

روزنامه تلگراف | ...اما لوتون ابتدا قرمزها را ترساند!

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SPORTS NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The Daily Telegraph

Murray: This is not the game for me anymore
Beaten Briton's turmoil P.10



Sport

I'll knock City and Liverpool off their perch, vows Ratcliffe

New co-owner uses Ferguson quip to take aim at local rivals
Lifelong fan aims to restore United to top in three years

By Tom Morgan
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Sir Jim Ratcliffe outlined his vision to knock Manchester City and Liverpool "off their perch" by restoring Manchester United to the top of world football within three years.

In an hour-long briefing at his Ineos HQ, his first since taking control of football operations at Old Trafford on Tuesday night, Ratcliffe borrowed Sir Alex Ferguson's famous quip to take aim at the club's fiercest rivals. He also spoke of using state funding for a major regeneration around Old Trafford and said he had a decision to make on Mason Greenwood's future.

The Ineos owner promised an end to 11 years of "complete misery" but asked for "some patience" as the team close the gap on their

"enemy" neighbours. "We have a lot to learn from our noisy neighbour and the other neighbour," he said. "They are the enemy, at the end of the day. There is nothing I would like better than to knock both of them from their perch."

Ratcliffe, 71, has spent an initial £1.03 billion securing 25 per cent of the A shares and 25 per cent of the B shares from the Glazers, his investments in the club taking his ownership to 27.7 per cent.

Player recruitment and the stadium were areas in which he guaranteed immediate improvement.

"It's not a 10-year plan," Ratcliffe said. "The fans would run out of patience if it was a 10-year plan. But it's certainly a three-year plan to get there. If we give people false expectations, they will get disappointed. So, I think the key thing is our trajectory, so people can see we're making progress."

Ratcliffe declined to go into specifics about Erik ten Hag's future but said a series of managers had suffered with poor recruitment.

"United have spent a lot but

haven't done as well as some other clubs," he said. "So, when I was talking about being best in class in all aspects of football, recruitment is clearly top of the list."

The "ultimate aim", he said, "is just to play really good football". "The only thing we're spending time and energy on is how do we get Manchester United back to where it should be. It's not about what am I going to do in five years' time with the shares," he added.

Billionaire's masterplan: Pages 2-3

...but Luton give Reds fright first!
Kop comeback win

Liverpool 4-1 Luton



By Chris Bascombe at Anfield

Liverpool turned Anfield anguish into jubilation with a comeback win over Luton Town to extend their Premier League lead over Manchester City to four points.

Manager Jurgen Klopp's frustration boiled over during an error-ridden first half in which Luton took a shock lead. Klopp turned on the Main Stand and demanded more patience and understanding as emotions spilt over following a series of missed chances and misplaced passes.

But the mood was transformed immediately after half-time, when

Arsenal agony
Late pain in Porto

Match report: Pages 4-5

Virgil van Dijk equalised, before Cody Gakpo, Luis Diaz and Harvey Elliott sealed a win more comfortable on paper than in reality.

By full-time, Klopp was back celebrating in front of the same stand he had chastised an hour earlier.

Liverpool had a raft of injuries and Klopp had warned of a difficult evening. So it proved when Chidozie Ogburn headed Luton into a 12th-minute lead.

Liverpool face Chelsea in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday with their quadruple hopes still intact.

Match report: Pages 4-5

Borthwick's big plan Lawrence and Care to start for England in Murrayfield grudge match Pages 6-7

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