# Mighty Foxes, Premier League Season 2015/2016 in Pictures, Down to Crown.

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Year 2015/2016, was an incredible year for a club of England. It's been an fantastic year for the Leicester City Football Club. Fox hard to believe but they created history with winning Premier Leage title very first time. They have done something which is not easy to believe for every football fan. So here is the season of the fearless Foxes, Leicester City – in pictures

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## 21 July 2015

Claudio Ranieri walks out on to the pitch for his first match as manager, a pre-season friendly against Lincoln City at Sincil Bank. Ranieri had been initially characterised as yesterday's man. Gary Lineker described Nigel Pearson's replacement as an "uninspiring choice" and

Harry Redknapp questioned how a man whose last job in football management ended in such ignominy – Ranieri wassacked as the Greece coach after picking up only one point from four matches and losing 1-0 against the Faroe Islands – could "walk back into the Premier League".



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## 8 August 2015

Marc Albrighton celebrates scoring Leicester's fourth goal in a 4-2 win against Sunderland in their Premier League opener. His goal not only put the cap on an exhilarating Leicester performance but was a poignant moment for Albrighton following a summer of personal tragedy.



# **13 September 2015**

Jamie Vardy scores the second goal against Aston Villa as Leicester turn around a two-goal deficit to win 3-2 and remain unbeaten after five games. Vardy credited the spirit of the squad: "The manager has got it built into us that we start every game as if we are on no points and we need to pick the three up to start the season again. We will be doing that exactly the same this weekend – we will be back down on zero points."



#### 29 October 2015

Riyad Mahrez makes a dough base during the team's visit to Peter Pizza in Leicester. Champagne and pizza were the order of the day as Leicester celebrated victory over Crystal Palace, 12 bottles of Moët coming Claudio Ranieri's way to mark his recent 64th birthday as he agreed to take his ebullient squad out for a meal to mark their first clean sheet of the season. "Champagne and pizza is good," Ranieri said. "Not fantastic but it's OK." Asked whether such a diet is unhealthy, he replied: "No, it's carbohydrate – good for the muscles."



#### **28 November 2015**

Jamie Vardy scores against Manchester United at the King Power Stadium. The man who almost four years ago to the day was equalising for Fleetwood Town at Gateshead's

International Stadium in front of 768 people added another remarkable chapter to his fairytale story by writing his name into the record books as the first player to score in 11 successive Premier League matches. Ruud van Nistelrooy showed a touch of class in the wake of the goal that eclipsed his own achievement when he tweeted: "Well done, Vardy. You're number one now and you deserved it. 11 in a row."



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#### 6 December 2015

The team's popularity in Denmark, which has grown throughout the season, was helped by their decision to fly to Copenhagen for their Christmas party, with some of the players wearing Ninja Turtles costumes. Leicester City were featured on the most popular news show, 21 Sondag, on Danmarks Radio, the country's public service broadcaster. 21 Sondag normally focuses on investigative journalism and the big political stories but felt that Leicester's and Dane Kasper Schmeichel's extraordinary adventure was a topic worth covering.



#### **14 December 2015**

Claudio Ranieri celebrates at the end of the victory over Chelsea. Leicester regained top spot in the Premier League courtesy of goals from Jamie Vardy and the outstanding Riyad Mahrez in a thoroughly deserved 2-1 win over the champions. José Mourinho said of his players after the game: "I don't think in this moment they can feel they are top players or they can feel they are superstars. They have to look at the Leicester boys and to feel these are the stars, these are the top players." Mourinho was sacked after the defeat because of a "palpable discord with the players".



#### **17 December 2015**

Riyad Mahrez visits the Leicester Royal Infirmary to deliver presents for Christmas. A year ago, Leicester were bottom of the league having lost 11 of 17 matches. On Christmas Day 12 months later, they were top with 11 wins and five draws from 17 games. Claudio Ranieri revealed that he had bought all of the club's players and staff little bells for Christmas. "From the beginning when something was wrong I've been saying: 'Dilly-ding, dilly-dong, wake up, wake up!" he said. "So on Christmas Day I bought for all the players and all the staff a little bell. It was just a joke."



### 13 January 2016

Tottenham's Hugo Lloris and Ben Davies fail to block a header by an unmarked Robert Huth. Leicester had drawn blanks in their previous three league games but scored late at White Hart Lane to win the game. Ranieri maintained any title talk was silly. "I laugh," the Leicester manager said, when asked how it felt to have his club touted as potential champions. "It's January. What a pity! If it was May, maybe. We must continue to work hard, to keep our feet on the ground. It is a crazy, crazy league this year and we must continue."



