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EVALUATING CHELSEA FOOTBALL CLUB'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE BLUECO ERA RELATIVE TO ELITE EUROPEAN CLUBS USING EXPLORATORY DESCRIPTIVE ANALYTICS

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ABSTRACT

The acquisition of Chelsea Football Club by the BlueCo consortium in May 2022 marked one of the most significant ownership transitions in modern football, accompanied by substantial financial investment and expectations of sustained sporting success. This study evaluates Chelsea FC's competitive performance during the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26) relative to eleven elite European clubs: Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United, Manchester City, Arsenal, Liverpool, AC Milan, Inter Milan, and Napoli. Using a quantitative exploratory descriptive analytics framework, league data from Europe's top five football leagues were collected, pre-processed, and transformed into season-level performance indicators. Key metrics included league position, points, points per game (PPG), wins, draws, losses, goals scored (GA), goals conceded (GF), and goal difference (GD). Chelsea's BlueCo-era performance was also compared with its pre-acquisition period (2018/19 - 2021/22). Results revealed that Chelsea consistently underperformed relative to the selected elite clubs. Chelsea recorded the lowest average league position (8.00) and the lowest PPG (1.50), compared with Barcelona (1.25, 2.34), Bayern Munich (1.50, 2.31), PSG (1.00, 2.30), and Real Madrid (1.75, 2.26). Chelsea also registered one of the lowest attacking outputs (59.25 GA per season) and jointly the weakest defensive record (51.25 GF per season), compared with Barcelona (86.50, 34.75), Bayern Munich (101.75, 37.75), PSG (84.00, 34.25), and Inter Milan (82.00, 33.50). Historical comparisons further demonstrated declines in points accumulation, league position, win frequency, goal difference, and overall competitive consistency following the acquisition. Despite transfer expenditure exceeding £1.5 billion, Chelsea's sporting outcomes remained substantially below those of Europe's leading clubs. These findings provide empirical evidence of measurable performance regression during the BlueCo era and contribute to the literature on football analytics, club ownership transitions, and performance evaluation.

Keywords: Football Analytics, Exploratory Descriptive Analytics, European Football, League Performance, Sports Analytics.

1. Introduction

The Professional football has evolved into a highly competitive global industry where sporting success is increasingly intertwined with financial investment, organizational governance, and strategic management. The commercialization of football has transformed clubs into complex business entities whose performance is evaluated not only by trophies and league standings but also through various sporting and economic indicators (Abdelmawla *et al.,* 2026; Garcia-del-Barrio *et al.,* 2025; Andreff, 2007; Szymanski, 2010). Consequently, changes in club ownership often attract considerable attention from researchers, practitioners, and supporters (fans) because of their potential influence on competitive performance, financial sustainability, and long-term strategic development.

Among Europe's elite football institutions, Chelsea Football Club has established itself as one of the most successful clubs of the modern era. Since the early 2000s, Chelsea has consistently competed at the highest levels of domestic and international football, winning multiple Premier League titles, domestic cup competitions, and two UEFA Champions League trophies. Under previous ownership structures, the club developed a reputation for sustained competitiveness, frequently qualifying for European competitions and maintaining a position among the strongest teams in England and Europe (Middling *et al.,* 2026; Wilson *et al.,* 2013). Alongside clubs such as Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United (Man Utd), Manchester City (Man City), Arsenal, Liverpool, AC Milan, Inter Milan, and Napoli, Chelsea became recognized as a member of the European football elite. In May 2022, Chelsea entered a new chapter following its acquisition by BlueCo, a consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital for £4.5 billion (BBC Sport, 2022). The acquisition represented one of the most significant ownership transitions in contemporary football and was accompanied by substantial expectations regarding sporting success, squad modernization, and organizational transformation. Since the takeover, Chelsea has invested heavily in player acquisitions, spending over £1.5 billion in the transfer market while simultaneously implementing extensive squad restructuring and managerial changes (Kinsella, 2026; Butler, 2025). Despite these investments, however, the club has experienced inconsistent league performances, frequent managerial turnover, and a noticeable decline in competitive outcomes relative to both its historical standards and those of Europe's leading clubs. The relationship between financial expenditure and sporting success has been widely debated within sports economics and football analytics literature. While increased investment may improve team quality and performance, empirical evidence suggests that financial spending alone does not guarantee sustained success (Hall *et al.,* 2002; Franck, 2014). Team performance is influenced by a complex interaction of managerial effectiveness, player recruitment strategies, organizational stability, tactical implementation, and competitive balance within leagues (Peeters & Szymanski, 2014; UEFA, 2024). Consequently, ownership changes and large-scale financial investments may produce varying outcomes depending on how effectively resources are managed and integrated into the club's broader sporting strategy.

Recent advances in football analytics have significantly expanded the use of statistical and data-driven techniques for evaluating team and player performance (Ohakwe *et al.,* 2026). Traditional performance indicators, including league position, points accumulation, points per game (PPG), goals scored, goals conceded, goal difference, and win percentage, continue to provide robust measures of competitive success and have been widely employed in comparative performance analyses (Gama *et al.,* 2026; Jung & Jung, 2025; Liu *et al.,* 2016; Lago-Peñas & Dellal, 2010). More recently, football analytics has evolved to incorporate advanced metrics such as expected goals (xG), expected goals against (xGA), expected threat (xT), possession value models, player tracking data, and machine learning algorithms for match outcome prediction, tactical analysis, player recruitment, and performance forecasting (Cefis & Carpita, 2025). These developments have considerably improved the ability to quantify team effectiveness and decision-making in elite football. Nevertheless, exploratory descriptive analytics remains an important analytical approach because it provides transparent benchmarking of competitive performance across clubs and seasons without imposing predictive or causal assumptions. Consequently, it is particularly appropriate for studies aimed at identifying longitudinal performance patterns and comparative trends rather than establishing causal relationships.

Although considerable attention has been devoted to football finance, competitive balance, player valuation, and match performance, relatively little research has systematically examined the sporting performance of elite clubs following major ownership transitions using longitudinal comparative performance indicators. Existing studies have predominantly focused on financial governance, transfer expenditure, player valuation, or predictive modelling, whereas comparatively fewer investigations have benchmarked post-acquisition competitive performance against both historical performance and elite European counterparts (Middling *et al.*, 2026). This represents an important gap in the football analytics literature.

From a theoretical perspective, ownership transitions may influence sporting performance through changes in governance structures, financial resource allocation, recruitment strategies, managerial appointments, organizational stability, and long-term sporting objectives. However, sporting outcomes are simultaneously influenced by numerous interacting factors, including coaching effectiveness, squad quality, injuries, tactical implementation, fixture congestion, and league competitiveness. Consequently, the present study does not seek to establish a causal relationship between ownership transition and sporting performance. Rather, it provides a comprehensive descriptive assessment of Chelsea FC's competitive performance during the BlueCo era relative to its pre-acquisition performance and selected elite European clubs. This descriptive benchmarking establishes an empirical foundation upon which future inferential and predictive studies may build.

Against this backdrop, the present study investigates the extent to which Chelsea Football Club's performance has changed during the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26). Using exploratory descriptive analytics, the study compares Chelsea's performance with that of eleven elite European clubs: Bayern Munich, PSG, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Man Utd, Man City, Arsenal, Liverpool, AC Milan, Inter Milan, and Napoli. Performance is assessed using key sporting indicators including league position, points accumulation, points per game, wins, draws, losses, goals scored, goals conceded, and goal difference. Furthermore, Chelsea's BlueCo-era performance is contrasted with its pre-acquisition performance to determine whether measurable regression has occurred.

The primary objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive descriptive assessment of Chelsea Football Club's competitive performance during the BlueCo era relative to its pre-acquisition performance and selected elite European clubs. By benchmarking Chelsea against Europe's most successful clubs and evaluating trends before and after the ownership transition, this study contributes to the growing literature on football analytics, sports management, organizational change, and performance evaluation within professional football. The findings are expected to provide valuable insights for football executives, analysts, researchers, and stakeholders interested in understanding how ownership transitions influence competitive outcomes in elite sport.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Research Design

This study employed a quantitative exploratory descriptive research design to evaluate Chelsea Football Club's competitive performance during the BlueCo ownership era relative to selected elite European football clubs. Exploratory descriptive analytics was adopted because the primary objective of the study was to identify, summarize, visualize, and compare performance trends rather than develop predictive models or establish causal relationships. This approach allows for the systematic examination of football performance indicators across multiple seasons and clubs, providing an objective assessment of Chelsea's sporting trajectory following the acquisition of the club by BlueCo in May 2022.

The study focused on comparing Chelsea Football Club's performance during the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26) with both its pre-acquisition performance and the contemporary performance of elite European clubs competing in Europe's top five leagues.

2.2 Data Source

The dataset consisted of match-level football records obtained from the five major European football leagues: the English Premier League (EPL), Spanish La Liga, German Bundesliga, Italian Serie A, and French Ligue 1. The data covered league matches from the 1993/94 to the 2025/26 season and included information on match dates, participating teams, match outcomes, goals scored, goals conceded, and other performance-related variables. For cross-club comparisons, only observations from the 2022/23 to 2025/26 seasons were analysed, while Chelsea's performance between the 2018/19 and 2021/22 seasons was used as the pre-BlueCo benchmark. The final dataset comprised Chelsea FC, Manchester City, Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), AC Milan, Inter Milan, and Napoli. These clubs were selected because they are widely recognized as elite European clubs based on their sustained domestic and international success, regular participation in UEFA competitions, historical competitive performance, and representation of the major top 5 European football leagues (UEFA, 2024).

2.3 Study Variables

To evaluate club performance, several commonly used football performance indicators were considered.

2.3.1 Performance indicators

League Position (Position).

League position represents a club's final ranking at the end of each season and serves as the primary measure of competitive success.

Points (PTS): Points accumulated during a season based on the standard football scoring system:

$$\text{Points} = 3(\text{Wins}) + 1(\text{Draws}) + 0(\text{Loss}) \quad (1)$$

Points Per Game (PPG): Points per game were used to standardize performance across leagues with different numbers of fixtures.

$$PPG = PTS/MP \quad (2)$$

where: MP represents the total number of matches played.

Goals Scored (GF): Total goals scored during a season, representing attacking effectiveness.

$$GF = Total\ Goals\ Scored \quad (3)$$

Goals Conceded (GA): Total goals conceded during a season, representing defensive performance.

$$GA = Total\ Goals\ Conceded \quad (4)$$

Goal Difference (GD): Goal difference measures the balance between attacking and defensive performance.

$$\text{GD} = \text{GF} - \text{GA} \quad (5)$$

Wins (W): Total number of matches won during a season.

$$W = Total\ Number\ of\ Matches\ Won \quad (6)$$

Draws (D): Total number of matches ending in a draw.

$$D = Total\ Number\ of\ Draws \quad (7)$$

Losses (L): Total number of matches lost during a season.

$$L = Total\ Number\ of\ Matches\ Loss \quad (8)$$

2.4 Data Preparation (Data Preprocessing and Feature Engineering)

The raw match-level data were subjected to a systematic data validation and preprocessing procedure prior to analysis to ensure accuracy, completeness, and consistency. The dataset was first examined for missing observations, duplicate records, inconsistent team names, season identifiers, and erroneous match entries. No missing observations were identified for the variables included in this study, while duplicate records and any inconsistencies in naming conventions were removed and standardized to maintain data integrity. The validated match-level data were then aggregated into season-level performance summaries for each club. Derived performance metrics, including points

per game (PPG), goal difference (GD), average league position, and win rate, were subsequently calculated. Chelsea's seasons were further classified into two analytical periods: the pre-BlueCo era (2018/19 - 2021/22) and the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26). All data validation, preprocessing, feature engineering, descriptive analyses, and visualisations were conducted in Python using the Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, Seaborn, and SciPy libraries.

2.5 Exploratory Descriptive Analytics Framework

The study adopted a three-stage exploratory descriptive analytics framework. Stage 1 benchmarked Chelsea's performance against eleven elite European clubs during the 2022/23 -2025/26 seasons using league position, points, points per game (PPG), goals scored, goals conceded, goal difference, wins, draws, losses, and offensive and defensive performance indicators. Stage 2 compared Chelsea's BlueCo-era performance with the four seasons preceding the acquisition (2018/19 - 2021/22) using the same performance indicators to assess changes in competitive performance following the ownership transition. Stage 3 employed visualisation techniques, including line charts, bar charts, boxplots, scatterplots, heatmaps, and comparative ranking plots, to identify performance trends, competitive patterns, and differences between Chelsea and the selected elite clubs.

2.6 Research Framework

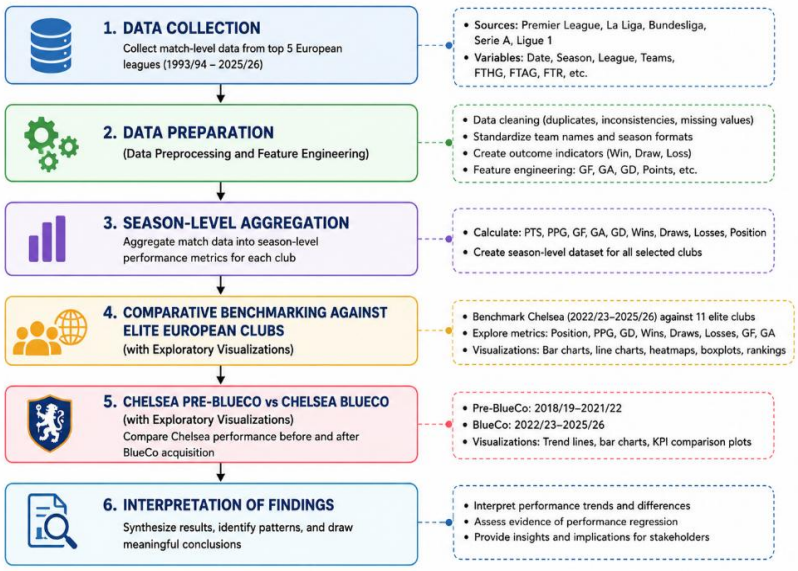


Figure 1: *Research framework.*

This framework from figure 1 provides a comprehensive assessment of whether Chelsea Football Club has experienced measurable competitive regression since the BlueCo acquisition and how such performance compares with Europe's leading football institutions.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Data Preparation (Data Preprocessing and Feature Engineering)

The data used in this study were collected from the official websites of the five major European football leagues: the English Premier League, Spanish La Liga, German Bundesliga, Italian Serie A, and French Ligue 1. Following data acquisition, the individual league datasets were merged into a single consolidated database to enable comprehensive

comparative analyses across leagues and seasons. The resulting dataset comprised match-level information, including season identifiers (season), participating teams (both teams at home and away), home team goals scored (Home Team), away team goals scored (Away Team), and match outcomes (Result). Table 1 presents a detailed description of the variables contained in the combined dataset before data preprocessing and feature engineering.

