

BBC

Friday 13th - Lucky or Unlucky?

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- 1 We are all familiar with this concept, with its roots in the film - or much further back. For me, the number and the date have proved to be good omens so far and I always look forward to good things happening then and around.
- 2 And so it was yesterday - Fri13Aug21. Yesterday, in a busy little corner of West London - pinched between the elevated section of the M4 and the River Thames - pleasant history was made - both for me and many thousands more.
- 3 Yesterday, as many sports fans will know, was the start of the new Premiership Football season, with 38 matches - per team - lined up over the next 9mths. And first to kick-off this season was the dual between two London clubs - One being a Goliath of a club - Arsenal and the other David - Brentford.
- 4 Brentford have just won promotion to this world-famous league under the stewardship of a Danish Manager with a real skill to thrill - Thomas Frank. But Brentford were once before a top-flight football team until they were relegated in 1947. Arsenal, being one of the last teams they played in Division One that year, were now back at Brentford 74yrs later, to put the newly promoted minnows to the sword.
- 5 But that is not how it played out last night. As in the biblical story for David, so it was for Brentford. Brentford overcame the giant of the Premiership by two goals to none. The [BBC covered the story](#).
- 6 The atmosphere was described as unreal by Thomas Frank. Frank is the architect of this final raising of the phoenix which is this West London club. Rather fittingly, the club recently moved from their old stadium - Griffin Park a few blocks away - into their brand-new Community stadium, bordering Chiswick at Kew. This was a move to time perfectly with their new future under the world's footballing spotlights. It was also the very first time a full capacity crowd was allowed in - and it was to watch the first game of the season.
- 7 The scenes last night were incredible - truly amazing - and the volume generated by that capacity crowd of 16,000 even more so. The final whistle was greeted with the jubilation deserving of a club that had just won the Champion's League. It was a true night to remember - the clubs first win in the Premiership [the 50th club to date to play in its ranks] - providing a more than satisfactory statement of intent.
- 8 The night will be followed - as we all expect - by bitter disappointment as the club will surely lose against other teams over the next 9mths. But last night was a night to savour. I felt jubilant on two levels.

The first being for the people for whom the win meant so much.

The second, for the boy who used to attend school in Chiswick - one train stop away - and watched his local club battle against teams in the bottom divisions. They were dark cold winter nights on those terraces then - when I and many others dreamt of success one day.

9 Well done Brentford - and my hearty congratulations to all who have made it possible. Perhaps for one night only this season, Brentford are top of the Premiership - leading all the rest by 3 points.

10 So there it was - a Friday 13th with a good outcome. For Arsenal, not so lucky. Unless that is, they learn from their mistakes on the night which puts them where they need to be for the next 37 matches.

By: David Charles

Source: Tetbury CONNECT: [Magazine](#)

LINKS

[LINK](#): Brentford 2-0 Arsenal: Jubilation for Bees fans back to fill the ground

[LINK](#): Brentford FC



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