# Ibrahim Fullah’s academy‑to‑first‑team leap underlines Charlton’s youth pathway after eye‑catching Carabao Cup showing



Ibrahim Fullah emerged as the clear protagonist in Charlton Athletic’s comfortable 3–1 Carabao Cup victory over Stevenage at The Valley, converting a composed academy-crafted move to put the hosts in control. Miles Leaburn opened the scoring before Fullah’s finish from a Henry Rylah cross, and Luke Berry added a late third after Lewis Freestone’s consolation for Stevenage. Contemporary match reporting framed the result as a confident display by a largely rotated Charlton XI.

The goal represented a memorable first full professional start for the 18‑year‑old Lewisham‑born midfielder, who lasted 82 minutes and impressed with assured control and calm decision‑making throughout. Observers noted the strike came as part of a slick sequence underlined by the academy’s emphasis on inter‑play and movement; Fullah’s earlier first‑team involvement had been a brief late cameo against Burton Albion at the end of last season. Live coverage and post‑match summaries highlighted the youngster’s seamless transition from academy outings to senior competition.

Manager Nathan Jones was in no doubt about the eye‑catching nature of Fullah’s performance. Speaking after the tie, Jones praised the teenager’s energy and self‑belief, saying he displayed a “lack of fear—almost disrespect to the opposition,” while adding that “he can be a top footballer if he continues to work hard.” The manager also emphasised the player’s demeanour off the pitch, stressing that the youngster balances confidence with respect. Club comment and match commentary underlined that Fullah was one of several academy graduates to seize an opportunity on the night.

That upward trajectory is now tied to a recent contract decision: Charlton announced in April 2025 that Fullah had signed a new long‑term deal, a progression the club linked back to his development after joining the academy at under‑10 level. The club framed the signing as confirmation of the pathway it promotes from youth teams to the first team, noting his prior professional contract from April 2024 and citing his goal and assist records at academy level as indicators of potential. Charlton’s academy staff have publicly praised his athleticism, quality and attitude in training.

Jones’ selection for the cup tie underlined his willingness to rotate: he made extensive changes to the side, handing starts to numerous young players and using the tie to test squad depth ahead of league commitments. Match reports and live commentary recorded the substitutions and minutes, and placed the result in the context of early‑season preparation — an opportunity to blend experience with emerging talent while maintaining competitive standards. Sky Sports and other coverage treated the evening as useful preparation for the weeks ahead.

The night did not pass without a hiccup for the visitors: Stevenage’s party encountered travel difficulties on arrival at The Valley, with their team bus unable to negotiate the tight approach and manager Alex Revell reportedly leading the players on a short walk into the ground. That awkward prelude contrasted with Stevenage’s on‑field response, which produced a late reply through Lewis Freestone but ultimately could not overturn Charlton’s control.

Beyond the scoreline the match carried emotional resonance for the club’s supporters. The tie fell on what would have been the 44th birthday of superfan Seb Lewis, who died during the Covid pandemic; he is remembered at The Valley for an extraordinary run of 1,076 consecutive matches between February 1998 and 2020. Supporters and family recollections — including an anecdote from his brother Ollie about Seb once hiding near a training ground to avoid missing a game — were prominent in coverage of the evening and in the club’s own memorial initiatives that followed his passing.

For Charlton, the evening offered both a result and a reminder of the return on investment in its academy. Industry coverage and the club’s own commentary pointed to the victory as evidence that youngsters can be integrated without undermining competitiveness, and that contract renewals for graduates like Fullah are part of a deliberate strategy to nurture home‑grown talent. If Fullah builds on this start and sustains the attitude praised by coaching staff, the consensus among observers is that he could become a regular contributor to the senior side.