Table 1: *Original combined data of top 5 European football league.*

S/N	Date	Season	League	Home Team	Away Team	Home Goal	Away Goal	Result
1	1993/8/14	1993-94	EPL	Arsenal	Coventry	0	3	A
2	1993/8/14	1993-94	EPL	Aston Villa	QPR	4	1	H
3	1993/8/14	1993-94	EPL	Chelsea	Blackburn	1	2	A
4	1993/8/14	1993-94	EPL	Liverpool	Sheffield Weds	2	0	H
5	1993/8/14	1993-94	EPL	Man City	Leeds	1	1	D
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55876	2026/5/17	2025-26	Ligue 1	Paris FC	PSG	2	1	H
55877	2026/5/17	2025-26	Ligue 1	Lille	Auxerre	0	2	A
55878	2026/5/17	2025-26	Ligue 1	Brest	Angers	1	1	D
55879	2026/5/17	2025-26	Ligue 1	Lorient	Le Havre	0	2	A
55880	2026/5/17	2025-26	Ligue 1	Strasbourg	Monaco	5	4	H

Following data preprocessing and feature engineering, the analytical dataset was restricted to Chelsea FC and eleven elite European clubs: Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United, Manchester City, Arsenal, Liverpool, AC Milan, Inter Milan, and Napoli. Key season-level performance metrics were then derived, including goals scored (GF), goals conceded (GA), goal difference (GD), total points, and final league position. These variables were subsequently used to evaluate Chelsea's performance relative to Europe's elite clubs and to assess changes before and after the BlueCo acquisition. Table 2 presents the final processed dataset used for analysis.

Table 2: *Data of the elite Europe clubs after data preprocessing and feature engineering.*

S/N	Season	League	Team	Points	GF	GA	GD	Position
1	1993-94	EPL	Man Utd	92	80	38	42	1
2	1993-94	EPL	Arsenal	71	53	28	25	4
3	1993-94	EPL	Liverpool	60	59	55	4	8
4	1993-94	EPL	Chelsea	51	49	53	-4	14
5	1993-94	EPL	Man City	45	38	49	-11	16
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
359	2025-26	Serie A	Inter Milan	87	89	35	54	1
360	2025-26	Serie A	Napoli	76	58	36	22	2
361	2025-26	Serie A	AC Milan	70	53	35	18	5
362	2025-26	La Liga	Barcelona	94	95	36	59	1
363	2025-26	La Liga	Real Madrid	86	77	35	42	2

3.2 Comparative Benchmark against Elite European Clubs

3.2.1 Points per season rankings

Table 3 illustrate the league points accumulated by Chelsea FC and eleven elite European clubs between the 2022/23 and 2025/26 seasons, revealing substantial disparities in competitive performance. Throughout the study period, clubs such as Barcelona, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Arsenal, Manchester City, Inter Milan, and PSG consistently recorded high point totals and remained firmly within title-contending positions, demonstrating sustained excellence

and competitive stability. Barcelona emerged as the strongest-performing club, accumulating 88, 85, 88, and 94 points across the four seasons. Chelsea recorded just 44, 63, 69, and 52 points, making it one of the weakest-performing clubs in the analysis. While modest improvements were observed following the exceptionally poor 2022/23 campaign, the decline to 52 points in 2025/26 suggests that the club failed to establish a sustained upward trajectory. This underperformance is especially noteworthy given that Chelsea was acquired by the BlueCo consortium in May 2022 for approximately £4.25 billion and has since invested over £1.5 billion in player recruitment. Despite these unprecedented financial commitments, Chelsea remained significantly behind both domestic rivals and Europe's leading clubs in terms of points accumulation as seen in Figure 2.

Table 3: *Total points per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	70	75	63	70
2	Arsenal	EPL	84	89	74	85
3	Barcelona	La Liga	88	85	88	94
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	71	72	82	89
5	Chelsea	EPL	44	63	69	52
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	72	94	81	87
7	Liverpool	EPL	67	82	84	60
8	Man City	EPL	89	91	71	78
9	Man Utd	EPL	75	60	42	71
10	Napoli	Serie A	90	53	82	76
11	PSG	Ligue 1	85	76	84	76
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	78	95	84	86

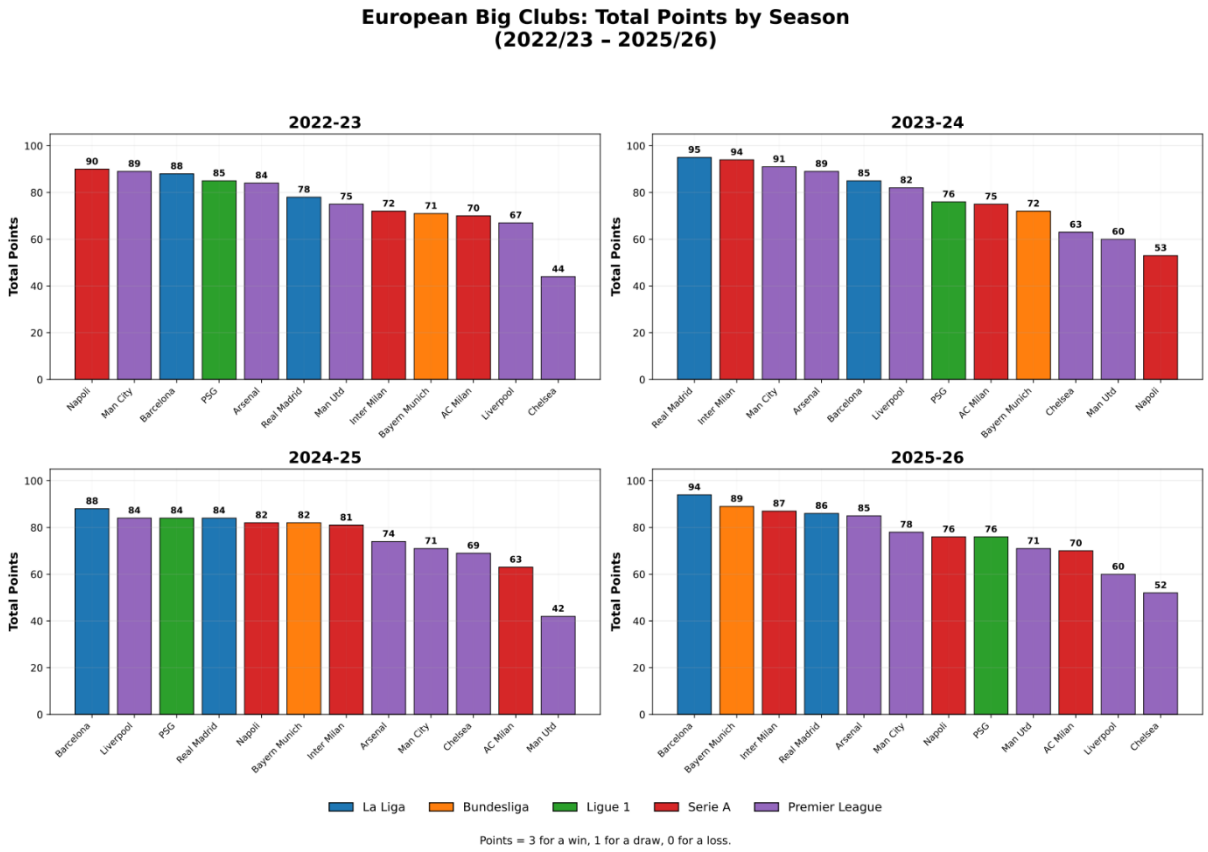


Figure 2: *Bar plots of the points per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.2 League table position per season rankings

Table 4: *League table position per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Average
1	PSG	Ligue 1	1	1	1	1	1.00
2	Barcelona	La Liga	1	2	1	1	1.25
3	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	1	3	1	1	1.50
4	Arsenal	EPL	2	2	2	1	1.75
5	Inter Milan	Serie A	3	1	3	1	1.75
6	Man City	EPL	1	1	3	2	1.75
7	Real Madrid	La Liga	2	1	2	2	1.75
8	Napoli	Serie A	1	9	1	2	3.25
9	Liverpool	EPL	5	3	1	5	3.50
10	AC Milan	Serie A	5	2	8	5	5.00
11	Man Utd	EPL	3	8	15	3	7.25
12	Chelsea	EPL	12	6	4	10	8.00

The league position rankings of Chelsea FC and eleven elite European clubs during the 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons reveal substantial differences in domestic competitiveness and consistency as presented in table 4. Clubs such as PSG, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Arsenal, Inter Milan, Manchester City, and Real Madrid consistently occupied the highest positions in their respective leagues throughout the study period. PSG demonstrated complete dominance by winning the French Ligue 1 title in all four seasons and achieving an average league position of 1.00. Similarly, Barcelona (1.25) and Bayern Munich (1.50) maintained exceptional levels of success, while Arsenal, Inter Milan, Manchester City, and Real Madrid each recorded an average position of 1.75, highlighting their sustained participation in league title races. These results suggest that Europe's elite clubs were able to preserve high-performance standards despite variations in managerial strategies, squad composition, and competitive environments.

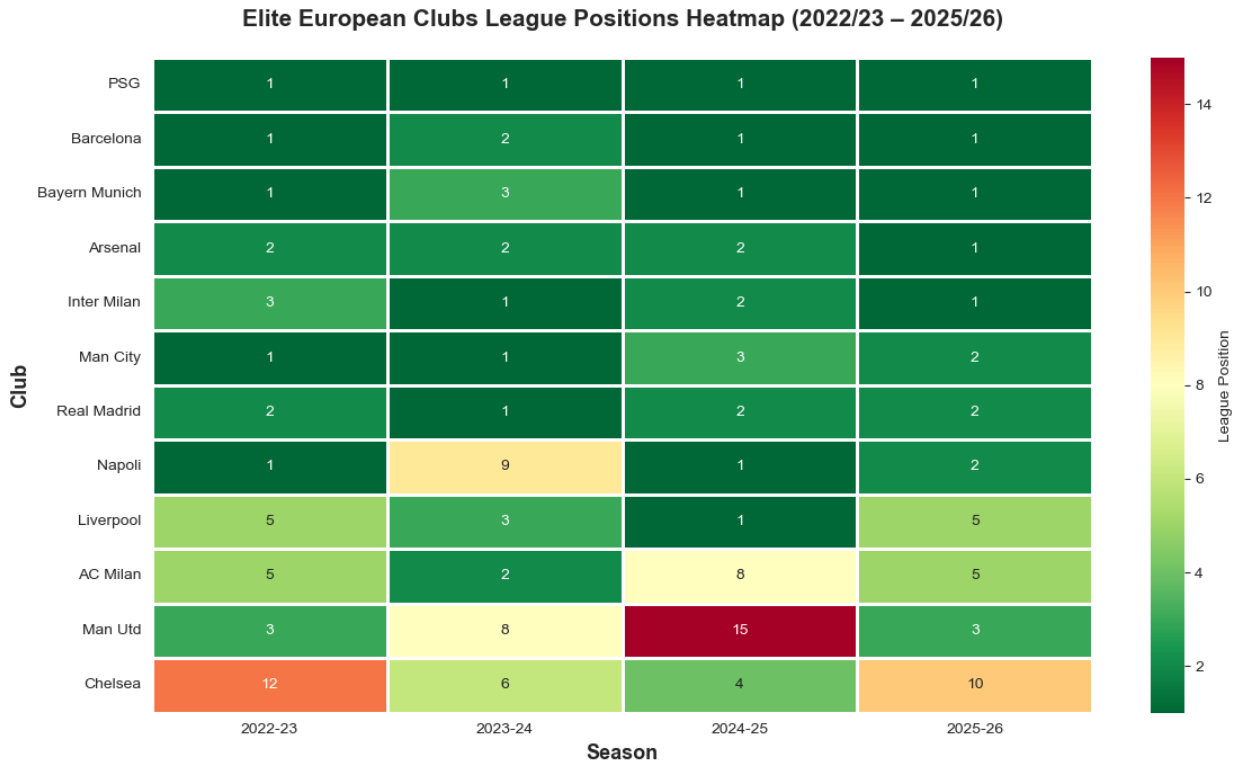


Figure 3: *Heatmap plot of the league table position per season by elite European clubs.*

However, Chelsea recorded league positions of 12th, 6th, 4th, and 10th, resulting in the lowest average league position (8.00) among all clubs included in the analysis. Although the club exhibited signs of recovery during the middle years of the study period, the decline to 10th place in 2025/26 indicates that such improvements were not maintained. The magnitude of this disparity becomes more evident when Chelsea's performance is compared with both domestic rivals and other elite European clubs, all of whom achieved considerably stronger average league positions. Figures 3 and 4 visually reinforce these findings by illustrating the persistent gap between Chelsea and the leading clubs, highlighting a pattern of inconsistency and underperformance that contrasts sharply with the sustained success observed elsewhere.

