. During that summer he transferred to AC Milan as well as winning the Copa America with Brazil.

In international football he returned to France in 1998 and played in all seven games of Brazil's World Cup campaign in which they finished as runners-up to hosts France.

Leonardo had four seasons with AC Milan, and won Serie A with them in 1999, before having short spells at both Sao Paulo and Flamengo and then returning to Milan to end his career in 2002. Leonardo finished with 60 international caps after making his debut in 1989.

Since retiring from football Leonardo has dedicated himself to charitable work. For the past two years he has been General Secretary of Fondazione Milan, an AC Milan backed non-profit organisation that runs sporting community projects across the world. And, with former Brazilian international Rai, Leonardo created the Fundacao Gol de Letra, a charity which aims to offer cultural, non-formal and formal education for disadvantaged and at-risk children in Brazil.

Alan Shearer – Studio analyst



Former England captain Alan Shearer is one of the most feared and respected strikers of the modern era and a wonderful ambassador for the game.

His debut was an indication of the wealth of talent Alan has when he scored a hat-trick for Southampton against Arsenal on 9 April 1988 (4-2 victory).

In 1992 at the start of the Premiership, Alan moved to Blackburn Rovers for a British record fee of £3.6 million pounds, where he formed a lethal partnership with Chris Sutton,

which became known as the SAS. Blackburn won the FA Premier League in the 1994/1995 season, with Alan contributing 34 league goals at the beginning of a sequence in which he became the only player in English football history to score 30 or more goals in three consecutive seasons.

Alan made his England debut in 1992 and soon became a regular. He picked up the Golden Boot at Euro 96 and was captain of the squads in the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, after which he retired from international football. From his 63 caps he scored 30 goals.

On 6 August 1996, after Alan's successful Euro 96, where he finished the tournament's top goal scorer, Alan joined his beloved Newcastle for a world record fee of £15.6 million pounds, fulfilling his childhood dream to play for his local side.

As a Newcastle player, Alan has helped secure the club's position as one of the world's premier clubs and has enjoyed successful campaigns both domestically and internationally. He retired from football at the end of the 2005/06 season at the age of 34.

Alan, awarded the OBE in 2001, is now in his second season as a football pundit with the BBC.

Gordon Strachan – Studio analyst

After successfully guiding Glasgow Celtic to the Scottish Premier League title Gordon Strachan returns (albeit temporarily) to BBC Sport as a studio analyst for the 2006 World Cup.

The Edinburgh-born, right-sided midfielder started out with Dundee, but really came to prominence at Aberdeen under the legendary management of Sir Alex Ferguson. At Pittodrie he won two Scottish League titles, the Scottish FA Cup three times, the European Cup Winners' Cup and the European Super Cup.

In 1984 he moved south to Manchester United when he was signed by Ron Atkinson for

£500,000. He would soon, though, be managed again by Ferguson and with him Strachan won the FA Cup in 1985. However, Ferguson sold him once again, this time across the Pennines to Leeds United in 1989.



In his first season at Elland Road he helped the club to the old Second Division title and a return to the top flight. Two years later, at the age of 35, Leeds captain Strachan added the 1992 championship to his list of playing honours. Gordon won 50 Scotland caps and was a member of their World Cup squads in 1982 and 1986.

His management career began when he hooked up with Atkinson once more, this time as player-coach at Coventry in March 1995. He took over the Highfield Road hotseat some 18 months later.

After Coventry's relegation in 2001, he left the club, joining Southampton shortly after. He went from strength to strength at the south coast club, earning European football for the Saints when they met Arsenal in the final of the 2003 FA Cup. But, in March 2004 chose to escape the stresses of management and spend more time with his family.

His first role for BBC Sport was during Euro 2004 when he was an analyst for Radio Five Live and also made a number of appearances in the BBC TV studio. For the 2004/05 season Gordon was a regular studio guest of Adrian Chiles on *Match Of The Day 2* before taking up his position at Celtic in June 2005.

Strachan's tenure has been a successful one. He coached Celtic to victory in the Scottish League Cup and in early April his side clinched the SPL title back from rivals Rangers in record time and with six matches remaining.

Gordon has been appointed as the official FIFA/SOS Ambassador for Scotland, joining Wayne Rooney (Ambassador for England), Ruud van Nistleroo (Netherlands) and 50 others in fundraising for the official 2006 World Cup Charity.

Ian Wright – Studio analyst



Arsenal's all-time record goalscorer behind Thierry Henry, Ian Wright, turned to professional football relatively late, at the age of 22. He spent his early days at non-league Greenwich Borough before moving to Crystal Palace in the summer of 1985, where he

established a deadly striking partnership with new arrival Mark Bright in the 1989 season, scoring 27 League goals – a Palace record in the higher divisions.

