



Experimental 3-6-1 // Season Analysis
The First Ten Games

Foreword

Context

Over the past few seasons there has been an explosion of available data for top flight football which has largely passed the lower reaches of the game by. As a passionate fan of lower league football frustrated by this imbalance, I started the Experimental 361 blog to provide data-driven analysis and visualisations for the Football League. While the relative paucity of data and the inaccuracies inherent in the manual way it's collected can be a frustration, I'm often pleasantly surprised by how much insight you can still wring from what's available in the public domain.

Background

I originally intended to produce a document like this over the Christmas holiday as a 'half season' report, bringing together the individual analyses from my blog posts into one place, followed by another at the end of the season. However an invitation onto the excellent 'We Are Going Up' Football League podcast to discuss the first 10 games has provided the perfect opportunity for a 'dry run'. What you'll find in here is a visual statistical summary for every Football League division and club, ordered first by division and alphabetically.

Some words of caution

While some say that 10 games is the earliest point at which you can begin to judge a season, it certainly isn't sufficient to start drawing firm conclusions. For one, 10 games isn't likely to generate a statistically significant amount of data. Secondly, a lot changes over this period as squads settle, last-minute transfers are made and the fixture list deals some teams tougher starts than others.

While every team has played at least 10 league games, some have played 11 and I've included these additional games into the calculations for relevance. This shouldn't unduly influence the outcome as virtually all metrics are calculated on a 'per game' basis and the other factors mentioned above probably have a greater influence than an extra home or away game.

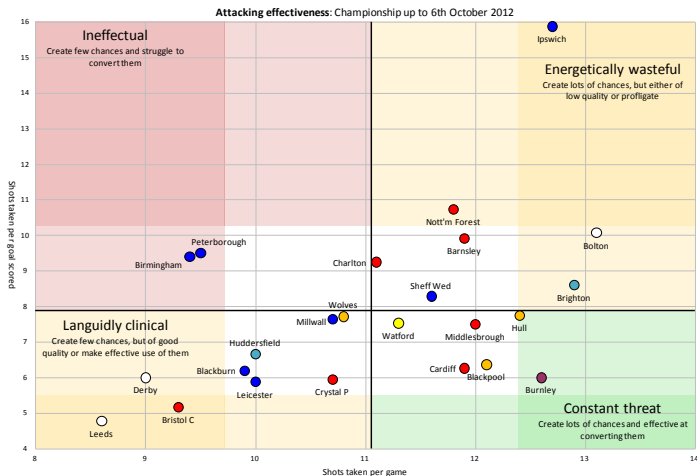
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Explanations: Divisional summaries

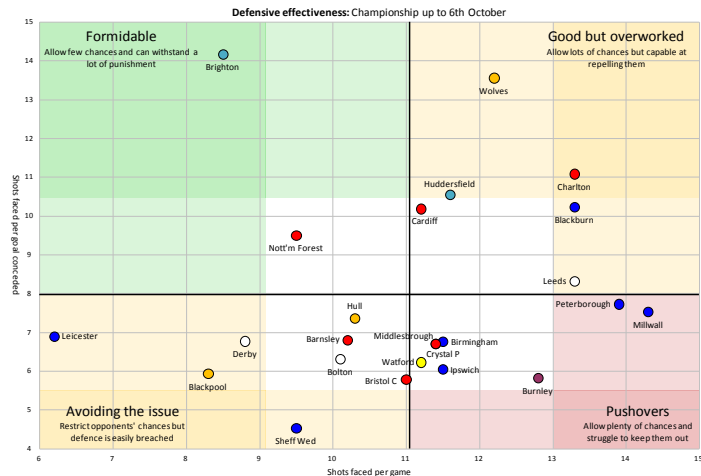
Each of the 3 divisional sections opens with a pair of graphs familiar to regular readers of the blog, although they've evolved significantly from last season. The first shows attacking performance, the second defensive, each by comparing an activity measure (shots taken or faced per match) against an efficiency measure (shots per goal scored or conceded). **Put simply, it's quantity on the horizontal and quality on the vertical.**

The axes are centred on the divisional averages for both measures and the white central zone shows everything within one standard deviation of the average. The coloured zones show everything outside this range and the colouring and text used reflects how good or bad each zone is.



Attack

The green bottom right quadrant is clearly the place to be, where teams take more shots while requiring less shots to score, but you can get by just fine in one of the yellow zones, as long as your lack of shots is matched by increased accuracy or your lack of accuracy is balanced out by creating more chances.



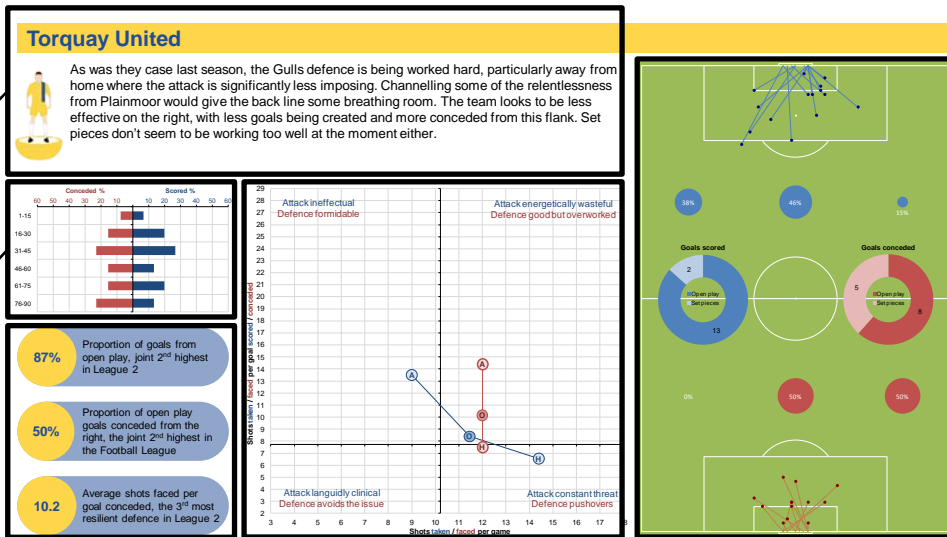
Defence

Now the desirable quadrant is top right, where less shots are faced and more shots are required to breach the defence. Again, the yellow zones are perfectly respectable – some teams are happy to soak up pressure while others are adept at restricting their opponents chances.

Explanations: Club summaries

Each club has its own individual page in a standard format, coded by colour and kit and comprising the components below. More stats exist than I could fit on the page, but this covers most of the bases. The paragraph at the top and the 'bite size' stats in the bottom left occasionally reference stats or levels of granularity not included in the diagrams.

A short summary of the club's performance based on all the data analysed – this is only my own view, so apologies in advance if my unfamiliarity with a club leads me to draw naive conclusions



A pitch diagram showing the trajectory of all goals scored (blue, top) and conceded (red, bottom) as dots and lines. This goal-level data is the most significant addition to my analyses this season.

The 2 doughnut charts show the number and proportion of goals scored from open play vs. set pieces (comprising corner, free kick, throw in and penalty situations).

Finally the 2 rows of bubbles show the areas of the pitch where the goals scored from open play were created.

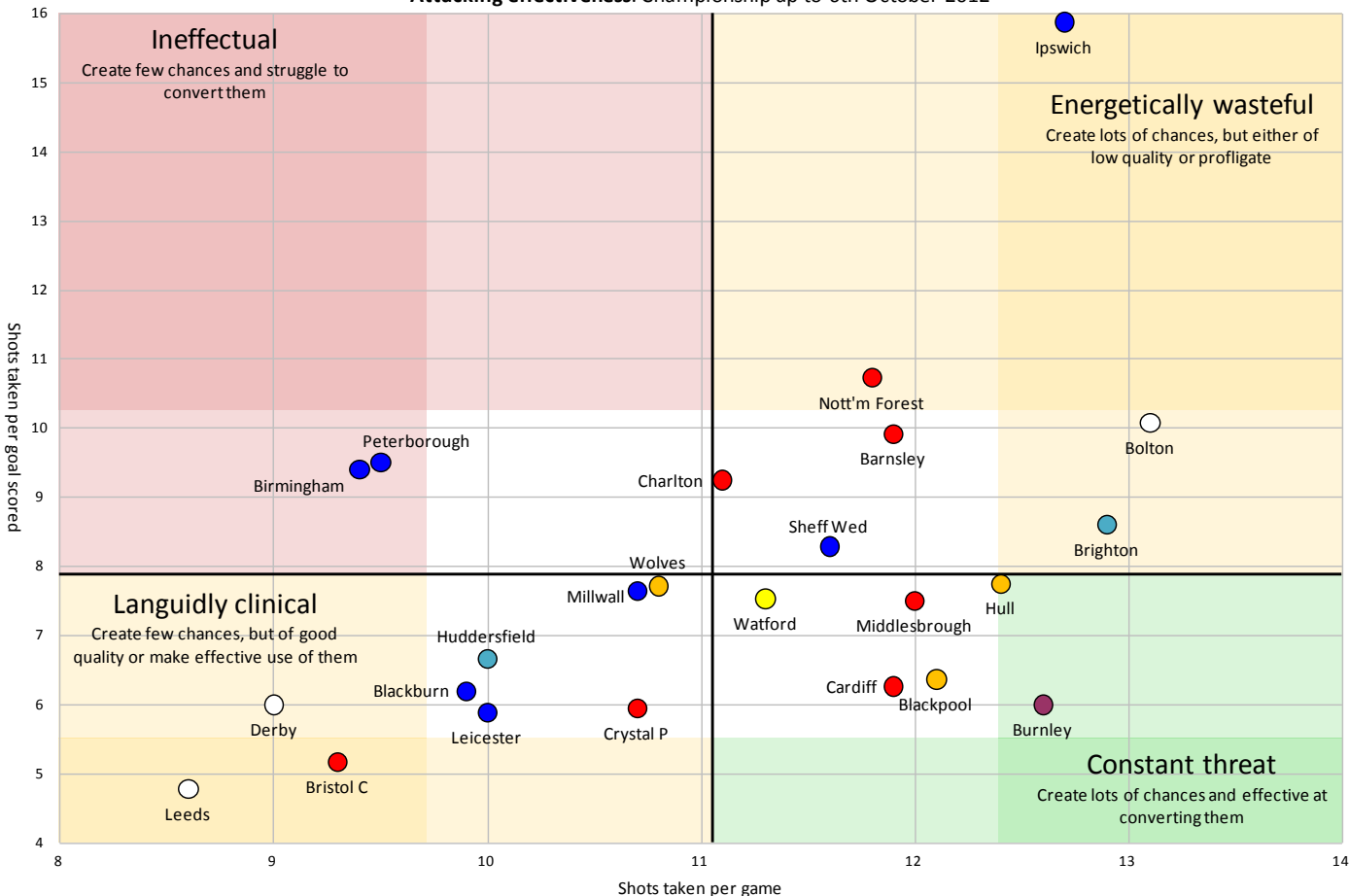
A graph of goal timings split into 6 15 minute segments, where blue shows the percentage of goals scored and red goals conceded.

3 'bite size' stats for each club – some are more profound than others as there are always a few clubs which are stubbornly average at everything. These often reference stats which are more granular than those shown in the diagrams.

A club-specific version of the attack and defence effectiveness plots, showing both attack (blue) and defence (red) split by (H)ome, (A)way and (O)verall records on a single graph. The titles are colour coded so that you can see which text refers to which elements.

Championship: Attacking

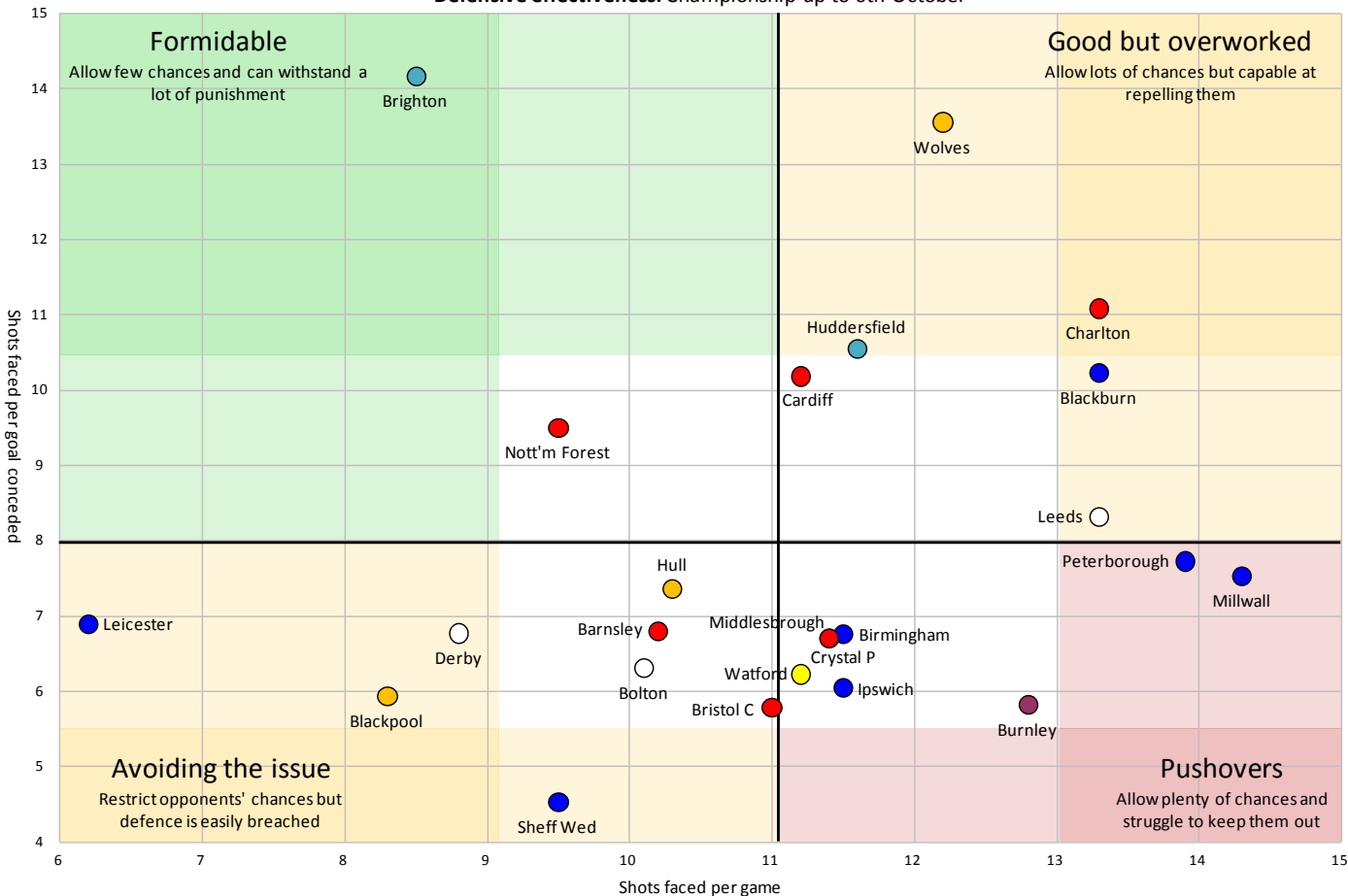
Attacking effectiveness: Championship up to 6th October 2012



- Ipswich** are the most notable outliers here – while they create the 3rd most chances in the division, they require almost double the average number of chances to score each goal.
- Leeds** are an example of success outside the ‘green’ zone: while no Championship side creates fewer chances, they average 3 fewer goal attempts to find the back of the net which more than compensates for the lack of activity.
- Birmingham’s** problems are clearly illustrated here – like fellow strugglers **Peterborough** they’re finding both chance creation and conversion difficult.
- Bolton’s** disappointing start hasn’t been for want of trying – they’re the division’s busiest side in front of goal, but also the 3rd most wasteful.

Championship: Defending

Defensive effectiveness: Championship up to 6th October

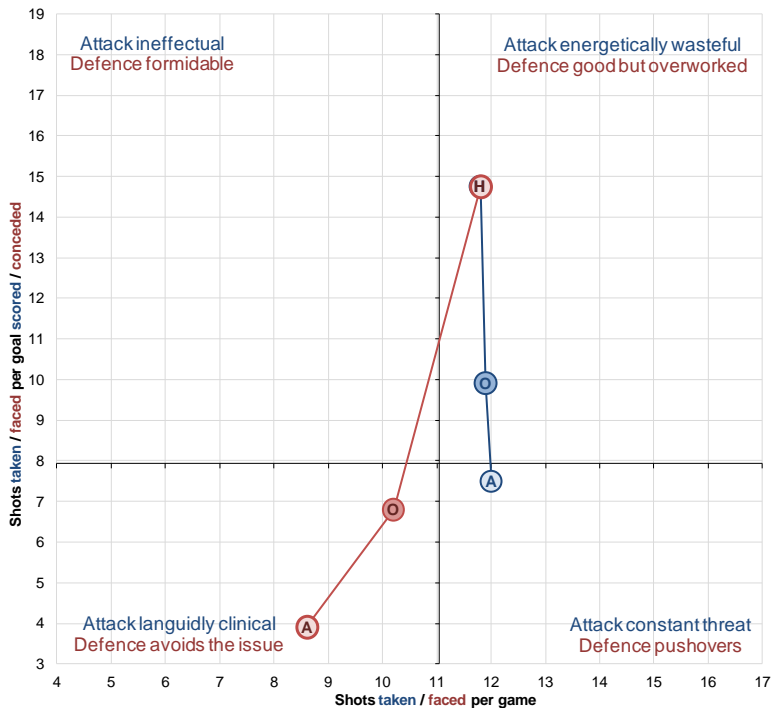
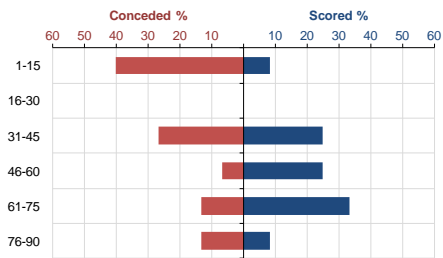


- **Leicester** are the masters of shutting down the opposition, facing almost 5 fewer shots on their goal per match than the average Championship side.
- While the previous graph showed that they create plenty of chances, **Brighton's** success is built on defensive resilience, suggesting either an outstanding goalkeeper or a defence adept at forcing opponents to shoot from unfavourable positions.
- **Sheff Wed** have the leakiest rearguard in the division – it takes 3 times as many shots to breach the defence of **Wolves** or **Brighton**.
- Another interesting comparison with the previous page is **Burnley**, whose impressive attack is undermined by a porous defence, resulting in some great games for the neutral.

Barnsley



Barnsley are unquestionably finding more joy down the right, where balls into the box are yielding a decent return. They tend to concede early though, which leaves them chasing the game as they struggle to score in the opening half hour. They're frustratingly wasteful in front of goal, particularly at home, and would benefit from improving their threat from set pieces.



60%

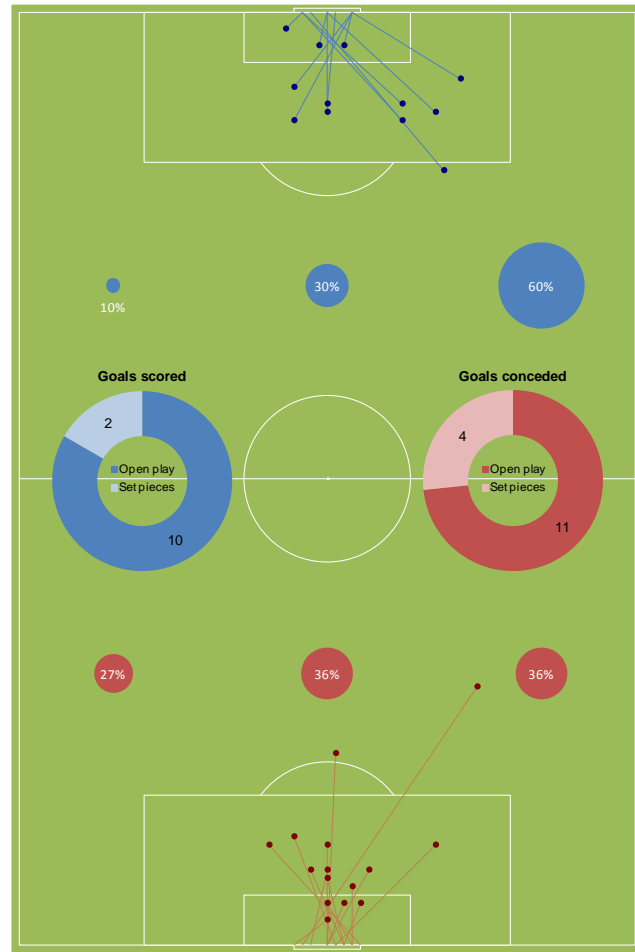
Proportion of open play goals from the right flank, the highest in the Championship

8%

Proportion of goals scored in the final 15 minutes of matches, the lowest in the Championship

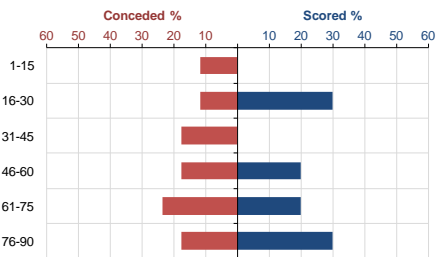
40%

Conceded the joint highest proportion of goals in the opening 15 minutes in the Football League



Birmingham City

Lee Clark is already under pressure after a poor start, with shortcomings at both ends of the pitch. Up front they're neither generating sufficient chances nor sticking enough of them away, seeming to lack an aerial threat. Last minute goals are something of a speciality, however.



0

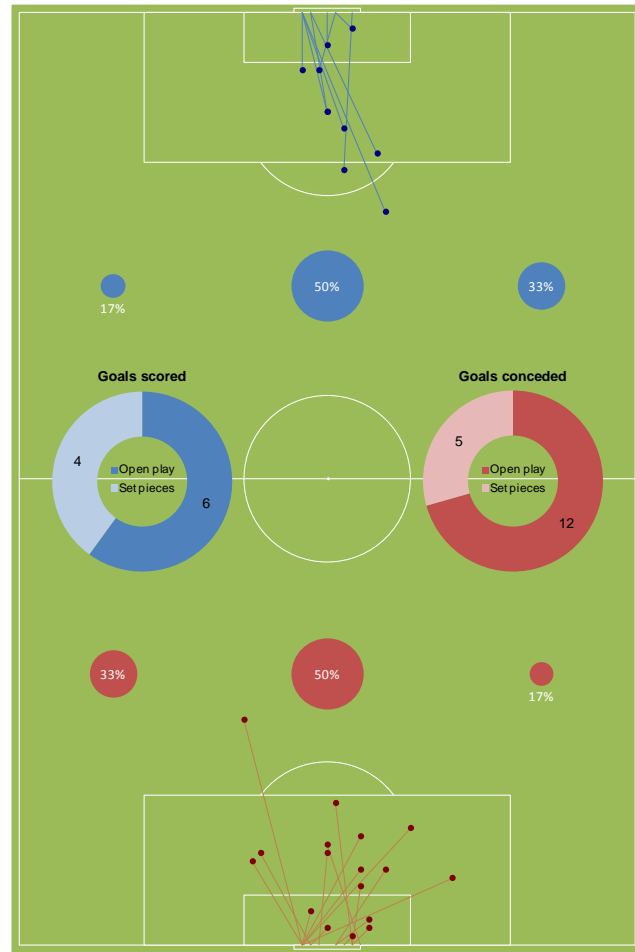
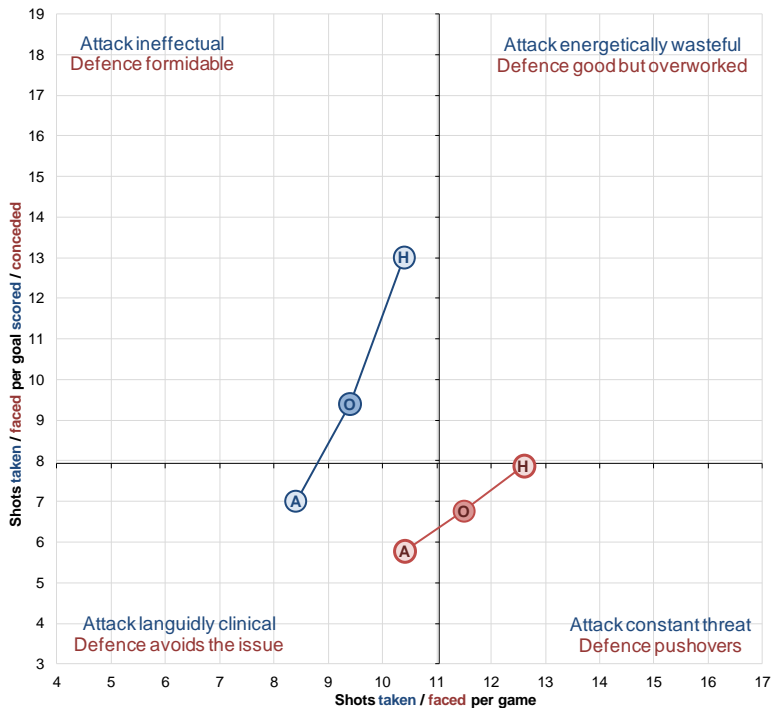
The only Championship team not to have scored from a header

0

1 of 4 Championship sides not to have scored in the opening 15 minutes of matches

20%

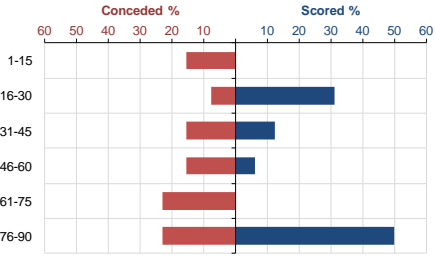
Scored the joint 3rd highest proportion of goals in stoppage time in the Football League



Blackburn Rovers



Blackburn's chaotic start is reflected in their scoring pattern, where they tend to leave things very late. They're not creating the volume of chances you'd expect of a title challenger in this division and their defence has been far too busy. Their attacks are definitely biased towards the left side of the pitch.



