



Sir Bobby's Team 2022

Players

Goalkeepers

Peter Shilton: England's most capped footballer with 125 appearances, he played under Sir Bobby at the 1986 and 1990 World Cups, as well as the 1988 European Championship. Shilton holds the all-time record for most competitive appearances in world football – 1,390.

Victor Baia: Baia won an extraordinary 25 trophies at Porto, making him one of the most successful goalkeepers of all time. He played there for Sir Bobby and the two also worked together at Barcelona. Won 80 caps for Portugal.

Hans van Breukelen: A four-time Dutch goalkeeper of the year and a six-time Eredivisie winner with PSV Eindhoven (twice under Sir Bobby), Van Breukelen also won the European Cup. He made 73 appearances for the Netherlands and lifted the European Championship in 1988.

Shay Given: Given claimed 134 caps for Ireland, the second-highest total in the Republic's history. He was a mainstay under Sir Bobby at Newcastle United, where he played in the Champions League and made 354 Premier League appearances.





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Defenders

Eric Gerets: The Lion of Flanders was one of the game's greatest right backs and one of Belgium's greatest players with 86 caps. Gerets won the Dutch title with PSV – where he played under Bobby – on six occasions and captained them to their sole European Cup title in 1988.

Laurent Blanc: Part of Robson's treble-winning Barcelona side in 1996-97, winning the Copa del Rey, Spanish Super Cup and UEFA Cup Winner's Cup. He also won the World Cup and the Euros with France as well as the Premier League with Manchester United.

Fernando Couto: The centre-half played under Sir Bobby at Porto and Barcelona and won league and cups in Portugal, Spain and Italy over the course of a glittering career, which also earned him 110 caps for Portugal.

Kevin Beattie: Consistently voted Ipswich Town's greatest player, Beattie was frequently referenced by Sir Bobby as one of the best he had managed – and possibly his best ever, "if not for injuries." Beattie won 9 caps for England and lifted the UEFA Cup and FA Cup at Portman Road.





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Defenders

Joao Pinto: The right-back spent the entirety of his career at Porto, where he won 24 major honours, including the European Cup and 9 league titles and where he encountered Sir Bobby. He represented Portugal on 70 occasions.

Terry Butcher: Regarded as a legend at Ipswich and Rangers and a former England captain at centre-half, Butcher played at three World Cups, including two under Sir Bobby. He won the UEFA Cup in 1981.

Mick Mills: Ipswich's record appearance-maker, Mills was appointed captain by Sir Bobby and the pair enjoyed a garlanded relationship, winning the FA Cup, UEFA Cup and Texaco Cup. He captained England at the 1982 World Cup and won 42 caps.

Gheorghe Popescu: Signed by Sir Bobby at PSV, where he won two league titles, Popescu also played in his treble-winning Barcelona side. 'Gica,' a quality centre-half, won 115 caps for Romania and claimed further trophies at Galatasaray in Turkey.





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Defenders

Stuart Pearce: 'Psycho' famously missed a penalty in the World Cup semi-final in 1990, but he was a tremendous servant for England. Sir Bobby first called the left-back up in 1987 and he would eventually win 78 caps. A League Cup winner at Nottingham Forest.

Midfielders

Pep Guardiola: Rightly hailed as a managerial genius, Guardiola was a deep-lying midfielder who won six La Liga titles with Barça and was named in Johan Cruyff's all-time best XI. As well as the European Cup, he won a treble under Sir Bobby and 47 caps for Spain.

Luis Figo: The Ballon d'Or and World Player of the Year winner played under Robson at Sporting and Barcelona. He was the 2001 FIFA World Player of the Year, won 127 caps for Portugal, four La Liga titles at Barça and Real (plus the Champions League) and four Series A titles at Inter Milan.





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Midfielders

Arnold Muhren: One of few players to have won the special trinity of European Cup, European Cup Winner's Cup, and the UEFA Cup, the latter at Ipswich. He won 23 caps for the Netherlands, two Eredivisie titles at Ajax and the FA Cup at Manchester United.

Bryan Robson: Sir Bobby referred to 'Captain Marvel' as one of his three best British players, alongside Beattie and Alan Shearer. An all-action midfielder, never afraid to put his body in harm's way, he claimed 90 caps for England and two Premier League titles as well as other trophies at Old Trafford.

Paul Gascoigne: Famously dubbed "daft as a brush" by Sir Bobby, 'Gazza' was England's creative inspiration under Sir Bobby at the 1990 World Cup, where his tears watered the pitch in Turin. 57 caps and trophies at Rangers and Spurs, but also a case of what might have been.

John Barnes: Another pivotal figure at Italia '90, Barnes also played under Sir Bobby in two other international tournaments, winning 79 England caps in total. The winger won two league titles, two FA Cups and the League Cup at Liverpool.





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Midfielders

Chris Waddle: Like Pearce, Waddle missed a decisive spot-kick against West Germany in 1990, but what a role he played in what came earlier. There were 62 England caps over the course of a long career and a tremendous spell at Marseille where 'Magic Chris' won three titles.

Forwards

Alan Shearer: The Premier League's record goalscorer spent five seasons under Sir Bobby at St James' Park, where he would also become Newcastle's most potent centre-forward. A title-winner at Blackburn Rovers and a former England captain, who won 63 caps.

Romario: A World Cup winner with Brazil and a Golden Ball winner for player of the tournament who was named by the legendary Johan Cruyff as the greatest player he ever coached. An astonishing goal record, including 55 in 70 international appearances. Played under Sir Bobby at PSV.

Ronaldo: "The best player I ever worked with? Tough competition, but it has to be Brazil's Ronaldo," Sir Bobby once said. He signed him for Barcelona in 1996 after failing to land Shearer. 98 caps for Brazil, 62 goals, two World Cups.





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Forwards

Hristo Stoichkov: The Bulgaria striker, AKA 'El Pistolero' (The Gunslinger), was the top goal-scorer in the 1994 World Cup winning the Golden Boot and was named the Ballon d'Or winner the same year. Played under Sir Bobby at Barça, where he won five La Liga titles, the European Cup and plenty more.

Luis Enrique: Another of Sir Bobby's treble winners at Barça, he had moved there in 1996 from their great rivals Real Madrid, where he won La Liga. Two more titles followed at Camp Nou. He won 62 caps for Spain, scoring 12 goals.

Ruud van Nistelrooy: Worked under Sir Bobby during the manager's second spell at PSV. He won two Dutch titles there and then the Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup at Manchester United and two La Liga titles at Real Madrid. Made 70 appearances for the Netherlands.

Gary Lineker: England's 'fox in the box,' with 80 international appearances and 48 goals, the country's fourth highest total. He won the World Cup Golden Boot under Sir Bobby in 1986 and reached the semi-finals four years later. Won trophies Barça and Spurs.