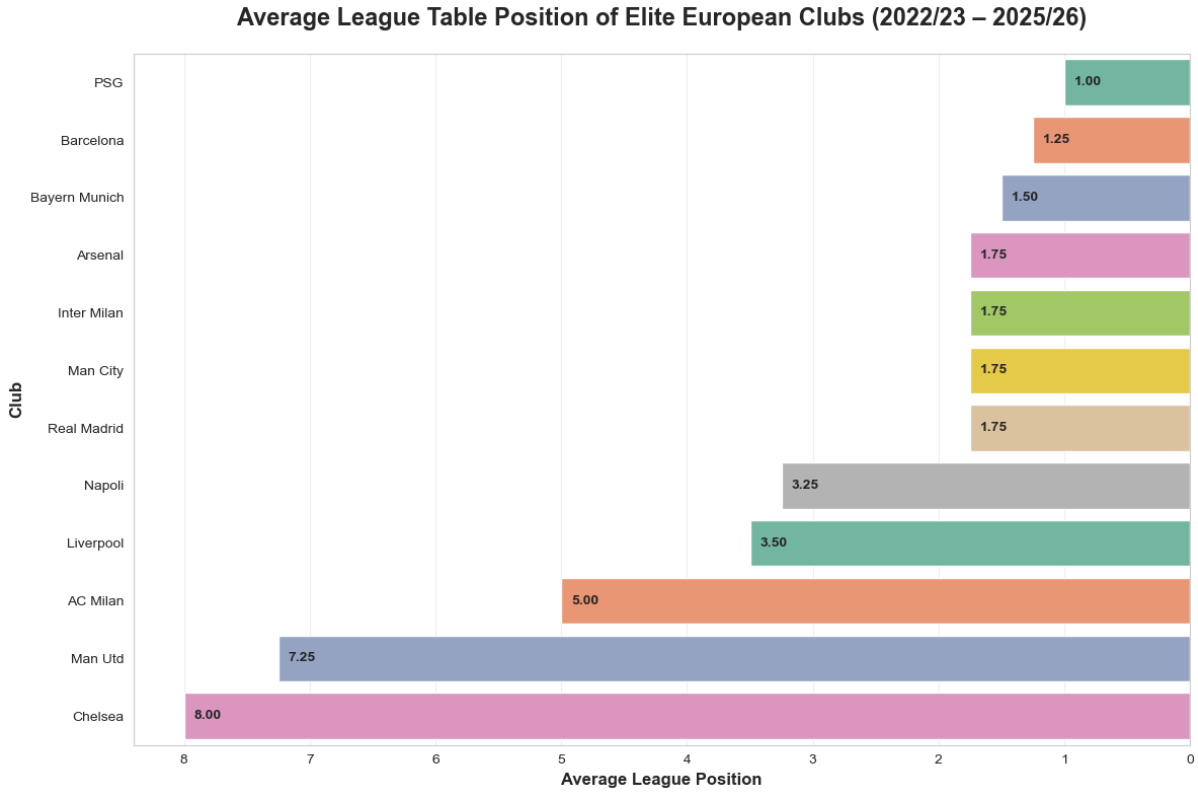


Figure 4: *Bar plot of the average league table position per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.3 Average points per game per season rankings

Table 5: *Average points per game per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	1.842105	1.973684	1.657895	1.842105
2	Arsenal	EPL	2.210526	2.342105	1.947368	2.236842
3	Barcelona	La Liga	2.315789	2.236842	2.315789	2.473684
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	2.088235	2.117647	2.411765	2.617647
5	Chelsea	EPL	1.157895	1.657895	1.815789	1.368421
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	1.894737	2.473684	2.131579	2.289474
7	Liverpool	EPL	1.763158	2.157895	2.210526	1.578947
8	Man City	EPL	2.342105	2.394737	1.868421	2.052632
9	Man Utd	EPL	1.973684	1.578947	1.105263	1.868421
10	Napoli	Serie A	2.368421	1.394737	2.157895	2.000000
11	PSG	Ligue 1	2.236842	2.235294	2.470588	2.235294
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	2.052632	2.500000	2.210526	2.263158

The average points per game (PPG) presented in table 5, achieved by Chelsea FC and eleven elite European clubs between the 2022/23 and 2025/26 seasons provides a standardized measure of competitive performance that accounts for differences in league sizes and fixture schedules. The results indicate that clubs such as Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Real Madrid, PSG, Arsenal, Inter Milan, and Manchester City consistently maintained PPG values above 2.00, reflecting their ability to regularly convert matches into victories and sustain title-challenging campaigns. Bayern Munich demonstrated the strongest improvement over the study period, increasing from 2.09 PPG in 2022/23 to 2.62 PPG in 2025/26, while Barcelona maintained exceptional consistency with values ranging between 2.24 and 2.47. Real Madrid, PSG, Arsenal, and Inter Milan also recorded consistently high PPG values, further highlighting the competitive stability of Europe's leading clubs.

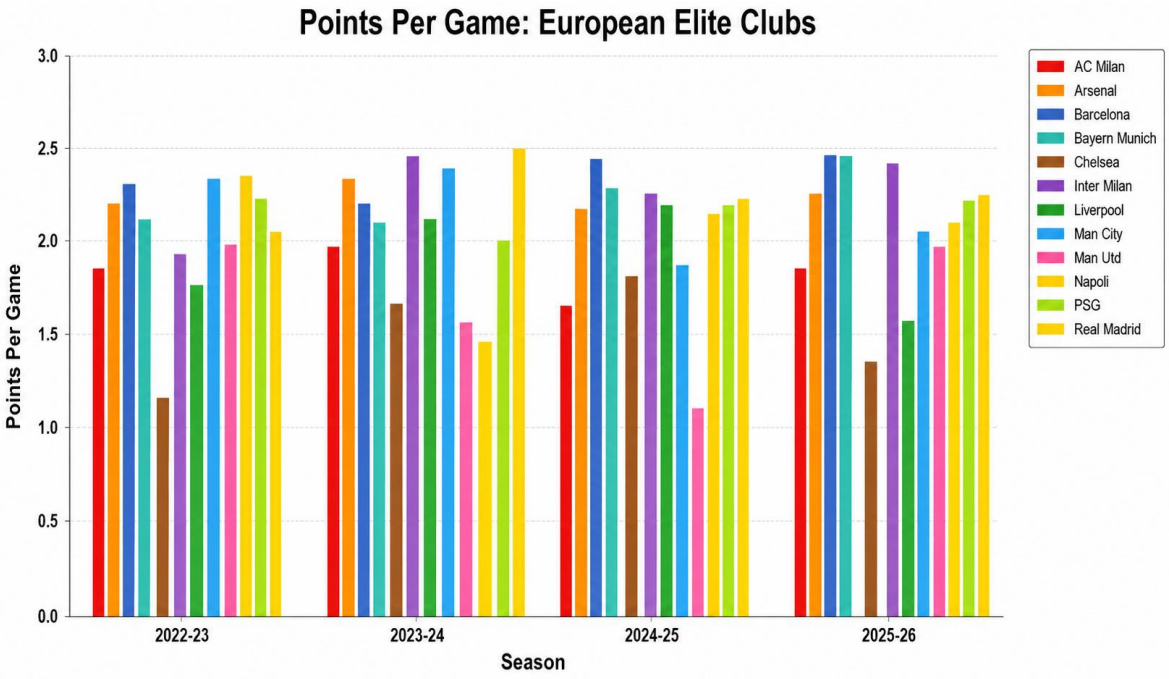


Figure 5: *Multiple bar plot of the average* points per game per season *by elite European clubs.*

As illustrated in Figure 5, Chelsea's performance contrasted sharply with these elite teams, recording PPG values of 1.16, 1.66, 1.82, and 1.37 across the four seasons. Although the club showed some recovery following its particularly poor 2022/23 campaign, the decline observed in 2025/26 suggests that these improvements were not sustained. Throughout the study period, Chelsea consistently lagged behind the leading European clubs and generally performed below competitors such as Liverpool, Napoli, and even Manchester United in several seasons.

3.2.4 Wins per season rankings

The total number of league victories from table 6 recorded by Chelsea FC and eleven elite European clubs between the 2022/23 and 2025/26 seasons provides further insight into their relative competitive strength and consistency. The results reveal that clubs such as Barcelona, Real Madrid, Arsenal, Manchester City, Inter Milan, PSG, and Bayern Munich consistently achieved high win totals throughout the study period, regularly surpassing 20 victories per season and demonstrating their ability to sustain title-challenging performances. Barcelona emerged as the most successful club in terms of wins, recording 28, 26, 28, and 31 victories across the four seasons, while Real Madrid, Arsenal, and Inter Milan also maintained exceptionally strong records. Such consistently high win totals reflect the capacity of these clubs to secure positive results over prolonged periods and remain at the forefront of domestic

competition. In contrast, Chelsea recorded only 11, 18, 20, and 14 victories during the same period, placing the club among the weakest performers in the analysis. As illustrated in Figure 6, although Chelsea experienced some improvement following its poor 2022/23 campaign, the reduction to 14 wins in 2025/26 indicates that these gains were not maintained. The club's win totals remained substantially below those of Europe's leading teams and were often comparable to or lower than those achieved by clubs experiencing their own periods of instability. Given that league success is fundamentally driven by the ability to consistently convert matches into victories, the relatively low number of wins recorded by Chelsea highlights a decline in competitive effectiveness during the BlueCo era and helps explain the club's lower points totals and weaker league positions relative to Europe's elite football clubs.

Table 6: *Total number of matches won per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	20	22	18	20
2	Arsenal	EPL	26	28	20	26
3	Barcelona	La Liga	28	26	28	31
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	21	23	25	24
5	Chelsea	EPL	11	18	20	14
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	23	29	24	27
7	Liverpool	EPL	19	24	25	17
8	Man City	EPL	28	28	21	23
9	Man Utd	EPL	23	18	11	20
10	Napoli	Serie A	28	13	24	23
11	PSG	Ligue 1	27	22	26	24
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	24	29	26	27

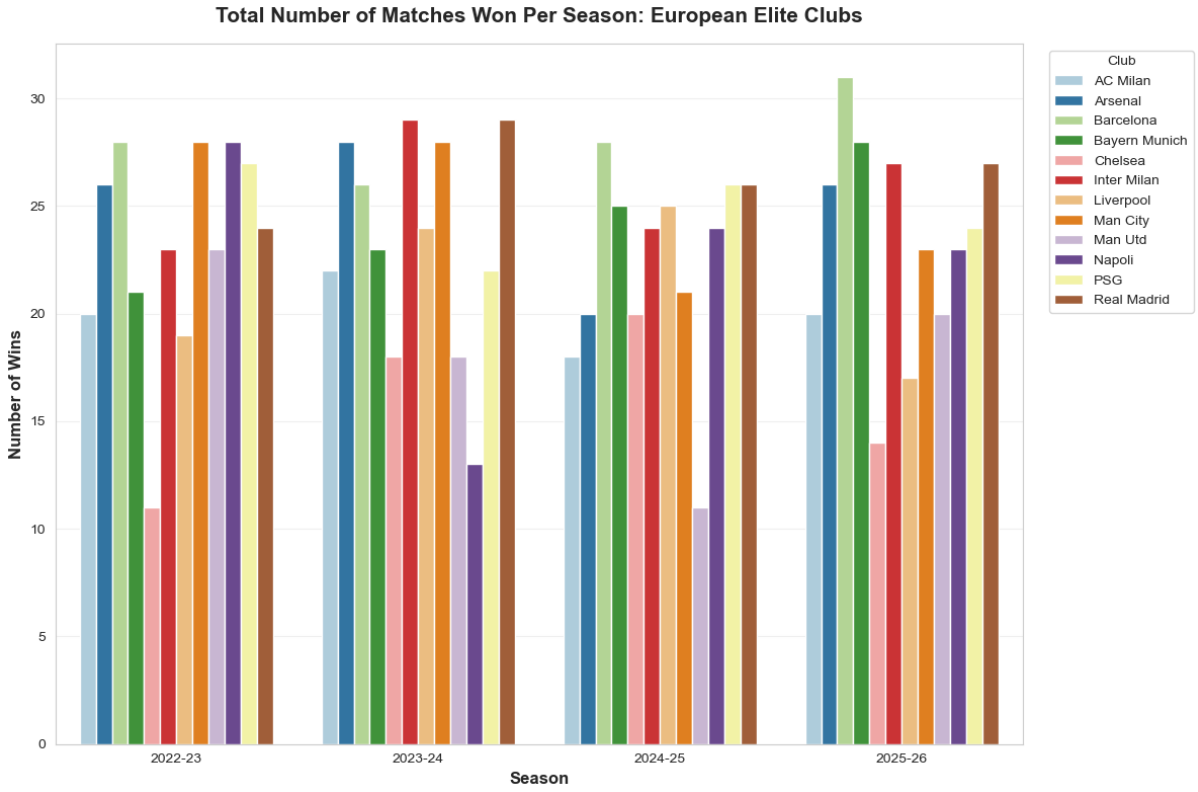


Figure 6: *Multiple bar plot of the total number of matches won per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.5 Draws per season rankings

Table 7: *Total number of draws per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	10	9	9	10
2	Arsenal	EPL	6	5	14	7
3	Barcelona	La Liga	4	7	4	1
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	8	3	7	5
5	Chelsea	EPL	11	9	9	10
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	3	7	9	6
7	Liverpool	EPL	10	10	9	9
8	Man City	EPL	5	7	8	9
9	Man Utd	EPL	6	6	9	11
10	Napoli	Serie A	6	14	10	7
11	PSG	Ligue 1	4	10	6	4
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	6	8	6	5

Table 7 present the total number of draws recorded by the selected elite European clubs during the 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons. The results indicate that Chelsea consistently registered one of the highest draw totals among the clubs examined, recording 11, 9, 9, and 10 draws across the four seasons as represented in Figure 7. Clubs such as Barcelona, PSG, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, and Inter Milan generally maintained lower draw counts, reflecting a greater ability to convert matches into victories and maximize points accumulation. While draws contribute to avoiding defeat, an excessive number of drawn matches can hinder a team's overall competitiveness by reducing opportunities to secure maximum points. The consistently high number of draws recorded by Chelsea, when considered alongside its relatively low points totals, points-per-game values, and league positions, suggests difficulties in turning competitive performances into winning outcomes.

