**David Beckham is set to receive a knighthood**

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| The former england football captain david beckham is set to receive a knighthood in the king's birthday honours next week The bbc understands the award will be in recognition of the 50 year old's career and his contribution to wider british society Here's our sports correspondent natalie perksDavid beckham's been called numerous names over the years But this new title of sir. David is the one he's coveted for the longest time after 115 caps for his country former teammate wayne rooney says it's well deserved saying he's a footballerHow hard he worked on the pitch and then obviously all the work he does off the pitch We've seen him, you know joining campaigns for the olympics for world cup bids and doing a lot of work and making everyone proud To be english, I think and him a little bit overdue But no i'm sure him and his family are really pleased that he's going to be sir David a friendship between king charles and the former footballer seems to have been growing for some time Beckham was made an ambassador for the king's foundation last year and a recent stay at highgrove resulted in the pair exchanging beekeeping tips But it's beckham's charity work 20 years as an ambassador for children's charity unicef That will have convinced the honours committee that it's time for sir. David The question many will ask though is why is this taken till now? Already in obe sebastian co nominated him for a knighthood after beckham helped london to secure the 2012 olympics But the footballer was implicated at the time alongside a number of other stars in a tax avoidance scheme Something he's since been cleared of a series of profanity strewn emails critical of the honour system were also leaked to the press in 2017 now though just weeks after celebrating his 50th birthday. It seems david beckham's turnaround is complete  | L'ancien capitaine de l'équipe d'Angleterre de football, David Beckham, devrait recevoir le titre de chevalier à l'occasion de l'anniversaire du roi la semaine prochaine. La BBC comprend que le prix sera décerné en reconnaissance de la carrière de l'homme de 50 ans et de sa contribution à la société britannique au sens large. Voici notre correspondante sportive, Natalie Perks. David Beckham a été traité de nombreux noms au fil des ans, mais ce nouveau titre de « Monsieur » est celui qu'il convoite depuis le plus longtemps après 115 sélections pour son pays. Son ancien coéquipier Wayne Rooney affirme que c'est amplement mérité, car il est footballeur. Comme il a travaillé dur sur le terrain et puis évidemment tout le travail qu'il fait en dehors du terrain. Nous l'avons vu, vous savez, participer à des campagnes pour les Jeux olympiques pour les candidatures à la Coupe du monde et faire beaucoup de travail et rendre tout le monde fier. Pour être anglais, je pense et il est un peu en retard. Mais non, je suis sûr que lui et sa famille sont vraiment heureux qu'il soit monsieur. David, une amitié entre le roi Charles et l'ancien footballeur semble se développer depuis un certain temps. Beckham a été nommé ambassadeur de la King's Foundation l'année dernière et un récent séjour à Highgrove a donné lieu à un échange de conseils d'apiculture. Mais c'est le travail caritatif de Beckham, 20 ans en tant qu'ambassadeur de l'UNICEF, une œuvre caritative pour les enfants, qui aura convaincu le comité des honneurs qu'il est temps pour Sir. David. La question que beaucoup se poseront est pourquoi cela a-t-il été reporté jusqu'à présent ? Déjà en 2017, Sebastian Co l'avait nommé chevalier après que Beckham ait aidé Londres à obtenir les Jeux olympiques de 2012. Mais le footballeur était impliqué à l'époque, aux côtés de plusieurs autres stars, dans un système d'évasion fiscale. Il a depuis été blanchi d'une série de courriels critiquant le système d'honneur qui ont également fuité dans la presse en 2017, quelques semaines seulement après avoir célébré son 50e anniversaire. Il semble que le redressement de David Beckham soit complet.  |

**Beckham set to be awarded knighthood** 6 June 2025



* <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/cm2309dlepno>

**David Beckham is set to be awarded a knighthood in King Charles' Birthday Honours.**

The former England football captain, 50, was appointed an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2003.

But BBC Sport has been told he is now in line to receive further recognition for both his football career, and his contributions to British society, with the list of recipients to be published next week.

