
THE WORLD ACCORDING TO FM

One man's journey inside
the alternative reality of
Champ Man 01/02

Iain Macintosh's instructions were simple: obtain a copy of Championship Manager 01/02. Start her up. Go on holiday. Observe. Report back. This is one man's account of how things could have been if only real life was more like Champ Man

Ah, there you are! Welcome to the Football Manager time machine! We're pretty sketchy on the science, but we think that with a couple of AA batteries and those jump leads behind you, there's just a chance we can take you back to a far simpler time. A time when the only games that Lionel Messi was dominating were the ones at his 14th birthday party. A time when the only oil money at Manchester City was in the catering budget and a time when Roman Abramovich had much better things to do with his cash. This is the time of Championship Manager 2001/02. Manchester United have just won their third consecutive title, but Sir Alex Ferguson plans to retire at the end of the season.

In Italy, Roma rule the roost, In Spain, it's Real Madrid who prosper while Barcelona are a shadow of their former selves. The Catalans only just qualified for the Champions League last season! Can they recover? Come on, step inside the pod, quickly now, cover your eyes. It gets a little bumpy. Oh, and don't worry if some poo comes out, that's perfectly normal...



2002

All hail Portugal and their golden generation! With goals from Luis Figo, Joao Pinto and Rui Costa, they topple Italy in the World Cup Final in Tokyo and set down the foundations for a new era of supremacy. England, by brutal contrast, are knocked out in the second round. By Germany. On penalties. Again.

In the Premier League, Sir Alex Ferguson signs off with a bang, beating Roma to win the Champions League and sealing Manchester United's record fourth successive title. Pausing only to shout at a passing cloud and ban a nearby journalist from the county of Lancashire, he retires to spend more time with his horses and is replaced by Leeds boss David O'Leary. Fergie's United finish 10 points ahead of Arsenal, largely due to new signing Ruud van Nistelrooy's astonishing record of 42 goals in 54 games. Arsenal, whose season is derailed by the defection of Patrick Vieira to Barcelona in a £38m deal, console themselves with the FA Cup. To the surprise of absolutely no-one, Arsene Wenger opts to keep the Vieira windfall, claiming, "it's for a rainy day." Elsewhere, a young forward by the name of Tonton Zola Moukoko breaks into the Derby side, scoring seven goals in 12 games, Kenny Dalglish saves Charlton from the drop and Southampton are relegated.

If Vieira left in search of a league title, he was disappointed. Despite Patrick Kluivert's 32-goal season, Real Madrid, who snaffle Francesco Totti in a £37m deal in January, squeak home by a single point. In Italy, vanquished Champions League losers Roma do at least pip AC Milan to the Serie A title, thanks to 66 goals from Gabriel Batistuta and Vincenzo Montella. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second.

2003

It is not a good day to be David O'Leary. But then it never is, is it? Having left Leeds for Manchester United, the Irishman can only watch in horror as Manchester United are comfortably beaten into second place by...erm...Leeds. His replacement Roy Hodgson, having prospered on the continent, finally proves himself in his home country, guiding the Yorkshire side to their first league title in 11 years. Chairman Peter Ridsdale tells journalists that he feels like he is, "living the dream," and does his best to ignore the threatening-looking envelopes on the doormat. Liverpool trot home in third and Fulham, now managed by Graham Rix since Jean Tigana took the France job, pick up the final Champions League place at the expense of Arsenal. Gunners fans, however, are too busy laughing at the relegation of Tottenham Hotspur to care. Shamed Spurs boss Glenn Hoddle angrily blames his players for sins committed in this and any other past lives and refuses to explain why he thought re-signing Ruel Fox was a good idea. Down in south-east London, a chap by the name of Chernobamba is scoring goals at the rate of 1.1 a game for Millwall and elsewhere Southampton are relegated again, this time to the third flight.

Roma are the undisputed power on the continent. Fabio Capello's side, having lured in Luis Figo in the summer, leave their rivals in the dust in Serie A and wallop Barcelona 4-1 in the Champions League final. At the start of the season Barca spend £40m on Juventus pair Lilian Thuram and Gianluigi Buffon, but Real Madrid snap up Rui Costa and beat the Catalans to the title again. Patrick Vieira kicks the club cat. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second.

2004

Revenge! In a replay of the 2002 World Cup Final, Italy turn the tables on Portugal in the European Championships and beat them 2-1 in Lisbon. It is a feat all the more spectacular when you learn that Italian manager Giovanni Trapattoni retired two days before the final and left his players to their own devices. Now that's hands-off management. England, by brutal contrast, lose all three group games and Sven-Goran Eriksson is sacked.