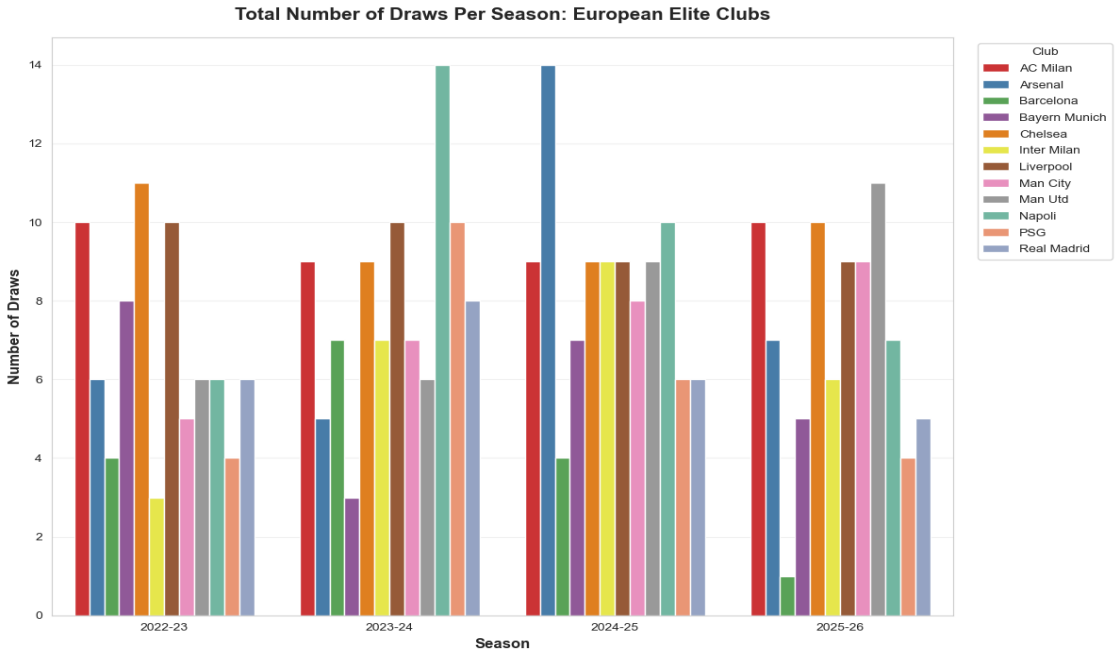


Figure 7: *Multiple bar plot of the total number of draws per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.6 Losses per season rankings

Table 8: *Total number of matches loss per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	8	7	11	8
2	Arsenal	EPL	6	5	4	5
3	Barcelona	La Liga	6	5	6	6
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	5	8	2	1
5	Chelsea	EPL	16	11	9	14
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	12	2	5	5
7	Liverpool	EPL	9	4	4	12
8	Man City	EPL	5	3	9	6
9	Man Utd	EPL	9	14	18	7
10	Napoli	Serie A	4	11	4	8
11	PSG	Ligue 1	7	2	2	6
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	8	1	6	6

Details in table 8 present the total number of league defeats recorded by the selected elite European clubs between the 2022/23 and 2025/26 seasons. An examination of the results reveals that the most successful clubs generally maintained low loss counts throughout the study period, reflecting their ability to consistently avoid defeat and sustain title-challenging performances. Bayern Munich recorded the fewest defeats overall, reducing their losses from five in 2022/23 to only one in 2025/26, while Arsenal, Barcelona, PSG, Real Madrid, Manchester City, and Inter Milan also maintained relatively low loss totals across most seasons. Chelsea recorded 16, 11, 9, and 14 defeats during the respective seasons, representing one of the highest loss frequencies among all clubs considered in the analysis as seen in Figure 8. Although a temporary improvement was observed between 2022/23 and 2024/25, the increase to 14 defeats in 2025/26 indicates a relapse in performance and an inability to maintain competitive stability. Notably, Chelsea's loss totals consistently exceeded those of clubs occupying the top positions in their respective leagues and were surpassed only by Manchester United in certain seasons. The persistence of high defeat rates is particularly significant because losses have a direct negative effect on points accumulation, league position, and overall competitiveness.

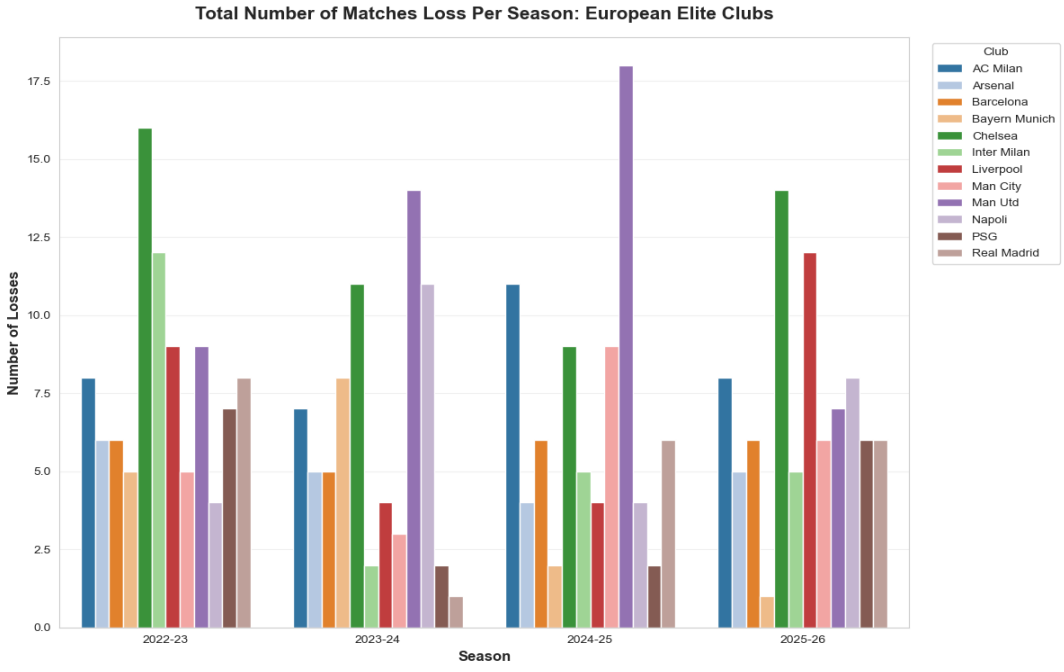


Figure 8: *Multiple bar plot of the total number of matches loss per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.7 Goals scored per season rankings

Table 9: *Total number of goals scored per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	64	76	61	53
2	Arsenal	EPL	88	91	69	71
3	Barcelona	La Liga	70	79	102	95
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	92	94	99	122
5	Chelsea	EPL	38	77	64	58
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	71	89	79	89
7	Liverpool	EPL	75	86	86	63
8	Man City	EPL	94	96	72	77
9	Man Utd	EPL	58	57	44	69
10	Napoli	Serie A	77	55	59	58
11	PSG	Ligue 1	89	81	92	74
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	75	87	78	77

Information in table 9 present the total number of goals scored by the selected elite European clubs during the 2022/23–2025/26 seasons, providing insight into each team's attacking effectiveness. The results reveal substantial differences in offensive productivity across the clubs, with Bayern Munich emerging as the most prolific attacking side, increasing from 92 goals in 2022/23 to an exceptional 122 goals in 2025/26. Barcelona also demonstrated remarkable attacking consistency, scoring 70, 79, 102, and 95 goals across the four seasons, while Manchester City, PSG, Arsenal, Real Madrid, Inter Milan, and Liverpool consistently maintained high goal-scoring outputs. Chelsea recorded 38, 77, 64, and 58 goals during the same period, displaying considerable variability and a generally lower attacking output compared to most elite competitors as presented in Figure 9. Although Chelsea's attack improved significantly in 2023/24, scoring 77 goals, this improvement was not sustained, with goal totals declining in the subsequent two seasons. Notably, Chelsea's 38 goals in 2022/23 represented the lowest offensive output among all clubs included in the analysis, highlighting severe attacking inefficiency during the club's first season under BlueCo ownership. Compared with clubs such as Bayern Munich, Barcelona, Arsenal, Manchester City, PSG, and Inter Milan, Chelsea consistently scored fewer goals, limiting its ability to secure victories and accumulate points.

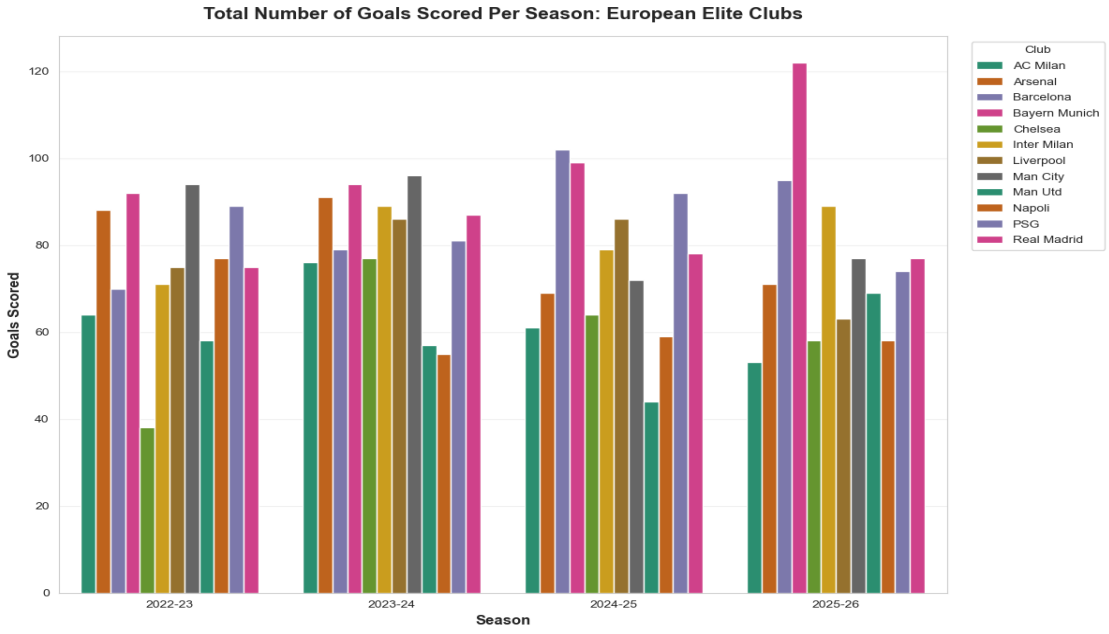


Figure 9: *Multiple bar plot of the total number of goals scored per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.8 Goals conceded per season rankings

Table 10: *Total number of goals conceded per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	43	49	43	35
2	Arsenal	EPL	43	29	34	27
3	Barcelona	La Liga	20	44	39	36
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	38	45	32	36
5	Chelsea	EPL	47	63	43	52
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	42	22	35	35
7	Liverpool	EPL	47	41	41	53
8	Man City	EPL	33	34	44	35
9	Man Utd	EPL	43	58	54	50
10	Napoli	Serie A	28	48	27	36
11	PSG	Ligue 1	40	33	35	29
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	36	26	38	35

Table 10 provides an assessment of the defensive performance of the selected elite European clubs through the total number of goals conceded per season, with lower values indicating stronger defensive stability. The results demonstrate that several clubs consistently maintained robust defensive structures throughout the study period. Arsenal improved markedly from conceding 43 goals in 2022/23 to only 27 goals in 2025/26, while PSG, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, and Napoli also recorded relatively low goals-against figures in most seasons. Barcelona's exceptional defensive performance in 2022/23, where only 20 goals were conceded, further highlights the importance of defensive solidity in achieving league success. Chelsea exhibited considerable defensive inconsistency, conceding 47, 63, 43, and 52 goals across the four seasons which can be seen in Figure 10. The 63 goals conceded in 2023/24 was among the highest recorded by any club in the analysis and reflects significant defensive vulnerabilities. Although Chelsea demonstrated some improvement in 2024/25, the subsequent increase to 52 goals conceded in 2025/26 suggests persistent difficulties in maintaining defensive organization. Compared with title-contending clubs such as Arsenal, PSG, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, and Bayern Munich, Chelsea consistently allowed more goals, thereby reducing its ability to secure positive results and sustain competitive league performances.