Beckham played 115 times for his country as well as for Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, Paris St-Germain and AC Milan, retiring in 2013.

Beckham was reportedly first nominated for a knighthood in 2011.

In 2017 several British newspapers printed details of leaked emails in which Beckham allegedly [criticised the honours system and the honours committee.](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38885682)

A spokesperson for Beckham [said at the time](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39643202) that the emails were "hacked", "doctored" and "private".

The former footballer married singer and fashion designer Victoria Beckham in 1999.

The couple share four children - Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz and Harper Seven.

Beckham played a key role in securing the London 2012 Olympics, and has been an ambassador for Unicef since 2005.

Unicef - which supports vulnerable children around the world - launched 'The David Beckham Unicef Fund' in 2015 to mark a decade's partnership between the two.

Beckham became an ambassador for The King's Foundation in 2024, supporting King Charles' education programme and efforts to ensure young people have a greater understanding of nature.

He is also part-owner of League Two side Salford City, as well as president and co-owner of Major League Soccer team Inter Miami in the United States.

He helped set-up the Inter Miami CF Foundation - a community driven not-for-profit enterprise that looks to empower underserved communities, using football as a catalyst.

"He is a great ambassador for football and the country," Beckham's former England team-mate Wayne Rooney told BBC Sport.

"We all see the charity work that he has done for many years and I am sure he will continue to do that.

"Globally he is a massive icon for any charity to work alongside and he makes everyone proud by raising a lot of money over the years.

"You don't get to his level worldwide if you don't work hard. He was persistent and kept going to get the reward he deserved."

A government spokesperson said: "We do not comment on speculation on honours." Beckham's representatives declined to comment.

**Analysis - the long road to coveted honour**

Beckham's knighthood marks the completion of a reputational rebuild for arguably the UK's most famous sports star.

Despite his stellar footballing career, charity work and support of the London 2012 Olympic bid, for years there has been speculation that controversy may explain why he kept being overlooked for the honour.

In 2017 leaked emails that Beckham had [allegedly written appeared](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38885682) to reveal his frustration at missing out on a knighthood.

A spokesman for the star at the time said the story was based on "outdated material taken out of context".

In the same year he was among a [number of celebrities embroiled](https://www.bbc.com/news/business-40120027) in a tax case having invested in the Ingenious film financing scheme.

However, in 2021 it [was reported, external](https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/17172245/david-beckham-knighthood-finances-taxman-cleared/?utm_medium=browser_notifications&utm_source=pushly) he was deemed eligible for a knighthood after having his finances cleared.

Yet still his wait continued. It may not have helped that in 2022 Beckham was widely criticised for his decision to accept millions of pounds from the Qatari regime as a World Cup ambassador, and associating himself with a country accused of human rights abuses and where same-sex relationships are illegal. Beckham had posed for the cover of Attitude magazine in 2002, saying he was honoured to be called a gay icon.

Comedian [Joe Lycett appeared to destroy £10,000](https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-64052197) of his own money in a protest against Beckham's role with the tournament.

Beckham later defended himself, saying he was "proud" to be part of the event, and a spokesman added that it was "a positive that debate about the key issues has been stimulated".

Later that year however, the patriotism for which Beckham had become known was praised after queuing for 12 hours to see the Queen lying in state, with other celebrities criticised for skipping the long wait.

Since then, the father of four appears to have forged a close friendship with the royals, especially Prince William, and also King Charles after becoming an ambassador for the monarch's charitable foundation last year, even bonding with him over their shared interest in gardening.

It was notable that Beckham and his wife Victoria attended a state banquet for the Emir of Qatar at Buckingham Palace in December, and there has been growing recognition overseas too.

In January he received an award for humanitarianism at the World Economic Forum in Davos, and made a speech highlighting the importance of investing in girls' education and opportunities. More recently, he appeared on the front page of Time magazine in an issue dedicated to the world's most influential philanthropists.