50%

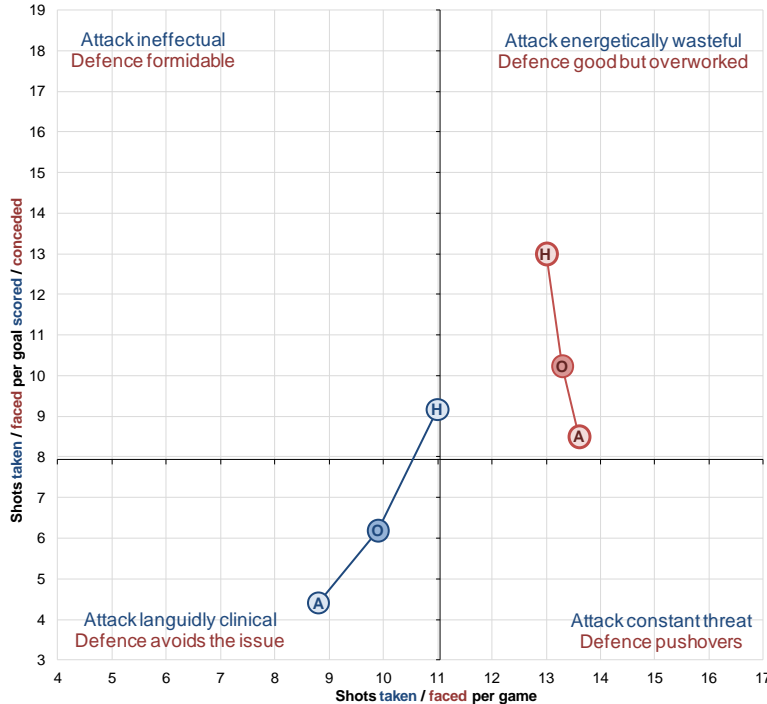
Proportion of goals scored in the final 15 minutes of matches, joint 2nd highest in the Football League

0

1 of 4 Championship sides not to have scored in the opening 15 minutes of matches

2

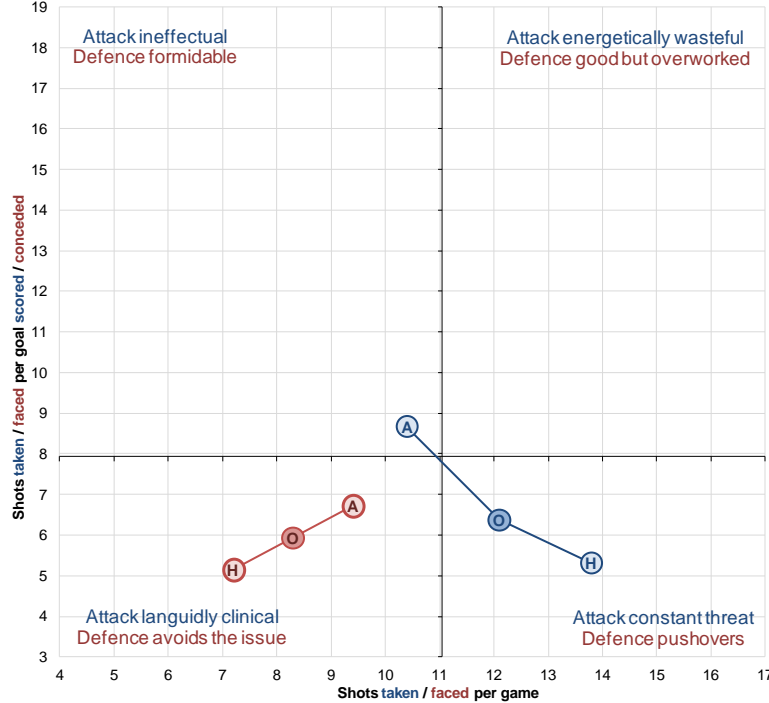
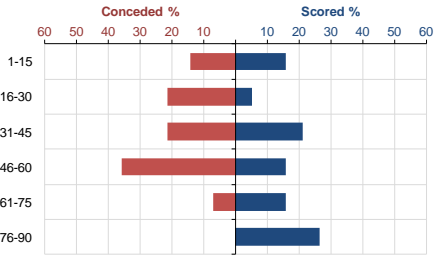
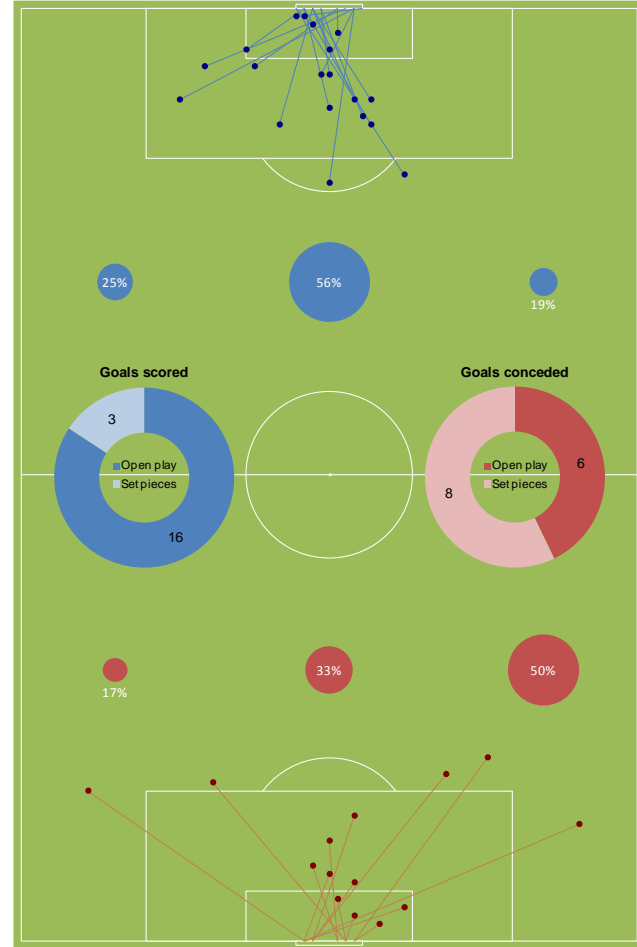
Number of goals conceded from throw-in situations, the joint most in the Football League



Blackpool



One of the division's most dangerous attacks, at home Blackpool are particularly irrepressible. Defensively they're excellent at keeping things tight late on, conceding only once after the hour mark. They do however seem vulnerable in the air, conceding frequently from headers and set pieces. Another stat which I didn't have room for below was the 36% of goals conceded from outside the area, the 2nd highest in the Championship.



0 1 of only 2 Football League sides not to have conceded in the last 15 minutes

36% Proportion of goals conceded from headers, the highest in the Championship

57% Proportion of goals conceded coming from set pieces, the 3rd highest the Football League

Attack ineffectual
Defence formidable

Attack energetically wasteful
Defence good but overworked

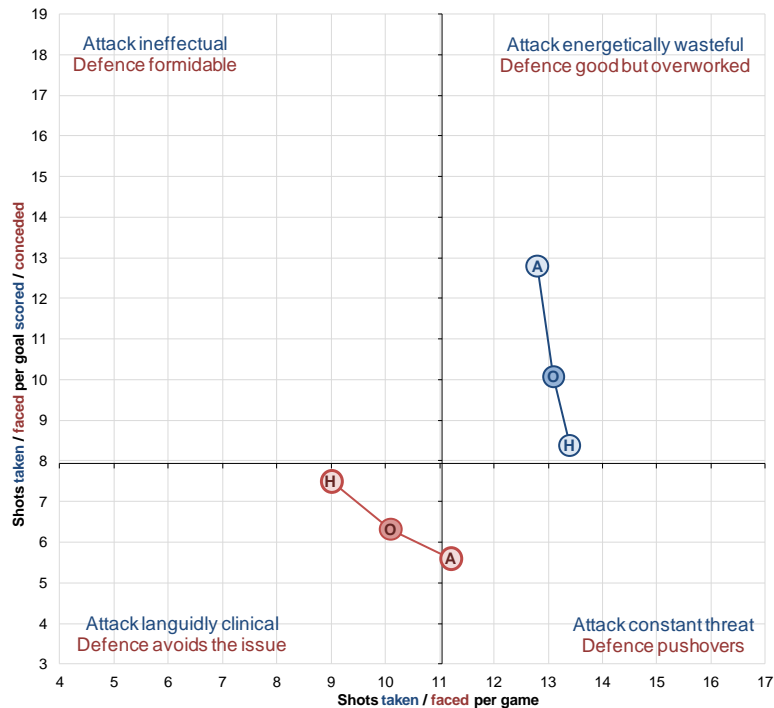
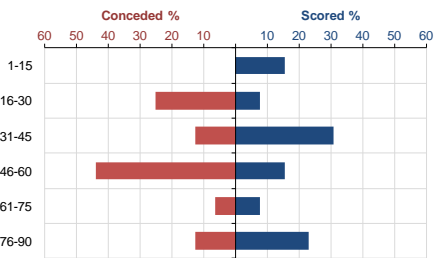
Attack languidly clinical
Defence avoids the issue

Attack constant threat
Defence pushovers

Bolton Wanderers



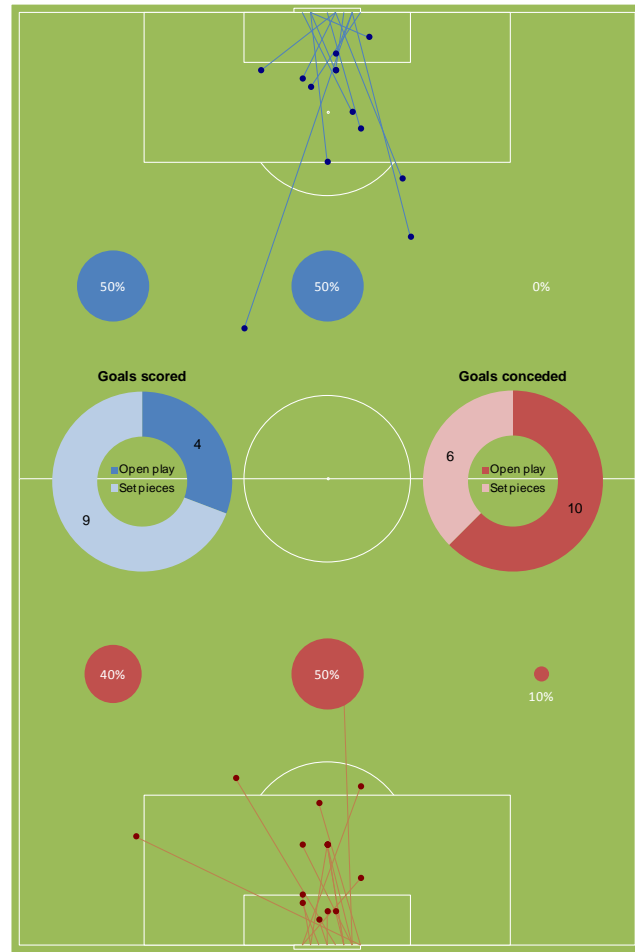
At the time of writing, Bolton's start had just been deemed a sackable offence. It's arguably errors that helped do for Owen Coyle: 4 goals were conceded from penalties and the front line has been wasteful. They've relied heavily on set pieces this season, with 5 goals coming from corners and another 4 from free kicks. The amount of goals being conceded early in the second half suggests that Coyle wasn't making productive use of the interval, or that opponents were able to adapt to Bolton's style.



3 Have scored the joint most goals directly from free kicks in the Football League

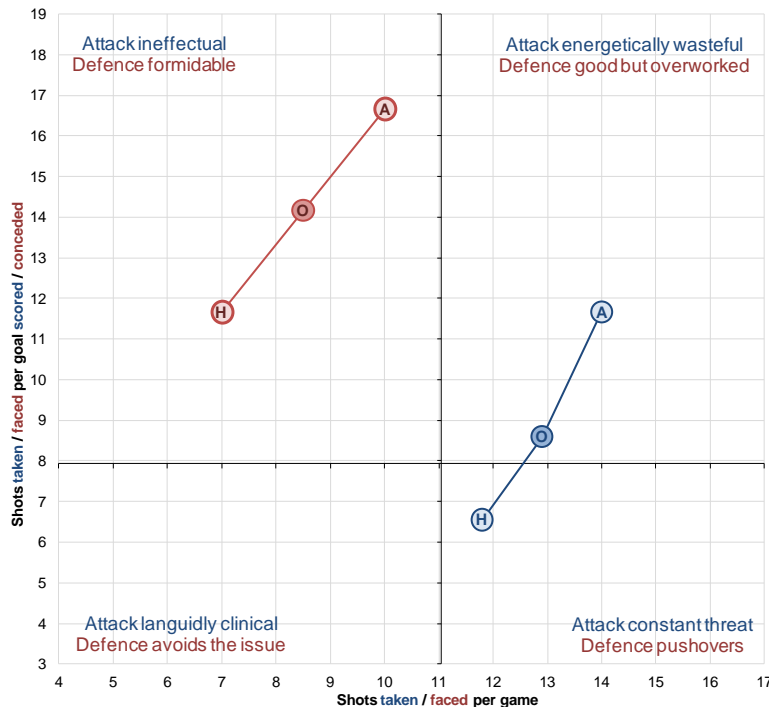
69% The highest proportion of goals from set pieces in the Championship

4 Conceded the highest proportion of goals from the penalty spot in the Football League



Brighton & Hove Albion

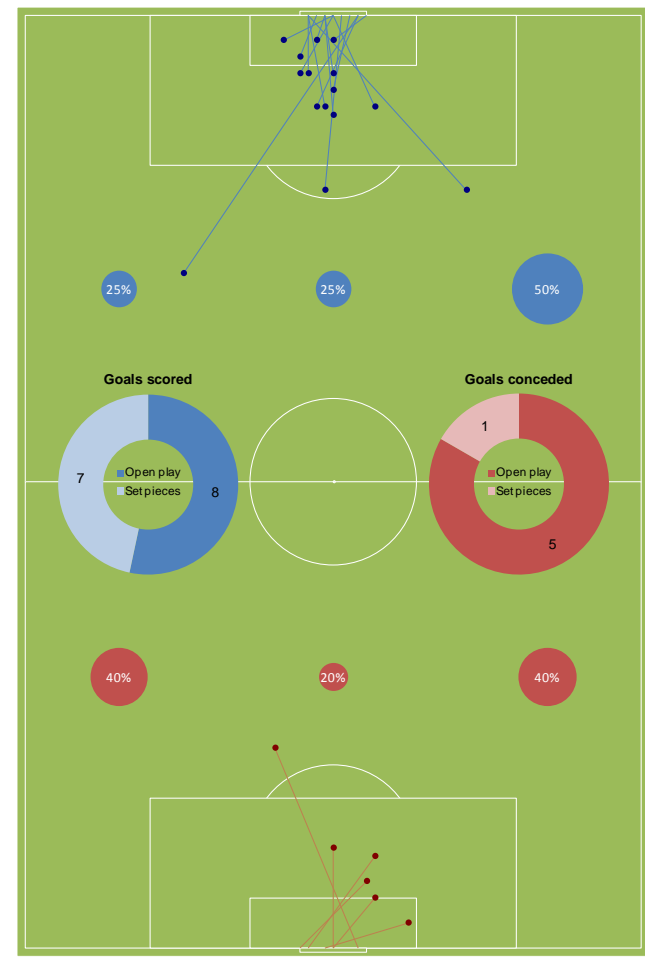
A rock solid defence has been the difference for Albion so far, although a balance of goals across the front line has also helped. They've used the right flank particularly well, where persistency has paid dividends. The start of each half is invariably one-way traffic in their favour, suggesting a strong motivational presence in the dressing room.



2.1 The average number of goals in a match involving Brighton – the Championship's joint lowest

50% Proportion of open play goals from the right flank, the 2nd highest in the Championship

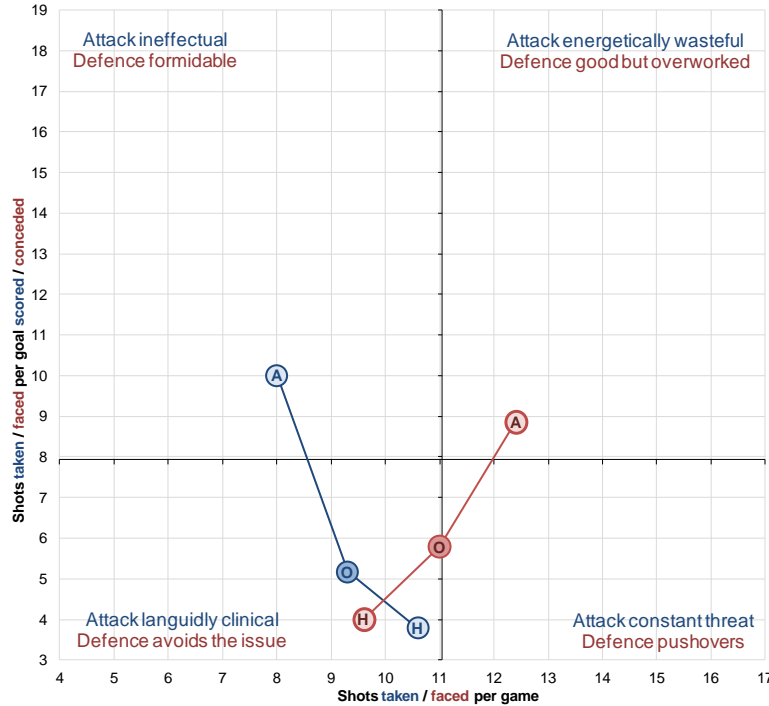
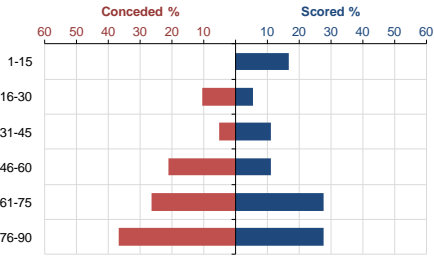
0 1 of 3 Football League sides not to have conceded in the opening 15 minutes of halves



Bristol City



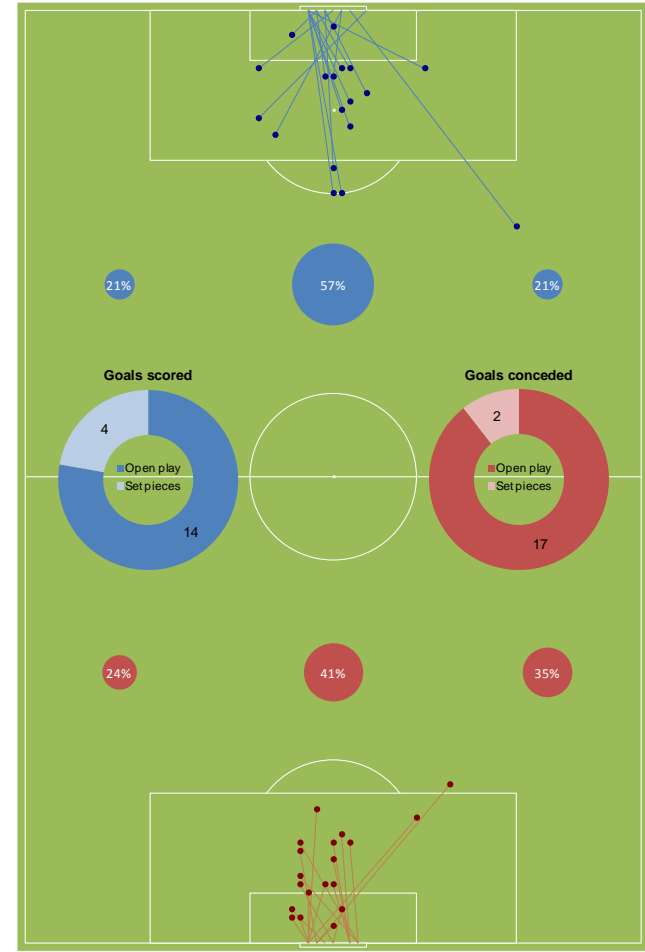
City fans must be wishing games ended earlier, such is their side's frustrating inability to keep the ball out of the net in the second half. While very few goals are being conceded from set pieces, I'd be worried by the very central goalscoring positions of their opponents, suggesting that it may be too easy to work the ball into the danger zone. While the strike force is ruthlessly efficient at home, it's not clicking at all in away matches.



2 Scored the joint highest number of own goals in the Football League

11% Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the 3rd lowest in the Football League

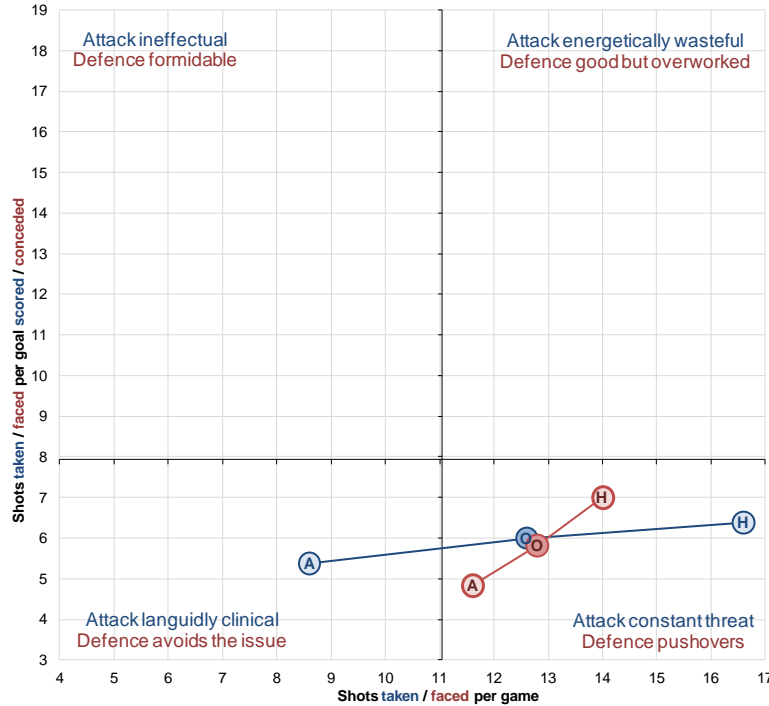
16% Concede the 2nd lowest proportion of goals in the first half in the Football League



Burnley



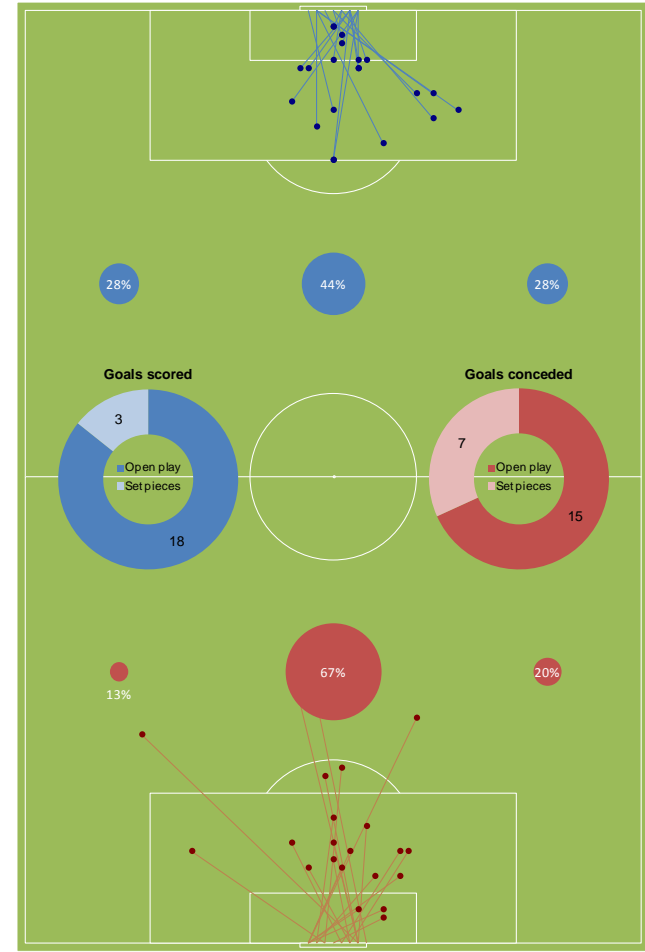
One of the division's more entertaining teams for the neutral, with goals flying in all over the place. They may not score many from range, but with Charlie Austin in devastating form, why bother taking pot shots when you can just pass to him? There's so much good to say about Burnley's attack, not least the fitness and concentration required to score so many late in the half, but they need to tighten things up defensively if it's not to all be in vain.



