

It's Real vs Man Utd

RESULTS OF THE DRAW

GALATASARAY A.S. (TUR)	vs	FC SCHALKE 04 (GER)
CELTIC FC (SCO)	vs	JUVENTUS (ITA)
ARSENAL FC (ENG)	vs	FC BAYERN MÜNCHEN (GER)
FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK (UKR)	vs	BORUSSIA DORTMUND (GER)
AC MILAN (ITA)	vs	FC BARCELONA (ESP)
REAL MADRID CF (ESP)	vs	MANCHESTER UNITED FC (ENG)
VALENCIA CF (ESP)	vs	PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (FRA)
FC PORTO (POR)	vs	MÁLAGA CF (ESP)

THE GUARDIAN



Manchester United have been drawn against Real Madrid in the stand-out tie of the Champions League last 16. Cristiano Ronaldo will return to Old Trafford for the first time since his £80m move to Madrid in 2009 in a meeting that also pits Sir Alex Ferguson against Jose Mourinho.

Britain's two other representatives, Arsenal and Celtic, have also been handed tough draws. Arsenal will face last season's beaten finalists Bayern Munich while Celtic take on the Italian champions Juventus as they look for a place in the quarterfinals for the first time.

In an incredible twist, the draw was an exact repeat of Wednesday's rehearsal, meaning the most eye-catching tie not involving British sides is that of the holders Barcelona against Milan. The German champions Borussia Dortmund face Shakhtar

Donetsk, Valencia play Paris Saint-Germain, Porto meet Malaga and Galatasaray come up against Schalke.

Ronaldo scored 118 goals in 292 appearances during his six years at United, but it was the other Ronaldo – the Brazilian striker – who took the headlines when the clubs last faced each other in 2003, scoring a hat-trick at Old Trafford as Madrid went through to the semifinals 6-5 on aggregate.

The United defender Rio Ferdinand, who played in the tie nine years ago, reacted to the draw on Twitter, saying: "Oh yes, Madrid! What a great couple of games that'll be!! @Cristiano see us soon bro!!"

Meanwhile, United's club secretary, John Alexander, hoped there was a lucky omen for them. "It's the tie that everyone wanted to see – but that nobody wanted to see, they wanted to save it for later in the competition," he said. "If history has anything in our favour our one [aggregate] victory over Real Madrid in this competition was in the year we won the final at Wembley [in 1968]. The 2013 final takes place at the new Wembley on Saturday 25 May.

United have a slight advantage over Madrid in that as group winners they will get to play the second leg at home. Arsenal and Celtic, who were runners-up in their respective groups, will both play their second legs away.

Neil Lennon described Celtic's draw against Juventus as "a beauty" but also acknowledged the challenge of facing the Serie A leaders. The manager said: "Juventus are one of the great traditional European teams. So in terms of glamour it's great, in terms of qualification it is going to be very tough."

Goetze fires Dortmund

AFP, Berlin

Holders Borussia Dortmund thanked a hat-trick from Mario Goetze as they thrashed Hanover 5-1 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the German Cup.

"I'm taking the ball home," beamed Goetze after the first hat-trick of his professional career, cementing his showing with a fine volley for his third goal.

Polish star Jakub Blaszczykowski and compatriot Robert Lewandowski were also on target with Mame Diouf adding a consolation for outclassed Hanover.

Bologna stun Napoli

AFP, Rome

Lazio and Fiorentina reached the Italian Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday - but Napoli fell by the wayside after a 2-1 home loss to Bologna in the round of 16, Greek star Panagiotis Kone netting an injury-time winner.

Lazio needed penalties to beat Siena after a 1-1 stalemate over 120 minutes - the hosts rescued the extra half hour after a last-gasp Michael Ciani leveller - while Fiorentina won 1-0 at Udinese with Spaniard Borja Valero scoring.

Door opens for Riquelme



REUTERS, Buenos Aires

New Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bianchi has opened the door for the return of former Argentina playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme who walked out on the club in July.

"We'll see what the chances are for Roman to come back," Bianchi said at his official unveiling on Wednesday.

Riquelme, 34, left Boca after they lost the South American Libertadores Cup final to Corinthians, citing exhaustion.

According to media reports, he did not get on with former coach Julio Cesar Falcioni and had grown tired of his unadventurous tactics.

Bianchi, Boca's most successful coach in his two previous spells, was officially unveiled on Wednesday as Falcioni's replacement at the club's Casa Amarilla training complex where he signed a three-year contract.

"The decision is Roman's, everyone is the owner of their own decisions. I'll speak with him and see if he is prepared (to return)," said Bianchi, who quit as Boca coach for the second time in 2004.

"I know what Roman can give the team, but until I meet with him I can't say anything else," he added.

Club president Daniel Angelici told Infobae: "If there's anyone who can make Riquelme change his mind, that person (is Bianchi), that's a chance Carlos can go for, speaking to him face to face."