Those close to Beckham also believe a hit 2023 Netflix documentary played a crucial role in a fresh appreciation for his longevity and resilience, as he entered middle-age. The film introduced many younger viewers to his playing career, along with the story of his redemption after his infamous sending-off at the 1998 World Cup.

Accompanying all this has been continued commercial success for the 50-year-old's personal brand. Indeed, he was recently [estimated to be the eighth highest-paid athlete, external](https://www.sportico.com/personalities/athletes/2025/highest-paid-athletes-all-time-jordan-tiger-ronaldo-1234849240/) of all time.

With a range of companies still lining up to be linked with him, the co-owner of Inter Miami continues to enjoy an international profile like no other British athlete, even in retirement.

3588 comments, on June 7th Ranked by recommendations

1. Just shows what a joke the honour system is….
2. For services to advertising especially self advertising.
3. Yeah. I'll queue to see the Queen laying in State because I'm one of the people.
When in reality, he could have chosen the VIP route, quietly paid his respects and not drawn attention to HIMSELF.
4. I have nothing against David Beckham and good luck to him in his personal success, but please, a knighthood?
5. Yes, because he needs your wishes of good luck at this point in his life..
6. After watching the Michelle Mone programme, its clear that publicity and a profile pays off. Whilst not being lord (yet) what actually constitutes a knighthood? The entire honours system is a joke and high time it was scrapped.
7. Please God no. He was happy to earn millions from the Qatari's off the backs of slave labour
8. The whole UK honours system has been devalued by the fact that highest honours are regularly purchased through political donations. Fair play to those get genuine awards for their services to society, but they're in dubious company.
9. To be fair Beckham has done more for Unicef and other charities than a lot of other 'sirs' combined. In 2013 he gifted his £3.5m salary to children's charities in Paris. How is that for services to society?
10. Why are these highly paid people for doing a job knighted and people doing amazing work for nothing overlooked time to finish this ridiculous circus
11. For services to Pepsi?
12. Knight hoods are now meanless.
13. Unsure what he’s contributed to 'British society'.
14. Just a farce
15. For being an average footballer, narcissist and boot licker

Reaction from *The I*

<https://inews.co.uk/sport/football/gary-lineker-knighthood-david-beckham-3735398?ico=most_popular>

# Gary Lineker deserves a knighthood over David Beckham

If we must hand out pointless honours, give them to those who have spoken out about the great humanitarian crisis of our age

June 07, 2025 6:00 am (Updated 6:01 am)

The honours system is one of this country’s many ludicrous and embarrassing anachronisms.

Soon, [David Beckham](https://inews.co.uk/topic/david-beckham?ico=in-line_link) is expected to receive a knighthood. Leaked e-mails from 2017 suggest that he previously viewed the system as a “f\*\*\*ing joke”, and the panel who decide upon it “unappreciative c\*\*\*s”, but that is now by the by.

Since then, Beckham has taken £150m to become an ambassador for the [World Cup in Qatar](https://inews.co.uk/sport/football/fifa-playing-dumb-qatar-world-cup-indefensible-1973095?srsltid=AfmBOop5XsZhT53EWJ3amb-FtbYwqn6ilqTBRzRtsbn3ASyBWRHBx9Tj&ico=in-line_link), a tournament linked to widespread [human rights abuses](https://inews.co.uk/sport/football/terrible-human-rights-abuses-commonplace-six-months-qatar-fifa-2416397?srsltid=AfmBOoofVj4ONjZ0N3_wfi51Guc2Oywul6wN94U91yUaFEvdjUxNxaHQ&ico=in-line_link) and the deaths of migrant workers who constructed its stadiums. Beckham also faced a backlash from [LGBT+ campaigners](https://inews.co.uk/news/joe-lycett-shreds-10000-gay-icon-david-beckham-qatar-world-cup-deal-1983429?srsltid=AfmBOopqYTxMPYPejeSQ_56m1xzs9e7594-sGAv_bzt9oOtkSNlv9iNI&ico=in-line_link), given the Gulf State’s criminalisation of homosexuality.