Still, it's finally a good day to be David O'Leary! Never afraid to splash the cash, the Manchester United boss shells out for Jaap Stam, Zinedine Zidane and...er...Gary O'Neil. His spending spree pays off and he almost leads his team to an unprecedented domestic treble, winning the league and the FA Cup, but losing the League Cup to Louis van Gaal's Newcastle. Liverpool finish second, despite the signings of Martin Keown, Gianluca Festa and Chris Perry, while Leeds and Arsenal finish third and fourth. Tottenham return to the Premier League at the first time of asking, led by bearded Australian David Mitchell whose madcap attacking 4-2-1-2-1 formation baffles the second flight into submission. Ruel Fox is crammed into a cardboard box and shipped to Miami. Cherno Samba is signed by Newcastle for £10m, while Ipswich lay out £5m for Tonton Zola Moukoko. Kenny Dalglish is sacked by Charlton, but pops up again at Aston Villa, while Southampton lose the play-off final and consign themselves to the third flight for a second season.

Still, Patrick Vieira's happy. Barcelona clean up, winning the Champions League, La Liga, the Spanish Cup and a prestigious Scrabble tournament in Minorca where Frank de Boer drops 'quizzical' over a triple word score. Javier Saviola and Patrick Kluivert hit 73 goals between them as Real Madrid are beaten into third place behind Valencia. In Italy, Roma nonchalantly pick up their fourth consecutive Serie A title with an asset-stripped Juventus slumping into 12th. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second.

2005

Roma are back on top in Europe, snatching the Champions League from Barcelona's tiny mitts and lifting it above their heads for the second time in three years. Fabio Capello's side are making life very dull indeed in Italy. There they seal their fifth consecutive title having reversed the talent drain to Spain by buying Roberto Carlos and former Middlesbrough soul-glo poster boy Emerson, as well as Juan Sebastian Veron who takes his leave of Old Trafford after four glorious years.

Veron's departure does little to stem the flow of trophies. David O'Leary picks up his second title in a row and credits his success to, "all the children everywhere," because, as he sagely adds, "the children are our future." Man Utd beat off a determined challenge from Louis van Gaal's Newcastle whose 4-5-1 is spearheaded by Chernobomb Samba to devastating effect. The former Millwall man scores 21 goals and makes his debut for new England manager...er...Dave Jones, scoring twice. Arsenal and Leeds make up the other Champions League places, Kenny Dalglish's Aston Villa are relegated and poor old Southampton plummet into the fourth division. Tottenham, in a act of gross spitefulness, sack Mitchell after finishing 16th in their first season back in the Premier League. They replace him with Dalglish.

In Spain, Barcelona win La Liga again, despite not signing anyone for two years. Real Madrid, who have exercised no such discretion in the transfer market having signed Alessandro Del Piero for £28m, are runners-up. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second.



MARK KERR

A fringe player at Leeds United, Mark moved from Falkirk to Hibernian in 2001, then to Sunderland in 2002 and finally to Elland Road in 2003. A determined and cultured midfielder, Kerr has over 50 caps for Scotland and is valued at £3.5m



WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- 2002 — Gabriel Batistuta (Roma)
- 2003 — Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
- 2004 — Javier Saviola (Barcelona)
- 2005 — Hernan Crespo (Lazio)
- 2006 — Amoroso (Dortmund)
- 2007 — Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
- 2008 — Juan Sebastian Veron (Roma)
- 2009 — Javier Saviola (Barcelona)
- 2010 — Pablo Aimar (Arsenal)
- 2011 — To Madeira (Dortmund)



MIKE DUFF

A consistently excellent right-back, it's a wonder that 33-year-old Duff didn't achieve more. Now with QPR in the second flight, he has also played for Cheltenham, Darlington, Wolves and Brighton, never averaging less than 7.50 in a season.

2006

The world dances to the sound of the samba beat as Brazil lift their fifth World Cup, this time in Berlin. Felipao, in his second spell as manager, utilises a very dull 4-4-2 with Ronaldo and Amoroso up front, and grinds his way to victory over Holland. England, by brutal contrast, are knocked out in the second round. By Brazil. On penalties. Again. Frankly, it's hard to comprehend how a team manned by the likes of Chris Kirkland, Sam Sodje and former Crewe midfielder David Wright can fall so short on the big stage.