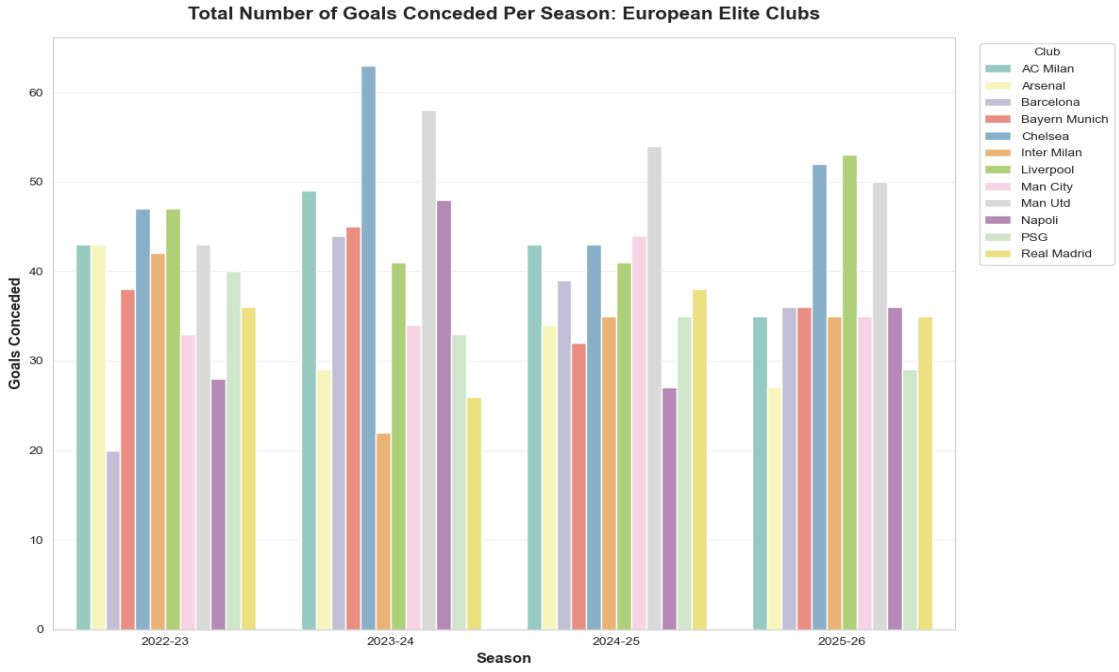


Figure 10: *Multiple bar plot of the total number of goals conceded per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.9 Goal difference per season rankings

Table 11: *Goal difference per season.*

S/N	Team	League	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	AC Milan	Serie A	21	27	18	18
2	Arsenal	EPL	45	62	35	44
3	Barcelona	La Liga	50	35	63	59
4	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	54	49	67	86
5	Chelsea	EPL	-9	14	21	6
6	Inter Milan	Serie A	29	67	44	54
7	Liverpool	EPL	28	45	45	10
8	Man City	EPL	61	62	28	42
9	Man Utd	EPL	15	-1	-10	19
10	Napoli	Serie A	49	7	32	22
11	PSG	Ligue 1	49	48	57	45
12	Real Madrid	La Liga	39	61	40	42

Details from table 11 present the goal difference achieved by the selected elite European clubs during the 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons. Goal difference is widely regarded as one of the most comprehensive indicators of team performance because it simultaneously captures both attacking productivity and defensive effectiveness. The results reveal that Bayern Munich consistently recorded the highest goal difference values, increasing from 54 in 2022/23 to an exceptional 86 in 2025/26, highlighting its dominance in the Bundesliga. Barcelona, Arsenal, Manchester City, PSG, Real Madrid, and Inter Milan also maintained strong positive goal differences throughout the study period, reflecting balanced and highly competitive performances. Chelsea recorded a goal difference of -9 in 2022/23, followed by modest improvements to 14 and 21 in the subsequent seasons before declining sharply to 6 in 2025/26. Although the club recovered from its negative goal difference in the first season of the BlueCo era, its values remained substantially lower than those of the leading European clubs. Notably, Chelsea's goal difference was consistently inferior to those of Arsenal, Manchester City, Liverpool, Inter Milan, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, PSG, and Real Madrid, indicating weaker overall efficiency in both attacking and defensive phases of play as seen in Figure 11. The comparatively low goal difference observed across the four seasons suggests that Chelsea struggled to dominate opponents consistently, which ultimately contributed to its lower points accumulation and league rankings.

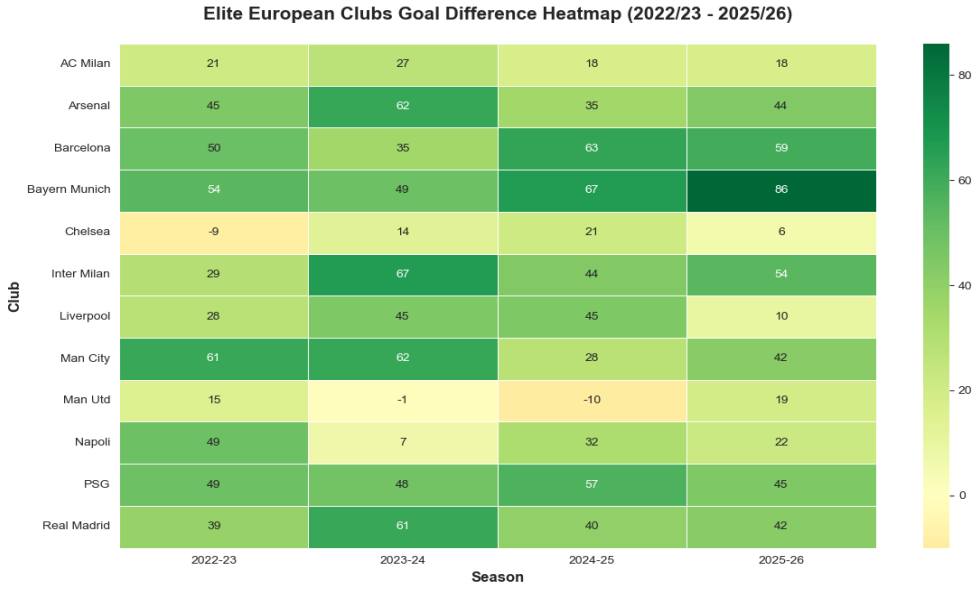


Figure 11: *Heatmap plot of goal difference per season by elite European clubs.*

3.2.10 Attack, defense, and PPG averages for 2022/23 - 2025/26

Table 12: *Attack, defense, and PPG averages for 2022/23 - 2025/26.*

S/N	Team	League	Attack	Defense	PPG
1	Barcelona	La Liga	86.50	34.75	2.336
2	Bayern Munchen	Bundesliga	101.75	37.75	2.309
3	PSG	Ligue 1	84.00	34.25	2.295
4	Real Madrid	La Liga	79.25	33.75	2.257
5	Inter Milan	Serie A	82.00	33.50	2.197
6	Arsenal	EPL	79.75	33.25	2.184
7	Man City	EPL	84.75	36.50	2.164
8	Napoli	Serie A	62.25	34.75	1.980
9	Liverpool	EPL	77.50	45.50	1.928
10	AC Milan	Serie A	63.50	42.50	1.829
11	Man Utd	EPL	57.00	51.25	1.632
12	Chelsea	EPL	59.25	51.25	1.500

The information from table 12 presents the average attacking output (goals scored), defensive performance (goals conceded), and points per game (PPG) of the selected elite European clubs during the 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons. The results reveal a strong association between balanced attacking and defensive performances and overall competitive success. Bayern Munich recorded the highest attacking average (101.75 average goals scored for 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons) and maintained a strong defensive record (37.75 average goals conceded for 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons), resulting in an average PPG of 2.309. Similarly, Barcelona, PSG, Real Madrid, Inter Milan, Arsenal, and Manchester City combined high attacking productivity with relatively low defensive concessions, achieving PPG values exceeding 2.16 and consistently occupying top positions within their respective leagues.

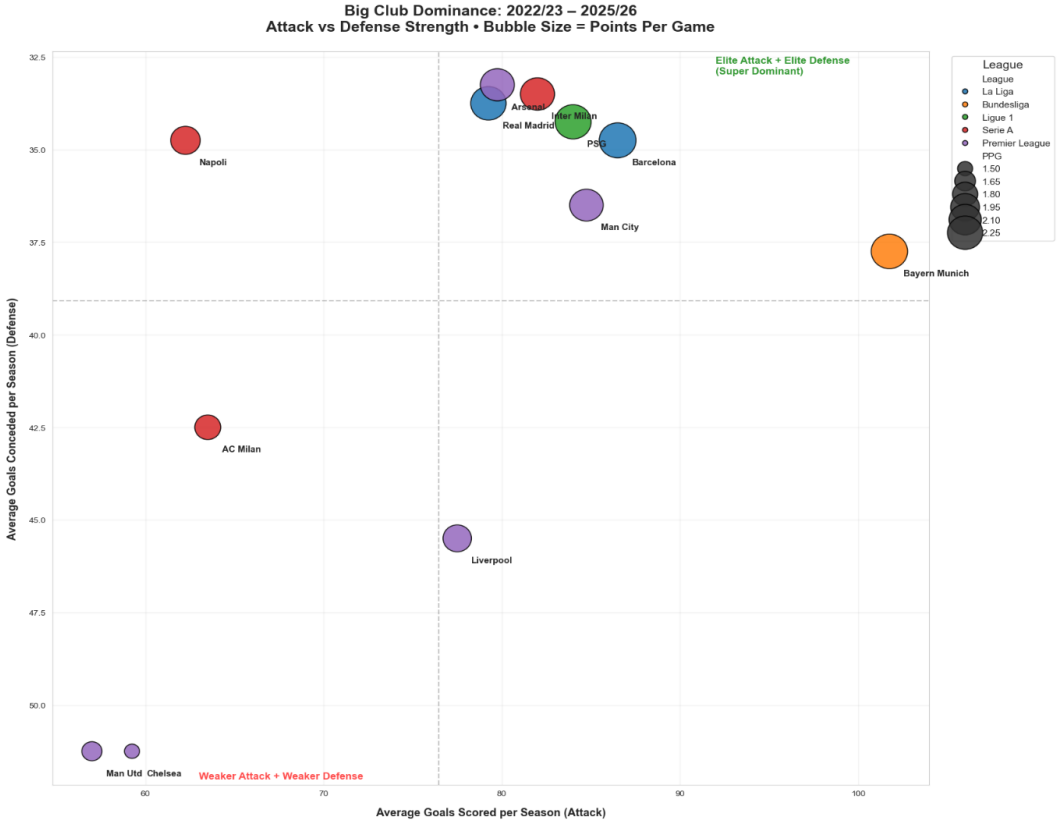


Figure 12: *Plot of attack, defense, and PPG averages for 2022/23 - 2025/26.*

Whilst Chelsea recorded an average attacking output of 59.25 goals for 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons, one of the lowest among the clubs examined, while also conceding an average of 51.25 goals for 2022/23 - 2025/26 seasons, jointly representing the weakest defensive performance alongside Manchester United as represented in Figure 12. These deficiencies translated into the lowest PPG value (1.500) among all clubs included in the analysis as presented in Figure 13. Notably, Chelsea's attack was substantially less effective than those of Barcelona (86.50), Bayern Munich (101.75), PSG (84.00), and Manchester City (84.75), while its defensive record was considerably poorer than those of Arsenal (33.25), Inter Milan (33.50), and Real Madrid (33.75). The combination of below-average attacking productivity and defensive vulnerability provides a clear explanation for Chelsea's inferior league performance during the BlueCo era.

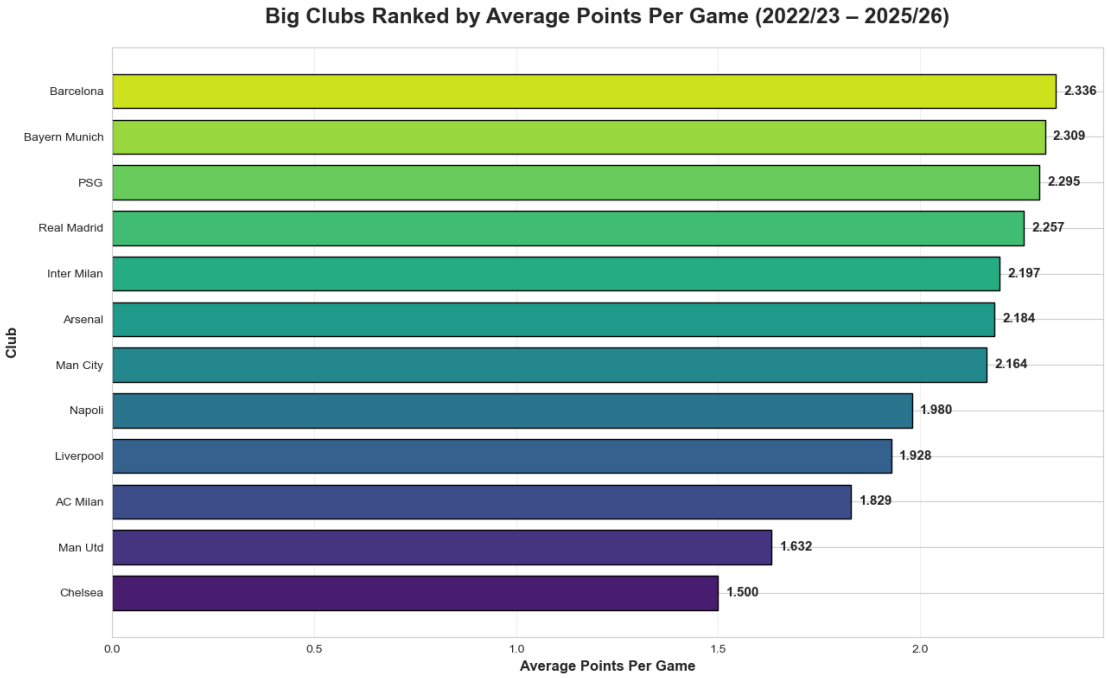


Figure 13: *Bar plot of average points per game for 2022/23 - 2025/26.*

3.3 Chelsea Historical Comparison

3.3.1 Points per season

Table 13: *Points per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Points
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	72
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	66
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	67
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	74
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	44
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	63
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	69
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	52

Table 13 presents Chelsea FC's league points accumulation during the four seasons preceding the BlueCo acquisition (2018/19 - 2021/22) and the four seasons following the takeover (2022/23 - 2025/26). The results indicate a noticeable decline in overall performance during the BlueCo era. Prior to the ownership transition, Chelsea consistently

accumulated between 66 and 74 points per season, recording 72, 66, 67, and 74 points, which reflects a relatively stable level of competitiveness and regular qualification for European competitions. While the BlueCo era began with a substantial decline to 44 points in 2022/23, representing a reduction of 30 points compared with the club's final pre-BlueCo season. Although moderate improvements were observed in 2023/24 (63 points) and 2024/25 (69 points), these gains were not sustained, as the club's points total fell again to 52 in 2025/26, as seen in Figure 14. Overall, the post-acquisition period was characterized by greater performance volatility and lower points accumulation compared with the pre-BlueCo era.