4.3 The average number of goals in matches involving Burnley, the Football League's highest

8 Scored more headers than any other Championship team

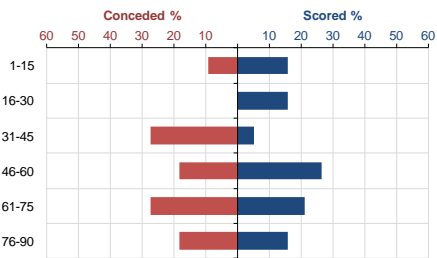
0 The only Championship side not to have scored a goal from outside the penalty area



Cardiff City



The current league leaders present an all-round threat: plenty from set pieces and a variety of goals from across the front line, albeit skewed leftwards. Despite a formidable home defence, like most teams they're a lot busier on their travels.



3

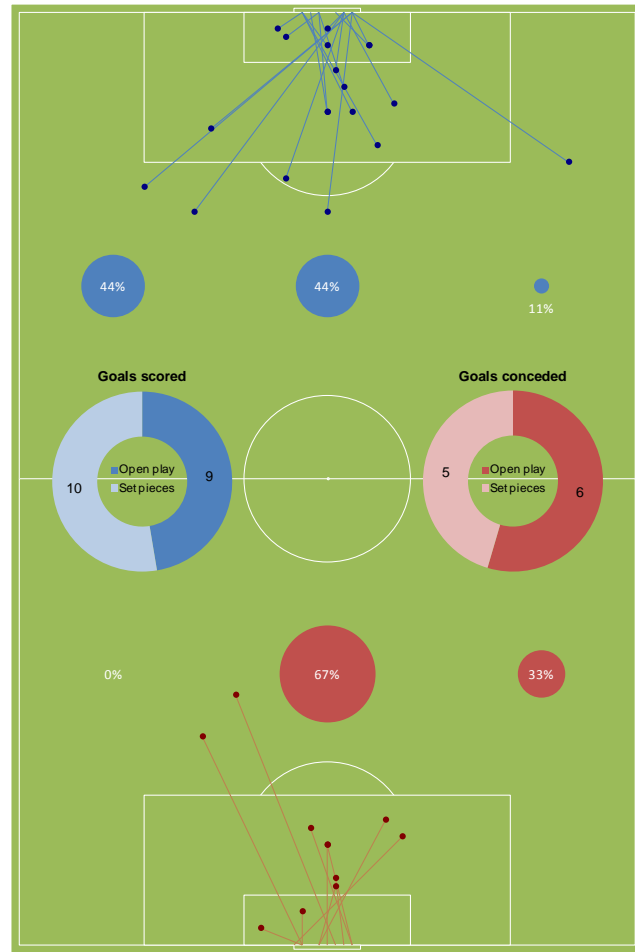
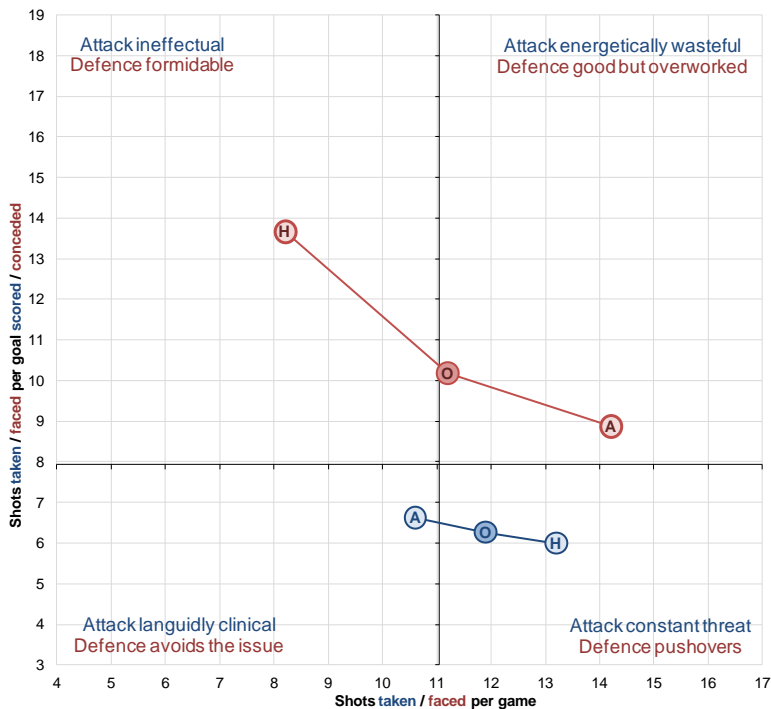
Have scored the joint most goals directly from free kicks in the Football League

53%

Proportion of goals scored from set pieces, joint 2nd highest in the Championship

27%

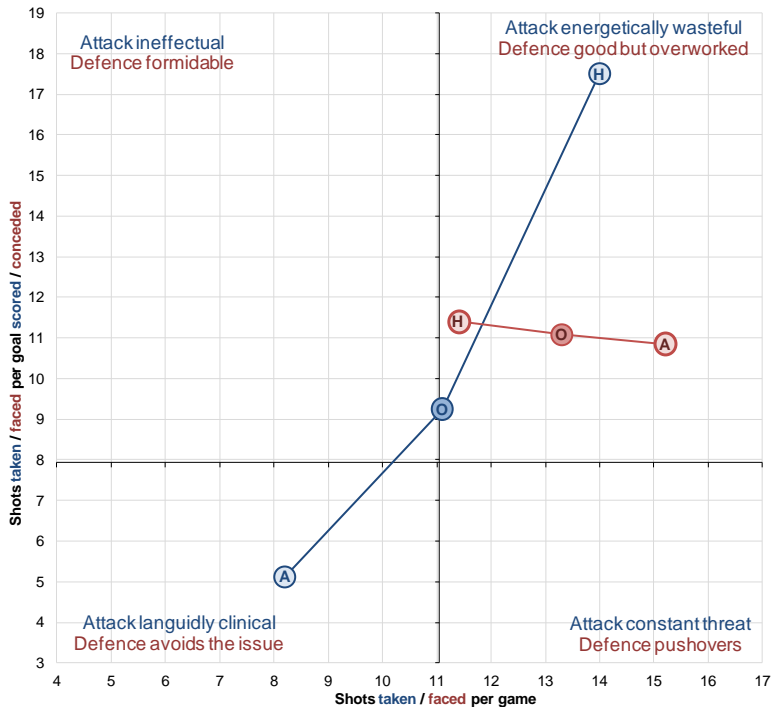
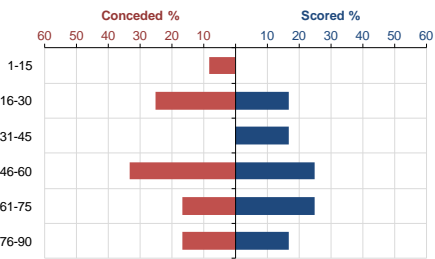
Proportion of goals conceded from corners, the 3rd highest in the Football League



Charlton Athletic



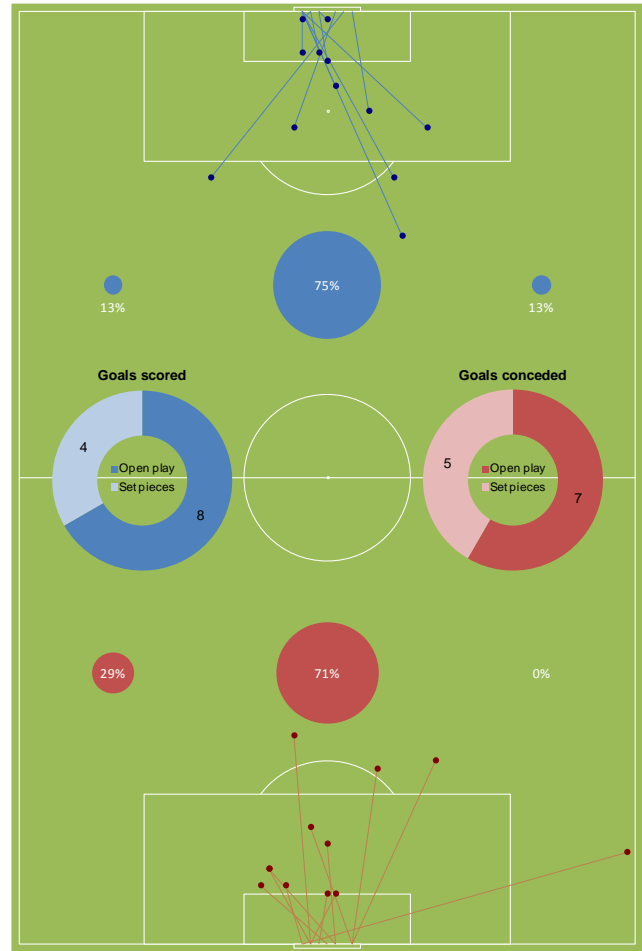
The wings aren't getting much productive use for either the Addicks or their opponents so far, with most of the breakthroughs occurring centrally. The home fans are seeing a completely different attack to those who travel with the side: on their own turf the Charlton attack is frustratingly wasteful, while away they're patiently effective. Is this due to the weight of expectation, or a more urgent style of play?



17%
Scored the highest proportion of goals from throw ins in the Championship

0
1 of 4 Championship sides not to have scored in the opening 15 minutes of matches

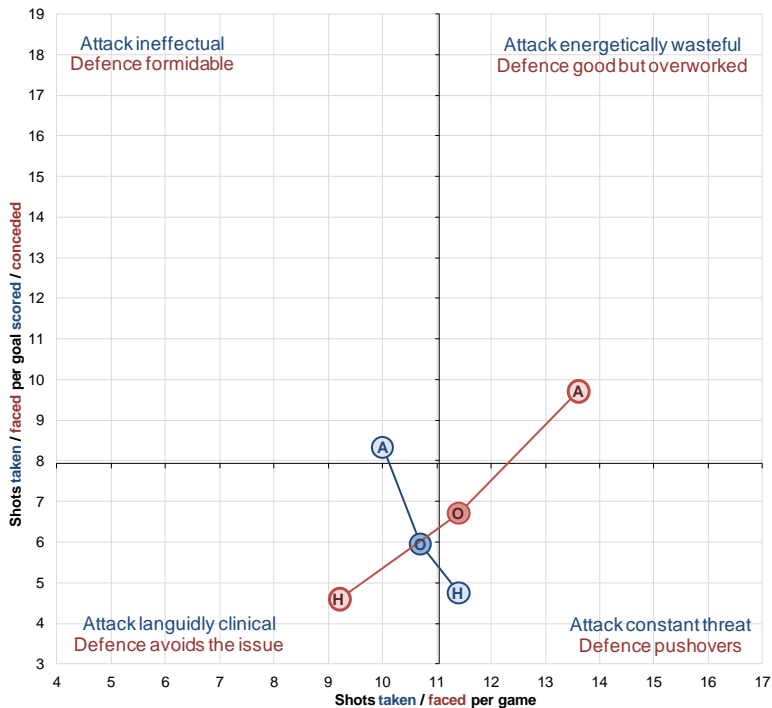
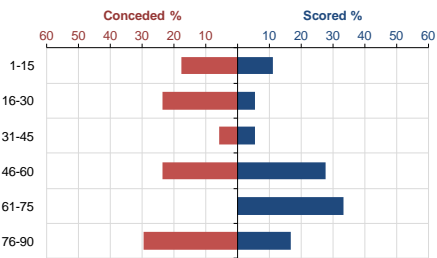
33%
Proportion of goals conceded from outside the area, the 3rd highest in the Championship



Crystal Palace



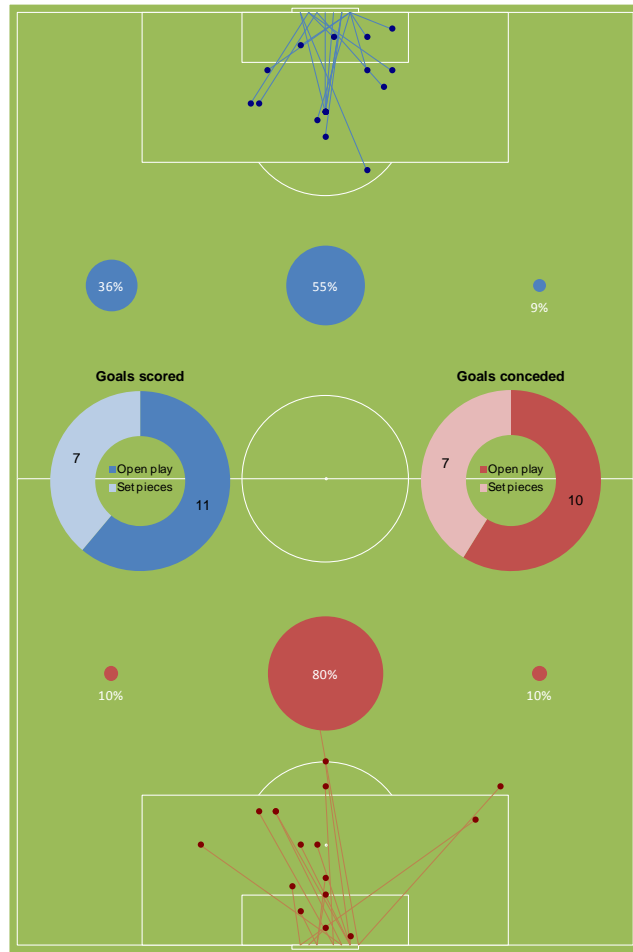
Arguably the division's overachievers so far, they're also 1 of 3 Championship sides to have scored in every league match. It's in the second half when Palace typically spark into life, with over three quarters of their goals scored after half time.



78% Proportion of goals scored in the second half, the 2nd highest in the Championship

5 Scored more penalties than any other Football League side, accounting for 28% of their goal tally

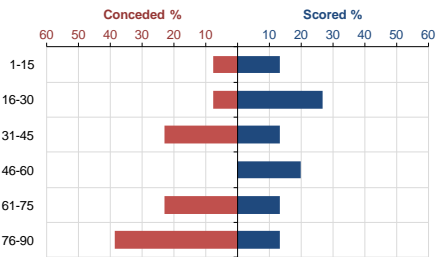
0 1 of 2 sides in the Football League not to have conceded a headed goal



Derby County



While Derby don't take all that many shots, they tend to make them count. Worryingly they concede a large proportion of goals late in each half, which is usually down to either fitness or concentration issues. A lot of goals are being leaked from the left, so perhaps this is a problem position?



50%

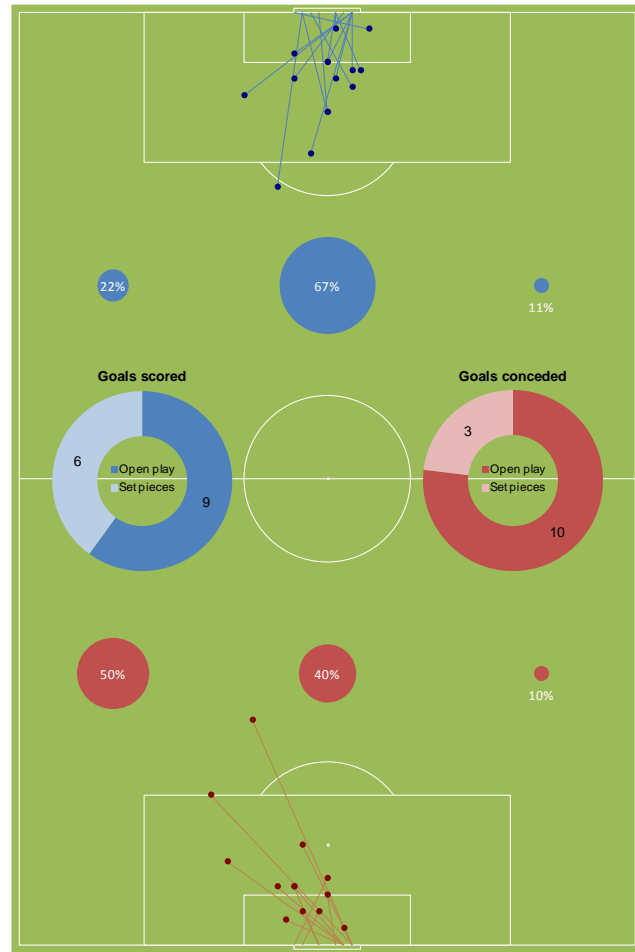
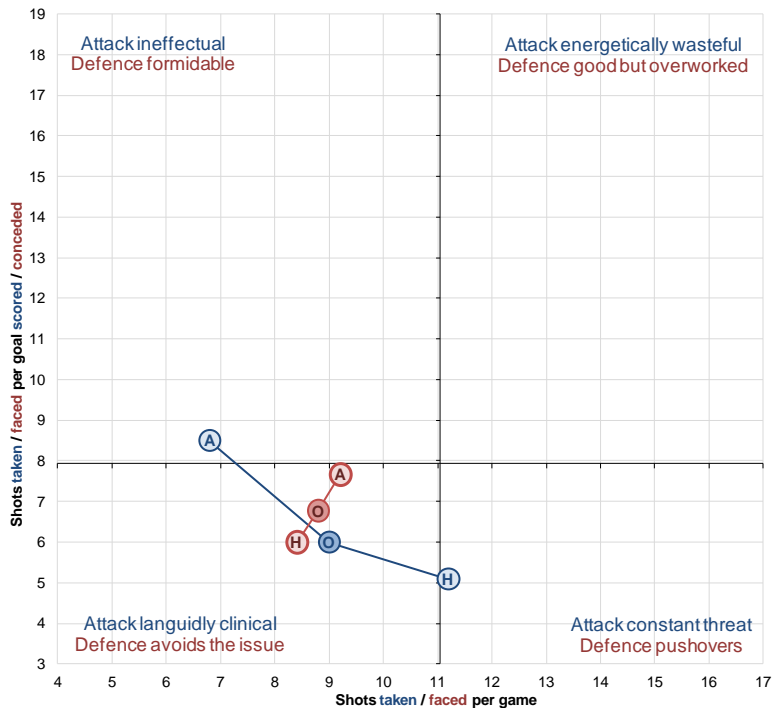
Joint highest proportion of goals conceded from open play down the left in the Championship

63%

Highest proportion of shots on target in the Football League

62%

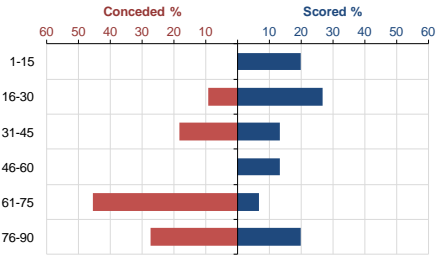
Proportion of goals conceded in the last 15 minutes of halves, the highest in the Championship



Huddersfield Town



Huddersfield don't seem to be missing Jordan Rhodes all that much, although their reliance on set pieces may be masking a reduced effectiveness from open play. While they're defensively tight after kick-offs, a more tangible concern is that nearly three quarters of the goals they concede are coming in the final half an hour.



53%

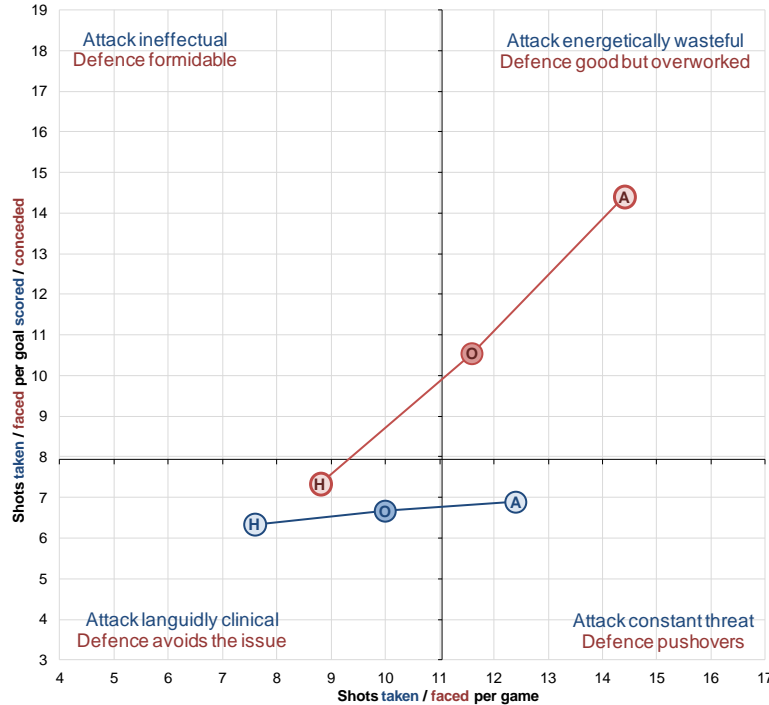
Proportion of goals from set pieces, joint 2nd highest in the Championship

0

1 of 3 Football League sides not to have conceded in the opening 15 minutes of halves

9%

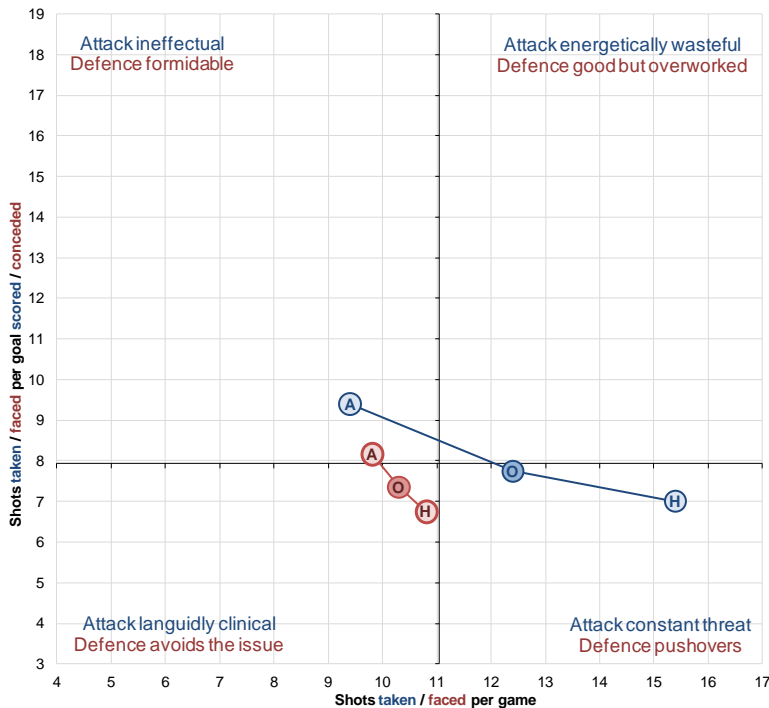
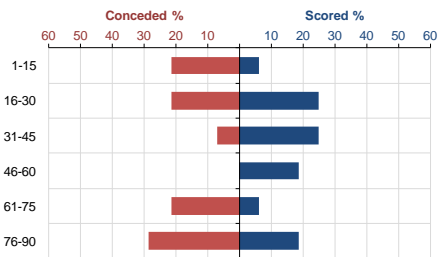
Concede the joint lowest proportion of goals in the opening half hour in the Championship



Hull City



Visiting defences can expect a battering from a side who muster a shot every 6 minutes on their own turf, but can relax at set pieces. Hull have found considerable success down the right flank, where plenty of goals are created and few conceded, whereas the left side of the team is the opposite and may be in need of strengthening.