It's three titles in a row for David O'Leary at Old Trafford. Christian Vieri and Ruud van Nistelrooy score freely to hold off the challenge of Dalglish's renewed and revitalised Tottenham. Spurs now boast the attacking talents of Carl Cort to support the deadly finishing of Steffen Iversen. What? What's so funny? Arsenal finish third, Liverpool come fourth and Walter Smith's Everton, who have just moved into a 55,000 all-seater, retractable-roofed stadium on King's Docks, are relegated. Southampton, after a shaming season in the fourth division, are promoted into the third.

The Roman Empire has fallen... and has been replaced by a different Roman Empire. Lazio, who snaffle Zidane on a Bosman after his two seasons with Man Utd, end Roma's run of five consecutive titles, romping home eight points clear. Across Italy, there are street parties and carnivals, mopeds are tossed about in the air like children's toys. Poor Roma even lose the Champions League final to Bayern Munich. Capello pushes a policeman over. In Spain, after 18 months of frugality, Barcelona finally spend some money, bringing in David Beckham for £14m, Albert Nadj for £5m and Mark Iuliano for £9m. They finish second to Real Madrid, who didn't spend a penny. There is no logic. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second.

2007

After 17 years of hurt, Liverpool are the English champions once again. Across Merseyside and the home counties, there are street-parties and carnivals, curly-haired, moustachioed men and women dance the night away and nine months from now there will be a boom of curly haired, moustachioed babies. It's taken nine years of tinkering, but Gerard Houllier finally delivers and then goes on to win the FA Cup for good measure. Arsenal finish second, Newcastle, with Cherno Samba hitting 31 goals, finish third and Chelsea troop home in fourth under Rudi Voller. The German boss is building quite a side, snatching Tonton Zola Moukoko from Ipswich and adding him to an illustrious line-up that includes Marco Di Vaio, Roy Makaay and Michael Duberry.

David O'Leary's Man Utd, despite blowing £43m on Diego Tristan, Damiano Zenoni and Jens Nowotny tumble to eighth. Perhaps their downfall was caused by Roy Keane's departure to Atalanta. Perhaps it was the loss of Jaap Stam to Dortmund. Or perhaps, just perhaps, it was the rash decision to sell indefatigable Wes Brown to Roma for £23m.

Not that Brown's recruitment helps Fabio Capello one iota, of course. Nor does his cunning plan to steal Pavel Nedved from Lazio. Roma slip to third while their rivals retain the title. Fabio Capello pushes a police horse over. Lazio, still powered by Zinedine Zidane and made potent by Andrey Shevchenko, snatch the title by a point from Juventus. They also win the Champions League, beating Bayern 2-1. In Spain, Barcelona spend big again, whacking £28m on Wilfried Bouma and another £11m on Sol Campbell. It works and the title is theirs. Patrick Kluivert, by the way, has now scored 221 goals in six seasons. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second.

2008

Arrigo Sacchi's Italy retain the European Championships in Stockholm with a crushing 3-0 defeat of dark horses Romania. Luca Toni scores a hat-trick. England finally survive a summer tournament without getting knocked out on penalties. Instead, Dave Jones' men are knocked out in normal time at the quarter-final stage by Ukraine.

Ken Bates has ruled Chelsea since 1982 and finally, finally, finally, his team have won the title. A clearly emotional Bates reflects upon a phonecall he took from an unnamed Russian businessman in 2003, saying, "Do you know, I almost sold the club to that c**t. What was I thinking? He probably didn't have any money anyway..."

Arsenal finish second again prompting a furious rant from Arsene Wenger who blames the referees, the Highbury pitch and the excess fluoride in the water. As quickly as it began, however, Liverpool's reign is over. Gerard Houllier's side win the League Cup, but finish outside the Champions League places in fifth. Joe Kinnear's Blackburn come third while David O'Leary, clinging on to the United job by his fingernails, claims fourth. Southampton are relegated back to the basement with a whimper.

TO MADEIRA

A slow burner, this unheard-of Portuguese striker first came to prominence at Benfica where he scored almost a goal a game for eight years. That finally brought him his big money move to Dortmund and the 2011 World Player of the Year Award. Where did this goal machine spring from?