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## 6 February 2016

Riyad Mahrez celebrates after scoring the second against Manchester City. Claudio Ranieri described Leicester City's team spirit as the best he has ever known after a convincing 3-1 win at the Etihad against Manchester City extended their lead at the top of the Premier League and made them the bookmakers' favourites for the title for the first time. "I do not trust the bookmakers," Ranieri said. "At the start of the season they were saying it was Ranieri for the sack."



## **14 February 2016**

Danny Welbeck celebrates with Theo Walcott after scoring the winning goal in the last minute at the Emirates. Ranieri gave his players a week off after the 2-1 defeat: "We make a little gamble with my players and they say to me, 'If we make nine points [from the last three games] will you give us one week away?' Now we make just six points but in my mind I said, 'Okay'. I was happy with one point from City and one point today, only two points, and we achieved three. I said, 'Okay, it's the same as if you won the match. Go home and we will see you next Monday.' They deserve it."



## **18 February 2016**

A market trader in Algiers holds a replica Leicester City shirt with Riyad Mahrez's name printed on it. Mahrez has dominated the front pages of every daily paper in Algeria. Pedestrians have congregated in front of news stands after weekends for updates. Although Mahrez was born in France and his mother is Moroccan, he wanted to play for the country from which his father emigrated: "I used to go to Algeria on holiday every year with him and my brother. I have a lot of family there. I lived in France and grew up there and my mum still lives there but my heart is more Algerian."



#### 14 March 2016

Shinji Okazaki scores the only goal against Newcastle United at the King Power Stadium. Okazaki's overhead kick after 25 minutes was Leicester's only shot on target but they have now had six home clean sheets in the last seven league matches. "We've got a five-point gap again now so it was a very important match to win. But the manager was so angry at half-time," said Okazaki. "He is smiling most of the time but when we came in at half-time he was mad. He is always joking but maybe to see him angry like that is good for us."



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#### 19 March 2016

Claudio Ranieri, Danny Simpson and Crystal Palace's Yohan Cabaye talk after Leicester's 1-0 victory, their fourth 1-0 win in five games. "We love defending. We love clean sheets," said Danny Simpson, the right-back. "Final whistle blows, we come together and praise each other, another clean sheet. We don't mind booting it into row Z. We don't mess about. We will put it out for a throw-in and everyone regroups. We make it as difficult as we can for the opposition."



#### 31 March 2016

Sir Alex Ferguson says that Leicester City have been "the best team without question" in the Premier League this season and would be worthy winners of the title. The former Manchester United manager, who won 13 league titles in a 26-year career with the club, added that the East Midlands side's central-defensive partnership is key to their success. Ferguson said: "They've got the experience of [Robert] Huth and [Wes] Morgan at the back. They know how to head the ball clear, they know how to tackle – they know how to defend."



#### 3 April 2016

The Leicester City fans go wild as Wes Morgan scores the only goal of the game against Southampton at the King Power Stadium. "You'll never beat Wes Morgan" was once a song born from fondness, rather than sincerity. Coined by Nottingham Forest fans, where he played for 10 years until 2012, it was a chant that emerged because of the player's commitment, spirit and downright dedication, yet it is now one that can be sung with validity. Morgan said: "I've been getting a lot of stick because I haven't scored all season so to keep the boys quiet and to shush them up was fantastic."



## 17 April 2016

Jamie Vardy goes down in the box under a challenge from Angelo Ogbonna. Jon Moss showed him a second yellow card and accused him of diving. Asked about Roy Hodgson's subsequent support for Vardy, Ranieri said: "I think it's not only sympathy, I think it was the truth. He was going very fast, and when you touch someone you lose balance, maybe it is not a penalty, but sure it is not a yellow card. Football is football. I don't like to speak about what happened. I forget and I think about the next game. But Roy is an honest man and he said what he watched."



## 17 April 2016

Leonardo Ulloa scores from a penalty in the last minute to earn Leicester a vital point against West Ham United. "That was worth more than one point," Claudio Ranieri said. "Psychologically we are there again."



## 17 April 2016

Leonardo Ulloa celebrates with Danny Drinkwater after he scored the last-minute penalty. "We are in the Champions League, dilly-ding, dilly-dong. It's fantastic, terrific," Claudio

Ranieri said. "Well done to everybody, the owners, the fans, the players, the staff, everybody involved in it. It's a great achievement. Unbelievable. And now we go straight away to try to win the title. Only this remains. I talked with my players: 'Come on, now is the right moment to push.' I believe. Always I believe. I am a positive man."



#### 17 April 2016

Cardboard clappers are positioned by each seat before the matches at the King Power Stadium. There are plans to enlarge the ground to 42,000 and it all feels a long way from the days when Dave Bassett described Leicester's average crowd as "three people and five cabbages" during one of their relegation seasons. Bassett tells another story from the 2001-02 season, when Leicester finished bottom, about being stopped by police in his car and asked for his name. "When I told them: 'Dave Bassett,' this cop said: 'What, the Leicester manager?' I said 'yes' and he burst out laughing."