1

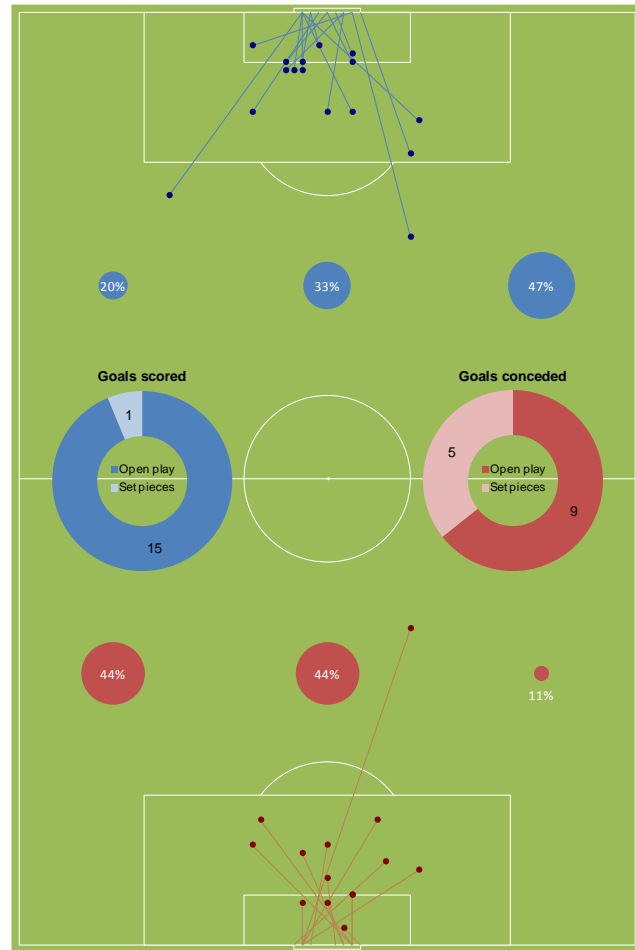
The joint 2nd lowest tally of goals from set pieces in the Football League

47%

Proportion of open play goals from the right flank, the 3rd highest in the Championship

15.4

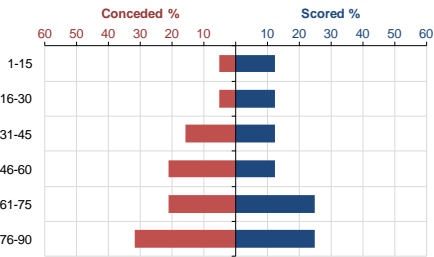
Shots taken per match at home, the joint 2nd most in the Championship



Ipswich Town



It's been a disappointing start for Ipswich – they've got the Championship's most wasteful attack by quite some distance and are also quite leaky at the back. While they start games relatively well, they're increasingly prone to concede as the clock ticks down and are particularly poor at tracking runs into their 6 yard box.



50%

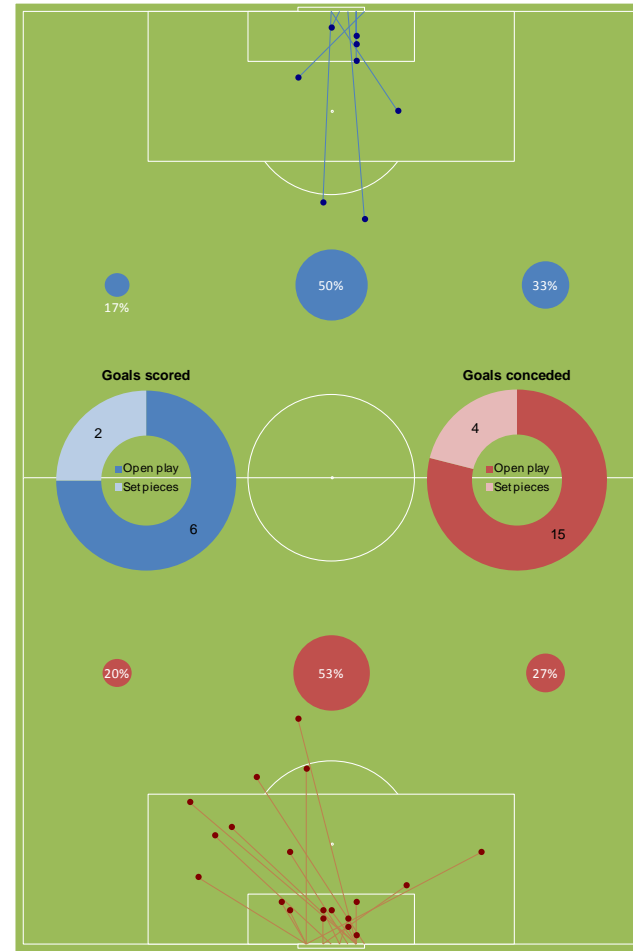
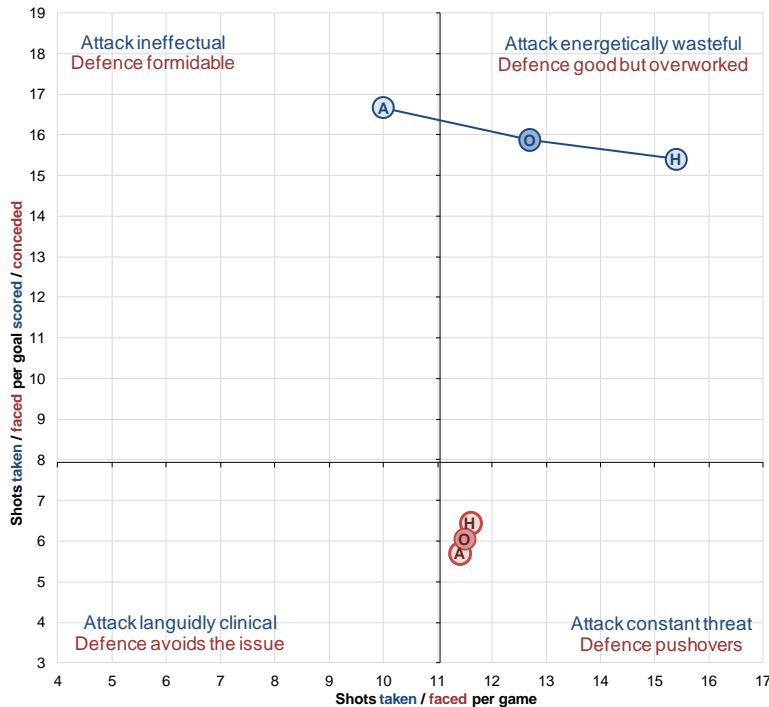
Scored the highest proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box in the Championship

25%

Scored the highest proportion of goals in stoppage time in the Football League

47%

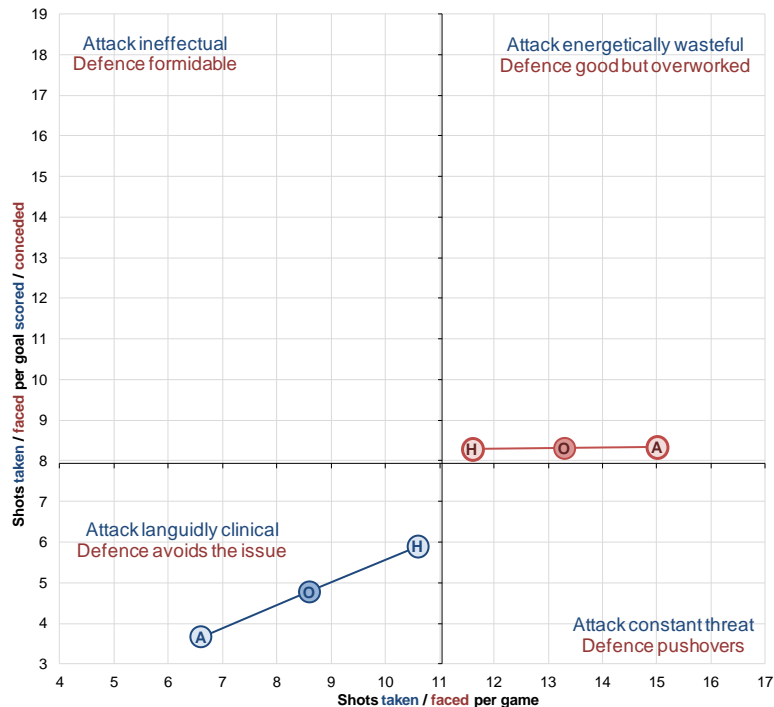
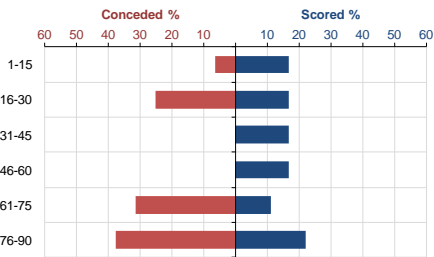
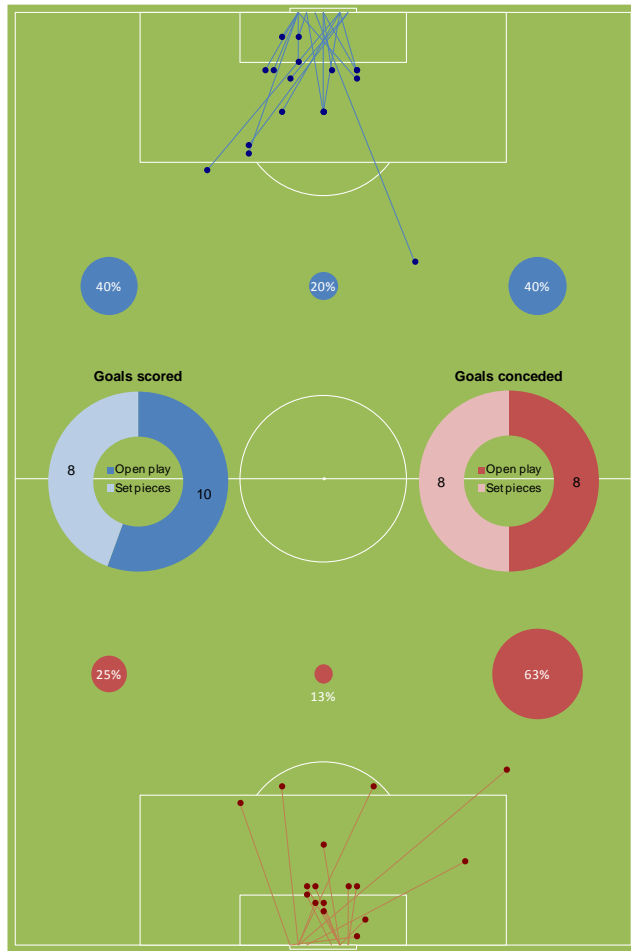
Proportion of goals conceded from within the 6 yard box, the 3rd highest in the Football League



Leeds United



It's all happening on the flanks where Leeds are concerned: 80% of goals scored and 83% of goals conceded are created away from the centre of the pitch. While they've made an encouraging start to the season, they look vulnerable down the right and from set pieces, with a corner against them generating a goal every other game. Up front things look better though; they're 1 of 3 Championship sides to have scored in every match so far.



63% Proportion of goals from open play conceded down the right side, the highest in the Football League

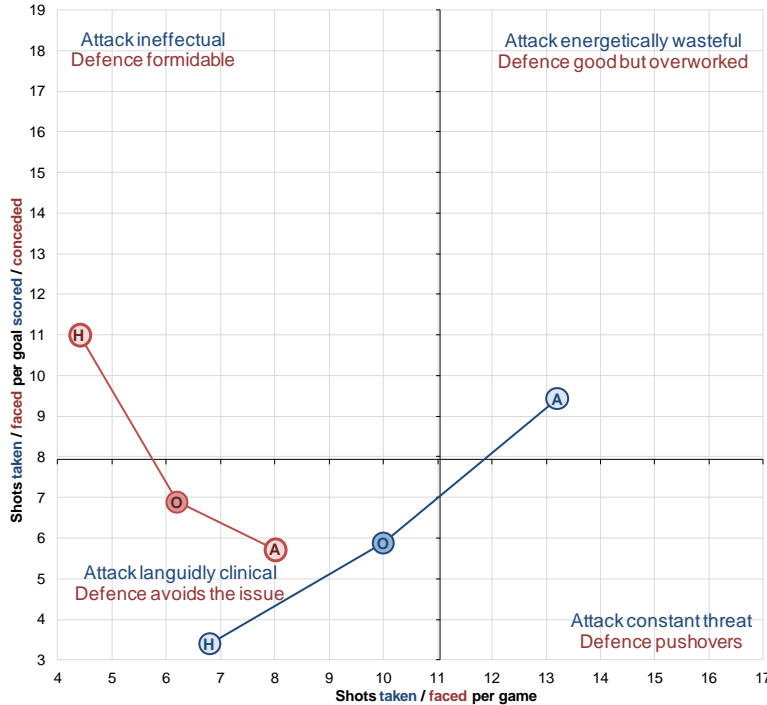
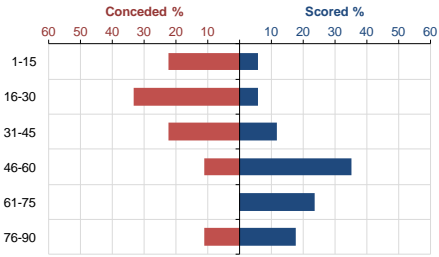
80% Proportion of goals from open play created on one of the flanks, the highest in the Championship

31% Proportion of goals conceded from corners, the highest in the Championship

Leicester City



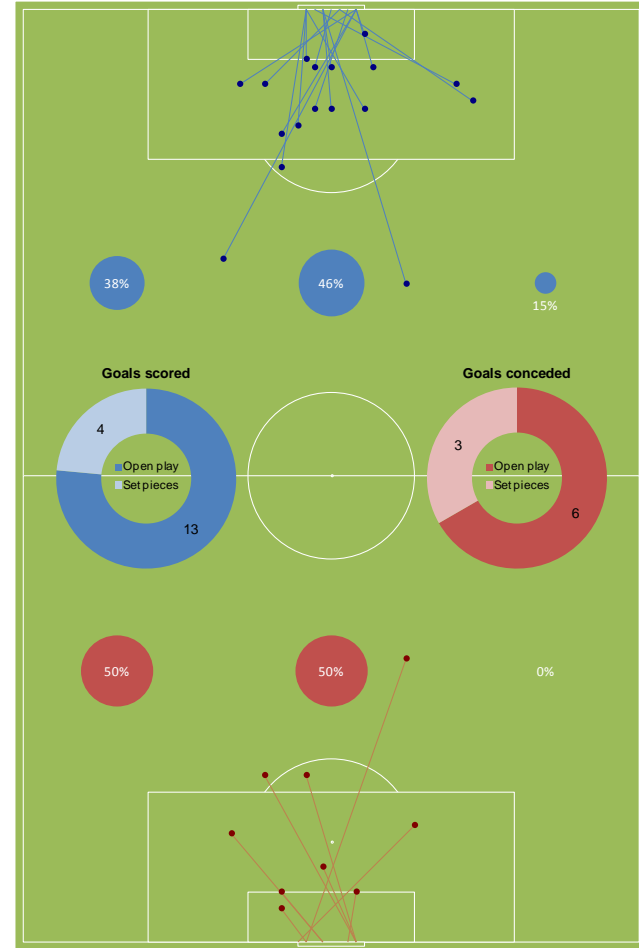
Leicester fans would be forgiven for only turning up to the second half of matches as their team is very likely to trail at the interval only to mount a spirited comeback. The difference between home and away performances is intriguing: at home there are few chances at either end but the Foxes are by far the more effective. On the road the team create nearly double the volume of chances but snatch at them.



10 1 of 3 Championship sides to have scored in every match so far

0 1 of 2 Championship sides not to have conceded a goal down the right from open play

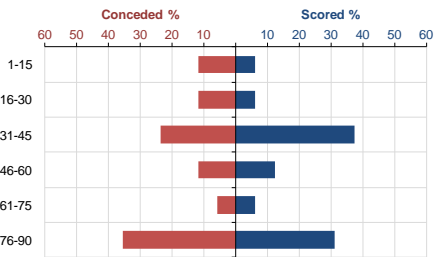
78% Concede the 2nd highest proportion of goals in the first half in the Football League



Middlesbrough



Things only really get going towards the end of each half, with the majority of goals at both ends coming as the clock runs down. A seat near the side of the pitch yields a poor spectacle as most goals are crafted in the centre. An impressive proportion of long shots are flying in though, to the extent that I'm regretting the placement of my bubble charts.



90%

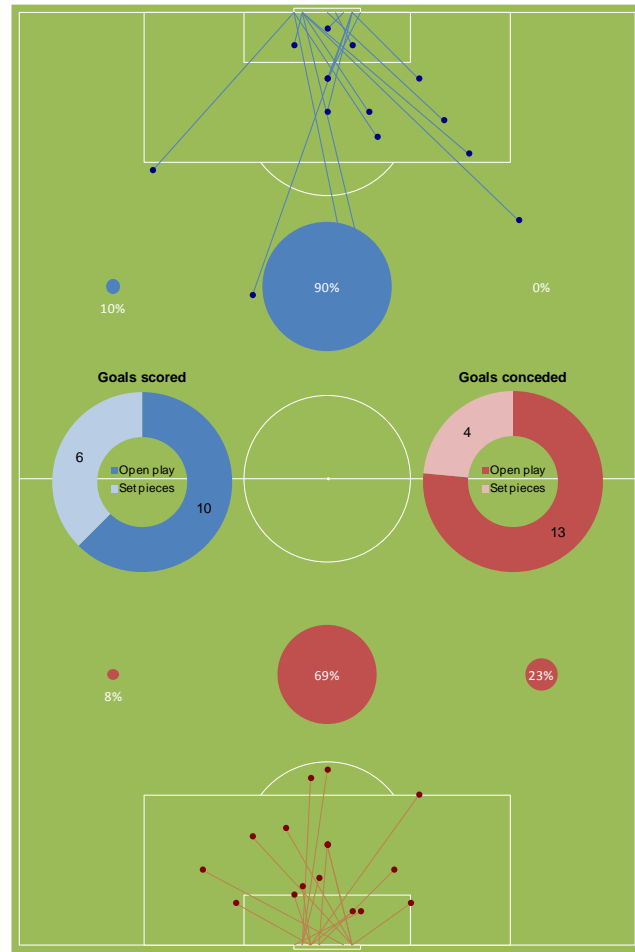
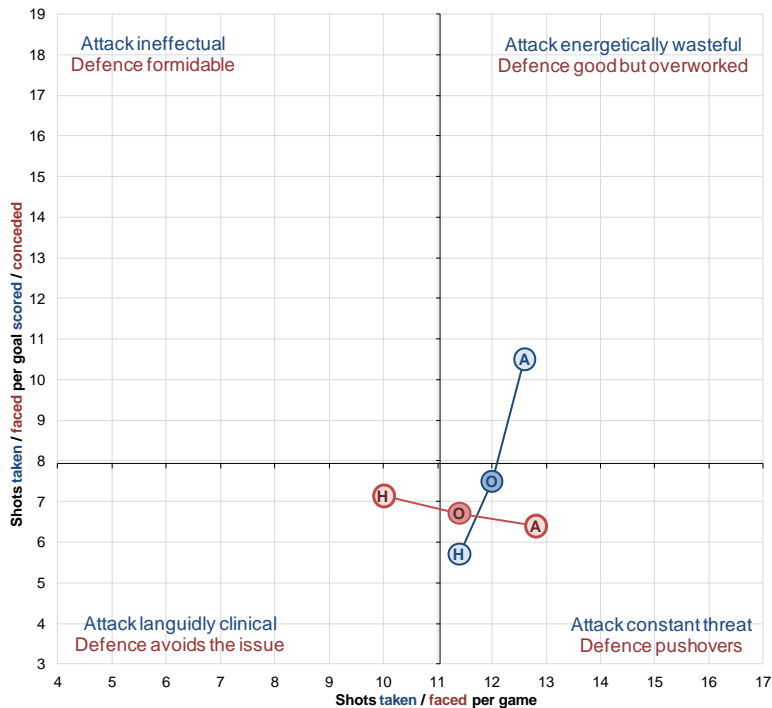
Proportion of open play goals created in the centre, the 3rd highest in the Football League

3

Conceded the joint 2nd highest number of goals from the penalty spot in the Football League

31%

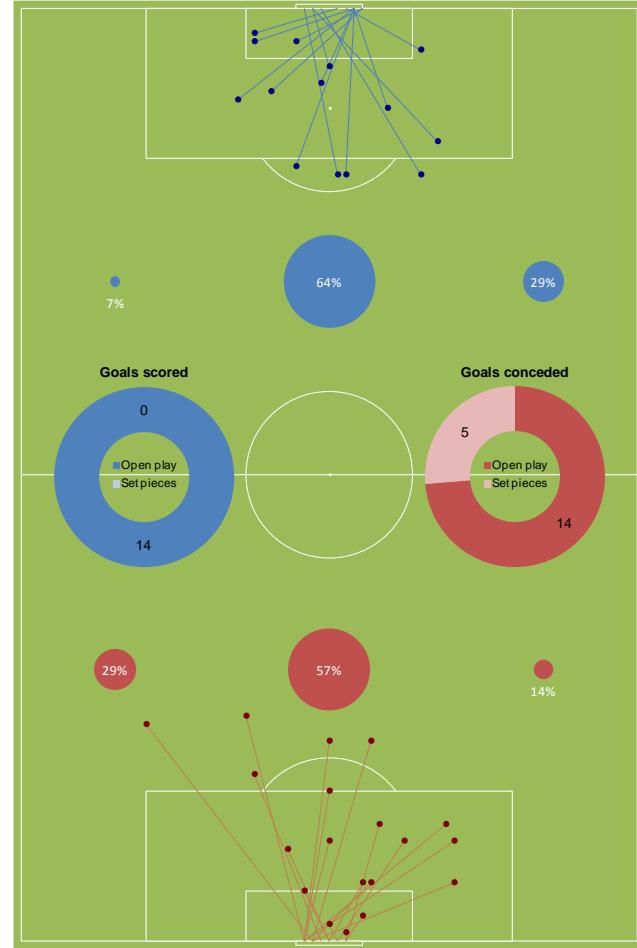
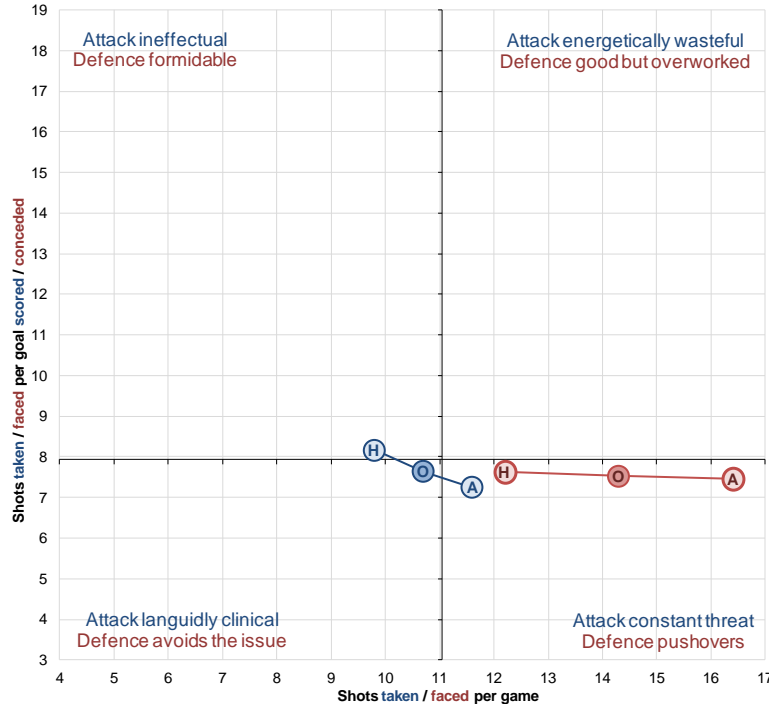
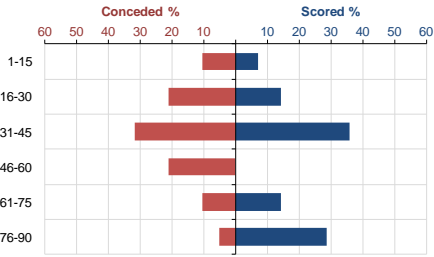
Proportion of goals scored in the final 15 minutes of matches, the 2nd highest in the Championship



Millwall



Seeing as they've scored and conceded the same amount of goals from open play, Millwall's inability to find the net from a set piece so far could well be costing them points. Things are probably more complicated than that though, and the high volume of shots faced, particularly away from home, is a more likely source of frustration.

