

Notes on Harry Redknapp: The Biography

A consistent theme throughout the book is summarized in the following line:

Harry always had an eye for a bargain. Now he does it with players, and turns them into decent players. He chooses the right players for the team he has at any given time. It all goes back to Harry's eye for a player. Harry's got a great understanding of what he needs in order to do well. Players just shine under him. He can spot players and develop them, or he can buy them and make them play better. He knows the right time to play kids and when to play experienced players.

Another routine characteristic of Harry is his relationship with the unexpected. With Harry, you come to expect the unexpected. Nothing is ever routine in the life of Harry Redknapp.

Harry's wife Sandra suggested his life story should be entitled *Never a Dull Moment*.

Harry can make a player look like he has magic in his boots rather than concrete.

In taking over at Tottenham, Harry has achieved within hours what Ramos (previous coach) could not achieve in 2 months.

Harry's forte: goes into struggling clubs, lifts confidence, turns things around – He has the tactical intelligence, the gift for squeezing maximum benefits from the available resources, and the commitment to play expressive football. He keeps things simple, but he's an exciting person.

He has the common touch and the irrepressible wit that has made popular throughout the football world. He speaks the language of the man in the stands. Too often in today's world, everybody is looking for a way out, nobody wants to take responsibility. But Harry is the type that looks you in the face and tells you how it is.

Totally different: that in a nutshell is, Harry Redknapp.
Ordinary bloke. Extraordinary life.

Harry was an Eastender and it is said that they had great character.

Even as a player, they said Harry was destined to be a manager because he loves the game and he loves his players to love the game. He loves his players to go out and entertain the people.

When I see Harry looking for a player, I know he's looking for a player with a lot of flair and imagination. It's always been a characteristic of his.

The West Ham way, of which Harry was a product, believes that losing with style is better than winning without it.

Harry has the ability to build teams amounting to more than the sum of their individual parts.

Harry is a shrewd judge of players and their abilities. He has a wonderful eye for talent and a wonderful eye for seeing how that talent would fit into his existing squad of players. He's a man manager, he can get the best out of players ... and he knows a good player/

Beneath that laid back, cheeky exterior there's a man that works very, very hard. That's the important aspect of Harry's success, because he's always looking for the next step, always looking ahead and trying to gain an advantage.

Harry is an offensive manager and he tends to win or lose rather than draw. He had a reputation for entertaining, attack-minded football. His teams usually consisted of technically-gifted players who made creative, intelligent use of possession and placed a premium on delivering the final ball with accuracy and intent.

Harry learned from Booby Moore the importance of making new and young player feel welcomed as they joined the new club.

Harry has long maintained that self-confidence is a prerequisite for success.

Simplicity is genius -- play the game simply and efficiently, play to your strengths.

The ability to lift players, to instill confidence and belief has been central to Redknapp's success. If they don't feel confident, they are always going to feel second best. He tries to make players believe in themselves because everything in life comes down to confidence.

He loved seeing people who wanted to learn. There's nothing like playing games to learn the sport. If they don't play, they don't learn.

He always had a commitment to youth development. He wanted to get the kids to play better. Harry has always had a terrific rapport with youngsters. He can spot talent a mile away and he tends to be able to see who can put up with the pressures of the professional game and who can't.

We (West Ham) could attract the best youngsters because Harry had the reputation of putting them in the first team – because if he believes in a youngster, he will push him and give him every opportunity. You have to nurture them. There's an art to knowing when the time is right. It takes courage to play youngsters because they make mistakes.

Your own style is brought about by your own personality.

Harry always had a great mind for the game – his vision on the field was tremendous.

Harry maintains a good balance of humor and serious -- he can take the humor into the dressing room and relax the players. When it came to training, it was always business, very serious and high quality. Come match day, his ability to motivate and inspire ensured that the tactics honed on the training pitch were played out to maximum effect.

He can see the funny side of the game as well as the serious side.

There's no such thing as an expert in the game – you're always learning and you're always keeping an open mind.

His pre-match talk before an important game: I'm going to ask you to do 2 things:

- 1) match them for work rate
- 2) do the things that you are good at. Go out there and believe you can win.

He believed in getting the ball down and playing football and he also believed that the final ball into the box was the crucial thing, and he worked a lot on that during training.

He just has a quiet word with you ..“ well done” and you feel like you're the only player at the club. He gives you an awful lot of confidence. He makes you feel that you're a better player than you are.

If you don't do it, someone else will

He's a very good motivator – he makes it easy for you to enjoy your football.

Football is constantly picking yourself up off the ground. Harry is really good at getting the balance right – between working players and lifting them.

Harry's approach after a tough loss -- he kept the morale high and had us look forward to the next game. He didn't panic and take the easy route and unload on the players . He would say to them: “we're better than this. I expect more from you.” You go out with your self-esteem intact and ready for the next game. Just because you're in trouble, you still need to play.

Harry would take a chance on players that others would pass on because Harry thought the player could produce a flash of genius and turn the game upside down for you. In the end, he was always more right than wrong.

He gets players in with great talent, but usually there's baggage to go with them. What he's very good at is being able to handle players in terms of their character and personality, but still manage the dressing room. He's good at getting the balance right.

Harry is someone who has been there and done that and has an understanding of football. He's someone who knows a lot of players and has a lot of character.

The key to Redknapp's success in infusing a group of strangers with shared purpose and belief lay in his instinctive grasp of character and psychology. Harry's strength is that he understands people and knows how to get the best out of them. Above all, he is a people person.

Once a player complained that Harry spent more time on his mobile than coaching and Harry's response was: "I was on the phone trying to find someone to replace you."

You get what you see with Harry – he tells it like it is. He speaks the truth. What you when he comes out on TV is the real person. He's no different on camera than he is person to person. It's a genuineness of character that is embedded in his roots as an East End boy who's made good.

He can find ways to win games.

Every day he tried to do everything he could to persuade us to believe that we could win – whether during training or travel, he would instill confidence in our ability to persevere.

Diligence is the mother of good fortune and Redknapp's hard work behind the scenes coincided with a welcome change of luck. Every good manager has a little bit of luck.

He's a good tactician – so many times at the turning point, when we were losing games, he would make changes that helped us to win.

Harry doesn't panic. Even in the nerviest times, with a lot of pressure, he keeps his head.

One of his major strengths is that he knows what makes a team tick. He knows how to put a team together and he can handle top players with no problem at all. You don't last as long as Harry has without knowing everything about management - tactics, players, psychology, how to get the best out of players.

His game is uncomplicated. He gives players the confidence to go out and do the job, he's tactically aware and he knows what the game's about.

Harry instills confidence – I look at him and think "You know what you're doing, buddy!"

I have never been afraid to take a chance (Harry)

(Harry) "There is no secret to it. I get the best out of them because I treat them well, with a bit of respect. If they have a problem and need a day off, they get it. As long as they respond in the right way, that's fine."

Adaptability has been another ingredient in the longevity of Harry's successful career.

Harry will take risks on players – all that matters is whether they are the right player. So he looks at that – forget the other bits and pieces, he looks at a player. What can he do, does my team need that? That's the be all and end all for Harry. He prefers players with flair and the attacking tradition

It's that something extra that all great managers have. They can press a button inside their player's head somewhere that gets them to play better than they thought they could. They know how to get them motivated. That comes from the understanding of the individual players you've got and from the understanding of the players as a group. All the players have that bit extra when they need it, and Harry has a great way of getting a line on that and bringing it to the surface. The great managers do that.

(Harry) It takes time to build a team, it's a bit like a jigsaw puzzle if you like. But in the end all the players have got to where they are because as kids they really, really loved playing the game.