## 24 April 2016

Leicester players celebrate the first goal against Swansea City. The suspended Jamie Vardy's replacement, Leonardo Ulloa, scored two in a 4-0 win. This was their biggest win of the season, just when the heat of the pressure was supposed to be rising dangerously close to intolerable. The goals flew in, the crowd sang "Barcelona, we're coming for you" and the place has never felt happier. The only flicker of apprehension came when Claudio Ranieri was asked afterwards about the Barcelona chants. "God, not Barcelona," he said. "It would be a fantastic experience, but come on, man."



## 24 April 2016

Claudio Ranieri celebrates with his team after the win over Swansea City. "We must continue fighting with our heart and our soul," Ranieri said after another victory. "This is a small club that is showing the world what can be achieved through spirit and determination. Twenty-six players. Twenty-six different brains but one heart."



#### 29 April 2016

A portrait of Claudio Ranieri is painted on a wall in the city. A victory over Manchester United in their next match would make Leicester City English champions for the first time, but Ranieri warned that his players must stay focused if they are to make history. "We are doing something special and, of course, I'm very proud for everybody from Leicester, for our community," said Ranieri. "But it is important to finish the story as well as the American movies: always the happy ending."



#### 1 May 2016

Wes Morgan scores the equaliser against Manchester United in the 1-1 draw at Old Trafford. Claudio Ranieri's team did not quite have the chutzpah to confirm themselves as implausible, eccentric champions but they walked off the pitch to a remarkable ovation. "We suffered a lot because they pressed so high and without [Jamie] Vardy it was difficult to stretch the line," Ranieri said after the match. "Psychologically it was very important to come back and, after that, we were a little more calm, moving the ball quickly and doing what we spoke about in the week."



### 1 May 2016

Riyad Mahrez appears to be tripped by Manchester United's Marcus Rojo but no penalty is given. Despite the draw, Leicester City will be crowned Premier League champions if Tottenham Hotspur cannot beat Chelsea on the following night but Claudio Ranieri will not be among the millions tuning in to see the possible denouement of this season's title race. Ranieri will be flying back from Italy instead, having visited his 96-year-old mother, Renata, for lunch and will be, by his own admission, "the last man to know the result."



#### 2 May 2016

Hugo Lloris is unable to stop Cheslea's Eden Hazard from scoring the equalising goal against Tottenham Hotspur to end their title hopes. After the goal, a cry went up around the ground suddenly and steeped in the incredible: "Leicester! Leicester!" A touch of the surreal enveloped Stamford Bridge as the greatest story in Premier League history reached its wondrous completion. How extraordinary that Claudio Ranieri, once of this parish, should experience the greatest moment of his career thanks to events at Stamford Bridge.



### 2 May 2016

The Leicester City players celebrate winning the title at the home of Jamie Vardy. The team completed one of the most remarkable stories in the history of English football by winning the Premier League title. Written off as relegation candidates at the start of the season, when the bookmakers made Leicester 5,000-1 outsiders to be crowned champions, they secured the first top-flight title in the club's history after Tottenham were unable to beat Chelsea.



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#### 7 May 2016

Wes Morgan and Claudio Ranieri lift the Premier League trophy after a 3-1 victory over Everton. These are the moments Leicester City's supporters will never forget. After all the emotion at the start, a dewy-eyed speech from Claudio Ranieri and a guard of honour that ushered his team on to the pitch, their heroes quickly set about showing everyone why they now go by the title of champions of England. Leicester attacked with wit, enthusiasm and penetration and, more than anything, they looked as though they were enjoying themselves. They played football like it made them happy.



#### 7 May 2016

Christian Fuchs celebrates with the fans at the King Power Stadium after the match against Everton. If Fuchs was running the risk of taking things a little too far when he gatecrashed the press conference tipping a bottle of champagne over Claudio Ranieri's head, the Austrian's next act was much more in tune with his manager's thinking. "Listen, we're playing Champions League football next season," Fuchs said. "Isn't that a good enough reason to stay at this club? I think all the lads know what this team is all about. So why not stay?"



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## 15 May 2016

Roman Abramovich had been waiting for Claudio Ranieri on Leicester City's arrival at Stamford Bridge, the oligarch seeking out the first manager he had sacked as Chelsea's owner to offer an embrace and warm congratulations on a job well done. Ranieri's team completed a season of unprecedented success against Chelsea with an equaliser worthy of champions. It was Danny Drinkwater who drew them level eight minutes from time, dispatching a shot from 30 yards which dipped across Thibaut Courtois and into the net, with few among Chelsea's fans begrudging the visitors their reward.



It's been an amazing journey of Leicester City, They start with the status of underdog, they end the season with glory, they have done what they self never think of, they had achieved glory and they had created history.