Riquelme did not retire from football and has been courted by Brazilian clubs including Cruzeiro and relegated Palmeiras, after saying he would not turn out for another Argentine side.

Former Argentina coach Sergio Batista tried to persuade Riquelme to join his Chinese team Shanghai Shenhua.

Bianchi, nicknamed Viceroy when he coached Velez Sarsfield where he began his playing career, won four Argentine leagues, three Libertadores Cups and two Intercontinental Cups during his two previous spells at Boca between 1998 and 2004.

Riquelme shared in all but three of those trophy wins.

Eric returns to training

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona defender Eric Abidal returned to training with his teammates Wednesday for the first time since undergoing a liver transplant in April, the club said.

The French international underwent the liver transplant operation on April 10 just over a year after having a tumour removed from his liver in March 2011.

"This Wednesday, the defender returned to training with the rest of his teammates," Barcelona said in a statement.

Abidal, who had been training separately, including at a mountain camp in the Catalan Pyrenees, has not played for the Spanish league leaders since February 26.

Chiellini out for 2 months

REUTERS, Rome

Serie A leaders Juventus will go into Friday's clash with Cagliari (1945 GMT) without defender Giorgio Chiellini, after he was ruled out with a calf injury on Wednesday.

The Italy centre-back could be out for two months, reports suggested, although Juve said the severity of the injury would not be clear until after a scan on Thursday.

Vilanova sidelined

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona will have to continue their march at the top of La Liga with coach Tito Vilanova sidelined after the club revealed Wednesday he has suffered a relapse of a tumour on which he was operated just over a year ago.

The 44-year-old who took over from Pep Guardiola at the beginning of the season was thought to have fully recovered from surgery last November to remove the growth on his parotid gland, and he was back at work within 15 days.

However, after an operation on Thursday it is thought he will have treatment for at least six weeks and may not be available to return to work during that time.

Until then, Sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta confirmed on Thursday, the side will be led by Vilanova's team, with his assistant Jordi Roura at the helm.

"Without going into too much detail about the sporting side today and whether we win or not at Valladolid on Saturday, just to say we'll continue with our coaching staff and our way of working, we'll be in extraordinary hands and Tito I'm sure will be watching us on TV," he said.

Barca president Sandro Rosell added "the most important thing for the club at this moment is the full recovery of Tito".

Vilanova has led Barcelona to the most successful start to a season in La Liga's history, with 15 wins and one draw in 16 matches so far.

With the final round of La Liga games of 2012 brought forward to allow the players an extra day of Christmas holidays, Barca will make it a great finish to the year, on the pitch at least, if they take three points

Wolves set to appoint Schuster

AFP, Berlin

VfL Wolfsburg look to have ended their search for a new coach with German media reporting ex-Real Madrid boss Bernd Schuster will take charge in a three-year deal set to be announced on Friday.

Schuster, who turns 52 on Saturday, is set to sign until 2015 on what would be his first appointment in the Bundesliga.

As a coach, Schuster's biggest success to date is to have won the Spanish league title in 2008 with Real.

As a midfielder, he played for both Barcelona and Real Madrid in the 1980s and made more than 20 appearances for West Germany during his career having been dubbed the "Blond Angel" for his goal-scoring prowess.

His last coaching role was in March 2011 when he resigned as trainer from Turkish team Besiktas after less than a year in charge.

After Felix Magath was sacked in October, Wolfsburg's caretaker coach Lorenz-Guenther Koestner has been in charge with the team 15th in the Bundesliga, just above the relegation places.

Five-star Chelsea



REUTERS, Leeds

half goals to make it through to the last four in January in some style.

They were level 60 seconds after the restart when Leeds goalkeeper Jamie Ashdown allowed Juan Mata's weak 20-yard shot under his grasp on the greasy surface, the ball finding the bottom corner.

Branišlav Ivanović stole in at the near post to head home a corner on 64 minutes to give the visitors a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

Man-of-the-match Victor Moses made it three after 66 minutes, rounding off a neat three-man move with Fernando Torres and Mata to fire past Ashdown from 20 yards.

Chelsea waited until the final 10 minutes to assert their authority with two further goals as Leeds tired and left gaps in a failed attempt to find a way back into the contest.

Substitute Eden Hazard made it four with a calm finish beyond a stranded Ashdown inside the box after latching onto a superb 40-yard through-ball from David Luiz, who made amends for his mistake that led to Leeds breaking the deadlock.



Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic celebrates scoring the second goal during their League Cup quarterfinal against Leeds United at Elland Road on Wednesday.

What to WATCH

BTV
Bangladesh Premier League
Sk Russel v Abahani
Live from 4:30pm

ESPN
Sportscentre India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm

TEN Cricket
South Africa v New Zealand
First T20

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League
Sk Russel v Abahani
Time: 4:30pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National