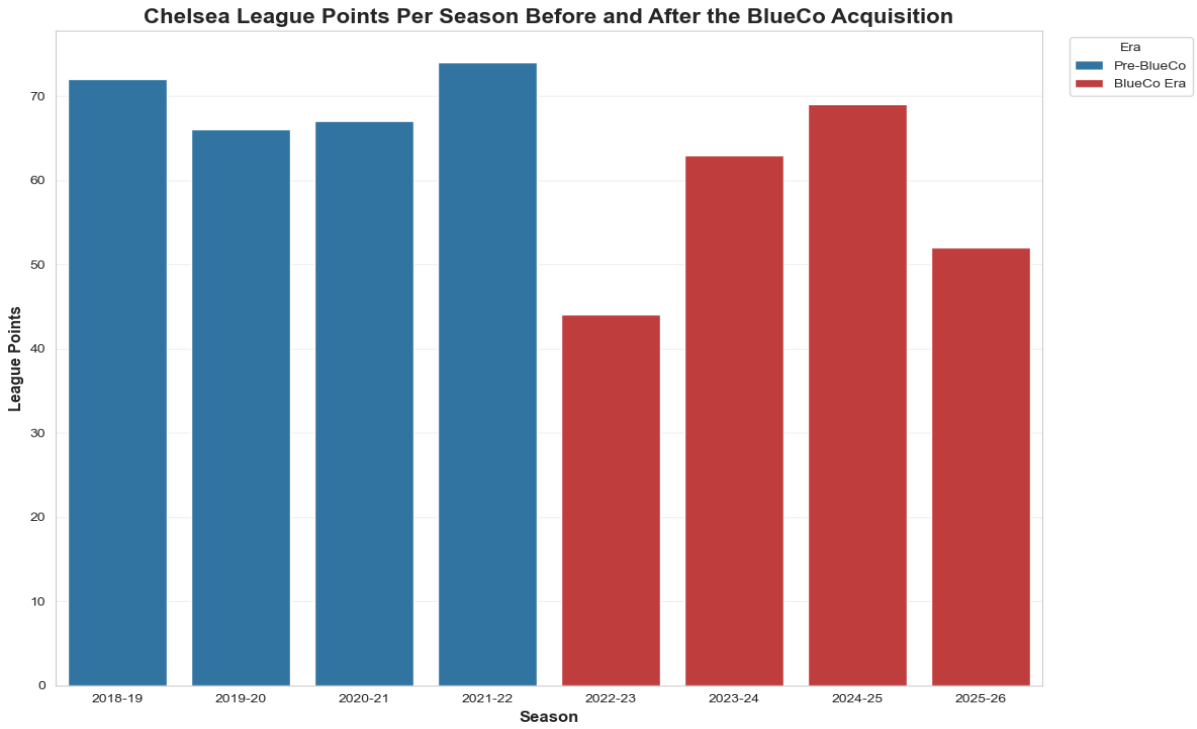


Figure 14: *Bar plot of points per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.2 League position per season

Table 14: *League position per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Points	Average Point
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	3	
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	4	
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	4	3.50
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	3	
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	12	
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	6	
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	4	8.00
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	10	

Table 14 compares Chelsea FC's final league positions during the pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22) and the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26), providing insight into the club's domestic competitiveness before and after the ownership transition. During the pre-BlueCo period, Chelsea consistently finished in either third or fourth position, recording league placements of 3rd, 4th, 4th, and 3rd, resulting in an average league position of 3.50. This level of consistency reflects a club that regularly competed among the Premier League's top teams and secured qualification

for the UEFA Champions League. The BlueCo era was characterized by considerably poorer and more volatile league performances, with Chelsea finishing 12th, 6th, 4th, and 10th, yielding an average league position of 8.00. Although the club briefly returned to a top 4 finish in 2024/25, this improvement was not sustained, as it subsequently dropped to 10th place in 2025/26 as seen in Figure 15. The increase in average league position from 3.50 to 8.00 represents a substantial decline in domestic performance and highlights Chelsea's reduced ability to compete consistently at the highest level of English football.

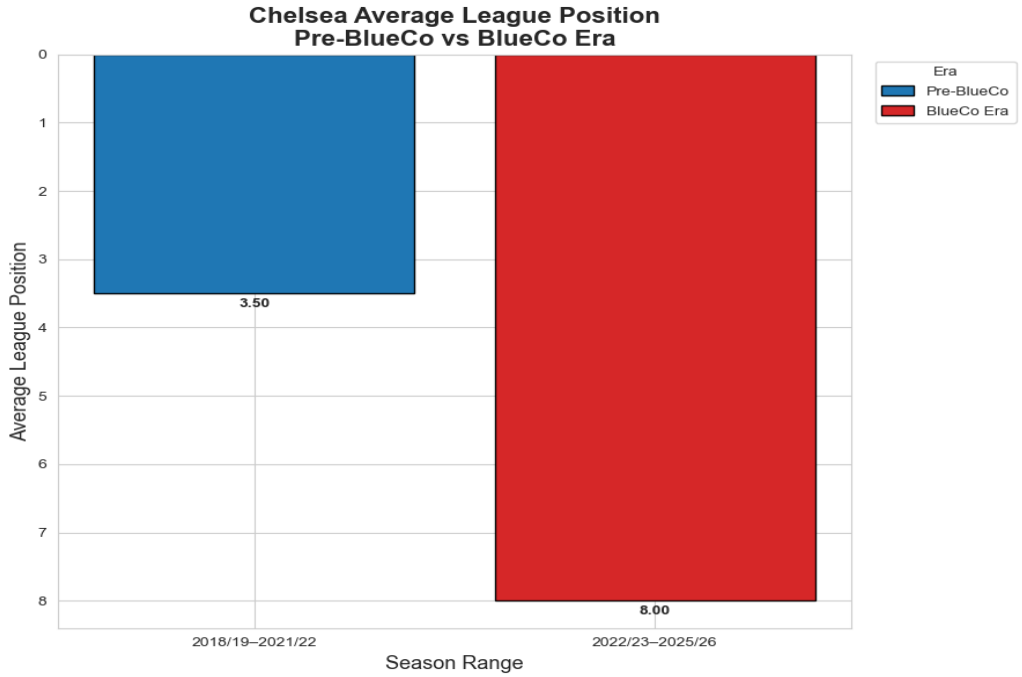


Figure 15: *Bar plot of average league position (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.3 Average points per game

Table 15: *Average points per game (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	PPG
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	1.894737
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	1.736842
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	1.763158
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	1.947368
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	1.157895
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	1.657895
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	1.815789
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	1.368421

Table 15 presents Chelsea FC's average points per game (PPG) during the four seasons preceding the BlueCo acquisition and the four seasons following the ownership transition. As a standardized measure of performance that accounts for the number of matches played, PPG provides a reliable indicator of a team's ability to consistently accumulate points throughout a season. During the pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22), Chelsea maintained relatively stable PPG values ranging from 1.74 to 1.95, reflecting a team that regularly competed for UEFA Champions League qualification and remained among the Premier League's top-performing clubs. While the BlueCo era began with a substantial decline to 1.16 PPG in 2022/23, representing the club's lowest value across the eight-

season period. Although improvements were observed in 2023/24 (1.66) and 2024/25 (1.82), Chelsea failed to sustain this upward trajectory, with PPG declining again to 1.37 in 2025/26 as presented in Figure 16 and 17. Overall, the BlueCo era was characterized by lower and more volatile PPG values compared with the pre-BlueCo period, indicating a reduced capacity to consistently convert matches into points.

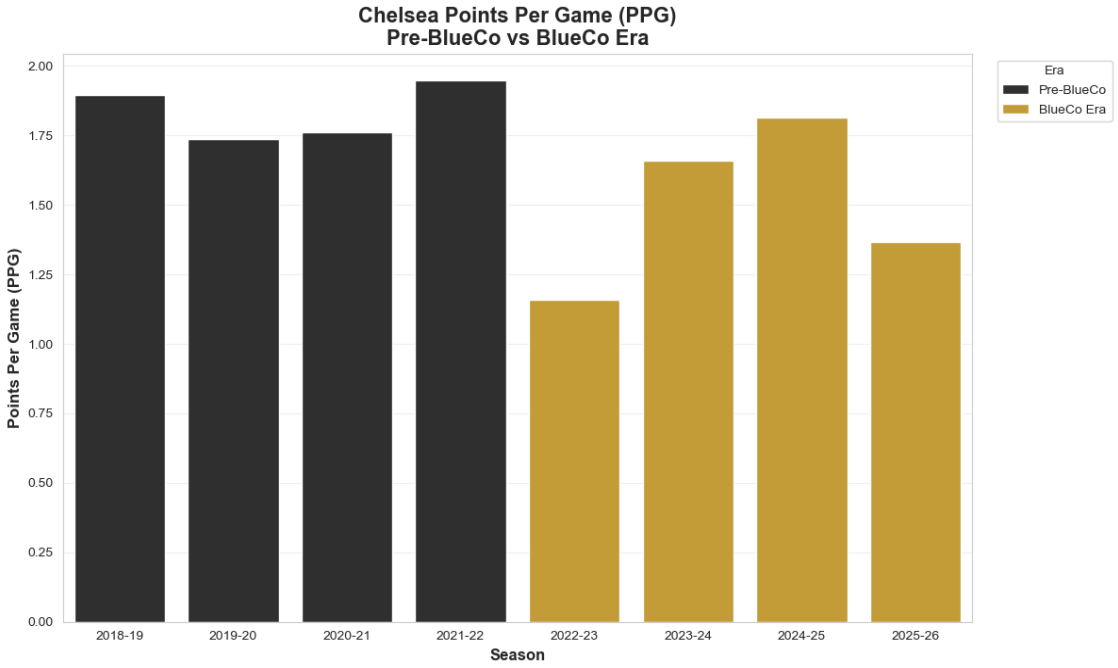


Figure 16: *Bar plot of average points per game (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

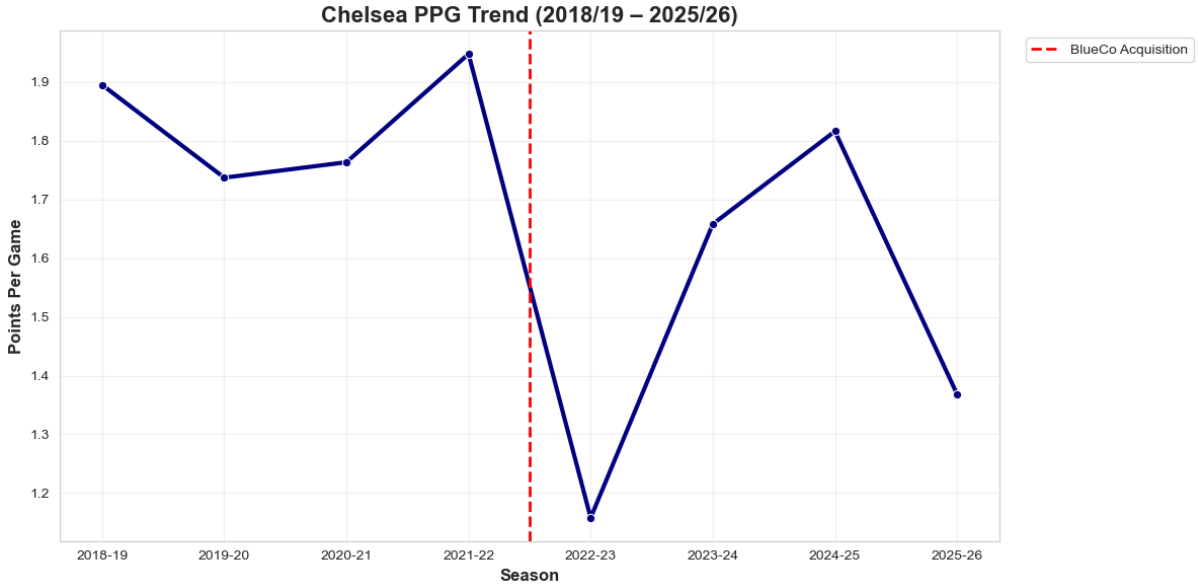


Figure 17: *Line plot of average points per game (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.4 Wins per season

Table 16: *Wins per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Wins	Average Wins
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	21	
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	20	
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	19	20.25
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	21	
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	11	
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	18	
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	20	15.75
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	14	

Details from table 16 compares Chelsea FC's number of league victories during the four seasons preceding the BlueCo acquisition (2018/19 - 2021/22) with those recorded during the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26). The results indicate a clear reduction in Chelsea's ability to secure wins following the ownership transition. During the pre-BlueCo period, Chelsea recorded 21, 20, 19, and 21 victories, resulting in an average of 20.25 wins per season, which reflects a consistently competitive team capable of challenging for top 4 positions and European qualification. In contrast, the BlueCo era produced significantly lower win totals of 11, 18, 20, and 14, corresponding to an average of 15.75 wins per season. The most notable decline occurred in 2022/23, when Chelsea secured only 11 victories, representing almost a 50% reduction compared with the club's best pre-BlueCo seasons. Although there was evidence of recovery in 2023/24 and 2024/25, this improvement was not maintained, as the number of wins declined again to 14 in 2025/26 as seen in Figure 18. The reduction in average wins from 20.25 to 15.75 suggests that Chelsea became less effective at converting matches into victories during the BlueCo era, which directly contributed to lower points accumulation, poorer league positions, and diminished competitiveness.

