# Crystal Palace’s FA Cup triumph marred by UEFA ownership clash blocking Europa League spot



As the jubilant sounds of "Glad All Over" echoed through Wembley, it marked a historic moment for Crystal Palace. Their remarkable FA Cup victory against Manchester City not only brought joy to generations of fans but also ignited dreams of European competition for the Eagles. The euphoric state of the win, however, quickly transformed into concern as the implications for European qualification began to unravel.

The victory ensured Crystal Palace would ordinarily take a place in the Europa League next season. However, a complicated situation involving ownership structures threatens to shatter these aspirations. John Textor, an American businessman and the club’s majority shareholder, also holds significant stakes in Lyon, another team that has qualified for the tournament. Compounding the situation, David Blitzer, co-owner of Palace, is involved with Brøndby, who are vying for a spot in the same competition. This conflict of interests highlights the challenges faced by many clubs under shared ownership models, which are increasingly scrutinised for compromising sport's integrity.

UEFA, the governing body overseeing European competitions, has long been wary of multi-club ownership structures, concerned about maintaining fairness amongst competitors. Recent changes to their rules, allowing some flexibility for clubs owned by the same investment groups to compete in different tournaments, provided some hope for Palace. Yet, with both Lyon and Brøndby positioned above Crystal Palace in their respective leagues, the doors leading to European football appear firmly closed. Fate would dictate that Palace’s 12th place finish isn't conducive to the potential European adventure hoped for by fans.

Despite this formidable challenge, Palace may attempt to argue their case based on Textor’s limited operational control over the footballing side of the club, as he only holds 25 per cent of the voting rights. There is also the assertion that he is actively seeking to sell his stake, a claim that fits within the broader narrative of ownership complexities impacting clubs in similar positions. While Textor has voiced hardships related to his influence at Selhurst Park, particularly expressing interest in Everton previously, the likelihood of a rapid divesture seems slim.

It remains to be seen how seriously UEFA will consider Palace's arguments. The governing body has been noted for its lack of willingness to compromise in similar scenarios, and speculation suggests that Textor might need to plead his case directly to UEFA officials. Should Palace find themselves excluded from European competition, it would not only severely dent their credibility but also hinder their recruitment plans. Key players, such as Marc Guehi and Eberechi Eze, whose talents have attracted interest from larger clubs, might reconsider their futures should the allure of European football vanish.

The situation reflects broader issues seen throughout the footballing landscape, notably illustrated by Manchester United's need to establish operational independence within its ownership model to comply with UEFA regulations. Similar manoeuvres have occurred at clubs like Nottingham Forest and Aston Villa. The intertwining of club ownerships and the shifting regulatory landscape illustrates how intricate and fragile football’s operational structures can be.

In its corporate messaging, Textor’s Eagle Football Holdings envisions a collaborative network of clubs designed to leverage synergies and enhance footballing success. However, this overly ambitious model is under threat as the potential for compliance failure looms. As the clock ticks down to critical European competition draws scheduled for June 17, the upcoming decisions could usher in a pivotal chapter in Crystal Palace’s storied history, delineating the path their future will take.

