# Manchester United faces job cuts and transfer uncertainties under Sir Jim Ratcliffe



Sir Jim Ratcliffe's ownership of Manchester United continues to have significant operational impacts, as the club faces a fresh wave of job cuts affecting senior employees. Around 200 members of staff, including some in management roles, were informed over the past week that their positions are at risk amid ongoing restructuring efforts. The Daily Mail reports that some affected staff members have decades-long service and considerable reputation within the club, and that decisions on certain redundancies remain provisional pending challenges from staff representatives.

This latest round of layoffs follows a series of previous cuts since Ratcliffe's takeover, which have seen roughly 450 employees, more than a third of the original workforce, lose their jobs. These reductions stem from Ratcliffe's warning last month that Manchester United could face bankruptcy by Christmas if urgent financial measures were not taken to curb ongoing losses.

The scouting department has been particularly hard hit, with long-serving director of scouting Steve Brown departing the club after nine years. Further departures in this area are expected to be announced in the near future.

In addition to operational changes, Manchester United's transfer and player situation remains fluid. Despite speculations linking goalkeeper Andre Onana with a move to Saudi Pro League's newly promoted Neom, insiders suggest such a transfer is unlikely this summer. Neom would face stiff competition from European clubs for Onana, who is intent on succeeding at Old Trafford after a mixed season. Manager Ruben Amorim is prioritising reinforcements in outfield positions during the transfer window.

Veteran goalkeeper Tom Heaton's future at the club is also under reconsideration. Previously expected to leave as a free agent, Heaton is now in talks over a potential 12-month contract extension to serve as United’s third-choice keeper. This decision comes amid uncertainty over second-choice keeper Altay Bayindir's future and a desire to retain experienced squad members.

The club also recently experienced notable traffic in player agent activities, with Marcus Rashford’s brother and agent Dwaine Maynard spotted at Manchester City's stadium during a recent Premier League match. Rashford, currently on loan at Aston Villa, has expressed a preference to join a Champions League club if Villa do not make his move permanent, though London clubs remain unlikely destinations. The presence of Rashford's representative at a City game sparked speculation about a possible move across Manchester, though no discussions have been publicly confirmed.

Injury updates provide some optimism, with young winger Amad Diallo expected to return to first-team training soon following ankle surgery, and Diogo Dalot potentially making a comeback before the season's end despite a recent calf injury. Diallo’s return could bolster the squad ahead of the Europa League semi-final second leg against Athletic Club.

On the transfer radar, Manchester United continues to monitor emerging talents such as River Plate's 17-year-old midfielder Franco Mastantuono, who recently scored a remarkable 30-yard free-kick in a Superclasico victory over Boca Juniors. Mastantuono is drawing interest from top European clubs including Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain. River Plate is working to secure the teenager on a new contract amid this attention.

Alejandro Garnacho has emerged as a critical player for United this season, having featured in 52 matchday squads, only behind Casemiro. Despite early season challenges and a temporary exclusion from the squad in December, Garnacho has since become a reliable performer under Amorim, contributing significantly in goals and assists.

The club has also dealt with financial challenges beyond the pitch. Following Ineos’ decision to withdraw funding, a black hole of £40,000 was created for the Association of Former Manchester United Players (AFMUP). A recent tribute dinner honouring former striker Andy Cole, held at Old Trafford’s Manchester Suite, helped alleviate some of this shortfall. The event, which marked the AFMUP’s 40th anniversary, featured notable attendees including Sir Alex Ferguson, Gary Neville, and current players such as Jonny Evans. Proceeds from ticket sales and an auction supported the AFMUP and associated charities.

Looking ahead to Manchester United’s upcoming Europa League semi-final fixtures, the club is making efforts to show cultural respect while competing in the Basque Country. Opponents Athletic Club are known for their regional Basque identity and player policy. United’s squad has been advised to refer to their hosts as Athletic Club rather than Athletic Bilbao. The club is also navigating UEFA's protocols regarding accommodations for the semi-final and potential final matches, with final hotel and training facility designations to be made by UEFA next month.

In terms of tactics, manager Ruben Amorim fielded a strong lineup at Bournemouth, partly because the opposition plays a style analogous to Athletic Club’s. However, captain Bruno Fernandes emphasised that Thursday's European fixture will require a different approach.

Among players to watch for Athletic is winger Nico Williams, who scored the opening goal for Spain in the Euro 2024 final against England. Williams is expected to feature despite a recent groin injury. Premier League clubs including Arsenal and Chelsea have shown interest in the 22-year-old, whose representatives reportedly demand a weekly salary in excess of £400,000 should he transfer this summer.

Manchester United has also been contending with an increase in fake social media accounts impersonating players, particularly affecting academy and women’s team members. The club continues efforts to verify official pages and take action against impersonators amid changes in social media platform policies.

On the player development front, Blackburn Rovers are interested in acquiring Dan Gore, a midfielder from United’s 2022 FA Youth Cup-winning squad. Gore is anticipated to depart Old Trafford this summer after seven years with the club. He has recently returned from injury and resumed competitive play on loan at Rotherham United.

United's Under 21 team remains active in the Premier League 2 play-offs, having advanced to face West Ham United in the quarter-finals. Their progress keeps hopes alive for further youth success as they aim to challenge top PL2 teams including Manchester City.

Finally, Manchester United Women have been confirmed as one of the inaugural participants in the World Sevens Football tournament, scheduled for May 21-23 in Estoril, Portugal. The event will feature fast-paced seven-a-side football and is set to be broadcast by DAZN. Marc Skinner, head coach of the women’s team, expressed excitement about the opportunity and highlighted the team’s current focus on domestic competitions before travelling to Portugal.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2025/feb/12/sir-jim-ratcliffe-manchester-united-job-cuts-ineos> - This piece discusses Sir Jim Ratcliffe's belief that the latest round of job cuts, affecting about 200 employees, is necessary to help Manchester United avoid bankruptcy, following £300 million in losses over the past three years.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2025/feb/11/manchester-united-jim-ratcliffe-redundancies> - This article details Sir Jim Ratcliffe's plan to make another 200 redundancies at Manchester United, part of a bid to counteract the club’s £300 million loss over the past three years.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/article/2024/jul/05/sir-jim-ratcliffe-cuts-250-jobs-to-save-manchester-united-about-10m-a-year> - This report covers Sir Jim Ratcliffe's decision to cut 250 jobs at Manchester United, which caused shock among employees and is expected to save about £10 million annually.
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