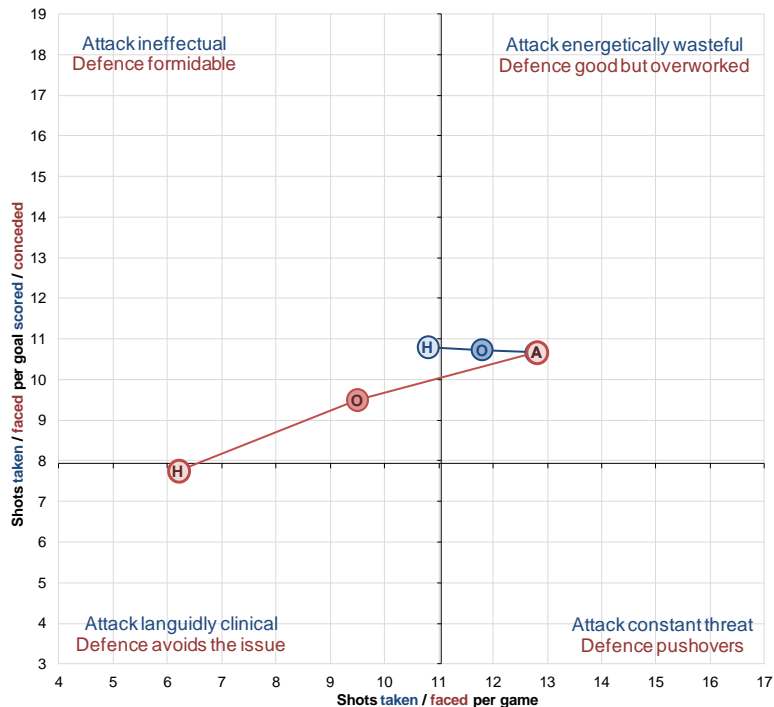
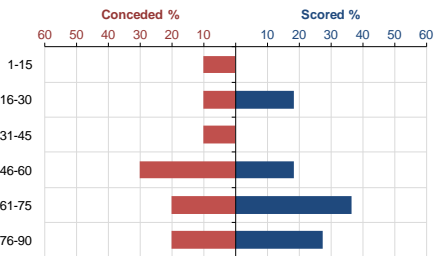
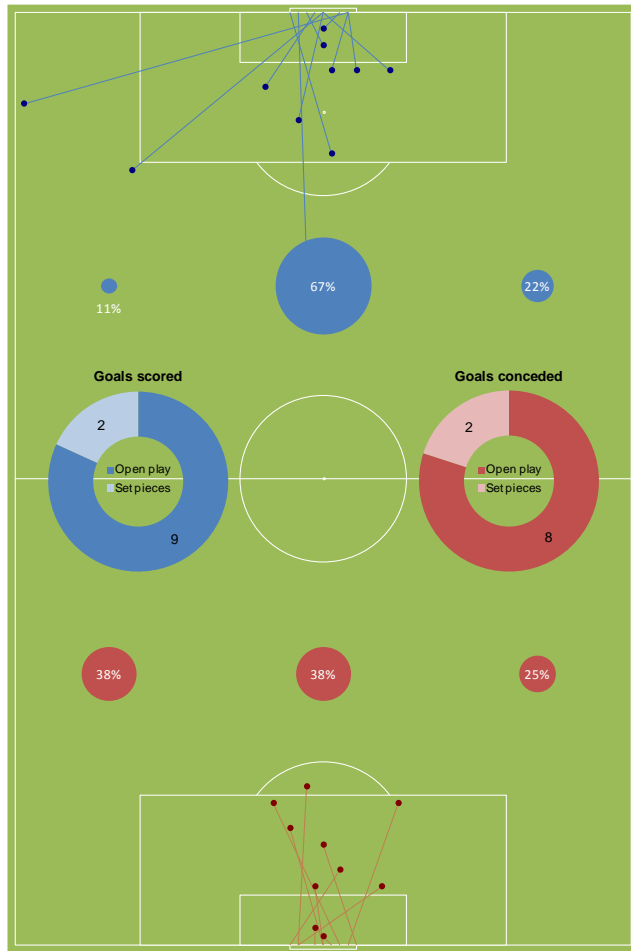


- 0** The only side in the Football League yet to score from a set piece
- 14.3** Face the highest number of shots per game of any Championship side
- 16.4** Faced the 2nd highest number of shots per game away from home in the Football League

Nottingham Forest



Another team for whom the action tends to arrive in the second half, with only 5 being scored by either side in the first halves of matches so far this season. Few goals coming from the wings, which could be down to the style of passing favoured by the manager. Something he may want to look at is the way the defence is set up away from home, where double the number of chances are faced without a commensurate increase in resilience.



2.1 The average number of goals in a match involving Forest – the Championship's joint lowest

43% Lowest proportion of shots on target in the Championship

82% Proportion of goals scored in the 2nd half, the highest in the Championship

Attack ineffectual
Defence formidable

Attack energetically wasteful
Defence good but overworked

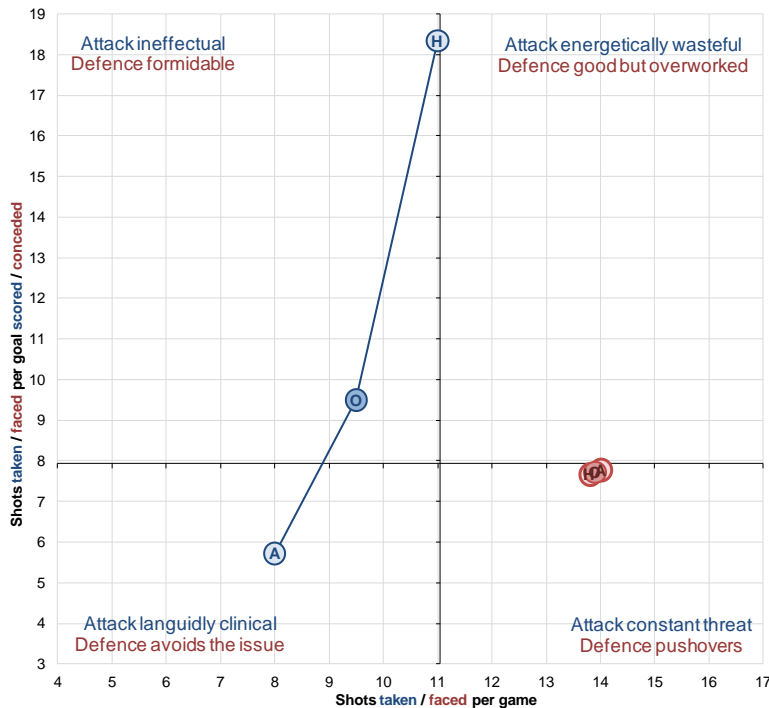
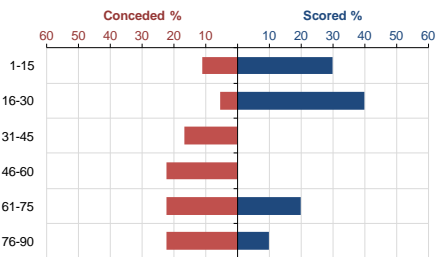
Attack languidly clinical
Defence avoids the issue

Attack constant threat
Defence pushovers

Peterborough United



The most unusual page so far. While Peterborough's defensive record is almost identical home and away, the attack is completely different. They're 3 times more wasteful at home which could suggest an over-eagerness to make home advantage count. They don't seem to be making productive use of the wings, which may reflect a lack of attacking options.



10%

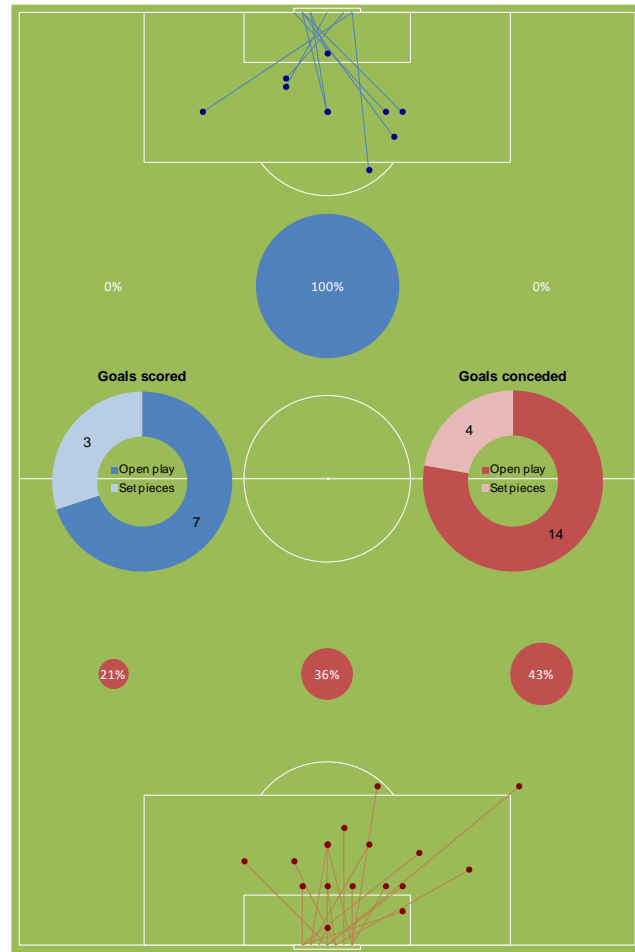
Scored the lowest proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box in the Championship

100%

1 of only 2 Football League sides to have created all of their goals through the centre of the pitch

70%

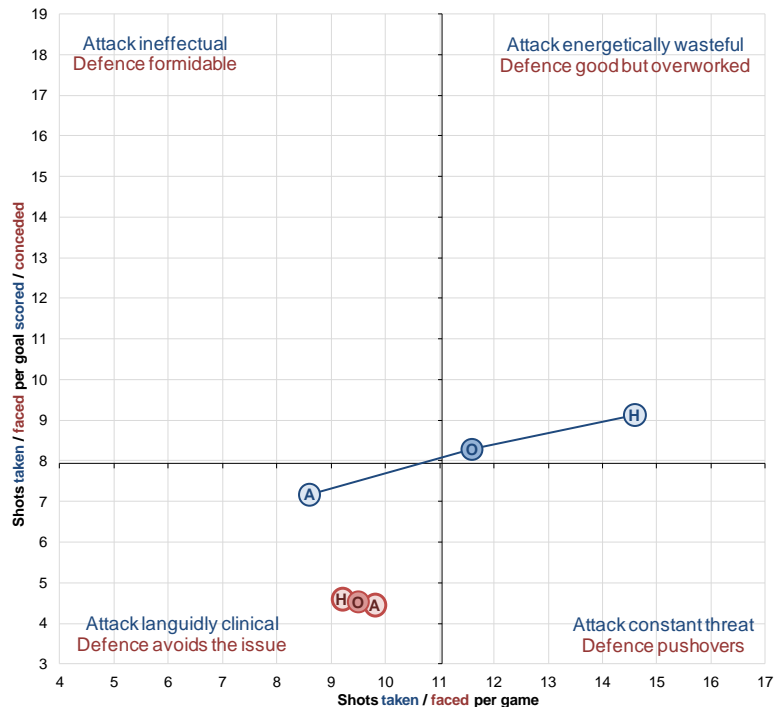
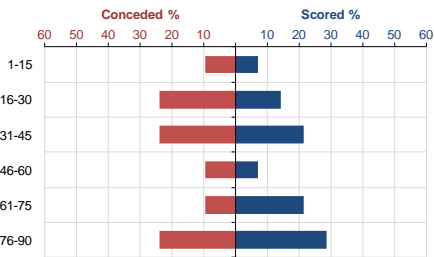
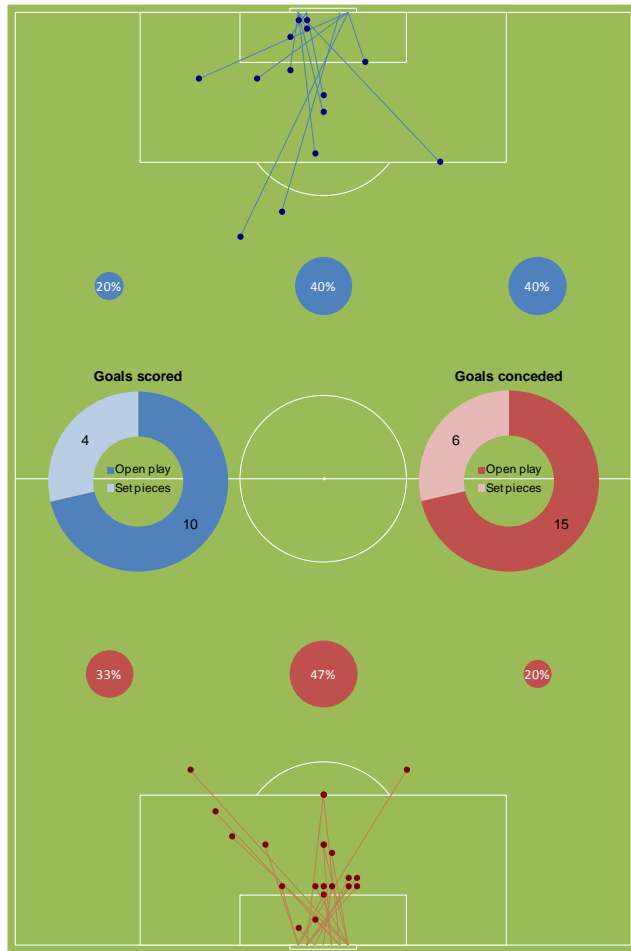
Scored a higher proportion of their goals in the first half than all other Championship sides



Sheffield Wednesday



The biggest problems are definitely to be found at the back, where goals have been flying in at a rate of over 2 per game. The pitch diagram shows a lot of goals being conceded from simple positions right in front of the goal, which suggests the main reason for this is attackers not being sufficiently marked or closed down. In attack, timing of goals shows that the Owls seem to grow in menace as each half progresses.



3.5 Average number of goals in matches involving Sheff Wed, the joint 3rd highest in the Football League

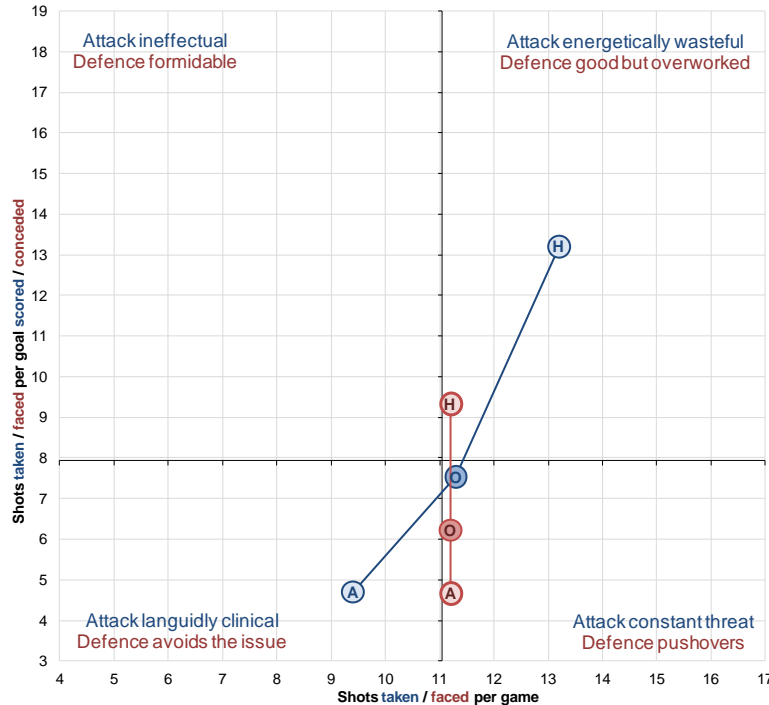
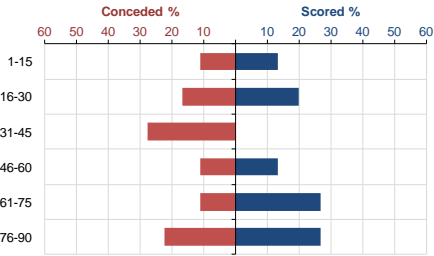
4.5 Average number of shots required to breach their defence, the lowest in the Championship

5% Proportion of goals conceded from corners, joint 3rd lowest in Championship

Watford



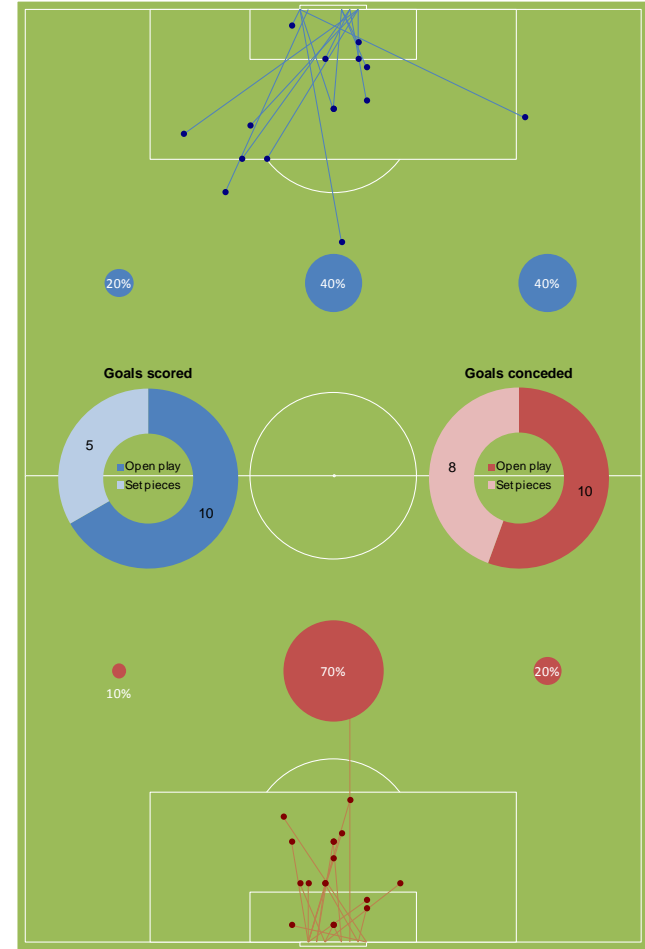
The majority of goals conceded have come from the centre of the pitch, which is even more apparent when looking at the pitch diagram below. It could be too easy to find a direct path through the defence, while their vulnerability from set pieces is also a concern. Up front, there looks to be a bias towards the right side of the pitch, and more composure in front of goal at home would pay dividends.



10% Championship's joint 3rd lowest proportion of open play goals conceded from the left side of defence

64% Face a higher proportion of shots on target away from home than any other Football League side

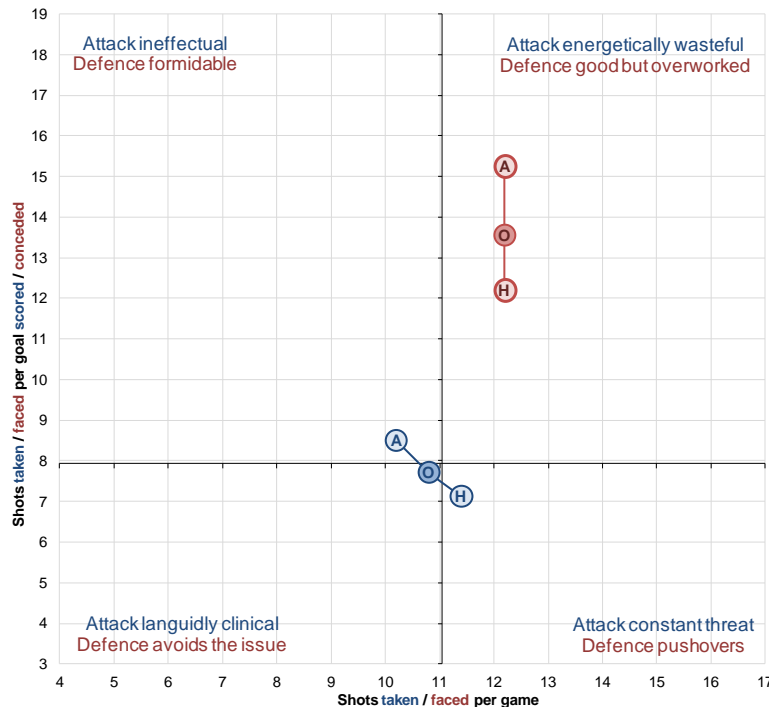
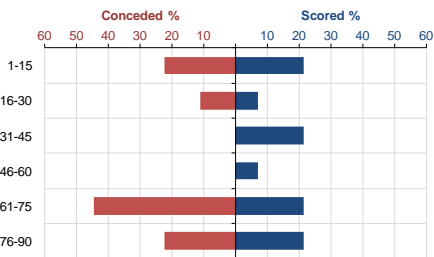
4.7 Average shots taken for each goal scored away from home, the 3rd most clinical in the Championship



Wolverhampton Wanderers



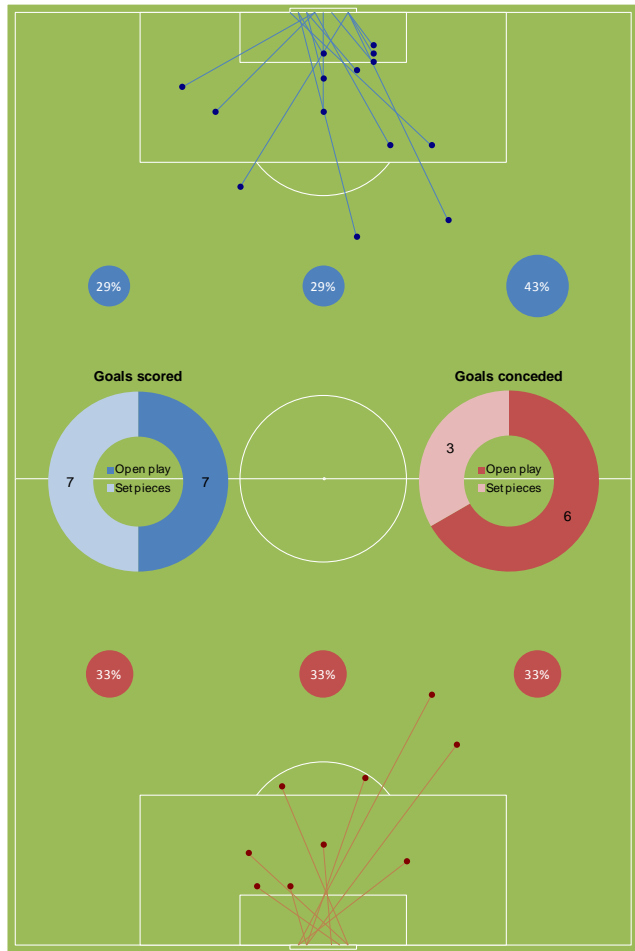
An efficient defence has boosted Wolves' start to the season, but this has been undermined by a frustrating propensity for conceding late goals. They police their area well, with few close range goals being conceded, but seem vulnerable to long shots. Up front, their attack is modestly average and perhaps over-reliant on goals from set pieces.



