



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET MAY 22, 2024

GLOBAL FOOTBALL WEEK – TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR V NEWCASTLE UNITED

ANGE POSTECOGLOU

Ange Postecoglou, born in Athens in 1965, arrived in Melbourne with his parents at the age of five. He played 193 games, primarily in defence, for South Melbourne Hellas, a leading Victorian club in Australia's National Soccer League (NSL). In 1996 he was appointed to manage Hellas, and would lead them to two NSL titles, as well as the Oceania Football Confederation Champions League title in 1999. His managerial style was greatly influenced by his old coach at Hellas, Ferenc Puskas.

Postecoglou coached Australia's Under 17 and Under 20 teams before he returned to club football with an appointment to manage Panachaiki, a Greek third division club, in 2008. In 2009 he returned to Australia where he coached the Whittlesea Zebras (formerly known as Brunswick Juventus) in Victoria's National Premier League, a second tier Australian competition. At the close of that season he was appointed coach of the A-League side, Brisbane Roar. Under Postecoglou the Roar won the premiership and championship in 2010/11 and the championship in 2011/12. This included a record of 36 unbeaten A-League matches. Postecoglou was appointed manager of the A-League's Melbourne Victory in April 2012. While he orchestrated the Dark Blues' revival to the top-end of the A-League table, albeit without winning silverware, he left in October 2013 to become the head coach of Australia's national teams.

Under Postecoglou the Socceroos won the 2015 Asian Football Confederation Cup. He also led the nation to qualify for the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups, though he would resign as Australia's head coach shortly before the 2018 World Cup finals got underway. He returned to club football, and managed the Yokohama F. Marinos in Japan with whom he won the 2019 J1-League championship. Postecoglou's consistency as a manager was recognized by Glasgow Celtic, the prestigious giant of Scottish football, who appointed him head manager on June 10, 2021. In his two seasons at Celtic Park Postecoglou led them to the Scottish premiership twice, won the Scottish League Cup twice, and won the 2022/23 Scottish Cup too. He was named Manager of the Year by the Professional Footballers' Association Scotland for the 2021/22 season.

On June 6, 2023, Postecoglou was appointed the head manager of Tottenham Hotspur, the famed north London club that competes in the English Premier League, arguably the world's strongest domestic competition. In each of his first three months at the Spurs' helm, August, September and October 2023, he was named Premier League Manager of the Month, and was recognised with the Premier League's Manager of the Year honour at the London Football Awards on February 9, 2024.

ANGE AT THE MCG

On July 24, 2013, Ange Postecoglou's Melbourne Victory faced the mighty Liverpool at the MCG. It was his first and, until tonight, only game as a player or a manager at the stadium. Although it was essentially an exhibition match, the attendance of 95,446 was a record for a club match in Australia (albeit bettered in 2015), and the largest for a Liverpool game since the 1985/86 FA Cup final at the old Wembley Stadium, London. Given the vast gulf in player salaries and honours between the sides, one may have expected Liverpool to easily outclass Victory. However, Melbourne's Boys in Blue put up a much greater resistance than anticipated, spending great portions of the match in possession of the ball. The Reds won ultimately 2-0, with Liverpool's popular captain, Steven Gerrard, scoring in the 32nd minute, and their new Spanish signing, Iago Aspas, booting their second two minutes into extra-time. Postecoglou described the event as a "massive occasion", and he was "superproud" of his team: "We had a ridiculously young team out there but we played some really good football and played the game in the right manner... all fantastic".

SPURS AT THE MCG

Tonight Newcastle United play their first game at the MCG. However, this will be Tottenham's fifth game on the arena. The Spurs played two matches at the MCG in 1985, though, through no fault of the club, the second one was close to being cancelled. In 1984 and 1985 the Australian Soccer Federation invited European and South American clubs to tournaments styled the World Soccer Series (WSS). The Spurs lost their first game here against an Australian team 0-1 on May 29, 1985. Hours later, at the European Cup final at Heysel Stadium, Belgium, 39 fans died after Liverpool supporters invaded a section designated for neutral and Juventus spectators. This event initiated FIFA's indeterminate worldwide ban on English clubs playing in international competitions on June 6. However, the Spurs received special dispensation to play the WSS "minor final" against Udinese on June 9. Tottenham won 4-1 to finish the tournament in third place. The Spurs' goals were from David Leworthy (3rd minute), Paul Miller (25th minute), Massimo Susic (own goal, 37th minute), and Mark Falco (79th minute).

Tottenham's next matches at the MCG were in 2016. The Spurs lost 1-2 to Juventus on July 26. Unlike the 1985 Spurs side, this team under Mauricio Pochettino may be generously described as experimental with an "inexperienced" back four. Tottenham's consolation goal was struck by Erik Lamela (67th minute). Three days later the Spurs were beaten 0-1 by Atletico Madrid. However, Tottenham did have second half chances from Ryan Mason and Vincent Janssen which were thwarted.

