

FOOTBALL'S BLACK PIONEERS
(Chronologically by date of debut)

Year	Club	Player	Place of birth	Heritage
30/10/1886	Preston North End	Arthur Wharton	Gold Coast	Gold Coast (Ghana)
23/2/1895	Sheffield United	Arthur Wharton	Gold Coast	Gold Coast (Ghana)
2/9/1899	Lincoln City	John Walker	Scotland	West Indies
16/9/1899	West Ham United	Fred Corbett	England	unknown
1/9/1900	Bristol Rovers	Willie Clarke	Scotland	British Guiana
7/9/1901	Aston Villa	Willie Clarke	Scotland	British Guiana
5/9/1903	Bristol City	Fred Corbett	England	unknown
2/9/1905	Bradford City	Willie Clarke	Scotland	British Guiana
2/9/1905	Brentford	Fred Corbett	England	unknown
1/9/1909	Tottenham Hotspur	Walter Tull	England	Barbados
21/10/1911	Northampton Town	Walter Tull	England	Barbados
11/11/1911	Fulham	Hassan Hegazi	Egypt	Egypt
11/11/1911	Gillingham	Fred Corbett	England	unknown
9/10/1920	Derby County	Tewfik Abdallah	Egypt	Egypt
19/11/1921	Plymouth Argyle	Jack Leslie	England	Jamaica
27/8/1934	Bournemouth	Eddie Parris	Wales	Barbados
9/1/1937	Southampton	Alf Charles	Trinidad	Trinidad
13/3/1937	Luton Town	Eddie Parris	Wales	Barbados
?/?/1945	Cheltenham Town ¹	Eddie Parris	Wales	Barbados
31/8/1946	Tranmere Rovers	Albert Payne	England	Barbados
28/9/1946	Stoke City	Roy Brown	England	Nigeria
16/11/1946	Crewe Alexandra	Cecil Baines	England	Unknown
30/10/1948	Cardiff City	Tommy Best	Wales	Barbados
13/11/1948	Portsmouth	Lindy Delapenha	Jamaica	Jamaica
10/12/1949	Queens Park Rangers	Tommy Best	Wales	Barbados
3/5/1950	Doncaster Rovers	Charlie Williams	England	Barbados
6/5/1950	Middlesbrough	Lindy Delapenha	Jamaica	Jamaica
21/10/1950	Watford	Tony Collins	England	West Africa
19/8/1953	Norwich City	Tony Collins	England	West Africa
15/9/1955	Rochdale	Calvin Symonds	Bermuda	Bermuda
13/10/1956	Coventry City	Steve Mokone	South Africa	South Africa
23/11/1957	Crystal Palace	Tony Collins	England	West Africa
30/11/1957	Leeds United	Gerry Francis	South Africa	South Africa
23/8/1958	Mansfield Town	Lindy Delapenha	Jamaica	Jamaica
13/9/1961	Barnsley	Steve Mokone	South Africa	South Africa
18/8/1962	Burton Albion	Lindy Delapenha	Jamaica	Jamaica
20/5/1963	Manchester United	Dennis Walker	England	Iran
22/9/1965	Manchester City	Stan Horne	England	unknown
1/1/1966	Everton	Mike Trebilcock	England	unknown
?/8/1966	Morecambe	Charlie Lea ²	England	USA?

¹ This was in Cheltenham's non-league days, Jamie Victory was their first black player in the Football League, making his League debut on 7th August 1999

² Morecambe were a non-league club in Charlie's time with them, Rene Howe became their first black player in the Football League when he played against Wycombe on 9th August 2008

