

## Review of the Year: Tottenham

(January 5th 2009)

### Pre-Listening / Background information

On this week's main report we take a look back at an eventful 2008 for all Tottenham fans.

### A. Listening – note taking

Listen to the whole report and take notes about Tottenham's performances under the following Headings.

End of last season (2007-8)	Start of this season (2008-9)

### B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the first half of the report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase. Then write the meaning of the word.

1. As 2008 started there was \_\_\_\_\_ in the air for Spurs. After a poor start to ...
2. ... the League and then a 5-1 \_\_\_\_\_ of north London rivals Arsenal in the semi final...
3. Ramos' golden touch had worked again and those fans who had questioned his \_\_\_\_\_ - myself included - ...
4. The team only won two of their \_\_\_\_\_ eleven fixtures in the league, finishing 11<sup>th</sup>
5. ... under Martin Jol. A \_\_\_\_\_ quarter final defeat to Dutch side PSV in the UEFA Cup on penalties ...

### **C. Comprehension**

*Listen to the remainder of the report and answer the following questions.*

1. What caused the optimism at the start of this season to be thrown into doubt?
2. How does Damian describe Tottenham's relationship with transfers? What figures did he give to support this?
3. How many players from the Carling Cup victory in February are still at the club?
4. Who is Damian Comolli?
5. How does Damian describe Tottenham's performances this season? What examples does he give to support this idea?
6. Is Damian hopeful that Tottenham can improve?

## ANSWERS – Review of the Year: Tottenham

(January 5<sup>th</sup> 2009)

### Pre-Listening / Background information

On this week's main report we take a look back at an eventful 2008 for all Tottenham fans.

### A. Listening – note taking

Listen to the whole report and take notes about Tottenham's performances under the following Headings.

End of last season (2007-8)	Start of this season (2008-9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good performances against Man Utd / Arsenal</li><li>• Juande Ramos' methods seemed to be working</li><li>• Won Carling Cup</li><li>• Only won twice after this</li><li>• Finished in 11<sup>th</sup> position</li><li>• Beaten in the UEFA Cup by PSV on penalties</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tipped to do well</li><li>• Keane and Berbatov were sold</li><li>• Almost £150 pounds passed through club</li><li>• Many players left</li><li>• Winless in opening 8 games</li><li>• New manager – Rednapp</li><li>• Still involved in many cups</li><li>• Involved in a relegation dog-fight</li></ul>

### B. Listening - vocabulary

Listen to the first half of the report and fill in the gaps with the appropriate word or phrase. Then write the meaning of the word.

1. As 2008 started there was **optimism** in the air for Spurs. After a poor start to **positive thinking**
2. ... the League and then a 5-1 **demolition** of north London rivals Arsenal in the semi final **thrashing**
3. Ramos' golden touch had worked again and those fans who had questioned his **appointment** - myself included - **the decision to make him manager / giving someone a job**
4. ... The team only won two of their **remaining** eleven fixtures in the league, finishing 11th **those that were left**
5. ... under Martin Jol. A **heartbreaking** quarter final defeat to Dutch side PSV in the UEFA Cup on penalties ... **upsetting**

### C. Comprehension

*Listen to the remainder of the report and answer the following questions.*

1. What caused the optimism at the start of this season to be thrown into doubt?

**Selling Keane and Berbatov**

2. How does Damian describe Tottenham's relationship with transfers? What figures did he give to support this?

**Ridiculous / almost £150 million passed through the club**

3. How many players from the Carling Cup victory in February are still at the club?

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4. Who is Damian Comolli?

**Former sporting director who was blamed for much of the transfer fiasco**

5. How does Damian describe Tottenham's performances this season? What examples does he give to support this idea?

**Inconsistent**

**Beat Liverpool, draw with Arsenal and Chelsea away but lose to Hull and Sunderland at home.**

6. Is Damian hopeful that Tottenham can improve?

**Yes, still in the Cups.**

### Transcript

As 2008 started there was optimism in the air for Spurs. After a poor start to the season Spaniard Juande Ramos' methods seemed to be paying off with impressive performances against Manchester United in the League and then a 5-1 demolition of north London rivals Arsenal in the semi final of the Carling Cup. This was topped however by the final itself in which Spurs beat hot favourites Chelsea 2-1 and this after going a goal down early on. Ramos' golden touch had worked again and those fans who had questioned his appointment - myself included - began to think that he may indeed be the man to lift Tottenham into the top four, which just goes to show what we know about football. The team only won two of their remaining eleven fixtures in the league, finishing 11th, way off the pace and the two previous 5th positions we'd managed under Martin Jol. A heartbreaking quarter-final defeat to Dutch side PSV in the UEFA Cup on penalties summed up this final part of the season.

Despite this, many tipped 2008-09 to be a breakthrough one for Spurs but when we sold our club captain Robbie Keane to Liverpool and his strike partner Dimitar Berbatov to Manchester United before the season had begun this was all thrown into doubt. Transfers and Tottenham go hand in hand with almost £150 million passing through the club in a six week spell in the summer. Indeed, only four players that had beaten Arsenal in that Carling Cup semi final a year ago are still at the club, a ridiculous turnover and one that could be blamed on sporting director Damian Comolli who became a real hate figure before being fired in September, along with manager Ramos. A disastrous start to this season saw us bottom and winless after seven matches. In came Harry Rednapp who seems to have steadied the side somewhat though we currently sit in 15th place in the league - still very much involved in a relegation dog-fight. One thing that Rednapp needs to do is improve the inconsistency that is Tottenham. Good results against the top four sides have been offset by poor form against probable relegation candidates. So, for every 4-4 draw with Arsenal or Chelsea there has been a home defeat against Hull or Sunderland.

We are still in the FA Cup, the UEFA Cup knock out stages and the Carling Cup semi final so it is not all doom and gloom. We should stay up and with some clever signings we may be able to plan for the following season. Now, when have I heard that before?