

# Match points: Newcastle v Tottenham

## Key battles

### Jamaal Lascelles v Harry Kane

If Benitez had arrived earlier, Newcastle's defensive record might have been better. He quickly realised the unheralded Lascelles offered solidity at the back. Halting Kane presents a test for the youngster. The Tottenham talisman has 25 league goals, Jamie Vardy and Sergio Agüero 24 apiece, and the race for the Golden Boot will go to the end.



### Cheick Tiote v Ryan Mason

Tiote almost left Newcastle in the January transfer window and so this could be a final game for the combative midfielder, a cornerstone of the team who finished fifth in 2012. Mason will stand in for Mousa Dembele and has a point to prove. Mauricio Pochettino is expected to strengthen the centre of midfield, with Victor Wanyama a likely arrival.



### Andros Townsend v Danny Rose

Townsend's Tottenham career ended after he was frozen out following a row with a fitness coach. He then represented Newcastle's best chance of a great escape, scoring four goals in nine games. This may be a late chance to play himself into England's Euro 2016 squad, where Rose will feature in place of the injured Danny Welbeck.



## Key statistics

### Newcastle's poor run

**19%**

Newcastle have won only nine of their last 48 league games.



### Tough going after Pardew

**0.84**

point per match  
Newcastle have taken only 46 points from 55 games since Alan Pardew left.

### Turn of form comes too late

**DWDDW**

Newcastle are unbeaten in five league games — their longest undefeated run since 2014. Manager Rafael Benitez has taken 10 points from nine games in charge.

### A spent force

**£82m**

Newcastle spent \$5162 million in the last year. No team have splurged as much on transfers in a year and gone down.

### Dembele the lucky mascot

**0-4**

Tottenham's last four league defeats have come in games the banned Mousa Dembele did not start.