29% The 2nd highest proportion of goals from free kicks in the Championship

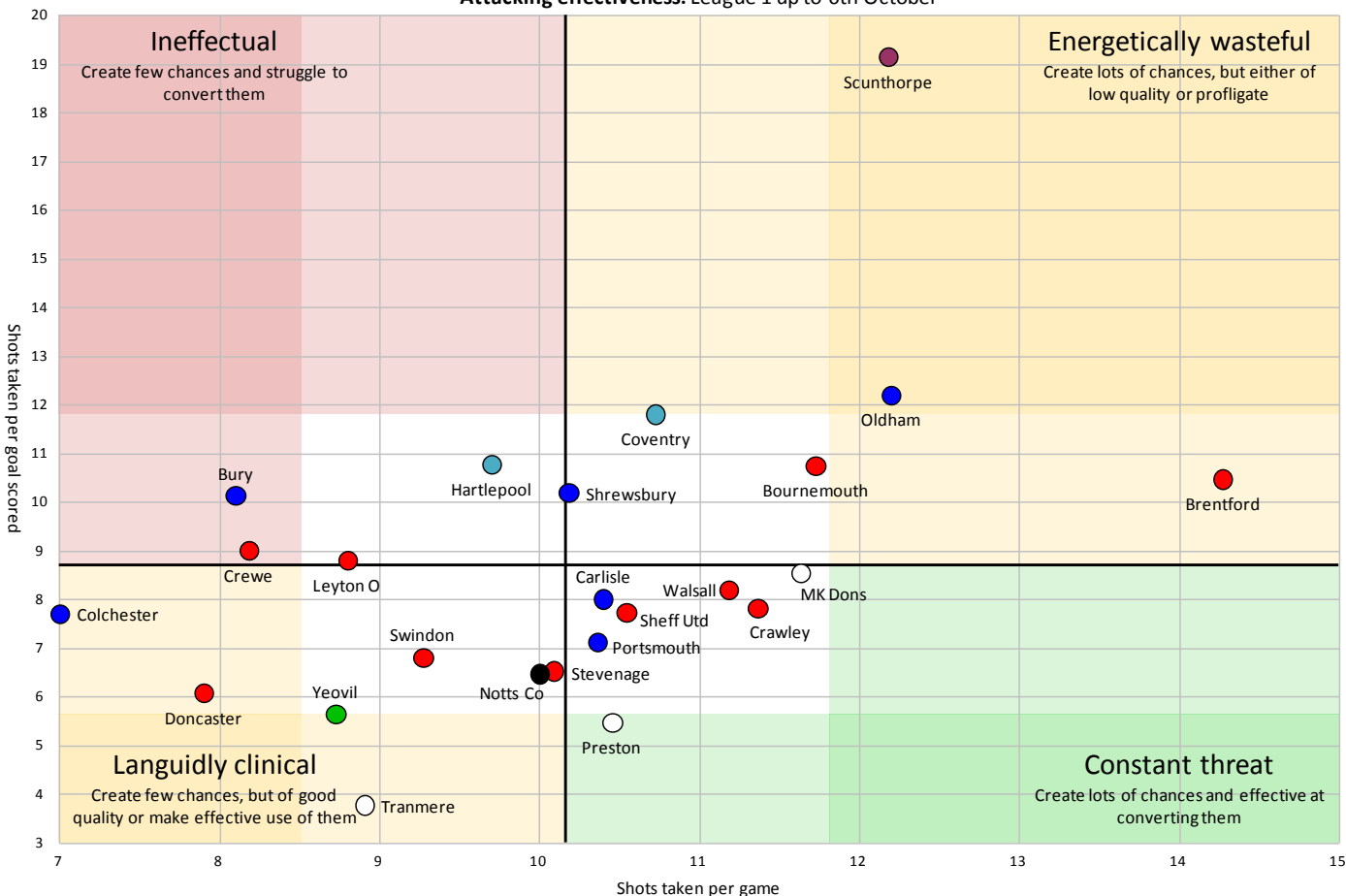
0 The only Championship side not to have conceded a goal from within the 6 yard box

44% Proportion of goals conceded from outside the area, the joint highest in the Football League



League 1: Attacking

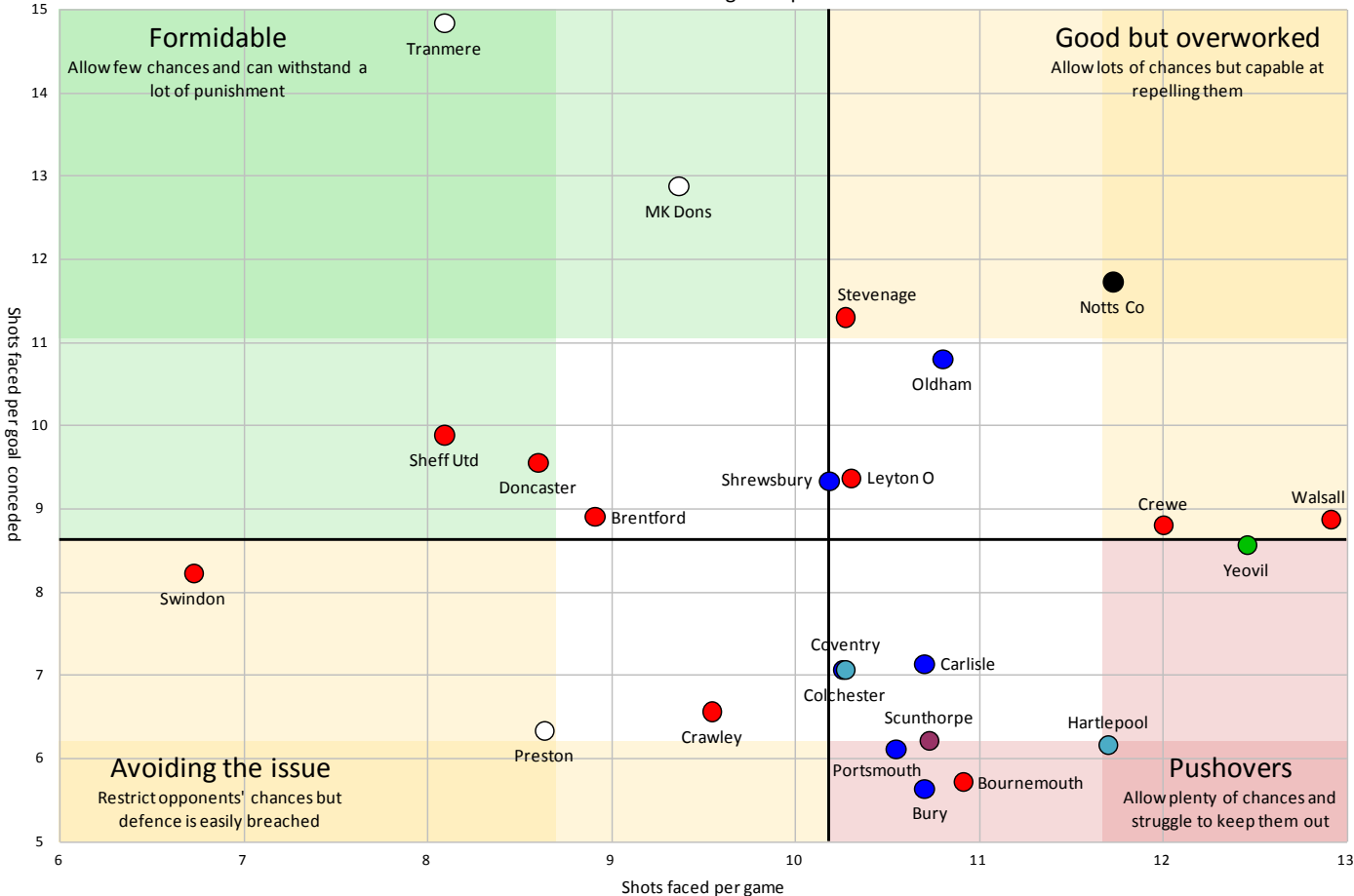
Attacking effectiveness: League 1 up to 6th October



- **Brentford's** insistence in front of goal is unrelenting: they take 4 more shots per game than the average League 1 side and twice as many as struggling **Colchester**.
- Another outlier is **Scunthorpe**, whose goalscoring woes can be traced to an extreme case of profligacy: taking 19 attempts to score each goal when you only create 12 in a match isn't sustainable.
- **Tranmere's** ruthlessness in front of goal is visible here: they need less than 4 shots to score each goal, making them over twice as clinical as the average League 1 side.

League 1: Defending

Defensive effectiveness: League 1 up to 6th October

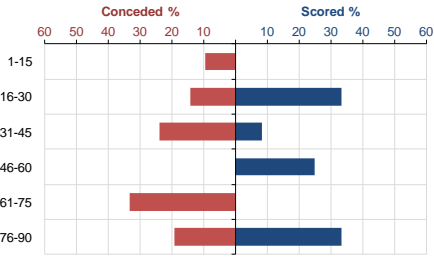


- **Tranmere** are setting the standard at the back too with a truly formidable defensive record. They may face more shots than fellow strong starters **Swindon** but are almost twice as good at keeping them out.
- **Bournemouth's** poor start seems more down to defence than attack, with 3 fewer shots needed to break them down than the divisional average – only **Bury** have a lower defensive efficiency.

AFC Bournemouth



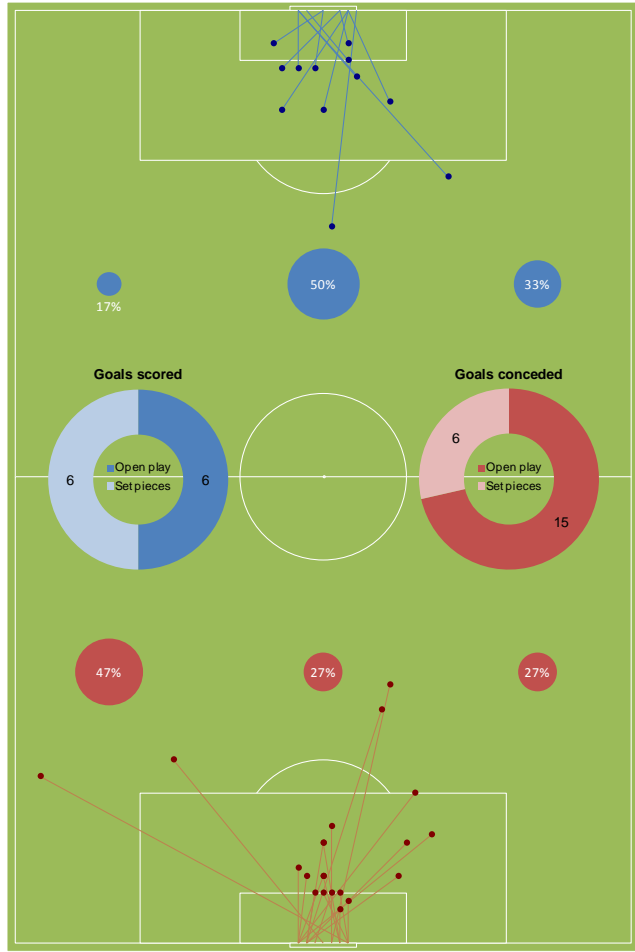
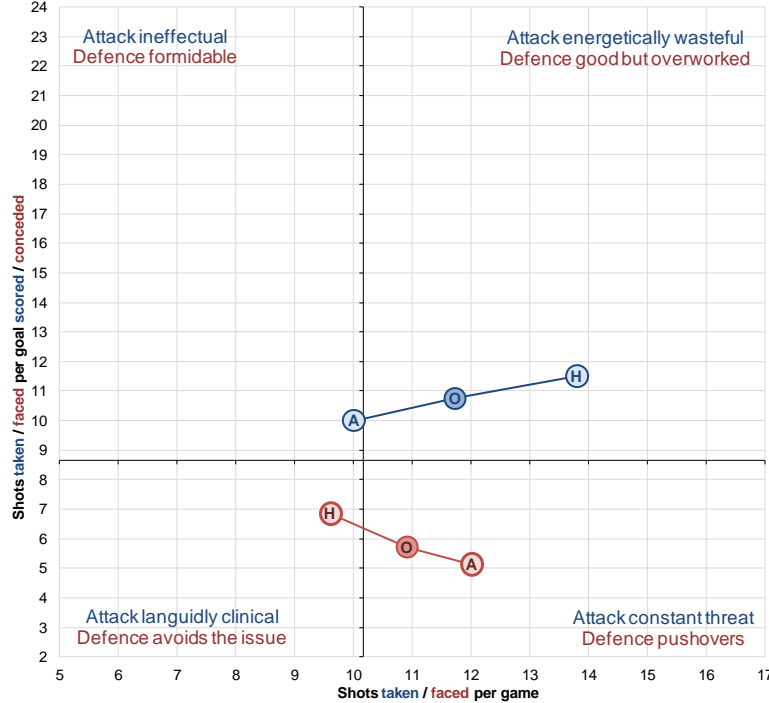
While a goal-shy attack arguably over-reliant on set pieces hasn't helped matters, it's at the back where the greater task faces Bournemouth's new manager. The left flank is leaking goals and the central positions available to opposing forwards in the penalty area is another worry. The encouraging news is that chances are being created, particularly at home, so the raw materials are there.



3 Average number of goals in matches involving Bournemouth, the joint 3rd highest in League 1

5.7 Shots faced for each goal conceded; the second most porous defence in League 1

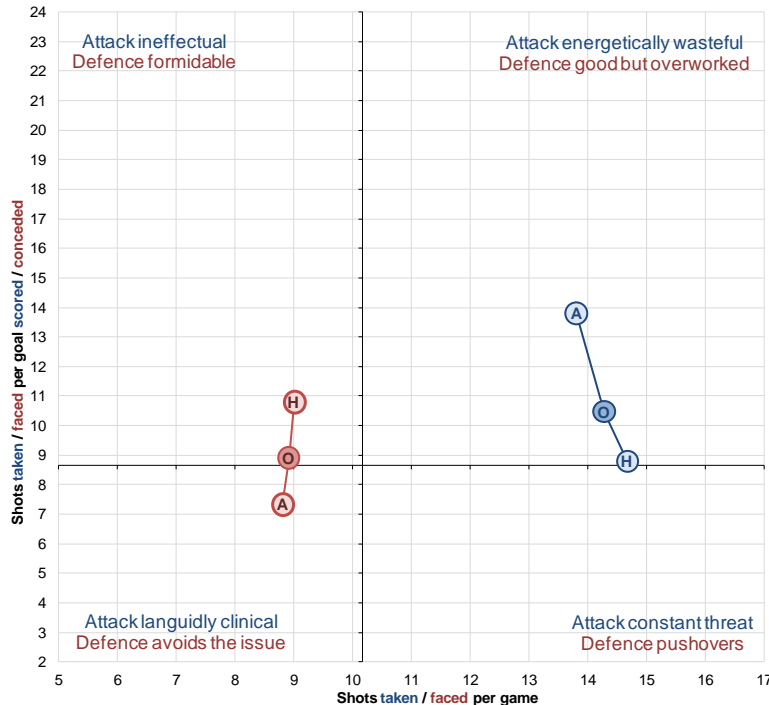
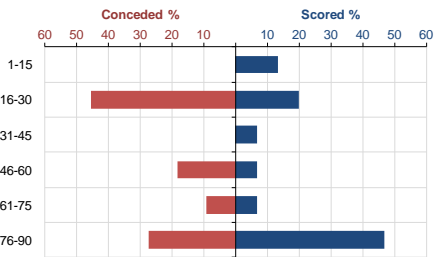
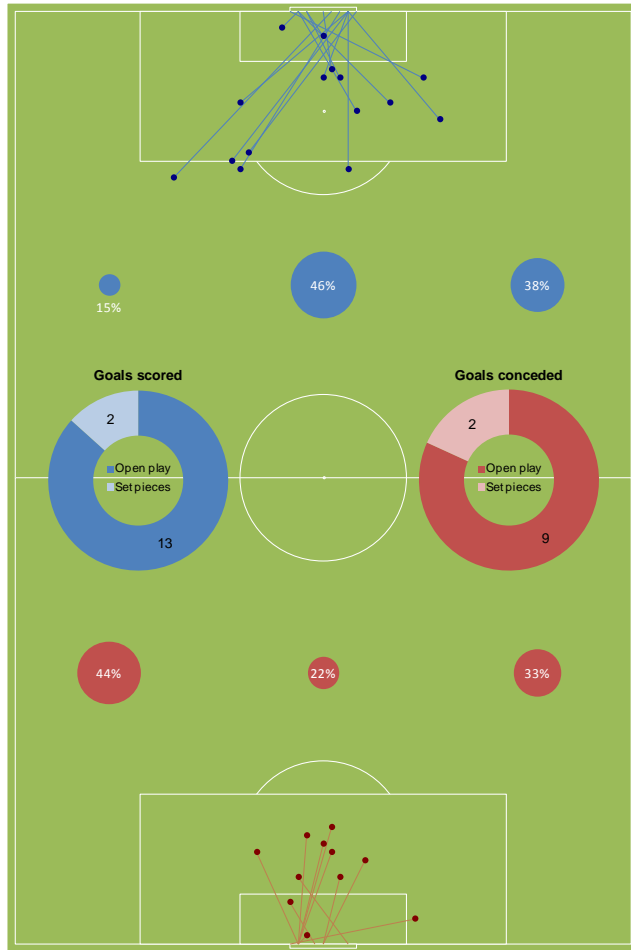
50% Proportion of goals scored from set pieces, the 3rd highest in League 1



Brentford



A team which undoubtedly takes the game to their opponents, Brentford don't let up even as matches draw to a close, with almost half their goals arriving in the final 15 minutes. While they're adept at keeping the opposition on the back foot, they could be leaving their flanks exposed – this is where most of the goals they concede from open play are generated.



7% Scored a lower proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box than any other Football League side

87% Proportion of goals from open play, joint 2nd highest in League 1

0 1 of 3 Football League teams not to have conceded a goal from outside the area

Bury



The less said about Bury's poor start the better – disrupted by the departure of their manager, there are issues to resolve at both ends of the pitch, particularly their wasteful attack at home. Where they can draw encouragement from is the aerial threat they present and their ability to score late in the game.



0

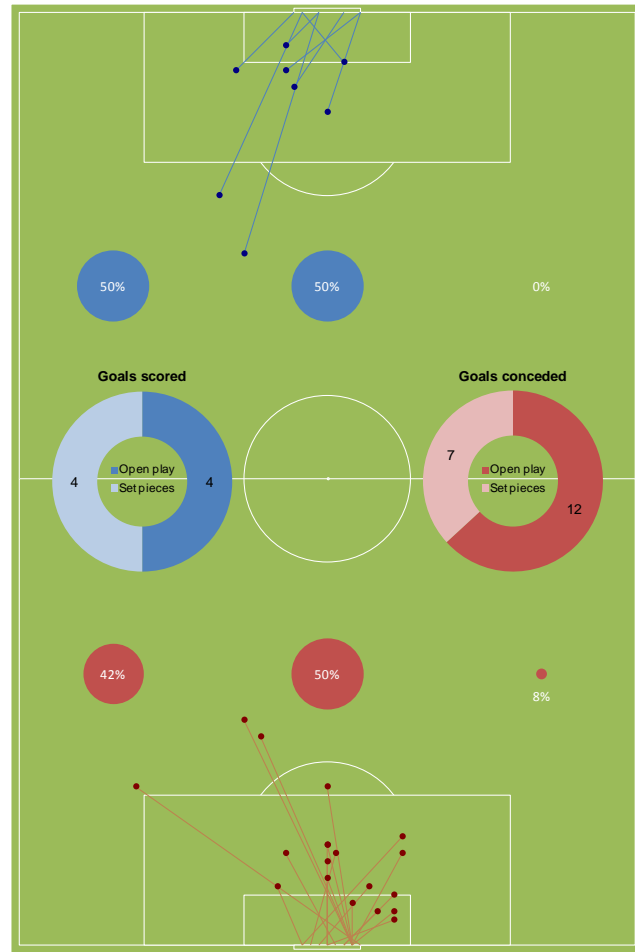
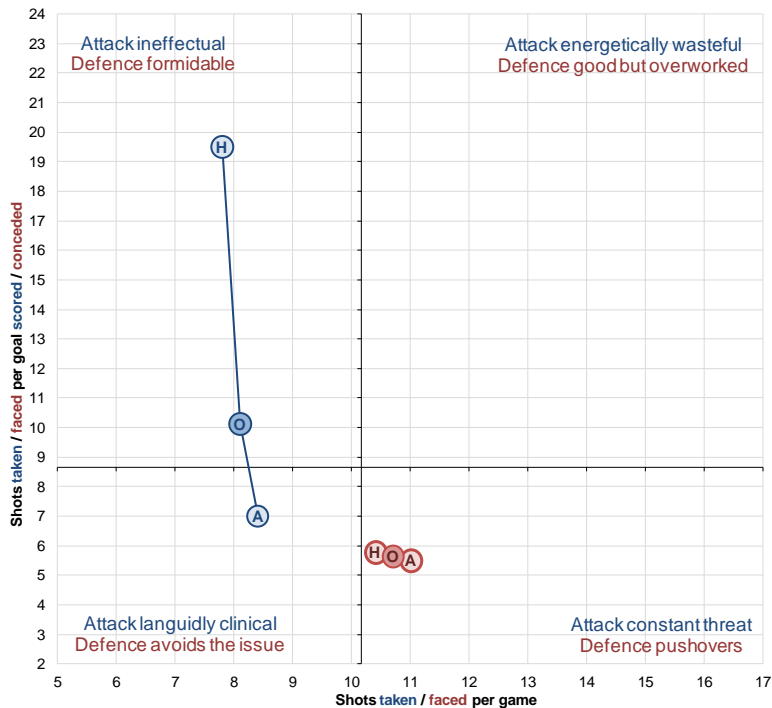
1 of only 2 Football League sides still without a win

50%

Scored a higher proportion of goals from headers than any other Football League side

50%

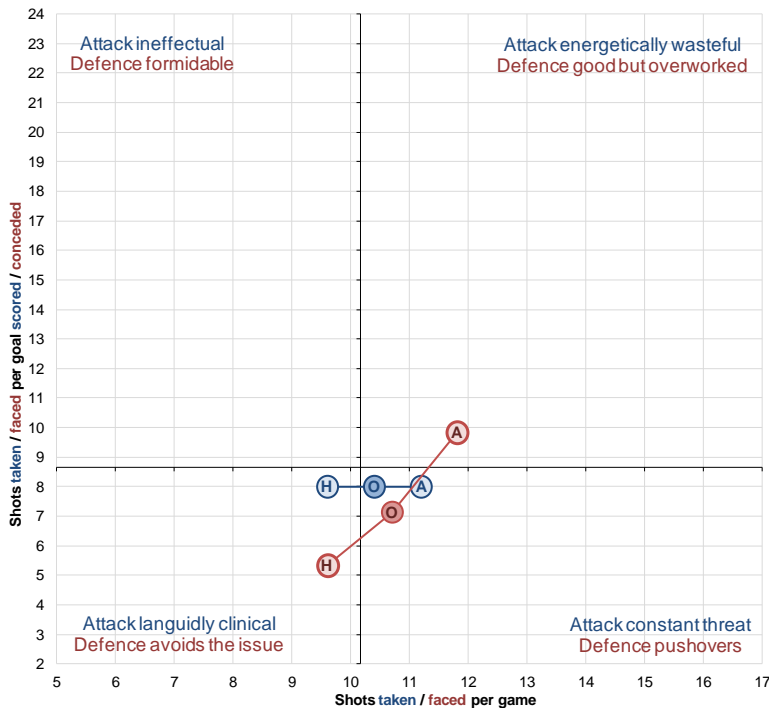
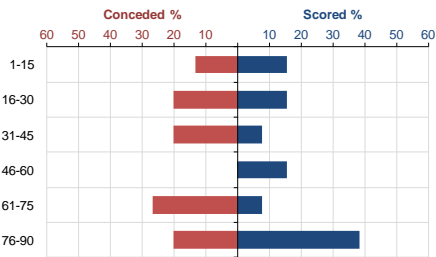
Created League 1's joint highest proportion of open play goals from the left flank



Carlisle United



Leaving it late is something of a signature move so far, with a high proportion of goals arriving late on or in stoppage time. The lack of goals created from the left could indicate a lack of attacking options, while at the back most goals are conceded through the middle, which suggests that sides are finding it a little too easy to play through the defence.



8%

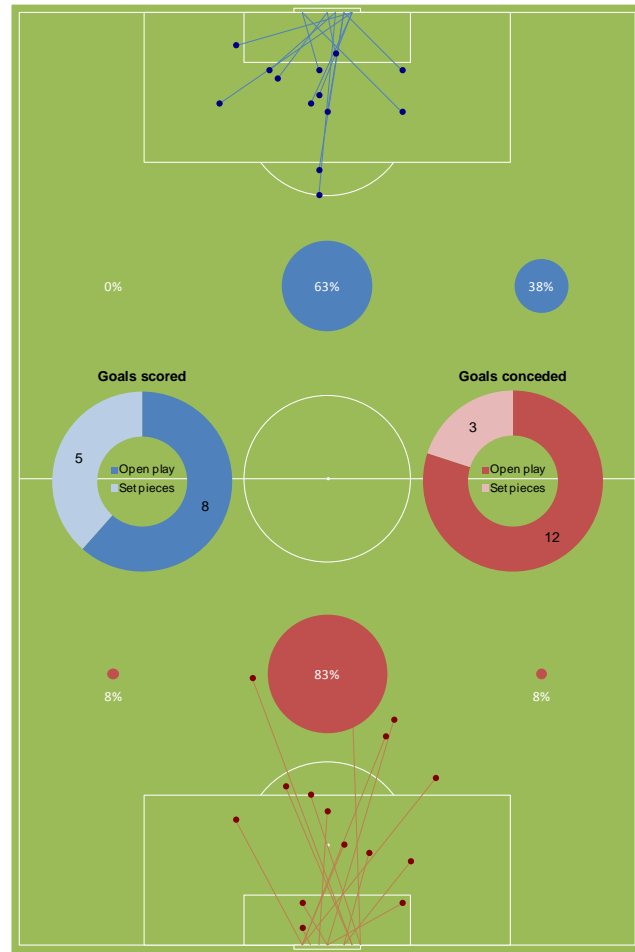
Scored the joint 2nd lowest proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box in the Football League

0%

1 of 4 League 1 teams not to have created a goal from open play on the left flank

23%

Scored the 2nd highest proportion of goals in stoppage time in the Football League



Colchester United



A few recent wins have lifted Colchester out of the drop zone, but concerns remain about whether this form can be maintained. Their only goals from open play have come against Hartlepool and Yeovil and their attack does not travel well. Half of the goals they concede are from inside the 6 yard box, most of which have resulted from open play, suggesting that their marking may need improvement.



