



DENNIS WISE

EXPERIENCED FOOTBALL EXECUTIVE & TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Following a successful 21-year playing career — during which I won seven major trophies and played for England on the international stage — I have forged a highly successful path as a Manager, Technical Director, CEO, and Board Member.

Currently, I am a FIFA Academic Board Member for the organisation's Diploma in Club Management. I was also a Board Member at Como 1907, having previously been the club's Chief Executive Officer.

When I joined Como 1907 in 2019, the club competed in Serie D. By implementing infrastructure changes and steering the club's approach in several key areas — including club management, player and staff recruitment, and the game itself — I have now overseen three league promotions, with the club reclaiming its place in Serie A in 2024. In every club I have been a part of, I have successfully worked within budgets to effectively manage teams and achieve impactful results.

As a former player who has experienced football at the sport's highest levels, I possess a deep understanding of the game. I use this knowledge to guide players under my care as Technical Director at Garuda Select, a programme that develops aspiring Indonesian and African footballers seeking to secure moves to leading European clubs. Many of these players have been called up to represent their countries in international teams.

EXECUTIVE, DIRECTORIAL & BOARD EXPERIENCE

	FIFA	Academic Board Member, Diploma in Club Management	Feb 2024 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the third edition of FIFA's knowledge-sharing and networking platform for senior club executives worldwide Share knowledge of club operations, stadium management, finance, marketing, communications, sporting strategy, youth academies, leadership and negotiation skills, and more with those participating in the 18-month programme Lecturer for FIFA's Diploma in Club Management 			
	Como 1907	Board Member Chief Executive Officer	Oct 2023 - Jul 2024 May 2019 - Oct 2023
<p>Chief Executive Officer Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led the day-to-day running of all football club matters Worked with the Board to implement a club structure, leading on football operations, strategy, and philosophy Sourced and pursued opportunities for growth, such as new partnerships and player development programmes Oversaw the recruitment of staff members, including those associated with the first team Motivated, mentored, and coached high-performing multidisciplinary teams Utilised my extensive global contact network for the benefit of the club <p>Board Member Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided strategic direction and offered guidance as an experienced member of the Board, ensuring the club's vision, philosophy, and ethos were implemented through every level of the organisation Participated in Board meetings; conducted regular reviews of club performance and set targets for the future <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When I was appointed, the club competed in Serie D with no infrastructure: it had no academy or training ground, and the stadium was leased annually. In just five years, I have overseen three league promotions, establishing our own U9 to U19 academy, a B Team, a senior women's team, and U19, U17, and U15 squads Acquired a freehold training ground and extended a 12-year lease on the stadium with a further 99-year lease subject to redevelopment Recruited several players on free transfers who now hold a substantial value 2024: Finished second in Serie B, securing promotion and giving the club a place in Serie A for the first time since 2003 2022: Played a key role in signing Cesc Fàbregas, now Assistant Manager and shareholder at the club following his retirement as a player 2022: Was instrumental in bringing Thierry Henry on board as a shareholder 2021: Won the Serie C league title, gaining promotion to Serie B with the eighth-highest budget 2019: Promoted to Serie C after finishing first place in Serie D's Group B 			
	Garuda Select	Technical Director	May 2018 - 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a programme to develop aspiring Indonesian and African players seeking to secure moves to leading European clubs and become part of international teams Design and implement a coaching syllabus focused on the mental, physical, technical, and tactical aspects of the game Identify and assess potential player recruits for the programme through video observation and attending live games Coordinate training schedules and associated activities for Garuda Select players, taking place at elite facilities in the UK for six months and one month in Italy Organise fixtures in the UK and Italy for Garuda Select against the Academy sides of professional UK teams, including Chelsea, Manchester City, Arsenal, AC Milan, Inter Milan, Monza, and Como 1907 <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight Garuda Select graduates were called up to Indonesia's U23 national team for the 2023 TC SEA Games Two Garuda Select participants have played for Indonesia's senior national team Two Garuda Select graduates signed with European clubs FC Utrecht and HNK Rijeka 			

EXECUTIVE, DIRECTORIAL & BOARD EXPERIENCE CONTINUED



Newcastle United FC

Director of Football/Board Member

Jan 2008 - Apr 2009

- Set and directed the recruitment strategy at the club, working alongside multidisciplinary colleagues to implement this
- Responsible for leading all aspects of football operations
- Played a key role in signing standout players, including Jonas Gutiérrez and Fabricio Colocini (Argentina internationals)