Roma's golden age is over as well. Even the acquisition of Italian hero Luca Toni can't lift them from third and Lazio win the title again. You have to go back to 1999 to find the last time a team outside Rome won Serie A. Juventus, who hired Marco Tardelli after that awful 12th place finish in 2004, come second. In La Liga, Vicente Del Bosque's static 4-4-2 isn't working. Real Madrid slide into third, overtaken by Carlos Bianchi's Valencia who use a 4-1-2-1-2 with John Carew and Salva up top to break up the duopoly. Barcelona, of course, win the title, their second in a row. Manager Charly Rexach has now won four leagues and nine cups. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second



ENGLISH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

- 2002 — Ruud van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
- 2003 — Ruud van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
- 2004 — Mark Viduka (Leeds)
- 2005 — Ruud van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
- 2006 — Cherno Samba (Newcastle)
- 2007 — Marco di Vaio (Chelsea)
- 2008 — Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
- 2009 — Cherno Samba (Newcastle)
- 2010 — Ronaldinho (Liverpool)
- 2011 — Michael Duberry (Nottingham Forest)

2009

Money may not buy you happiness, but it does make success in football a little easier. After burning through an eye-watering £74m and buying global luminaries Wes Brown, Harry Kewell, Igor Biscan and David Trezeguet, Inter Milan win the Champions League, beating Juventus 3-2. Sadly for new manager Giuseppe Piloni, Inter miss out on Serie A, losing a two-legged play-off to Lazio, who claim their fourth consecutive title under Alberto Zaccheroni.

It's all change in England where Liverpool snatch back the title, with David Moyes' West Ham, who have somehow retained Joe Cole and Jermain Defoe, trailing just behind. Arsenal and Leeds make up the European places while champions Chelsea finish seventh and manager Rudi Voller is sacked. Manchester United drop to 14th, only seven points above the relegation zone, and lose the League Cup Final to a Clint Hill-inspired Watford. Chairman Martin Edwards, when questioned on David O'Leary's future, mumbles something about him having photographs of, "that awkward episode in the bathroom" and offers the Irishman an extended contract. Grimsby are promoted to the Premier League, as are Wrexham, who sneak through via the play-offs. Southampton reach the fourth division play-off final, but lose to Shrewsbury. Owner Rupert Lowe dryly suggests changing the name of the stadium from St Mary's to St Jude's, but no-one gets the 'patron saint of lost causes' joke and his car is set alight.

These are dark days for Real Madrid, they slip all the way to sixth, while Barcelona, for whom Saviola (185) and Kluivert (275) have now scored 460 goals in eight seasons, lift the title again. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish fir- what? Good heavens! In Scotland, Rangers finish first and Celtic finish second! The world has been turned upside down!

**MICHAEL DUNWELL**

A prodigious goalscorer for Bishop Auckland, Dunwell was given his big break by Exeter and he didn't disappoint. He scored 81 goals in five seasons before being snapped up by Sheffield Wednesday in 2008. He is worth £6m.

**JUSTIN GEORCELIN**

Having started his career at Northampton, Georcelin could never have imagined that he'd end up at Manchester United. A move to Hull, and 62 goals in three seasons, put him on their radar and he didn't disappoint. Now worth £9m, he's scored 47 goals in 60 games.

After burning through £74m on global luminaries Wes Brown, Harry Kewell, Igor Biscan and David Trezeguet, Inter win the Champions League

2010

Towering Sevilla forward Xisco is the King of the World. It's his goal that seals Spain's first ever World Cup win after a nervous final against Paul Le Guen's France. Dave Jones' England, of course, are knocked out in the quarter-finals, which is, in fairness the best that anyone has done since Sir Bobby Robson in 1990.

For the first time since 1927, Newcastle win the league. Manager Louis van Gaal spends two days celebrating and then hotfoots it to Deportivo. There's no prizes for guessing the player of the year. With an astonishing 50 goals in 65 games for the Magpies, 24-year-old Chernomir Samba ensures that he will never have to buy a drink on Tyneside again. Liverpool, who swipe Ronaldinho from Paris St Germain, finish second, with Arsenal and Leeds in third and fourth. Chelsea manager Tommy Svensson is sacked after just six months and replaced by, yes, you've guessed it, Kenny Dalglish. They finish sixth with David O'Leary's broken Man Utd in eighth. Grimsby finish ninth under Peter Taylor, but Wrexham are sent packing, ending the season with just 16 points. Manchester City fall into the third division where they'll meet Southampton, who win the fourth.

For the first time since 1927, Newcastle win the league. Louis van Gaal spends two days celebrating then hotfoots it to Deportivo

In Europe, Dortmund doom Juventus to a second consecutive set of runners-up medals in the Champions League, but consolation comes with the capture of the Serie A title, finally bringing an end to ten years of Roman supremacy. Lazio drop to third, Roma slide to fifth and Fabio Capello pushes a police van down a flight of steps in the city centre and runs away, claiming that, "a group of bigger boys did it." He is later sacked.