0

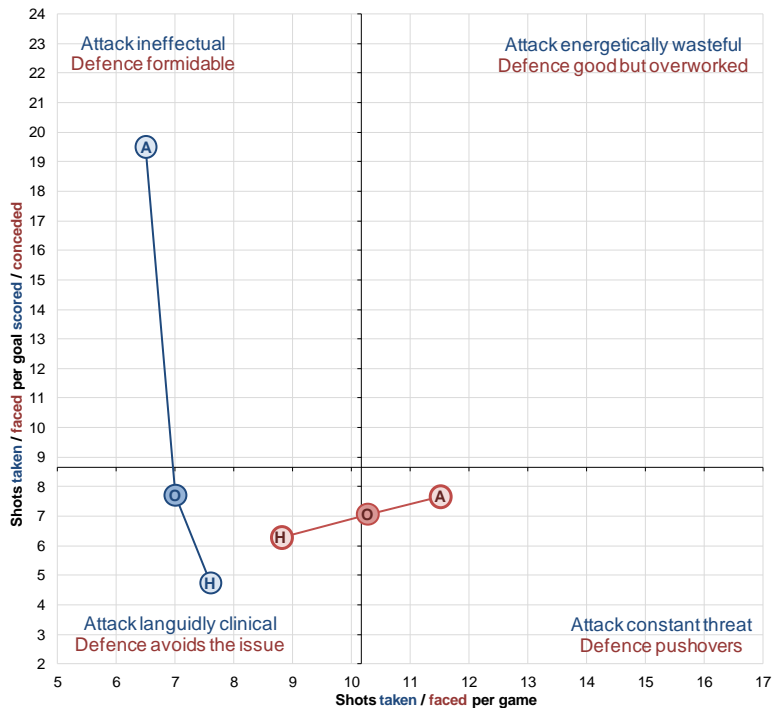
1 of only 2 League 2 sides not to have scored from a header

50%

Created League 1's joint highest proportion of open play goals from the left flank

0

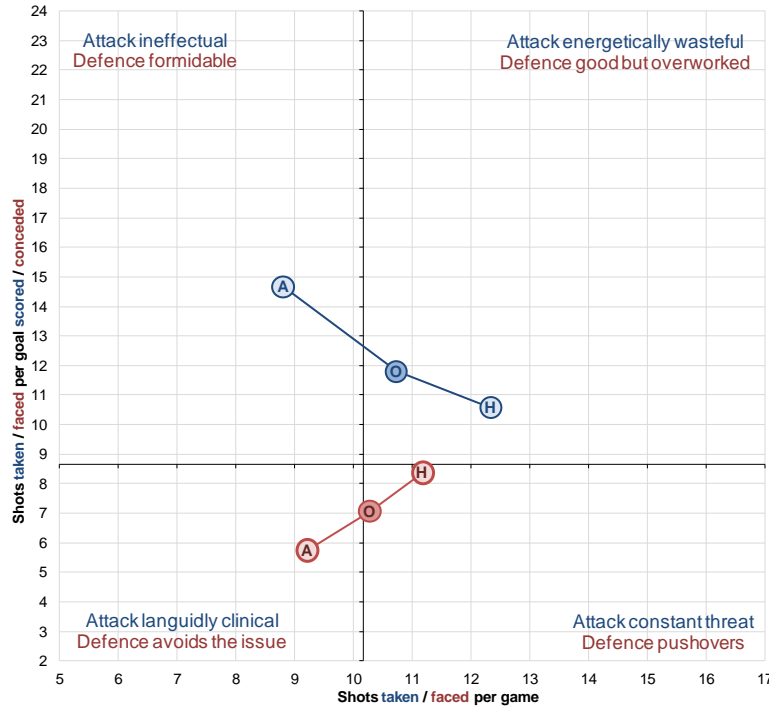
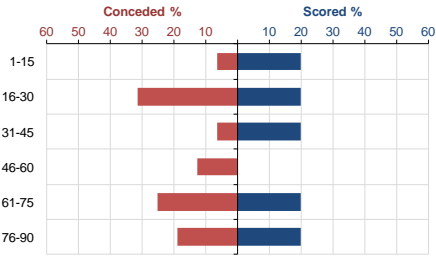
1 of 4 League 1 teams not to have created a goal from open play on the left flank



Coventry City



Another side enjoying a revival after a poor start, Coventry have at least managed to score in all of their home games this season. One of Mark Robins' priorities will surely be to improve defensive resilience from set pieces, with another being to impart some insights from his career as a striker to sharpen their misfiring attack.



19%

Conceded the highest proportion of goals from the penalty spot in League 1

11.8

Average number of shots required to score each goal, the 3rd most profligate attack in League 1

60%

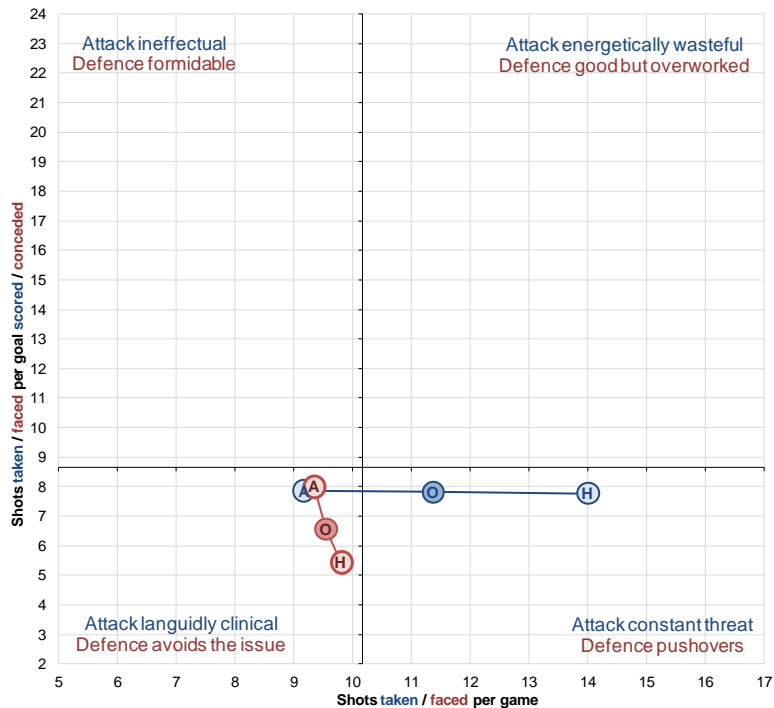
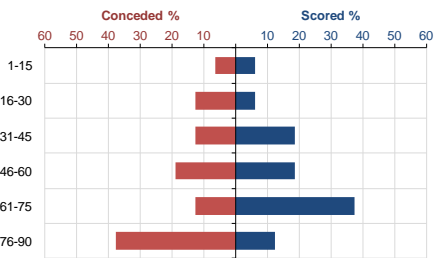
Proportion of goals scored in the 1st half, the joint 3rd highest in League 1



Crawley Town



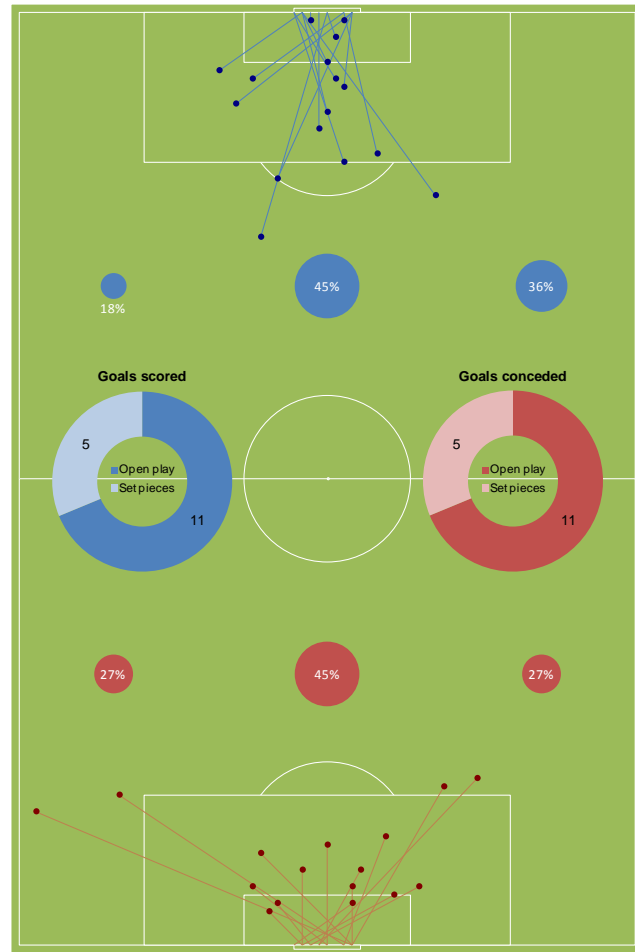
One of League 1's more well-rounded teams, it was hard to find any glaringly obvious outliers in Crawley's stats. They do however concede a high proportion of late goals, suggesting potential fitness or concentration issues. Up front they definitely benefit from home advantage when it comes to chance creation, taking the game to their opponents who are probably distracted by that incessant bell-ringing.



50% Proportion of goals scored in the final half hour of matches, joint 3rd highest in League 1

14 Shots taken per home game, the 2nd highest in League 1

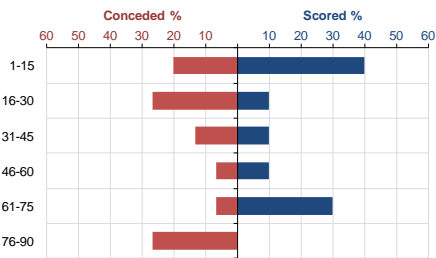
38% Proportion of goals scored in the middle third of the 2nd half, the highest in the Football League



Crewe Alexandra



It's best not to be late to a Crewe match as a lot of goals seem to be flying in early. They seem to be adapting well to life in League 1, although are facing a lot more chances per match than they create. One of the division's best sides at keeping set pieces out, they do however concede a lot of goals down the left.



0

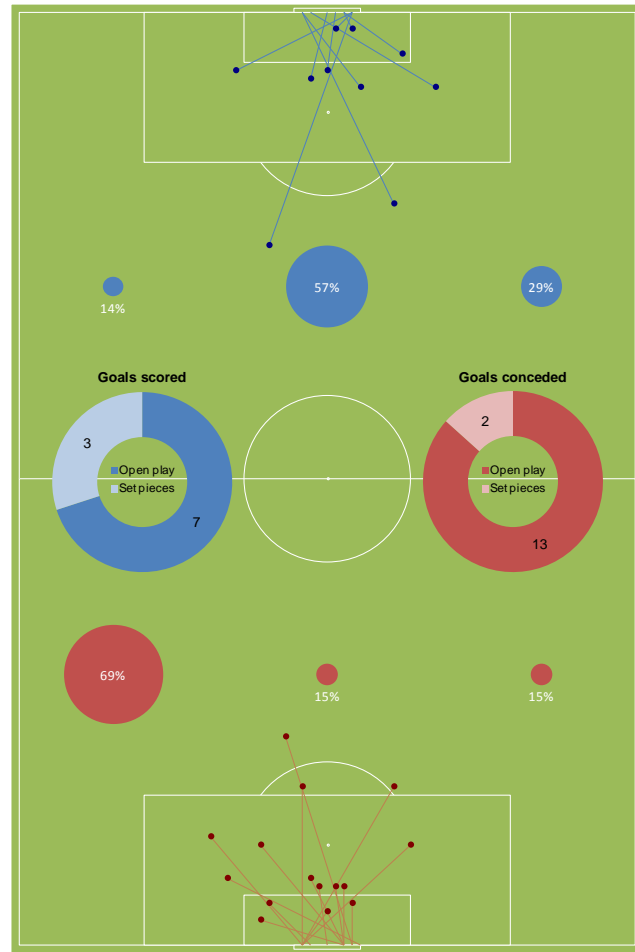
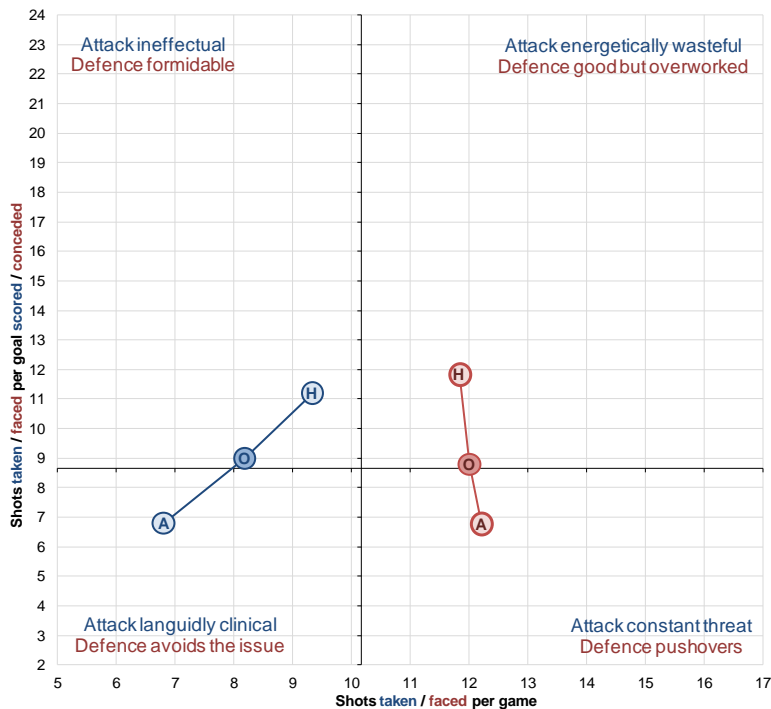
1 of only 3 Football League sides not to have scored in the last 15 minutes of matches

40%

Scored the 2nd highest proportion of goals in the opening 15 minutes in the Football League

69%

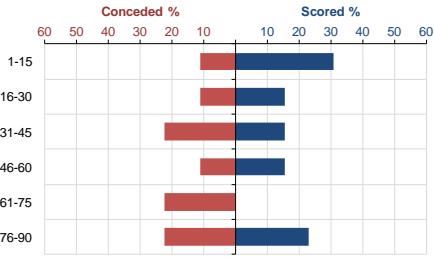
Proportion of open play goals conceded down the left, the highest in the Football League



Doncaster Rovers



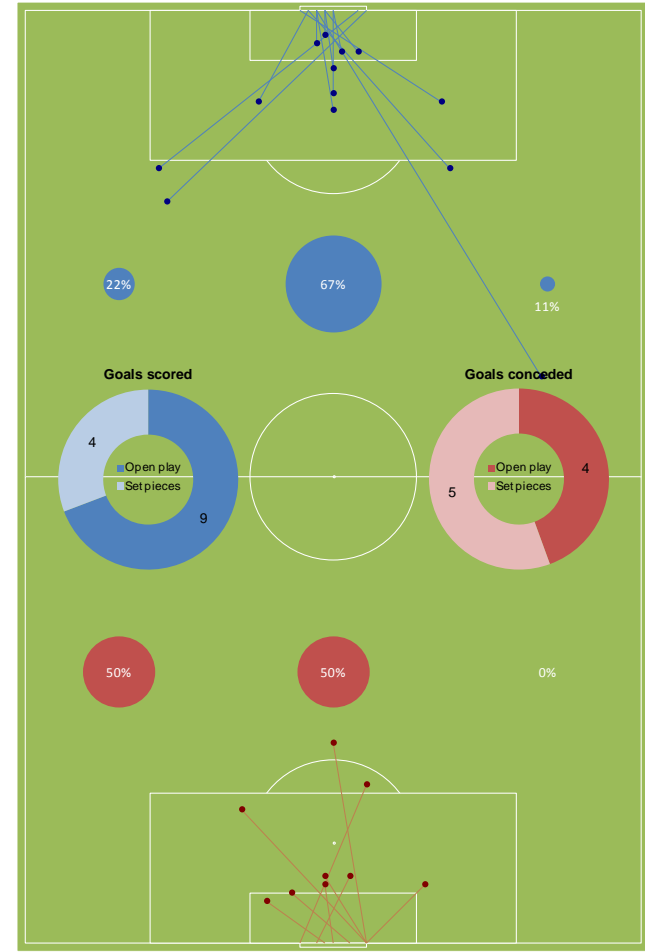
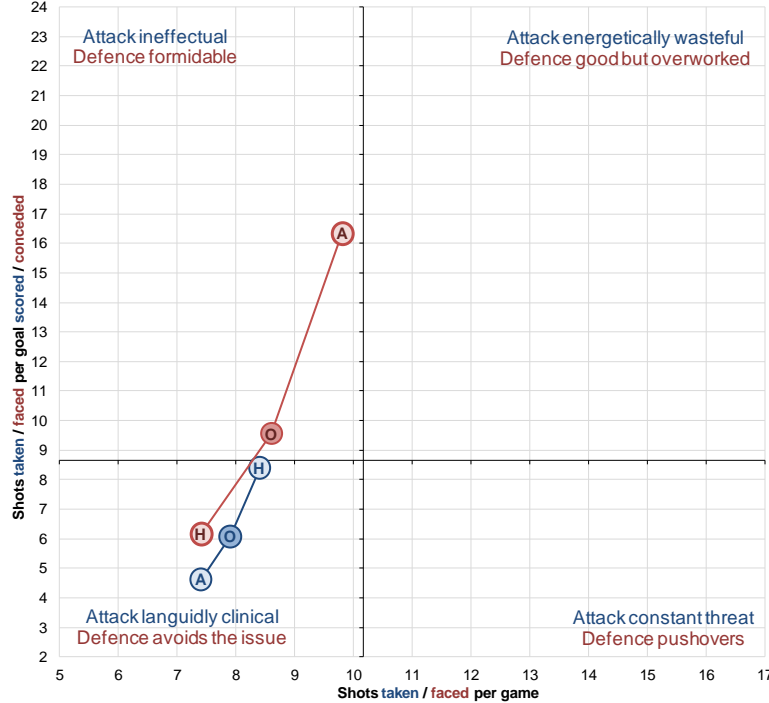
Doncaster's problems seem to be of an aerial nature. Not only have they yet to score a header themselves (no great crime in itself), but headers – mostly from corners – are their Achilles' heel at the back. While their defence is arguably solid enough to sustain a promotion push, they're not currently scoring frequently enough to power a march up the table.



0 1 of only 2 League 1 sides not to have scored from a header

56% Proportion of goals conceded from headers, the highest in the Football League

44% Proportion of goals conceded from corners, the joint highest in the Football League



Hartlepool United



It's not been a great start to the season: the front line are wasteful and neither attack nor defence travel well. Increasing the menace from set pieces would be a positive step – the only goal not from open play so far has come from the penalty spot.



1

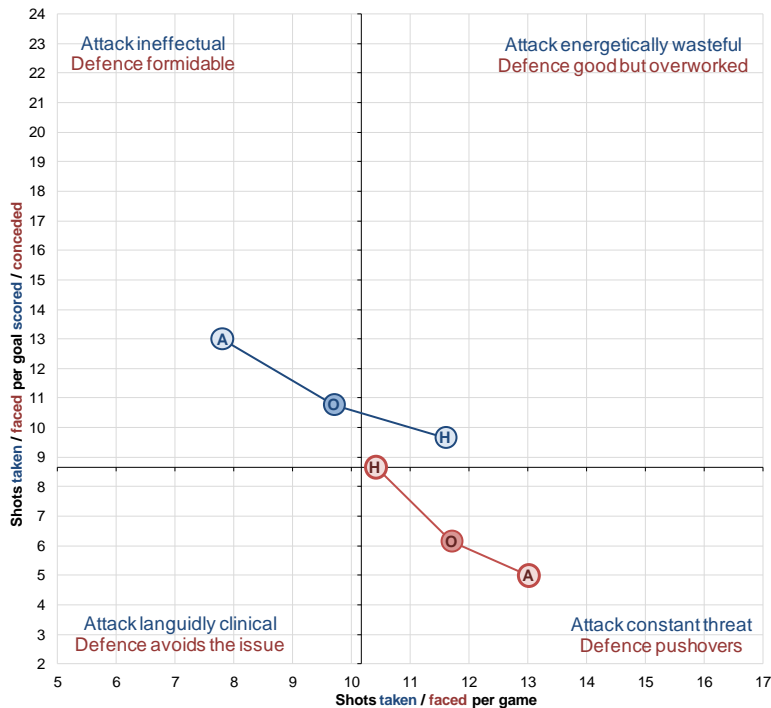
The joint 2nd lowest tally of goals from set pieces in the Football League

0

1 of 3 Football League sides not to have conceded in the opening 15 minutes of halves

39%

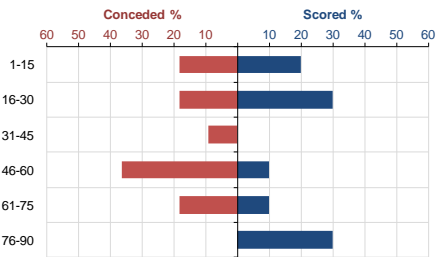
The lowest proportion of shots on target in League 1



Leyton Orient



Orient have so far defied pre-season talk of relegation and have shown an impressive resilience in defence which has kept their goal difference respectable despite a low scoring rate. While they start and end games well, the middle of matches are a lot more forgettable, with a particular frustration of conceding shortly after half time.



0

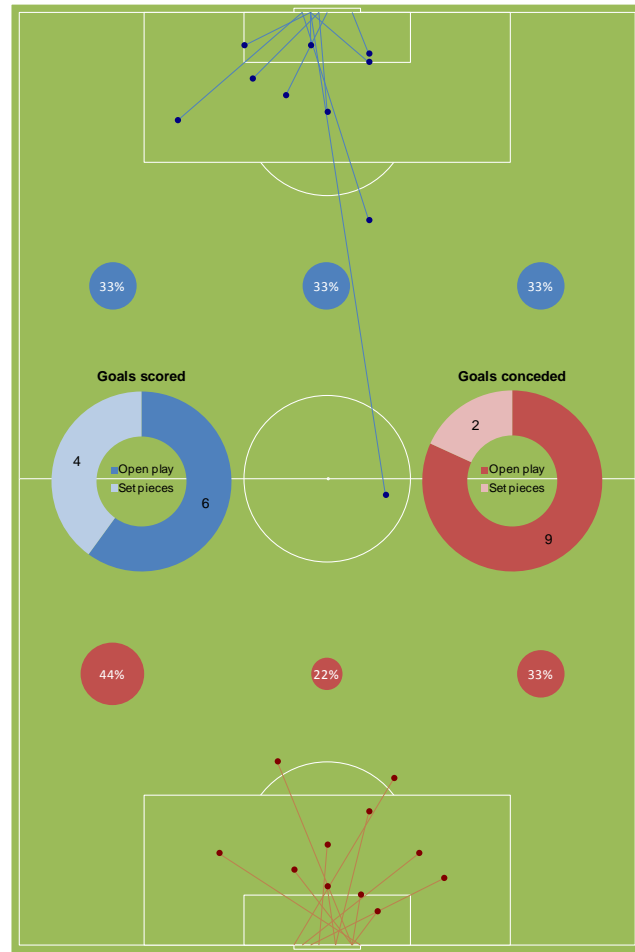
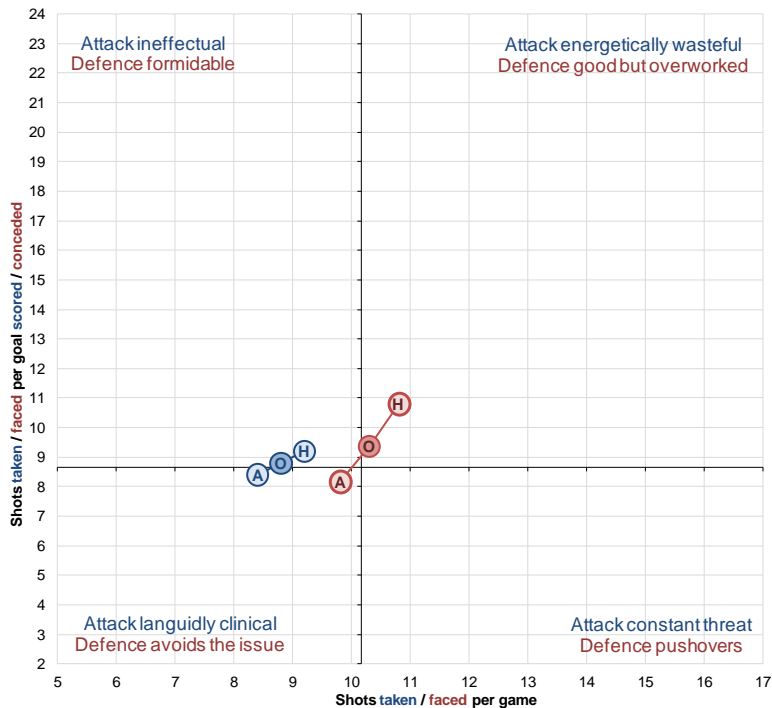
1 of only 2 Football League sides not to have conceded in the last 15 minutes

1

The only Football League club to have scored a goal from inside their own half

20%

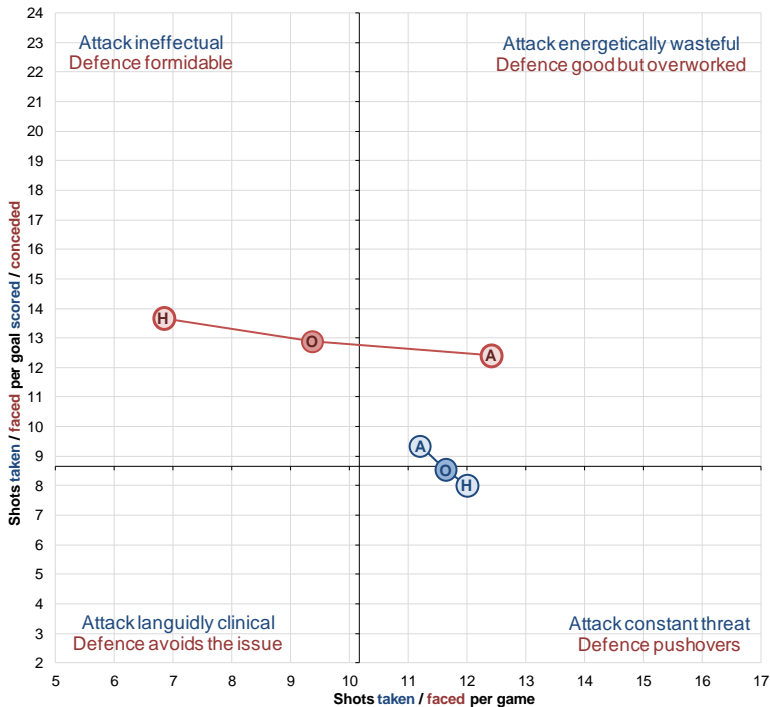
Scored the highest proportion of goals from throw in situations in League 1



Milton Keynes Dons



MK Dons seem to like getting all of their conceding out of the way early on, letting in only 1 second half goal so far. A formidable home defence remains just as efficient on the road, albeit while having to work a lot harder.