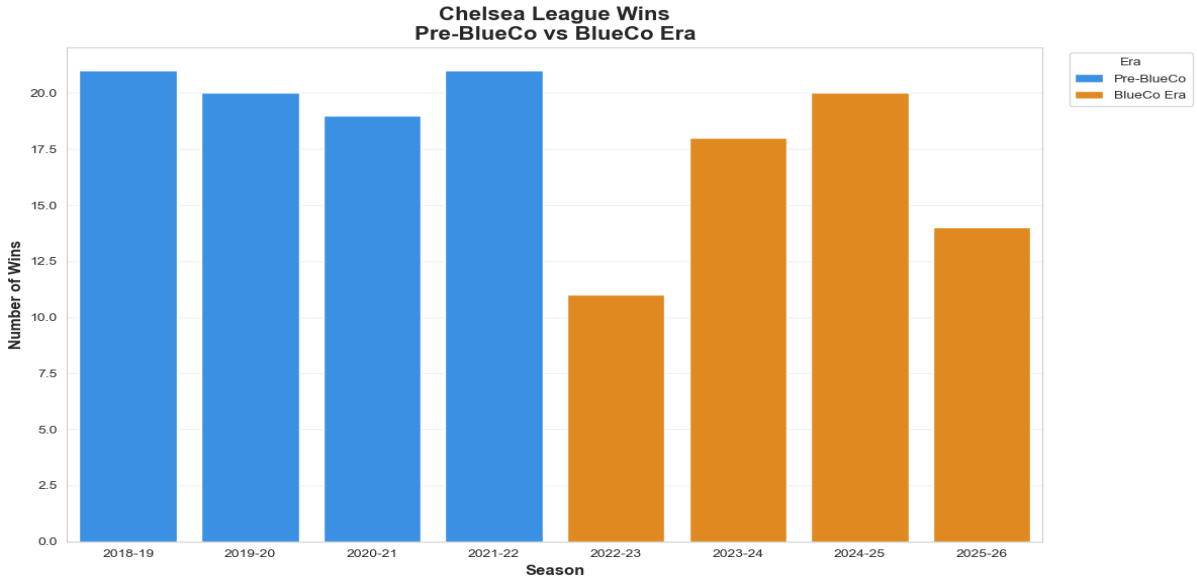


Figure 18: *Bar plot of total wins per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.5 Draws per season

Table 17: *Draws per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Draws	Average Draws
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	9	
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	6	
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	10	9.00
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	11	
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	11	
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	9	
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	9	9.75
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	10	

Chelsea FC's number of drawn matches during the pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22) and the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26) were compared in table 17. The results show that the frequency of draws remained relatively stable across the two periods, with Chelsea recording an average of 9.00 draws per season before the ownership transition and 9.75 draws per season thereafter. During the pre-BlueCo era, the club registered 9, 6, 10, and 11 draws, while the BlueCo era produced 11, 9, 9, and 10 draws. Unlike other performance indicators such as points, league position, points per game, and wins, which exhibited substantial deterioration following the acquisition, the number of draws showed only a marginal increase as presented in Figure 19. Nevertheless, the slightly higher average draw count during the BlueCo era may indicate a reduced ability to convert competitive matches into victories, thereby limiting overall points accumulation. This interpretation is supported by the simultaneous decline in wins and points observed during the same period.

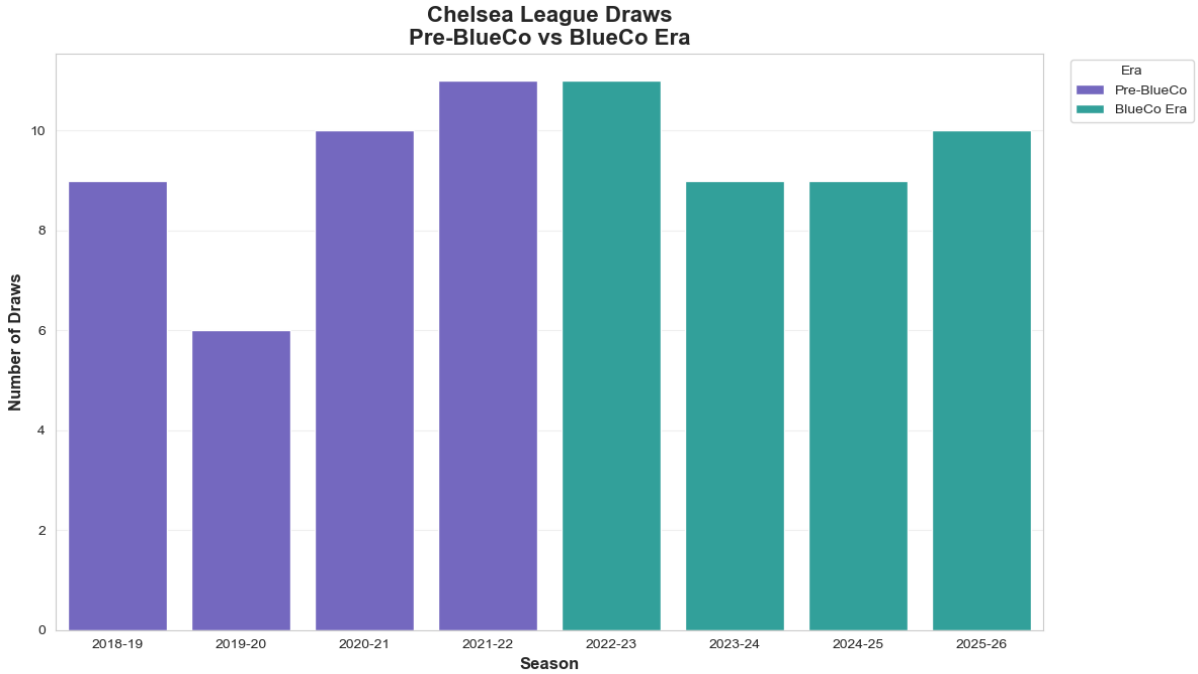


Figure 19: *Bar plot of total draws per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.6 Losses per season

Table 18: *Losses per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Losses	Average Losses
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	8	
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	12	
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	9	8.75
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	6	
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	16	
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	11	
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	9	12.50
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	14	

Table 18 highlights a notable shift in Chelsea FC's resilience and ability to avoid defeat following the transition from the pre-BlueCo period to the BlueCo era. During the four seasons preceding the acquisition, Chelsea recorded an average of 8.75 losses per season, with defeat totals ranging from 6 to 12 matches. While the BlueCo era saw the average number of losses increase substantially to 12.50 per season, representing an increase of approximately 43% relative to the pre-acquisition period as seen in Figure 20. The most striking deterioration occurred in 2022/23, when Chelsea suffered 16 league defeats, nearly three times the number recorded in the club's final pre-BlueCo season (2021/22). Although losses declined to 11 and 9 in the subsequent two seasons, the figure rose again to 14 in 2025/26, suggesting that improvements in performance were neither sustained nor sufficient to restore previous competitive standards. Since league success is largely dependent on minimizing defeats while maximizing wins, the elevated loss frequency observed during the BlueCo era provides a clear indication of reduced competitive efficiency.

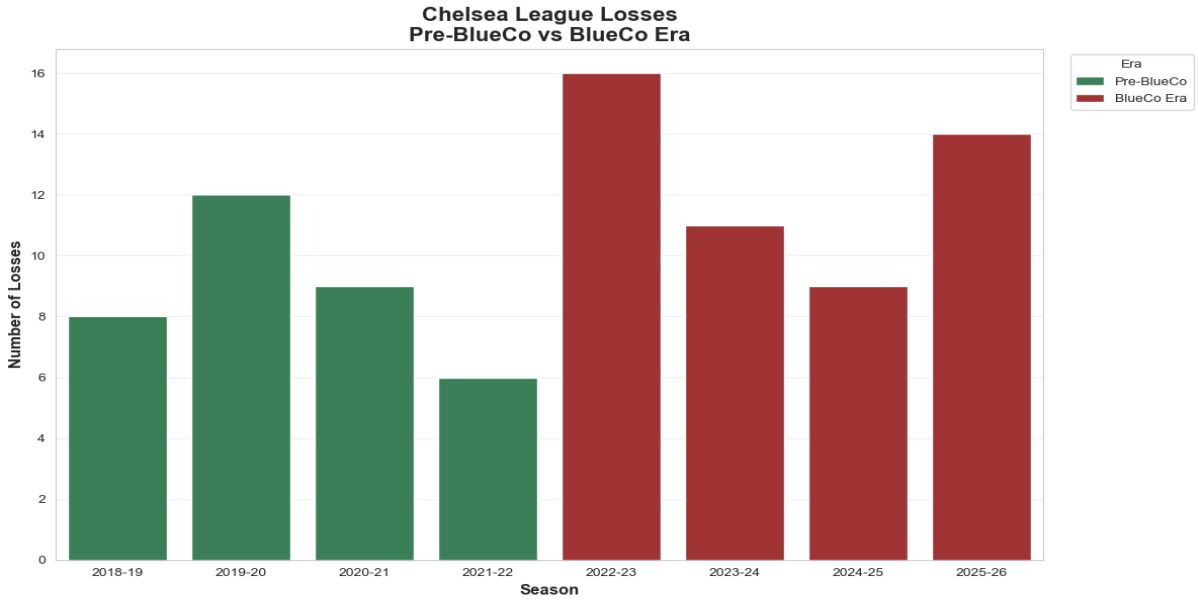


Figure 20: *Bar plot of losses per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.7 Goals scored per season

Table 19: *Goals scored per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Goals Scored	Average Goals Scored
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	63	
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	69	
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	58	66.50
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	76	
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	38	
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	77	
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	64	59.25
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	58	

Table 19 presents Chelsea FC's goals-scoring performance during the four seasons preceding the BlueCo acquisition (2018/19 - 2021/22) and the four seasons following the takeover (2022/23 - 2025/26). The results indicate a decline in the club's attacking effectiveness during the BlueCo era. Prior to the ownership transition, Chelsea scored 63, 69, 58, and 76 goals, yielding an average of 66.50 goals per season and reflecting a relatively consistent attacking output. The BlueCo era produced a lower average of 59.25 goals per season, despite a temporary peak of 77 goals in 2023/24. The most notable deterioration occurred in 2022/23, when Chelsea scored only 38 goals, representing a reduction of almost 50% compared with the club's highest pre-BlueCo total of 76 goals in 2021/22 as seen in Figure 21. Although some recovery was observed in the subsequent seasons, the club failed to sustain this improvement, with goals scored declining to 58 in 2025/26. The reduction in average goals scored from 66.50 to 59.25 suggests that Chelsea's attacking unit became less productive following the ownership transition.

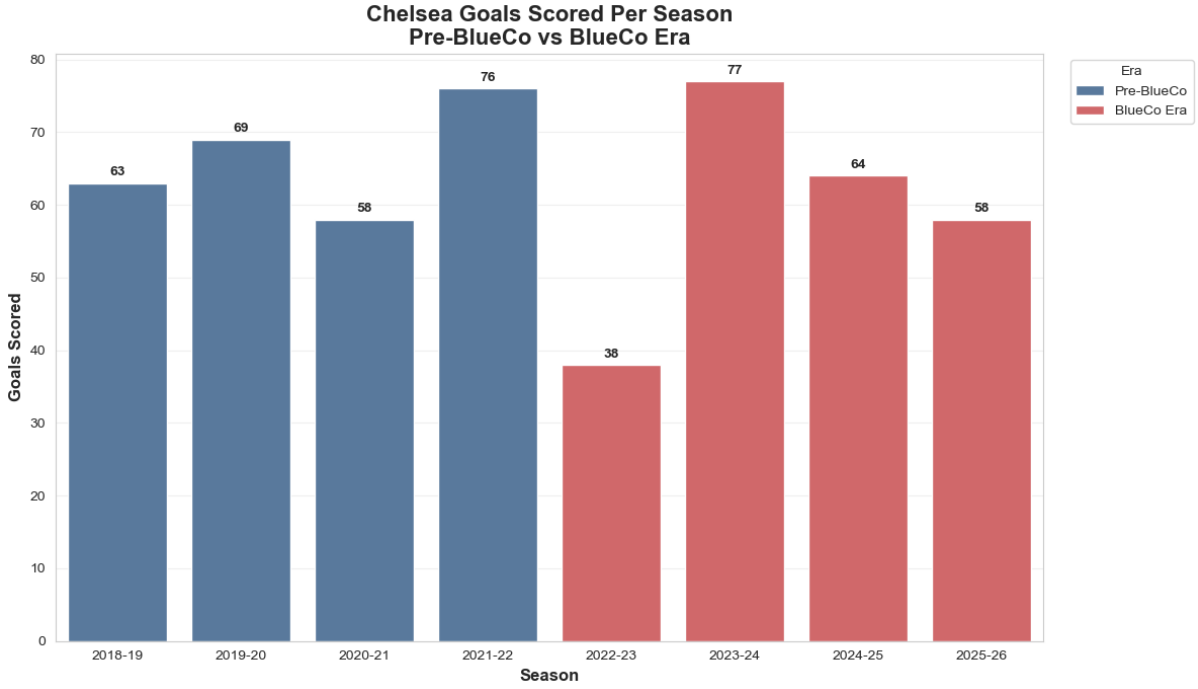


Figure 21: *Bar plot of total goals scored per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.8 Goals conceded per season

Table 20: *Goals conceded per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Goals Conceded	Average Goals Conceded
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	39	
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	54	
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	36	47.25
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	33	
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	47	
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	63	
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	43	51.25
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	52	

Table 20 compares Chelsea FC's defensive performance before and after the BlueCo acquisition using the total number of goals conceded per season. The results indicate that Chelsea's defensive solidity deteriorated during the BlueCo era, as evidenced by an increase in the average number of goals conceded from 47.25 during the pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22) to 51.25 during the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26). Prior to the ownership transition, Chelsea demonstrated a generally improving defensive record, reducing goals conceded from 54 in 2019/20 to just 33 in 2021/22, which reflected a well-organized defensive structure. However, the BlueCo era began with a notable increase to 47 goals conceded in 2022/23 and worsened further in 2023/24, when the club conceded 63 goals, the highest figure recorded across the eight-season period as presented in Figure 22. Although some improvement was observed in 2024/25, the total increased again to 52 goals in 2025/26, suggesting persistent defensive instability. Since defensive performance is a critical determinant of league success and overall competitiveness, the higher goals-against figures recorded during the BlueCo era imply that Chelsea became more vulnerable to opposition attacks following the ownership transition.