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* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo), [[5]](https://www.skysports.com/football/charlton-athletic-vs-stevenage/live/534883), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/sport/soccer/charlton-ease-past-stevenage-at-the-valley-H6ONOXY46NIE5LLPLTZ4HGGMEU/), [[3]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/jones-im-really-happy-result)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo), [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo), [[3]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/jones-im-really-happy-result), [[5]](https://www.skysports.com/football/charlton-athletic-vs-stevenage/live/534883)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo), [[3]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/jones-im-really-happy-result), [[4]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/ibrahim-fullah-pens-new-long-term-contract)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/ibrahim-fullah-pens-new-long-term-contract)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/jones-im-really-happy-result), [[5]](https://www.skysports.com/football/charlton-athletic-vs-stevenage/live/534883), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/sport/soccer/charlton-ease-past-stevenage-at-the-valley-H6ONOXY46NIE5LLPLTZ4HGGMEU/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo), [[5]](https://www.skysports.com/football/charlton-athletic-vs-stevenage/live/534883), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/sport/soccer/charlton-ease-past-stevenage-at-the-valley-H6ONOXY46NIE5LLPLTZ4HGGMEU/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo), [[7]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/view/614069422d099/seb-lewis-memorial-to-be-unveiled-ahead-of-portsmouth-game)
* Paragraph 8 – [[4]](https://www.charltonafc.com/news/ibrahim-fullah-pens-new-long-term-contract), [[5]](https://www.skysports.com/football/charlton-athletic-vs-stevenage/live/534883), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/sport/soccer/charlton-ease-past-stevenage-at-the-valley-H6ONOXY46NIE5LLPLTZ4HGGMEU/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c5ykpgp0jkpo> - Ibrahim Fullah was the standout in Charlton Athletic’s 3–1 Carabao Cup win over Stevenage at The Valley, marking his first professional start with a composed goal from a Henry Rylah cross. The 18‑year‑old, born in Lewisham, impressed across an 82‑minute outing with assured control and mature decision‑making, after earlier brief involvement as a late substitute against Burton Albion. Manager Nathan Jones praised Fullah’s energy, confidence and lack of fear while emphasising his respectful conduct off the pitch. The evening included travel difficulties for Stevenage’s party arriving at the ground and honoured the memory of superfan Seb Lewis, remembered by supporters.
3. <https://www.charltonafc.com/news/jones-im-really-happy-result> - Charlton Athletic’s official match report reflects on a 3–1 Carabao Cup victory over Stevenage at The Valley, highlighting manager Nathan Jones’ satisfaction after making eleven changes. The piece notes Ibrahim Fullah’s first professional start which produced a goal, and praises several academy players who were given opportunities. Jones emphasised squad depth and commended the youngsters’ performances, calling Fullah energetic and confident. The report outlines match facts including Miles Leaburn and Luke Berry goals, and details the team’s tactical selections and substitutions. It also confirms the tie’s date and venue while directing supporters to CharltonTV and ticket information for future fixtures.
4. <https://www.charltonafc.com/news/ibrahim-fullah-pens-new-long-term-contract> - Charlton Athletic announce that academy prospect Ibrahim Fullah signed a new long‑term contract in April 2025, celebrating his progression through the club’s youth system since joining at under‑10 level. The article records his goal and assist tallies for academy teams and quotes Academy Director Steve Avory and manager Nathan Jones praising his athleticism, quality and attitude. It recalls Fullah’s earlier first professional contract in April 2024 and describes his influence in training and matches. The club frames Fullah as a home‑grown talent who epitomises Charlton’s academy philosophy and encourages supporters to back the academy via the Valley Gold scheme initiative.
5. <https://www.skysports.com/football/charlton-athletic-vs-stevenage/live/534883> - Sky Sports’ match coverage of Charlton’s Carabao Cup first‑round win over Stevenage at The Valley records a 3–1 final score, with goals from Miles Leaburn, Ibrahim Fullah and Luke Berry. The live commentary and teamsheet confirm Fullah’s involvement as an academy graduate making a notable contribution, and detail Stevenage’s late consolation from Lewis Freestone. Sky Sports provides minute‑by‑minute updates, substitutions and statistics including attendance figures, plus highlights and video clips. The page also lists match officials and includes post‑match analysis, placing the result in the context of Charlton’s broader squad rotation and preparation for forthcoming league fixtures and fan reaction.
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/sport/soccer/charlton-ease-past-stevenage-at-the-valley-H6ONOXY46NIE5LLPLTZ4HGGMEU/> - PA Media’s report, hosted by The Irish News, summarises Charlton Athletic’s comfortable 3–1 Carabao Cup victory over Stevenage at The Valley, noting Miles Leaburn opened the scoring before academy youngster Ibrahim Fullah’s composed finish from a Henry Rylah cross. Luke Berry added a late third while Lewis Freestone replied for Stevenage. The piece highlights Nathan Jones’ extensive squad changes and Fullah’s first professional start, describing his composed performance and goal. It situates the result within Charlton’s early season context and provides a concise match narrative alongside factual match details such as kick‑off time, attendance and brief statistical observations and quotes.
7. <https://www.charltonafc.com/news/view/614069422d099/seb-lewis-memorial-to-be-unveiled-ahead-of-portsmouth-game> - Charlton Athletic’s official announcement details the unveiling of a supporter‑funded memorial mosaic dedicated to Seb Lewis at The Valley, scheduled for September 25th, 2021. The piece recounts Seb’s tragic passing from Covid‑19 on 25 March 2020 and celebrates his remarkable record of attending 1,076 consecutive Charlton matches between 1998 and 2020. It explains the fundraising campaign organised by supporters including Brogue Stevens and Charlton Athletic Supporters Trust, which raised sufficient funds for a mosaic rather than a statue. The article describes the memorial’s planned location opposite Don Welsh’s FA Cup display and acknowledges the family’s blessing for the tribute ceremony.