SOCCER AT THE MCG

- The first soccer football match played on the MCG was between Victoria and NSW on July 18, 1887.
- An Australian XI first played at the MCG on July 5, 1924. A Canadian XI defeated Australia 3 – 0 before 4,038 spectators. It was not recognised as an official “Test” and is not recognised as a full international by FIFA.
- In 1956 the MCG hosted four Olympic Football (soccer) matches. The gold medal game between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia was played prior to the closing ceremony which drew approximately 104,000 people.
- The first FIFA-recognised full international on the MCG took place on November 29, 1997. Australia and Iran drew 2 – 2 in a World Cup Qualifier before 85,513 spectators.
- The most goals scored by a team in a match at the MCG is eight by Victoria against Tasmania in 1912, and the most scored by a player in a match at the MCG is seven by the English XI's Jackie Sewell against Victoria in 1951.
- The largest attendance for a club match at the MCG was 99,382, when Spain's Real Madrid defeated England's Manchester City in the 2015 International Champions Cup. The largest attendance for a full international at the MCG is 95,969 for the Brazil v Argentina Superclásico de las América on June 9, 2017.

English Soccer Clubs at the MCG

Date					Att.	Notes
June 3, 1984	Nottingham Forest	0	1	Manchester United	14,099	World Series
May 29, 1985	Tottenham Hotspur	0	1	Australia	15,231	World Series (double header)
June 9, 1985	Tottenham Hotspur	4	1	Udinese (Ita)	8,451	World Series (double header)
July 15, 1999	Manchester United	2	0	Australia	71,215	Manchester United FC Tour
July 24, 2013	Liverpool	2	0	Melbourne Victory	95,446	Liverpool FC Tour
July 21, 2015	Manchester City	2*	2*	AS Roma (Ita)	41,134	International Champions Cup
July 24, 2015	Manchester City	1	4	Real Madrid (Esp)	99,382	International Champions Cup
July 26, 2016	Tottenham Hotspur	1	2	Juventus (Ita)	25,457	International Champions Cup
July 29, 2016	Tottenham Hotspur	0	1	Athletico Madrid (Esp)	35,397	International Champions Cup
July 15, 2022	Manchester United	4	1	Melbourne Victory	72,413	Manchester United FC Tour
July 19, 2022	Manchester United	3	1	Crystal Palace	72,657	Manchester United FC Tour

*Manchester City defeated AS Roma 5-4 on penalties.

Largest Soccer Attendances at the MCG

Date					Tournament	Attendance
Dec 8, 1956	USSR	1	0	Yugoslavia	Olympic Games (Amateur)	104,700*
July 24, 2015	Manchester City	1	4	Real Madrid	ICC Champions Cup	99,382
June 9, 2017	Brazil	0	1	Argentina	Superclásico de las América	95,969
July 24, 2013	Melbourne Victory	0	2	Liverpool	Liverpool FC Tour	95,446
May 25, 2006	Australia	1	0	Greece	Friendly	95,103
Sept 13, 2000	Australia	0	1	Italy	Olympic Games (Under 23)	93,225
Nov 29, 1997	Australia	2	2	Iran	World Cup Qualifier	85,513

*The Olympic football (soccer) match preceded the Closing Ceremony.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR'S TROPHY CABINET

Founded: September 5, 1882

Football League Div 1/Premier League: 2 – 1950/51, 1960/61.

Football League Div 2/Championship: 2 – 1919/20, 1949/50.

Southern League: 1 – 1899/1900.

Western League: 1 – 1903/04.

FA Cup: 8 – 1900/01, 1920/21, 1960/61, 1961/62, 1966/67, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1990/91.

League Cup: 4 – 1970/71, 1972/73, 1998/99, 2007/08.

FA Charity/Community Shield: 7 – 1921, 1951, 1961, 1962, 1967*, 1981*, 1991* (* shared).

UEFA Cup Winners Cup: 1 – 1962/63.

UEFA Cup: 2 – 1971/72, 1983/84.

Anglo-Italian League Cup: 1 – 1971.

NEWCASTLE UNITED'S TROPHY CABINET

Founded: December 9, 1892

Football League Div 1/Premier League: 4 – 1904/05, 1906/1907, 1908/09, 1926/27.

Football League Div 2/Championship: 4 – 1964/65, 1992/93, 2009/10, 2016/17.

FA Cup: 6 – 1909/10, 1923/24, 1931/32, 1950/51, 1951/52, 1954/55.

FA Charity Shield: 1 – 1909.

Inter-City Fairs Cup: 1 – 1968/69.

Sheriff of London Charity Shield: 1 – 1907.

Texaco Cup: 2 – 1973/74, 1974/75.

UEFA Intertoto Cup: 1 – 2006.

Anglo-Italian Cup: 1 – 1973.

FACT SHEETS ON THE MCC WEBSITE

The MCC Library's matchday fact sheets can be accessed through the MCC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/mcccatalogue>

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