In Spain, Real Madrid are in real trouble. For the first time in living memory, they lose more games than they win and finish in eighth. Somehow Vicente del Bosque keeps his job. Over at Barca, Charly Rexach has a job for life after dropping just 11 points all season, finishing first 35 points ahead of Valencia. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers finish second. Phew.



STEFAN SELAKOVIC

A star for Halmstad, Selakovic was brought to England by Leicester, but it was Middlesbrough where he spent the bulk of his career. Sadly, the Swede could never recreate his Filbert Street form and was released on a free in 2009.

2011

Porto are the surprise winners in Europe, overturning a subdued Barcelona side still mourning the departure of Patrick Kluivert, who retired in the summer. The Dutchman isn't the only one to call it a day. In England, Gerard Houllier steps down, hands the reins to coach David Preece and the former Luton maestro seals the title in his first season. It's Liverpool's third Premier League in five years. Emile Mpenza leads the way in the scoring stakes, while Pablo Aimar pulls the strings for the resurgent Reds. Not that they can recreate their European glory days. No English team has reached the Final of the Champions League since Sir Alex Ferguson's last Man Utd side. Kenny Dalglish's Chelsea come second, three goals ahead of Rudi Voller's Newcastle. David O'Leary finally runs out of credit with the Man Utd board as Martin Edwards feels that no revelations could be as bad as another season above the relegation zone. With United in thirteenth, he pulls the trigger and replaces the Irishman with Gareth Southgate, who has done such a good job with Arbroath.

**MAXIM TSIGALKO**

A lightning quick hitman, Tsigalko moved from Dinamo Minsk to Hamburg in 2003 and scored consistently for club and country. Valued at £6m, he and strike partner Louis Saha are a formidable force.

**RYAN WILLIAMS**

A classic tale of rags to riches, Williams moved from Hull to Nottingham Forest to Portsmouth, scoring and making goals all the way before catching the eye of Tottenham, where he won the title. Now 32, he's worth £2.4m.

 **JUSTIN TOMLINSON MP** @JTomlinsonMP

Capello's quit... If they miss my skills on #footballmanager I'd go for Martin O'Neill, but I guess public will want Redknapp.

KB knows burn-out is no laughing matter

 **KEVIN BRIDGES** @kevinbridges86

Know how Pep feels, been there myself in Champ Man 01/02. Give it a month, your bosmans arrive, arranging friendlies...The love comes back.



 **CAMERON JEROME** @10_CJ

Managing Barca on Football Manager. Just signed myself for £6.5m. The fans are disappointed. They haven't even given me a chance.

What were you thinking, Cameron?

 **MILES JACOBSON** @milessj

So earlier in the week, Football Manager was mentioned in Emmerdale. And this morning, it was mentioned on Desert Island Discs. #surreal



In Italy, new Roma boss Francesco Guidolin comes within a play-off of retrieving the title, losing to Juventus thanks to a Kieron Dyer brace. In Spain, Sevilla become the first non Barca/Real club to top La Liga since Deportivo in 2000. World Cup winner Xisco leads the way. Barca slip to second, while Real Madrid finish eighth again, their third successive season outside of the top six. Meanwhile in Scotland, Celtic finish first and Rangers, oh you know this by now... Oh yes, and someone called To Maderia wins the World Player of the Year award after scoring 48 in 48 for Dortmund. Strange, I've never actually heard of the man... Extraordinary, isn't it? A hideous dystopian version of our present, warped and contorted out of recognition. Manchester City are a third division club, Manchester United are a spent force, Lionel Messi is an unknown chimney sweep in Buenos Aires and Cristiano Ronaldo is serving tables in a bar in Lisbon. Well, let's go home, eh?

What's that? Really? You want to stay? Well... there's no accounting for taste. Let's have those jump-leads back. Now, step out of the pod, would you? Thank you. I'll just lock up...there, we're all set.

Oh, I forgot to mention, in this reality Tony Blair didn't step down, the Spice Girls never broke up and that Keith Chegwin 'naked' gameshow is now the nation's favourite programme! Seeya!

Iain Macintosh was exploring the world according to Championship Manager 01/02. If you want to spend more time there, why not visit www.champman0102.co.uk. You can download the game, including updates that enable you to play today's teams, old school-style, or just spend hours talking about Ryan Williams. It's your call.

JOAO PAIVA

A bit part player at El Nacional, Paiva made just 24 appearances, scoring 14 goals and spending a large chunk of his adult life on the bench.