FIRST TEAM MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leeds United FC Swindon Town FC Southampton FC Millwall FC 	<p>First Team Manager Player-Manager Caretaker Manager Player-Manager</p>	<p>2006 - 2008 2006 2005 2003 - 2005</p>
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Key Achievements

- Received the Football League One Manager of the Month awards in August and September 2007 with Leeds United FC
- Received the Football League Two Manager of the Month award in August 2006 with Swindon Town FC
- Received the Football League Championship Manager of the Month award in February 2004 with Millwall FC



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



UEFA Pro Licence
(Pending completion in 2026)

UEFA A Licence

UEFA B Licence

After deciding to take a hiatus from football in 2009, I became involved in property investment as a partner in several projects, beginning in 2010. In this capacity, I manage a company which has properties with a gross development value (GDV) of up to £250 million. Earlier — in 2000 — I launched my own non-profit organisation, Dennis Wise in the Community.

Dennis Wise in the Community

Founder and Trustee

2000 - Present

- Began the charity with the goal of raising money to improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities

Key Achievements

- Over £1.5 million raised to date, with the long-term aim of donating 100 minibuses to charitable organisations in need
- 26 minibuses have been donated so far, as well as a number of specialist wheelchairs for disabled adults and children



MEDIA LINKS

- [How Dennis Wise Convinced Cesc Fàbregas to move to Como 1907](#)
- [Como 1907 Gains Promotion to Serie A](#)
- [Dennis Wise: Two Promotions in Three Years for Como 1907](#)
- [Garuda Select Secures Loughborough University as its Training Base](#)

PLAYING CAREER

Coventry City FC	13 Appearances, 6 Goals	2006 (Retired)
Southampton FC	11 Appearances, 1 Goal	2005 - 2006
Millwall FC	91 Appearances, 9 Goals	2002 - 2005
Leicester City FC	17 Appearances, 1 Goal	2001 - 2002
Chelsea FC	446 Appearances, 76 Goals	1990 - 2001
AFC Wimbledon	161 Appearances, 31 Goals	1985 - 1990
Grebbestads IF (Loan)	12 Appearances, 7 Goals	1985

England Senior National Team	21 Appearances, 1 Goal	1991 - 2000
England B National Team	3 Appearances, 1 Goal	1989 - 1990
England U21 National Team	1 Appearance	1988

Key Achievements

- Three-time FA Cup winner, once with AFC Wimbledon and twice with Chelsea FC; FA Cup runner-up in 1994 and 2004
- Captained Chelsea FC, winners of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, UEFA Super Cup, Football League Cup, and FA Charity Shield
- Scored for England in my debut against Turkey in 1991
- Named in England's UEFA Euro 2000 squad and played all three of England's group games
- Took Millwall FC to the FA Cup Final and Europa League in 2003/04 as Player-Manager, the first time the club had reached this stage and the only Second Division side to achieve this
- Named Chelsea FC's Player of the Year twice

"Dennis has been successful in empowering and inspiring our young Indonesian football talents to follow the right pathway to reaching their dreams. Garuda Select has been a true example of his contribution. His experience as a world football legend brings a high-quality standard to the Indonesia football development programme." - **Erick Thohir: Minister of State-Owned Enterprises of Indonesia, Head of Indonesian Football Federation, and Owner of Oxford FC**

"My experience with Dennis extends beyond playing together as teammates. We also work together on the FIFA Diploma in Club Management as part of the Academic Board. He has provided me invaluable insights into his strategic mindset and vast knowledge of the game. His work at Como 1907 further exemplifies this, where he played a key role in driving their strategic plan, achieving promotion and continued success. This achievement is a testament to his comprehensive knowledge of everything from grassroots and player recruitment to organisational structure and leadership. Dennis is a valuable asset to any football organisation. His leadership, strategic vision, and mentorship are a massive plus in any football workplace." - **Tim Cahill: President's Advisor & Technical Director at Qatar Football Association and Chief Sports Officer at Aspire Academy**

"Dennis Wise is a unique football visionary who has a special touch with the game and its players. His ability to communicate with all levels, from the pitch to ownership, makes him an exceptional team player and leader." - **Julie Anne Quay: Director at Barnsley FC**

"Dennis has a special place in the heart of Indonesian football. Hundreds of young Indonesian players were guided under his leadership throughout the journey of the Garuda Select Programme. He's proven to be one of the best leaders in football operations, with excellent strategic agility and interpersonal skills, combined with orientation to details. One of the best Chelsea and England legends who turned out to be an exceptional leader and coach for the Indonesian football community." - **Marsal Masita: Managing Director of Garuda Sepakbola Indonesia (Affiliated with the Indonesia Football Federation)**