To be fair, Beckham has never positioned himself as a political sage. He has largely, as is often asked of high-profile athletes in the UK, “stuck to football”.

Gary Lineker, on the other hand, has done the opposite and the world is slowly catching up with his view – that “if you are silent on Gaza, you are complicit”.

Beckham is finally getting the knighthood he wanted (Photo: Getty)

As the Government has altered its stance, the Foreign Secretary David Lammy recently said that “history will judge” the Netanyahu administration. It will look more favourably on those, like Lineker, who used their influence and platform to promote Palestinian rights and oppose war.

This matters, not least because of a recent admission by Bezalel Smotrich, Israel’s Finance Minister. “We are disassembling Gaza, and leaving it as piles of rubble, with total destruction [which has] no precedent globally,” he said. “And the world isn’t stopping us.”

More than 50,000 people in Gaza are estimated to have been killed and around 125,000 injured. Thousands of them are children and babies. The UN warns the risk of famine is now critical.

To speak up about this, Lineker had to take on the BBC, which at the time was his employer. He later shared an unforgivable [post containing an anti-Semitic trope](https://inews.co.uk/news/media/lineker-zionism-post-last-straw-bbc-3697456?ico=in-line_link), for which he apologised “unreservedly” and ultimately left his role at Match of the Day.

Before that, he had conducted two major interviews, [one with the BBC’s Amol Rajan](https://inews.co.uk/news/media/anger-as-gary-lineker-embarrasses-the-bbc-in-tv-interview-on-the-bbc-3653420?srsltid=AfmBOoplCBCDrcwxTpRsJSAZNW-VMET0aJPQ8xVktfIIebKZqz1aLxSR&ico=in-line_link) and another in [The Telegraph](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2025/05/15/gary-lineker-interview-gaza-transgender-america-bbc-motd/). In the former, when it was put to him that the BBC had to be impartial, he insisted: “Why? It needs to be factual… It wasn’t impartial about Ukraine and Russia.

“I know where I stand on this. What’s going on there [Gaza], the mass murder of thousands of children is probably something we should have a little opinion on.”

The post that led to Lineker’s exit was reprehensible and his pleas of ignorance were no excuse, particularly given his obvious knowledge of the historical contexts at play. There were those in BBC headquarters who had depicted him as a villain before that, dating back to [his tweets](https://inews.co.uk/news/gary-lineker-step-back-match-of-the-day-immigration-tweets-row-bbc-2201603?ico=in-line_link) comparing the language used about immigrants by Conservative ministers to 1930s Germany.

Lineker has long been a persona non grata among elements of the press. The manic obsession with his salary supposedly stemmed from the fact he worked for a publicly funded broadcaster, and was thus having an unseemly impact on the taxpayer.

Beckham, meanwhile, faced less scrutiny for allegations in 2013 that he was using an offshore trust to avoid paying tax on his image rights.

It would be unfair to overlook Beckham’s UNICEF ambassadorship and he has raised hundreds of millions through his philanthropy. He also shared a post from UNICEF calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, but not until eight months into the war. The great humanitarian crisis of the age requires more.

Knighthoods may be pointless, and the only reason we have to talk about them is because they remain an often-skewed barometer of what is deemed worthy of recognition and respect.

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If they are necessary at all, they should be reserved for those who have displayed outstanding moral courage. Lineker, incidentally, ended his work for Al-Jazeera, Qatar’s state broadcaster, when “it became clear what was happening” with regards to human rights abuses before the 2022 World Cup. Again, he faced criticisms that he ought to have known better in the first place, but still took the decision himself.

Nor has he merely jumped on the bandwagon over the past 18 months. Speaking to Rajan, he corrected the insinuation that the assault on Gaza began after the Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023, referencing the Nakba (the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians) in 1948, and the decades of oppression and violence that followed.

The tide of opinion is shifting. Lineker has played his part in that. Perhaps he does not need a medal from an unelected monarch to prove it. The filmmaker Ken Loach probably said it best: “I turned down an OBE. It’s not a club you want to join when you look at the villains who’ve got it.”