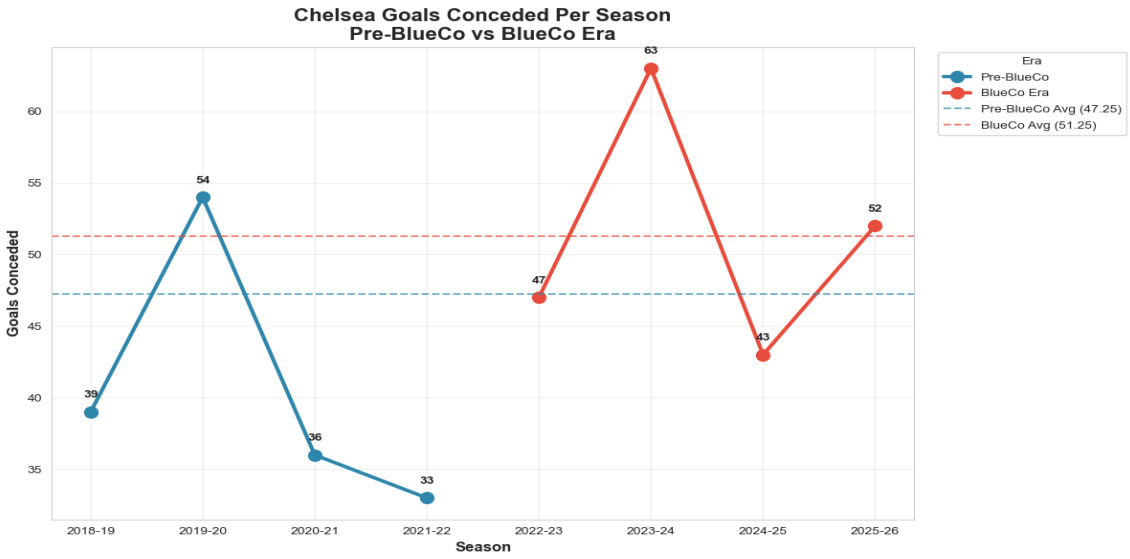


Figure 22: *Line plot of total goals conceded per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.9 Goal difference per season

Table 21: *Goal difference per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Era	Season	Goals Conceded
1	Pre-BlueCo	2018-19	24
2	Pre-BlueCo	2019-20	15
3	Pre-BlueCo	2020-21	22
4	Pre-BlueCo	2021-22	43
5	BlueCo Era	2022-23	-9
6	BlueCo Era	2023-24	14
7	BlueCo Era	2024-25	21
8	BlueCo Era	2025-26	6

Information in table 21 presents Chelsea FC's goal difference before and after the BlueCo acquisition, providing a consolidated measure of the club's attacking effectiveness and defensive stability. During the pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22), Chelsea consistently maintained positive goal differences of 24, 15, 22, and 43, indicating that the team regularly scored substantially more goals than it conceded. The peak value of 43 in 2021/22 reflected a highly competitive side capable of challenging for top positions in the Premier League. However, the BlueCo era was characterized by a marked decline in goal difference, beginning with a negative value of -9 in 2022/23, which signifies that Chelsea conceded more goals than it scored during that season. Although the club recovered to positive goal differences of 14 and 21 in 2023/24 and 2024/25, respectively, these values remained considerably below those achieved during the pre-BlueCo years. Furthermore, the decline to a goal difference of only 6 in 2025/26 suggests that the improvements observed in the intervening seasons were not sustained as depicted in Figure 23 and 24. Since goal difference is widely regarded as a strong indicator of overall team quality and competitive strength, the substantial reduction observed during the BlueCo era reflects a deterioration in Chelsea's balance between attack and defence.

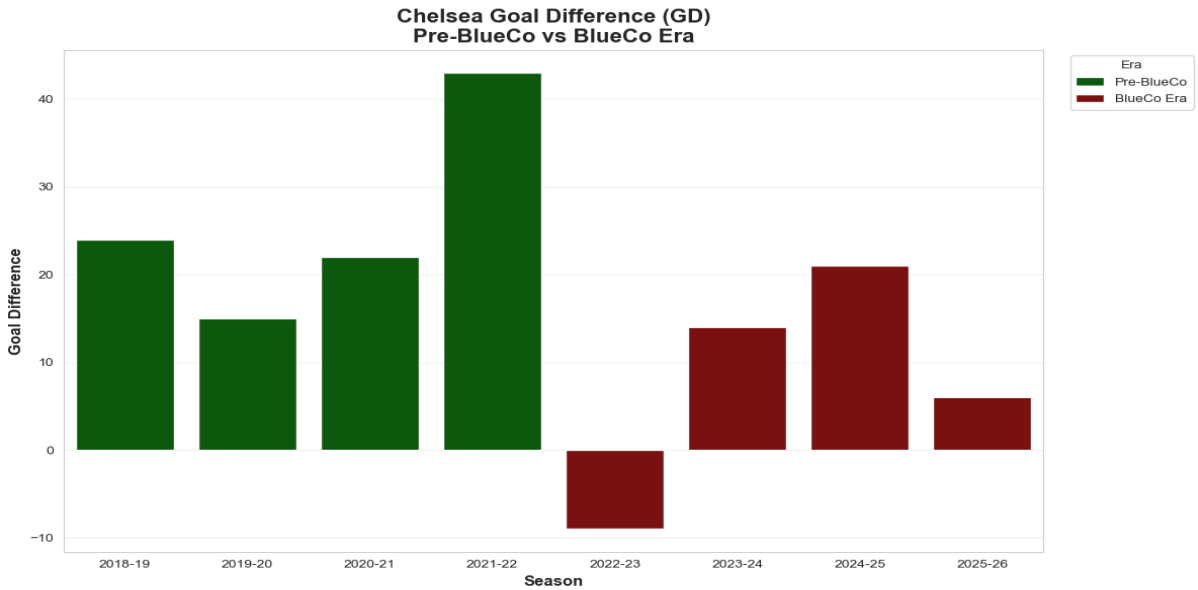


Figure 23: *Bar plot of goals difference per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

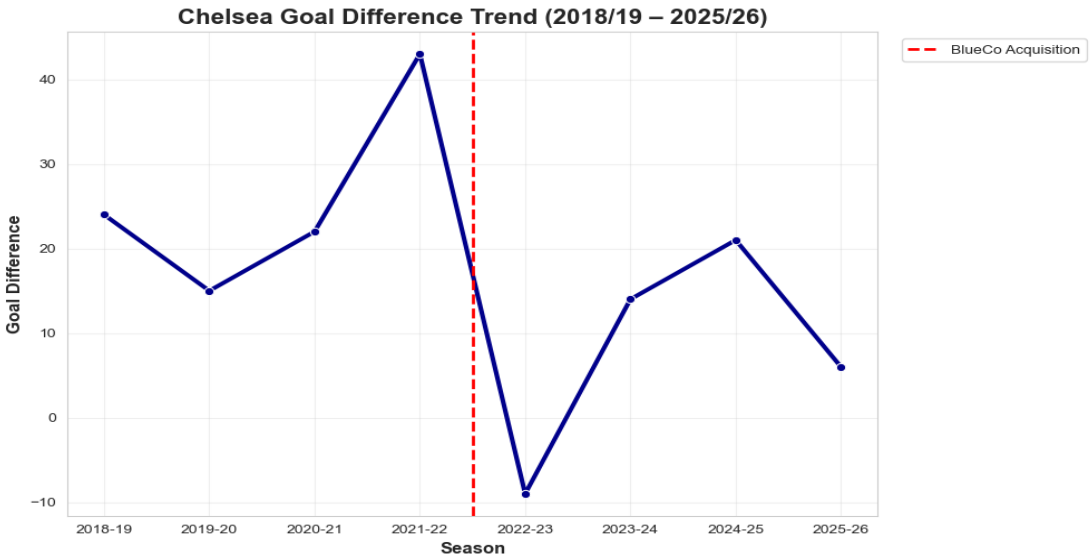


Figure 24: *Line plot of goals difference per season (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

3.3.10 Attack, defense, and PPG averages for 2018/19 - 2021/22 and 2022/23 - 2025/26

Table 22: *Average attack, defense, and PPG (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo Era).*

S/N	Metric	Pre-BlueCo	BlueCo Era
1	Attack (GF)	66.50	59.25
2	Defense (GA)	40.50	51.25
3	PPG	1.84	1.50

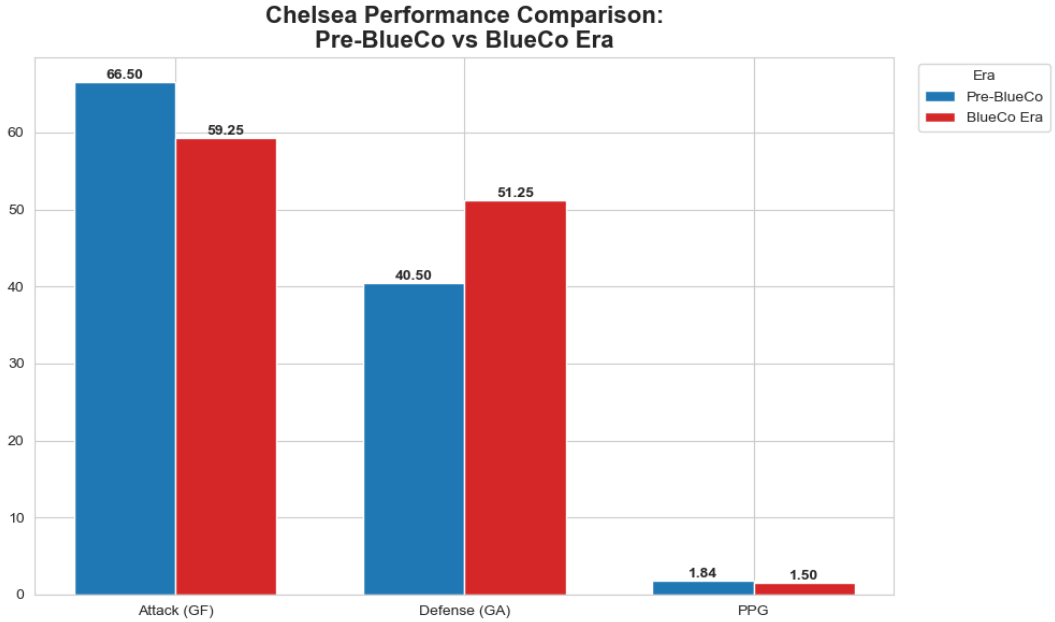


Figure 25: *Combine bar plot of attack, defense, and PPG (pre-BlueCo vs BlueCo era).*

Table 22 provides a consolidated comparison of Chelsea FC's average attacking performance, defensive performance, and points per game (PPG) during the pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22) and the BlueCo era (2022/23 - 2025/26). The results reveal a clear deterioration across all three key performance indicators following the ownership transition. Chelsea's average goals scored declined from 66.50 to 59.25 goals per season, representing a reduction in

attacking productivity, while average goals conceded increased substantially from 40.50 to 51.25 goals per season, indicating a weakening of defensive stability. Consequently, the club's overall efficiency, as measured by PPG, decreased from 1.84 to 1.50, reflecting a reduced ability to convert performances into league points as represented in Figure 25. The simultaneous decline in attacking output and defensive effectiveness suggests that Chelsea's challenges during the BlueCo era were not confined to a single area of play but rather affected the team's overall balance and competitiveness. Given that successful teams typically combine strong offensive production with defensive resilience, the findings indicate that Chelsea moved further away from these characteristics following the acquisition.

4. Conclusion

This study evaluated Chelsea Football Club's performance during the BlueCo ownership period (2022/23 - 2025/26) relative to eleven elite European clubs and compared the club's performance during this period with its pre-BlueCo period (2018/19 - 2021/22) using exploratory descriptive analytics. The findings show that Chelsea experienced a measurable decline in competitive performance during the BlueCo ownership period. Among the twelve clubs examined, Chelsea recorded the lowest average league position (8.00), compared with 1.00 for PSG, 1.25 for Barcelona, and 1.50 for Bayern Munich. Chelsea also registered the lowest average points per game (1.50), substantially below Barcelona (2.336), Bayern Munich (2.309), PSG (2.295), and Real Madrid (2.257). Furthermore, Chelsea's average attacking output was 59.25 goals per season, while its average defensive record deteriorated to 51.25 goals conceded per season, resulting in one of the weakest overall performance profiles among the clubs analysed. The comparative analysis between the pre-BlueCo and BlueCo periods further revealed notable declines across several key performance indicators. Chelsea's average league position worsened from 3.50 during the pre-BlueCo period to 8.00 during the BlueCo period. Average points per season declined from 69.75 to 57.00, while average points per game fell from 1.84 to 1.50. Similarly, average wins decreased from 20.25 to 15.75 per season, whereas average losses increased from 8.75 to 12.50 per season. The club's attacking performance also declined, with average goals scored falling from 66.50 to 59.25, while average goals conceded increased from 40.50 to 51.25. Consequently, Chelsea's average goal difference dropped from +26.00 during the pre-BlueCo period to +8.00 during the BlueCo period. These findings indicate that Chelsea's decline during the BlueCo ownership period was evident across attacking performance, defensive performance, match outcomes, and overall league competitiveness.

The findings are particularly noteworthy given that Chelsea was acquired for approximately £4.25 billion and that transfer expenditure since the takeover has approached £1.5 billion. Despite these unprecedented financial investments, Chelsea underperformed relative to both its historical standards and Europe's leading football clubs. While elite clubs such as Barcelona, Bayern Munich, PSG, Real Madrid, Arsenal, Inter Milan, and Manchester City maintained average league positions below 2.00 and points-per-game values above 2.15, Chelsea remained significantly behind across virtually all performance measures considered. However, because this study employed descriptive analytics, these findings should not be interpreted as evidence that the BlueCo acquisition caused Chelsea's decline. Rather, the results indicate that the decline occurred during the BlueCo ownership period, while acknowledging that multiple sporting and organizational factors including recruitment strategy, squad cohesion, managerial changes, tactical effectiveness, injury patterns, and broader organizational decisions may have contributed to the observed outcomes. This study contributes to the growing body of literature on football analytics, club ownership transitions, and performance evaluation in professional sport by providing empirical evidence that documents Chelsea FC's competitive performance during the BlueCo ownership period. However, the analysis was limited to traditional performance indicators and descriptive methods. Future research should expand upon these findings by incorporating advanced football analytics metrics such as expected goals (xG), expected goals against (xGA), expected threat (xT), possession value models, player tracking data, and player availability measures, together with inferential statistical analyses, longitudinal modelling, big chances created, big chances converted, shot

conversion efficiency, possession effectiveness, pressing intensity, tackles, interceptions, recoveries, yellow cards, red cards, and player availability measures. Additionally, predictive modelling, machine learning techniques, and causal inference approaches could be employed to investigate the sporting and organizational factors associated with Chelsea's performance trajectory during the BlueCo ownership period.

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