The first of his 33 full international caps came in 1991 before a transfer to Arsenal at a cost of a then club record £2.5m. Club honours at Highbury included winners' medals in the League and FA Cups in 1993 and a European Cup Winners' Cup runners-up medal in 1995 before Arsenal secured the Premiership and FA Cup double in 1997/98.

Two seasons later he moved on to join Nottingham Forest and played in the same side as his son, England international Shaun Wright-Phillips. He moved on to West Ham, Celtic and Burnley before retiring in July 2000 to pursue a broadcasting career. Wright joined the BBC in January 2001, presenting the hit shows *I'd Do Anything*, *Friends Like These*, *Ian Wright – Surviving The Kalahari*, *The National Lottery Show* *Wright Around The World*, and *Wright And Bright* on Radio Five Live.

He was awarded the MBE in 2000 for his footballing achievements and remains one of television's, and football's, most colourful characters.

Reporters

Garth Crooks – Reporter

Former Tottenham forward Garth Crooks was the BBC's reporter from the England camp at Euro 2004 and the World Cup in 2002. Born in Stoke-on-Trent, Garth began his playing career at the age of 19 with Stoke City, moving to Tottenham four years later to form a formidable strikeforce with Steve Archibald. Crooks scored more than 200 league goals and won the FA Cup with Spurs in 1981 and 1982, and the Uefa Cup in 1984.

The following season he joined Manchester United on loan, and then had spells at West



Ivan Gaskell has been with the BBC since the Eighties and is a regular reporter on *Football Focus*. Born and bred in Derby, Ivan began his journalistic career in local radio straight from school, before moving to television as presenter on the regional programme *East Midlands Today*.

Now part of the BBC Sport team, Ivan works chiefly as a reporter on *Football Focus*, *Match OfThe Day* and *BBC Interactive Score*. The highlight of Ivan's career so far was reporting on the republic of Ireland's World Cup campaign in Korea and Japan.

A keen footballer and golfer, he is married to Debbie and his spare time is taken up with children Aimee, Imogen, Megan and Charlie.

Bromwich Albion and Charlton Athletic, before hanging up his boots in 1990. Having made television appearances while still a player, the switch to presenting was a natural one and Crooks was a match analyst for the BBC during the 1982 and 1990 World Cups. He also makes regular appearances on *Football Focus* and *Match OfThe Day*.

Ivan Gaskell – Reporter



Celina Hinchcliffe – Reporter



Celina Hinchcliffe is an experienced football presenter who has quickly established herself as a promising talent. She has been the lead presenter of the Women's FA Cup Final for the past two years and holds the honour of being the first ever female presenter on *Match OfThe Day*. Celina has also presented *Final Score* and *Football Focus*.

Celina joined the BBC in November 2001 where her first job was reporting for BBC World Service on the African Cup of Nations. Since then she has worked extensively on programmes such as Five Live, *World Sports*, BBC News 24, *Grandstand* and the Olympics.

Born in 1976, Celina has a First Class Honours Degree in English and Drama from Birmingham University. A great lover of sport from an early age, Celina plays golf, football and tennis.

Damian Johnson – Reporter



Damian Johnson began his broadcast career in 1986 as a reporter and presenter in commercial radio in Sheffield, where he covered the Hillsborough disaster.

He worked for BBC Radio Sheffield and Yorkshire Television's news show *Calendar* before joining BBC Leeds in 1989 to work on the evening news programme *Look North*. He became their sports presenter in 1994. He hosted several rugby league Challenge Cup draws and presented the leisure and lifestyles show *Out And About*. In 1998, he joined BBC Sport, becoming a reporter for *Match Of The Day* and *Football Focus*.

By 2000, he was presenting on News 24 and as sports correspondent for *Breakfast News* while continuing to report for *Match Of The Day* and *Grandstand*. In 2002, he was one of the main

reporters on the BBC's coverage of World Cup 2002 in Japan and at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, as well as presenting on *Sunday Grandstand*. In 2003 he began presenting *Football Focus* and *Final Score*, and was a reporter at Euro 2004.

Away from work, his interests are food, wine, reading, music and travel. He enjoys most sports and represented South Yorkshire at rugby. Damian lives in Sheffield with his wife and daughter.

Rebecca Lowe – Reporter



In November 2002 Rebecca won BBC Television's Talent Search for a football reporter, progressing through three rounds, and was chosen out of 650 candidates.

She has worked for *Football Focus*, *Match Of The Day* and *BBC Interactive Score* since November 2002, and at Five Live, Radio 1 and Radio 2 since August 2003. Her duties have included reporting from the 2004 African Cup of Nations in Tunisia and the 2003, 2004 and 2005 Women's FA Cup Finals – shown live on BBC One – as well as regular features on *Match Of The Day*, *Football Focus*, *Grandstand*, *Final Score* and *BBC Interactive Score*.