As the anticipation builds, it remains a tense waiting game for Palace supporters, who are hoping for a resolution that aligns with their dream of European involvement.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14773119/Why-Crystal-Palace-kicked-Europe-club-plan-defend-case-impact-key-questions-answered.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/3bdec4c6-62b7-4d28-a125-412c3cd7b006)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14773119/Why-Crystal-Palace-kicked-Europe-club-plan-defend-case-impact-key-questions-answered.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/1c0c9140-c858-4e4e-b3c4-4026765e576c), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/businessman-textor-sell-his-stake-palace-2024-05-24/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/crystal-palace-co-owner-hits-out-premier-league-financial-rules-2024-03-01/), [[6]](https://www.espn.com/football/story/_/id/37973883/uefa-relax-ownership-rules-ac-milan-aston-villa-compete-europe)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/businessman-textor-sell-his-stake-palace-2024-05-24/), [[6]](https://www.espn.com/football/story/_/id/37973883/uefa-relax-ownership-rules-ac-milan-aston-villa-compete-europe), [[7]](https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/37637187/uefa-president-hints-softening-multi-club-ownership-rule)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14773119/Why-Crystal-Palace-kicked-Europe-club-plan-defend-case-impact-key-questions-answered.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ft.com/content/3bdec4c6-62b7-4d28-a125-412c3cd7b006), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/1c0c9140-c858-4e4e-b3c4-4026765e576c)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14773119/Why-Crystal-Palace-kicked-Europe-club-plan-defend-case-impact-key-questions-answered.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/crystal-palace-co-owner-hits-out-premier-league-financial-rules-2024-03-01/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14773119/Why-Crystal-Palace-kicked-Europe-club-plan-defend-case-impact-key-questions-answered.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/businessman-textor-sell-his-stake-palace-2024-05-24/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14773119/Why-Crystal-Palace-kicked-Europe-club-plan-defend-case-impact-key-questions-answered.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/3bdec4c6-62b7-4d28-a125-412c3cd7b006> - This article discusses the challenges faced by Olympique Lyonnais owner John Textor, who is also the majority shareholder at Crystal Palace. It highlights the scrutiny of multi-club ownership models by regulators and fans, with concerns about club independence and the integrity of the sport. Despite financial difficulties at Lyon, Textor believes that his network of clubs will resolve these issues through various fundraising measures. The article also notes the significant debt at Lyon and the skepticism from local auditors and lawmakers regarding the multi-club strategy.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/1c0c9140-c858-4e4e-b3c4-4026765e576c> - This piece reports on John Textor's decision to sell his 40% stake in Crystal Palace. It details his acquisition of the stake in 2021 and his involvement in the Eagle Football multi-club network. The article mentions that Textor shares equal voting rights with the club's other directors and has not achieved full ownership. It also discusses his plans to reinvest any proceeds, possibly including interests in other clubs like Everton, and acknowledges the club's rise to 10th place in the Premier League under coach Oliver Glasner.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/crystal-palace-co-owner-hits-out-premier-league-financial-rules-2024-03-01/> - This article covers John Textor's criticism of the Premier League's financial sustainability rules, introduced in 2013. Textor argues that these regulations favour established 'big six' clubs and limit the ability of smaller clubs, like Crystal Palace, to compete by restricting spending. He expressed these views at the Financial Times Business of Football summit, highlighting the unfairness of the rules and the potential points deduction for Nottingham Forest due to PSR breaches.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/businessman-textor-sell-his-stake-palace-2024-05-24/> - This report details John Textor's announcement to sell his 45% stake in Crystal Palace through Eagle Football Holdings. It mentions his majority stakes in other clubs, including Lyon, Botafogo, and RWD Molenbeek. Textor acknowledges that his integrated model at Eagle is not ideal for Crystal Palace, suggesting that the club's independence and sustainability are better served without his involvement. He also expresses pride in contributing to Palace's resurgence, including their rise to 10th place in the Premier League under coach Oliver Glasner.
6. <https://www.espn.com/football/story/_/id/37973883/uefa-relax-ownership-rules-ac-milan-aston-villa-compete-europe> - This article reports on UEFA's decision to relax its rules on multi-club ownership, allowing clubs like AC Milan, Aston Villa, and others to compete in European competitions. It details the significant changes implemented by the clubs and their investors to comply with UEFA's multi-club ownership rule. The article also mentions the restrictions imposed, such as prohibiting player transfers between the clubs until September 2024 and not allowing shared scouting databases.
7. <https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/37637187/uefa-president-hints-softening-multi-club-ownership-rule> - This piece discusses UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin's comments on potentially softening the multi-club ownership rule. Ceferin suggests that UEFA is considering a review of its regulations that prevent clubs with related ownership from participating in the same competition, such as the Champions League. The article highlights the implications for clubs like Manchester United, whose owners have interests in other clubs, and the potential impact on future takeovers and investments in European football.