19/8/1967	Scunthorpe United	Peter Foley	Scotland	Ghana
25/11/1967	Peterborough United	Michael Maynard	Brit.Guiana	British Guiana
10/8/1968	Cambridge United	Dennis Walker	England	Iran
14/9/1968	Ipswich Town	Steve Stacey	England	USA
30/11/1968	Millwall	Frank Peterson	England	Ghana
Early 1970s	Stevenage	Roland Butcher ³	Barbados	Barbados
7/2/1970	Charlton Athletic	Steve Stacey	England	USA
14/8/1971	Exeter City	Steve Stacey	England	USA
19/2/1972	Carlisle United	Bob Delgado	Wales	Cape Verde
11/3/1972	Arsenal	Brendon Batson	Grenada	Grenada
21/10/1972	Reading	Andy Alleyne	Barbados	Barbados
25/8/1973	Leyton Orient	Bobby Fisher	England	Unknown
20/10/1973	Brighton and Hove Albion	David Busby	England	Barbados
8/2/1974	Huddersfield Town	Lloyd Maitland	England	Jamaica
21/9/1974	Nottingham Forest	Viv Anderson	England	Jamaica
31/3/1975	Wolverhampton Wanderers	Don Gardner	Jamaica	Jamaica
6/9/1975	Shrewsbury Town	Les Lawrence	England	Jamaica
4/10/1975	Grimsby Town	Tony Ford	England	Barbados
8/11/1975	Wycombe Wanderers	Bruce McCrae ⁴	England	USA
4/9/1976	Harrogate Town	Denver Mitchell ⁵	England	Jamaica/Germany
21/9/1976	Blackpool	Paul Gardner	England	Jamaica
9/10/1976	Oldham Athletic	Carl Valentine	England	Jamaica
12/3/1977	West Bromwich Albion	Laurie Cunningham	England	Jamaica
19/3/1977	Leicester City	Winston White	England	Montserrat
13/8/1977	Swindon Town	Chris Kamara	England	Sierra Leone
31/12/1977	Port Vale	Neville Chamberlain	England	Jamaica
2/1/1978	Sunderland	Roly Gregoire	England	Dominica
3/11/1978	Colchester United	Trevor Lee	England	Jamaica
24/3/1979	Walsall	Mark Rees	England	Unknown
18/8/1979	Barrow	Dave Busby	England	Barbados
25/8/1979	Oxford United	Joe Cooke	Dominica	Dominica
4/10/1980	Liverpool	Howard Gayle	England	Sierra Leone/Ghana
12/4/1982	Chelsea	Paul Canoville	England	Anguilla/Dominica
28/8/1982	Birmingham City	Carlos Francis	England	Unknown
27/11/1982	Newcastle United	Howard Gayle	England	Sierra Leone/Ghana
11/11/1983	Sheffield Wednesday	Tony Cunningham	Jamaica	Jamaica
26/11/1983	Newport County	Neville Chamberlain	England	Jamaica
14/1/1984	Bolton Wanderers	George Oghani	England	Nigeria
11/2/1984	Wigan Athletic	Steve Johnson	England	Nigeria
25/8/1984	Swansea City	Steve Mardenborough	England	St Kitts
24/11/1984	Burnley	Les Lawrence	England	Jamaica
23/2/1985	Southend United	Micky Welch	Barbados	Barbados

³ Roland played non-league football for Stevenage, their first black player in the Football League was Yemi Odubade who made his debut from the bench on 7th August 2010

⁴ Wycombe were not in the Football League when Bruce played for them, Andy Kerr was their first black player in the Football League, making his debut on 14th August 1993 at Carlisle

⁵ Harrogate achieved Football League status for the 2020/21 season and their first game as a League 2 club was in the Carabao Cup against Tranmere, We believe Warren Burrell and Aaron Martin, both born in Sheffield, were the only black players in the team that day and they also featured a few days later in the convincing first League win, 4-0 at Southend

20/4/1985	Rotherham United	Andy Morris	England	Jamaica
23/8/1986	Hull City	Ray Daniel	England	St Lucia
15/8/1987	Blackburn Rovers	Howard Gayle	England	Sierra Leone
9/8/1997	Macclesfield Town	Efe Sodje	England	Nigeria
7/8/2004	MK Dons	Izale McLeod ⁶	England	Jamaica
5/8/2006	Accrington Stanley	Romy Boco	France	Benin
29/7/2011	AFC Wimbledon	Rashid Yussuff ⁷	England	Nigeria
29/7/2011	Crawley Town	Hope Akpan	England	Nigeria
13/8/2012	Fleetwood Town	Youl Mawene ⁸	France	Congo
5/8/2017	Forest Green	Dale Bennett ⁹	England	Trinidad
2/8/2019	Salford City	Nathan Pond ¹⁰	England	Montserrat

⁶ Four black players appeared in MK Dons first game in the Football League, in alphabetical order they were: Malvin Kamara; Izale McLeod; Ade Oyedele; and Wade Small

⁷ Sean Marshall was AFC Wimbledon's first black player in non-league football, Rashid Yussuff and Christian Jolley share the honours as AFC Wimbledon's first black players in the Football League

⁸ Nathan Pond, a Fleetwood legend, may well have been their first black player in any league (although we weren't able to prove this conclusively), Youl Mawene and Dean Howell shared the honour of being Town's first black player once Football League status had been achieved.

⁹ No less than six black players played in Forest Green's first game in the Football League, in addition to Dale the others were: Reece Brown; Keanu Marsh-Brown; Shamir Mullings; Drissa Traore; and Manny Monthe

¹⁰ Nathan was one of four black players in Salford's team that day, the others were: Mani Dieseruwwe; Lois Maynard and Ibou Touray