

# Appiah joins Black Stars management

## • Randy leads revamped team

Story: Maurice Quansah

**F**ORMER Ghana captain Stephen Appiah has joined the reconstituted management committee of the Black Stars in a strategic move by the Ghana Football Association (GFA) to reinvigorate the senior national team following years of underperformance.

The move, which introduces a blend of seasoned football administrators and business leaders, comes in the wake of

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• Randy Abbey —  
Chairman of the committee

• Stephen Appiah

## Yeboah, Mintah battle for SWAG top award

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• Grace Mintah

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# Voice of Graphic SPORTS

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## Reconstituted management committee must help revive Black Stars

*THE Ghana Football Association (GFA) has reconstituted the Black Stars Management Committee in a bold move to address the long-standing underperformance of the Black Stars. This new strategic direction is not just about change for the sake of change; it reflects the desperate need for leadership, vision and experience to guide Ghana's once-dominant football team back to its former glory.*

*The Black Stars have long been the heartbeat of Ghana, uniting a football-loving nation with their exhilarating performances on the international stage. However, the team's decline in recent years*

*has been painful for a nation with a proud footballing history. Ghana's failure to qualify for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations highlighted the team's shortcomings. However, with the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers on the horizon, this is the committee's final opportunity to prove to critics that such a body remains vital for the team's success.*

*The reformed committee, under the leadership of Dr Randy Abbey, is made up of seasoned professionals, each bringing unique expertise, and now carries the weighty responsibility of revitalising the national team and steering it back to success.*

*Dr Abbey, an influential member of the GFA's Executive Committee and President of Kpando Heart of Lions, brings with him a wealth of experience in football administration. His strong ties with government officials, particularly former President John Mahama, position him uniquely to bridge gaps between the GFA and the government, ensuring the team receives the necessary backing to succeed. His leadership is key in setting the tone for the committee's work, focusing on fostering strong relationships with stakeholders and securing crucial support for the Black Stars.*

*The Vice-Chairman, Stephen Appiah, a revered former Black Stars captain, stands as another vital pillar of this committee. His leadership and respect within the footballing community make*

*him a powerful figure in restoring discipline and unity within the squad. Appiah's focus will be on player relations, where his deep understanding of the challenges faced by the current crop of players—coupled with his ability to inspire—makes him the perfect figure to galvanise the squad.*

*The recent critique of the team's leadership and commitment issues, voiced before Parliament's Select Committee on Sports, underscores the urgency of systemic reforms. His calls for bold decisions, including greater inclusion of home-based players, have been well-received by fans eager for change.*

*The combined experiences of these committee members form a formidable force, equipped to tackle the challenges that lie ahead. They are expected to work in harmony with Coach Otto Addo's technical team to ensure the Black Stars are adequately prepared for the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers and beyond. Their collective expertise in administration, player relations, business management, and governance will be key to helping revive the Black Stars.*

*The committee's formation is a decisive step forward, signalling a renewed commitment to restoring Ghana's football glory. The journey ahead of Dr Abbey and his group is challenging, but with the right leadership in place, Ghana's football future is brighter than ever.*

# What happened to Ryan Giggs' coaching career? (II)

By Chris Wathan, BBC Sport

**M**ANCHESTER United — where Giggs made a record 963 appearances across 25 years — has also welcomed back their former star.

There have been a handful of low-key invites to the Old Trafford directors' box, and a commercial appearance in Indonesia last summer on behalf of the club's official Far East banking partner Maybank, external.

But while all this points to reintegration, elsewhere the sport seems more reticent.

Despite holding a record 13 Premier League winners' medals, Giggs is not among the 24 inductees in the top-flight's Hall of Fame.

In 2024 he was missing from a 15-player shortlist for the latest set of nominations, with many concluding the controversy over his character lay behind his absence.

The Premier League declined to comment on the reasons for him being overlooked.

BBC Sport has also been told by a number of sources that Giggs was not considered by the Football Association of Wales (FAW) when it sacked Rob Page as national

team manager last year.

Some senior figures were mindful of a risk that a return at that stage could face resistance, and be perceived as jarring with the governing body's 'For Her' strategy, external "aimed at transforming the landscape of women's football across Wales".

Giggs — who during the Qatar World Cup was seen watching his former team at a bar near his Cheshire home — did not formally apply for the role, and the FAW appointed Craig Bellamy, leaving some wondering when the chance to step back into senior management may come for the former winger.

"I know he was very disappointed to leave the Wales job," Dave Adams, the FAW's chief football officer who worked alongside Giggs for a year, told BBC Sport.

"We'd qualified for the Euros, which is a big achievement, but he never got the chance to go there with the team.

"I'm sure that was really difficult for him and I would guess he still has that drive to feel the success as a head coach that he did as a player.

"When managers have been out of the game, you can look at going back as an assistant, but it has to

be at a level of work that is respectful to you and your experience.

"If there was a former team-mate managing somewhere it could be an easy fit, but of that generation there are not many at a level that would benefit him.

"It is such a competitive market and young coaches are very prominent now, so there won't be as many opportunities that would work for him.

"If you were an owner of a

club, you still have that track record as a player of being part of a winning culture, a serial winner, someone who would demand high standards.

"His track record with Wales shows how he managed a successful transition period, which owners are looking for in managers now. The game does move on very quickly, but when I last spoke to Ryan he was spending a lot of his time watching games, so he is keeping on top of things and I'm sure he would be able to adapt."

Others, however, have concerns. In 2023, domestic abuse campaigners expressed their disappointment, external after the CPS decided not to pursue a retrial.

BBC Sport asked the charity Women's Aid about Giggs' more

visible role at Salford City, and the prospect of him returning to coaching.

In a statement it said it is "disheartening to see alleged perpetrators of abuse being considered to return to elevated positions of influence and power".

"Football is a global sport followed passionately by millions of young boys and men, many of whom look up to players, managers and directors as role models," it continued.

"Football clubs, and the sports industry, have a responsibility to uphold respect, equality, and safety for women and children.

"Women's Aid has shown through collaboration with football clubs how impactful these partnerships can be — we hope more clubs will follow these examples and take the opportunity to create real change."

Giggs is yet to address the legal case in an interview, and BBC Sport was told he would not comment about it at this stage.

Speaking to BBC Radio Manchester before the FA Cup match, he confirmed he wanted to return to management "one day".

"I had the stint as Wales manager and loved it," said Giggs. "At the moment I'm enjoying being at Salford as director of football and enjoy watching the team, happy where I am, but eventually I would like to get back into management. On matchday I still get as excited as ever, probably more so than ever."

• To be continued



• Ryan Giggs is the Sporting Director of Salford City FC