

Abramovich's Chelsea



1) Discussion

- a) What do you think of Chelsea and their history?
 - b) Does your favourite club have a good owner?
 - c) Can you think of some of the best and worst owners?
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2) Vocabulary

a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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| 1) Seismic (adjective) | a) The highest point or peak; the culmination or apex of something. |
| 2) Sustained (adjective) | b) Maintained at a constant level without interruption or decrease. |
| 3) To propel (verb) | c) Characterized by the consideration of the whole rather than analysis or treatment of individual parts. |
| 4) Zenith (noun) | d) An earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide. |
| 5) Holistic (adjective) | e) To drive, push, or cause to move in a particular direction, typically forward. |
| 6) Precedent (noun) | f) Unreasonably high; excessive or extravagant, especially in terms of price or cost. |
| 7) Exorbitant (adjective) | g) Relating to a sudden and intense disturbance. |
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b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

Seismic

Sustained

To Propel

Zenith

Holistic

Precedent

Exorbitant

- 1) The signing of a renowned coach like Pep Guardiola often marks a _____ shift in a football club's fortunes.
- 2) Football clubs are increasingly adopting a _____ approach to player development, focusing on physical, mental, and tactical aspects.
- 3) Top-tier clubs often spend vast sums of money to _____ themselves to the forefront of domestic and international competitions.
- 4) When a club makes a groundbreaking decision, it may set a new _____ for others to follow.
- 5) Winning the Champions League is considered the _____ of a club's European ambitions.
- 6) The transfer fee paid for some players is so _____ that it raises eyebrows across the footballing world.
- 7) Achieving _____ success in football requires consistent performance over an extended period.



3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

- a) What was some of the controversy connected to Abramovich's takeover of Chelsea?

The Takeover That Changed Football

Roman Abramovich's takeover of Chelsea Football Club in 2003 marked a seismic shift in the landscape of English football, transforming the West London club from a middling Premier League side into a powerhouse of European football.

Prior to Abramovich's intervention, Chelsea was a club with a rich history but inconsistent success on the pitch. Despite moments of brilliance, including FA Cup and UEFA Cup Winners' Cup triumphs, the club had not achieved sustained dominance.

Abramovich's arrival brought with it an influx of wealth previously unseen in English football. His initial investments were staggering, with high-profile transfers like Hernan Crespo, Claude Makelele, and Damien Duff raising eyebrows across the footballing world. These signings signalled Abramovich's intent to propel Chelsea to the summit of English and European football.

The zenith of Abramovich's reign came under the management of José Mourinho. The Portuguese tactician arrived at Stamford Bridge in 2004 and oversaw a period of unprecedented success. Mourinho led Chelsea to back-to-back Premier League titles in 2005 and 2006, as well as domestic cup triumphs. His astute tactics, coupled with Abramovich's financial backing, created a formidable team that dominated English football.

Furthermore, Abramovich's influence extended beyond the pitch, with significant investment in Chelsea's youth academy and training facilities. This holistic approach to club development ensured Chelsea's sustained success and laid the groundwork for future triumphs.

However, Abramovich's tenure at Chelsea has not been without controversy, with questions raised about the source of his wealth and allegations of political ties with the Russian Government.

Abramovich's ownership of Chelsea ushered in a new era of football finance. His willingness to invest heavily in the club's infrastructure, player acquisitions, and wages set a precedent for wealthy owners across Europe. The era of billionaire owners reshaped the transfer market, with exorbitant fees becoming the norm for top talent.



4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Abramovich's era at Chelsea?
- b) Do you think his impact on football has been positive or negative?
- c) Do you think there should be more rules concerning football ownership?

