

The 'midas touch' when it comes to the

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The Premier League is where England's best football clubs battle each week to be crowned the best team in the country, however, it does not only attract a fan base from within the United Kingdom. The competition is so competitive, whether it be at the top of the table or whether it be the fight for survival, with three of a possible 20 teams being relegated at the end of the campaign, it attracts a global audience. Football is the main sport for the majority of the population of Great Britain, and stadiums in the top-flight can almost sell-out all their tickets for each fixture played, however, nearly a further one million people tune into the league's fixtures on television. The Premier League attracts a number of the game's best players, with the likes of Eden Hazard and Paul Pogba involved, whilst greats like Cristiano Ronaldo have also featured in the past. The top-flight has been unpredictable in recent years, with a number of shocks and surprises to have happened over the August to May period the games are played in. Two seasons ago saw the extraordinary rise of Leicester City be crowned as champions, when they almost faced being dumped out of the competition and heading down to the Championship. Last year saw Chelsea take the honours in Antonio Conte's first year in charge at Stamford Bridge, however, Manchester City are returning back to the top of the summit with incredible performances. Pep Guardiola, who is regarded as one of the best managers in the world of football, struggled to make an impact in his first season at the Etihad Stadium, however, he has managed to find the best way for his team to play at a consistent level, with many scared to play against them for fear they will concede too many goals.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss appears to have the 'Midas Touch' when it comes to the sport, as everything he is involved in turns to a high-quality standard. His team, at the halfway stage of this season, do not look as though they will be caught this year, sitting 15 points clear from second placed Manchester United, with Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling catching the eyes of many. Due to the small geographical area England covers, there are plenty of teams that compete against each other based in the same city, leaving some of the fixtures with some intensity and passion. Manchester City and Manchester United continue to fight out the battles in the north of the country, whilst Everton and Liverpool have a heated rivalry in the west of the nation. The Red Devils and the Anfield side are the most decorated clubs in the country when it comes to domestic honours and often leads to heated exchanges. London also plays host to a number of clashes, which are known as local derbies, with no fewer than five teams based in the capital – although Watford could also be considered.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United are all based in the nation's capital and all contest competitive fixtures against each other, with Arsenal and Spurs one of the highly anticipated games. Those two sides will meet again in February, whilst later in the month a big Sunday of football sees some of the best teams compete against each other. Arsenal will host Manchester City at the Emirates Stadium, whilst Chelsea will travel to the famous Old Trafford Stadium to take on Manchester United against former manager Jose Mourinho. The title, if it has not already been decided, could all come down to a huge match on the first Saturday of March, which sees current holders Chelsea visit Manchester City.