

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 er 3d-5of

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 Of The 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 Of The 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 Of The 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

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

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,

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 Of The 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.

Jonathan Pearce – Commentator

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

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

Mark was part of the *Match Of The 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

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

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.


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



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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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 Of The Day*.

Ivan Gaskell – Reporter

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 Of The 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.

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 Of The 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.