88%

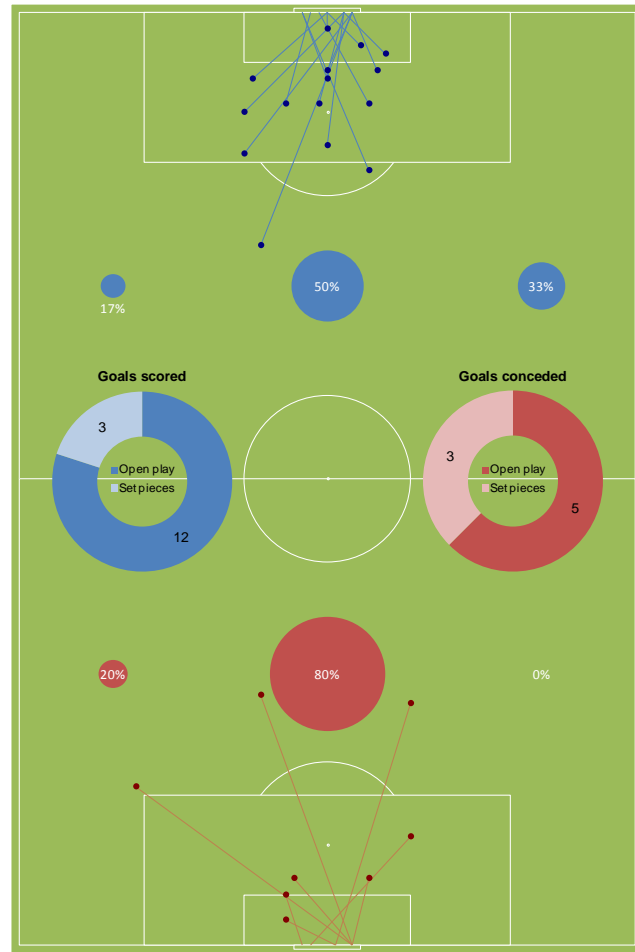
Concede the highest proportion of goals in the first half of all Football League sides

2.1

Average number of goals in matches involving MK Dons, the joint 2nd lowest in League 1

80%

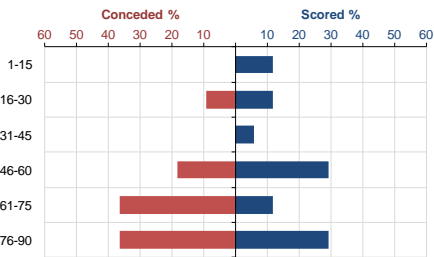
Proportion of open play goals conceded from the centre; the joint 3rd highest in League 1



Notts County



It's all about the second 45 so far this season, which is when the overwhelming majority of goals are scored. Efficiency at both ends has helped to keep the goal difference healthy, with a good spread of goals across the front line. The main concern jumping out at me is the high proportion of set piece goals conceded.



0

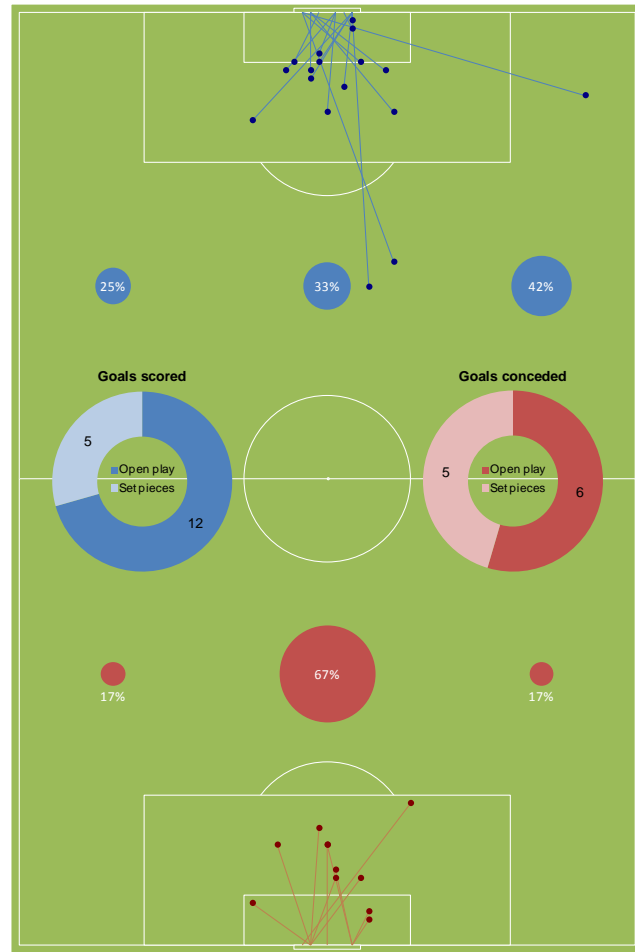
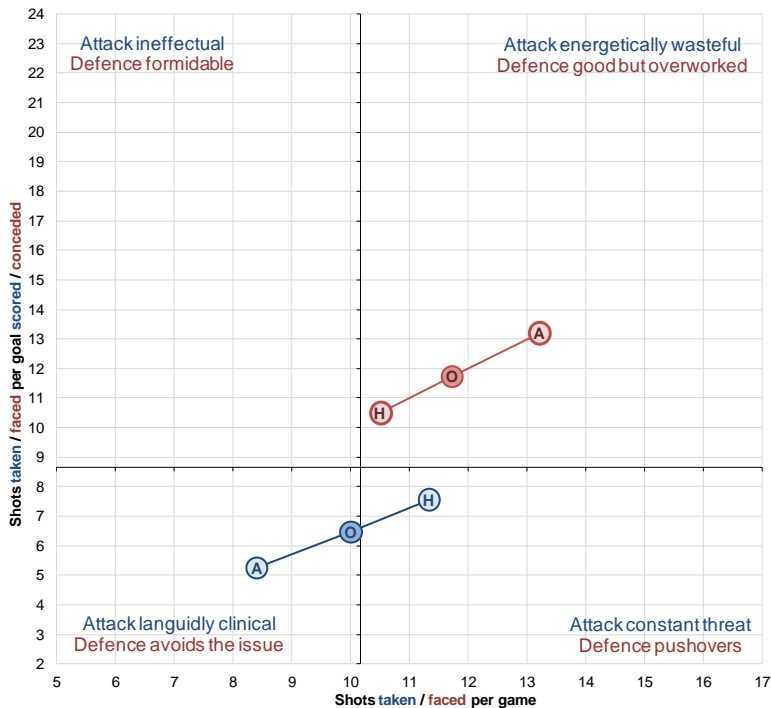
1 of 3 Football League teams not to have conceded a goal from outside the area

9%

Concede the lowest proportion of goals in the first half in the Football League

71%

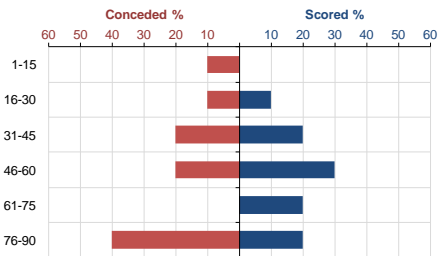
Scored the highest proportion of goals in the second half of all League 1 sides



Oldham Athletic



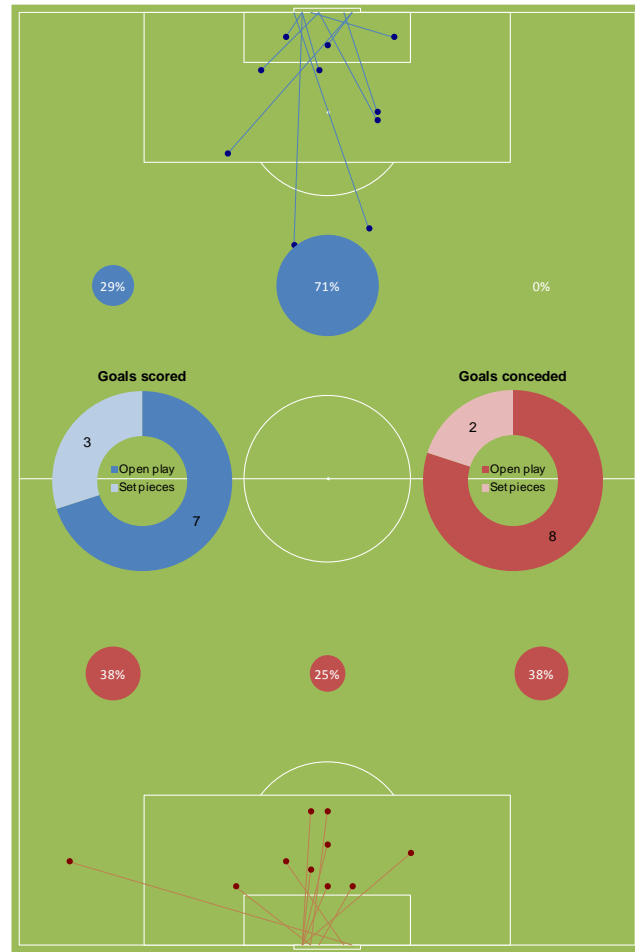
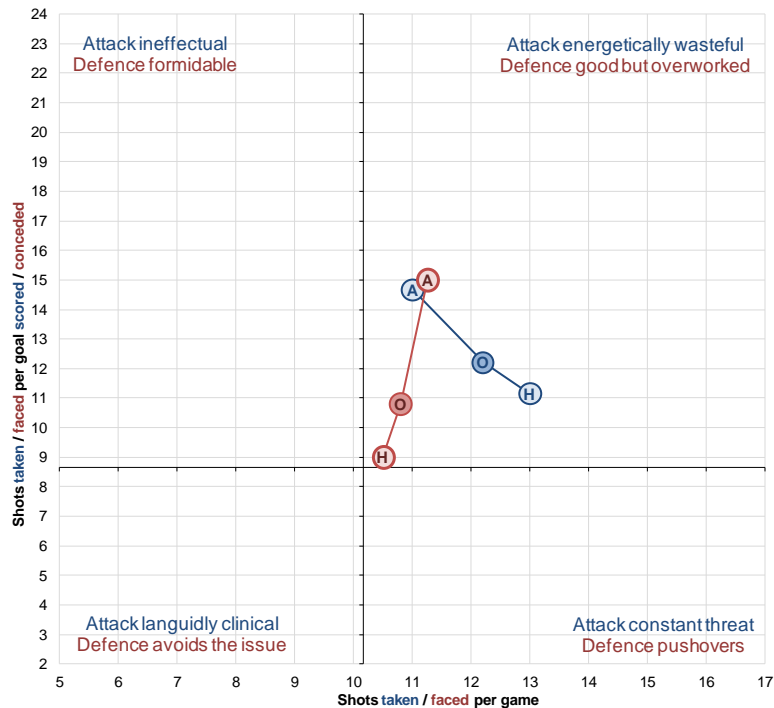
It's relatively busy at both ends of the pitch for Oldham so far, although this isn't resulting in a lot of goals at either. Their strength seems to be concentrated in the centre, where most goals scored are created and few are conceded. There also look to be a few too many late goals going in at the wrong end.



2 The average number of goals in a match involving Oldham – the Football League's lowest

0 1 of 4 League 1 teams not to have created a goal from open play on the left flank

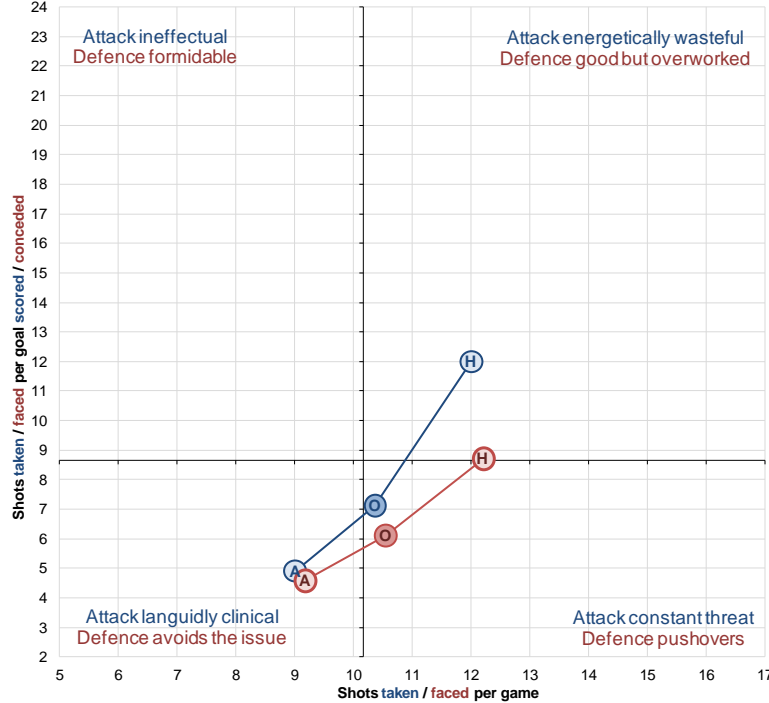
0 1 of 2 League 1 sides not to have conceded a goal from within the 6 yard box



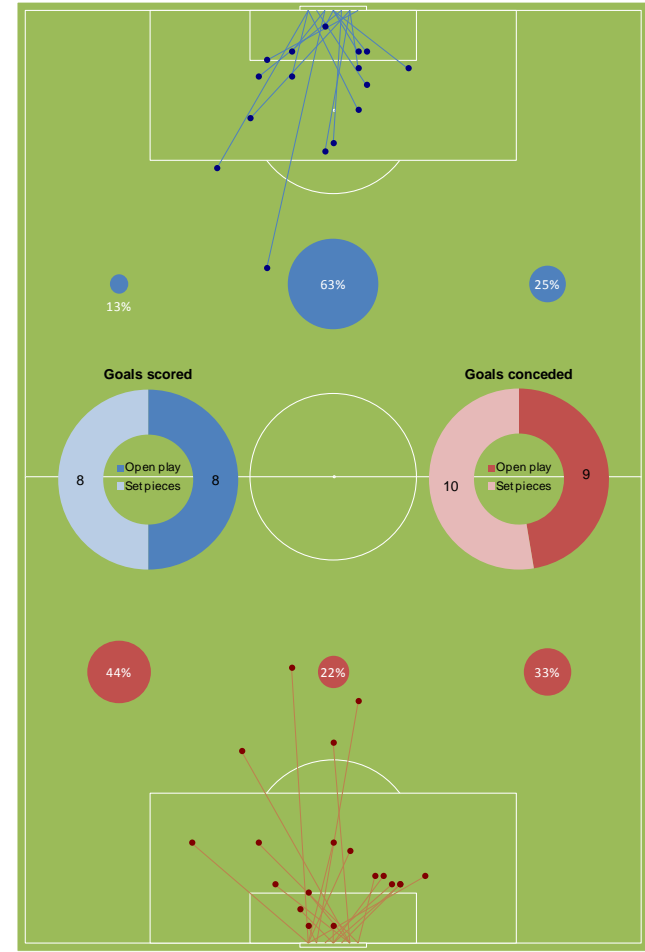
Portsmouth



Perhaps such a high proportion of goals from set pieces is explicable for a squad thrown together at the last minute, both scored (takes less planning and familiarity than passing moves) and conceded (less time spent together in training). A flurry of late goals is harder to explain – it seems that Pompey gradually lose the initiative as games progress, only to reclaim it with urgent vigour as the clock runs down.



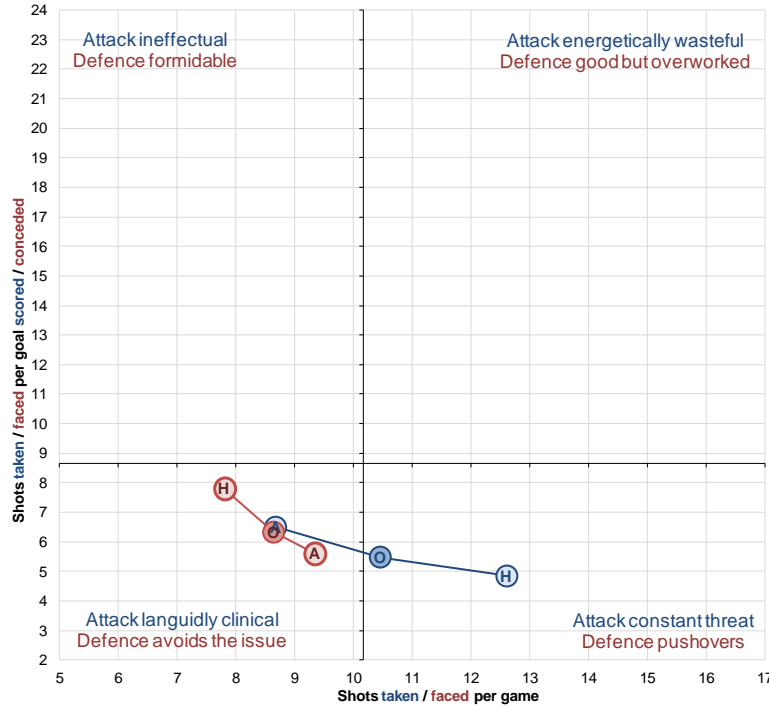
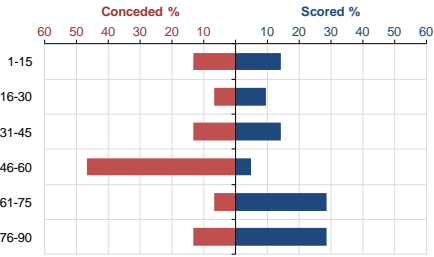
- 50%** Proportion of goals scored in the final 15 minutes of matches, joint 2nd highest in the Football League
- 4** Goals conceded in stoppage time; the highest in the Football League
- 38%** The joint largest proportion of goals from corners in the Football League



Preston North End



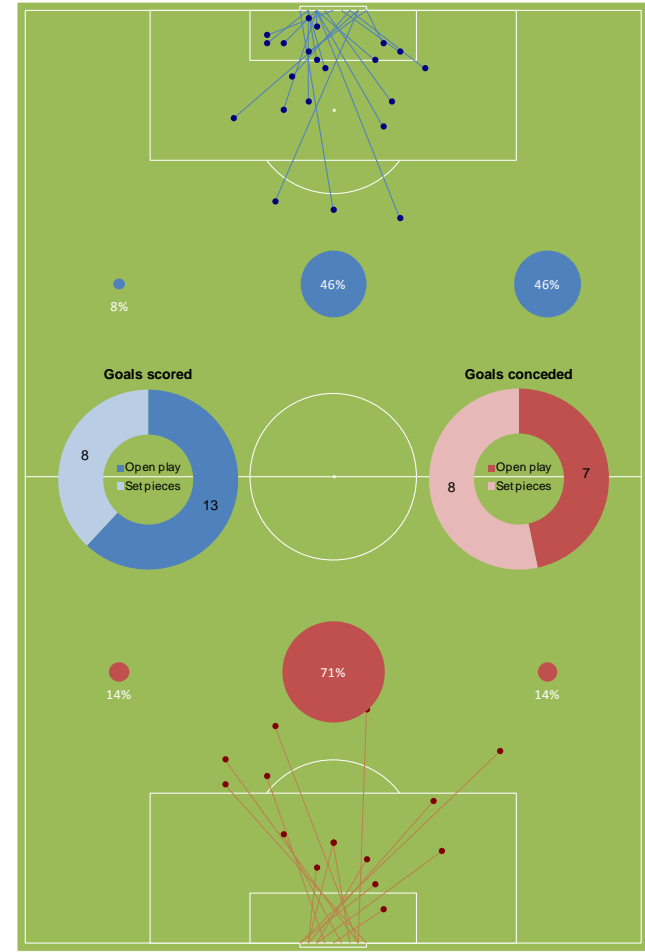
Graham Westley's iron discipline seems to be having an effect – Preston have the division's joint-highest shot accuracy and are dominant in the air and at close range. They also create more chances than they face, particularly at home. The proportions of goals conceded from set pieces and just after half time suggest that the transformation is not yet complete.



3.3 The average number of goals in a match involving Preston – League 1's highest

9 Scored more headers than any other Football League side

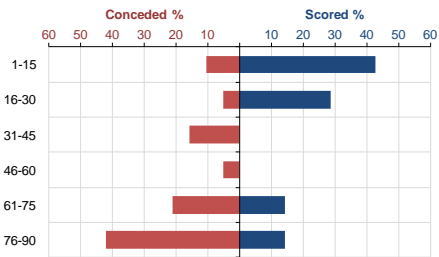
48% Scored the highest proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box in League 1



Scunthorpe United



Leon Clarke's recruitment yielded an immediate return in goals, most coming early in the match, but it looks like there are other problems to address. All 4 goals from open play have come down the right, suggesting a possible lack of creative options. Things are almost as invariable in defence, with all but one of the goals conceded from open play originating in the centre of the pitch. The proportion of goals conceded late on is surely adding to the frustration.



0

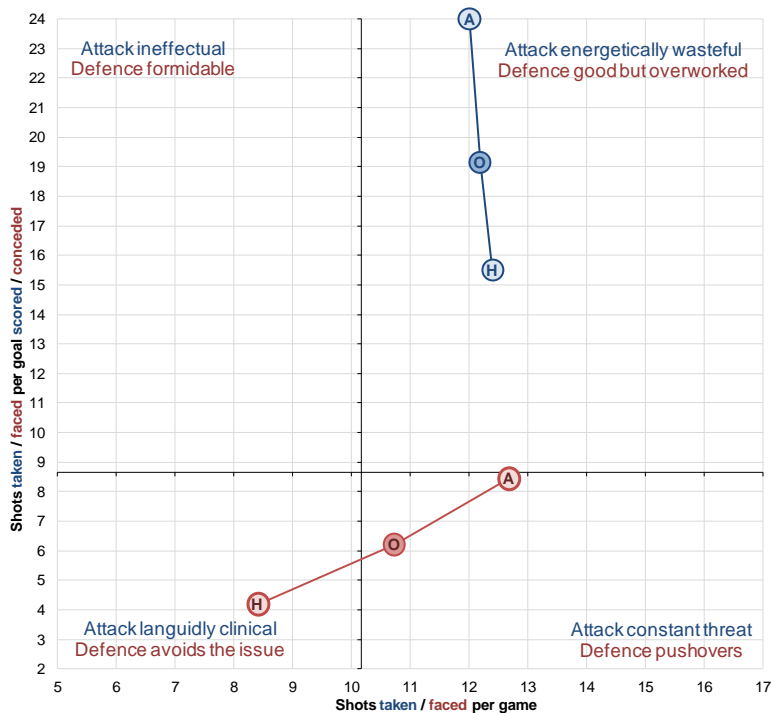
The only League 1 side not to have scored a goal from outside the penalty area

43%

No Football League side has scored a higher proportion of goals in the opening 15 minutes of matches

19

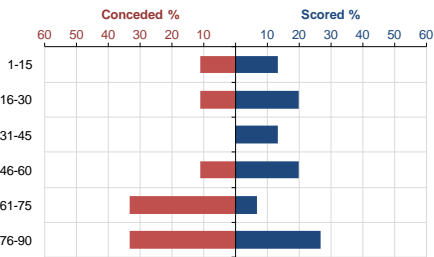
Shots taken for each goal scored – the most profligate attack in the Football League



Sheffield United



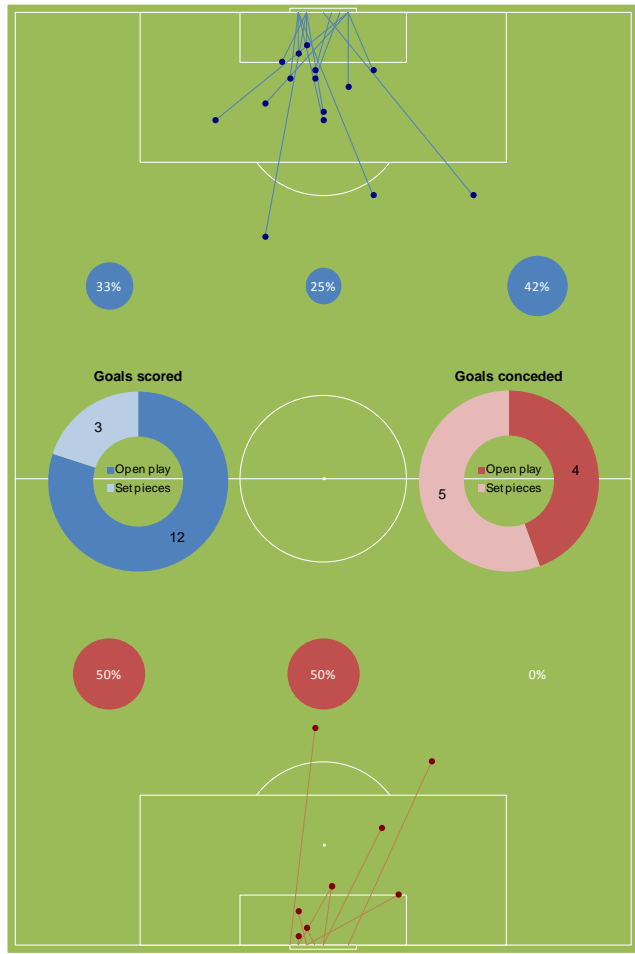
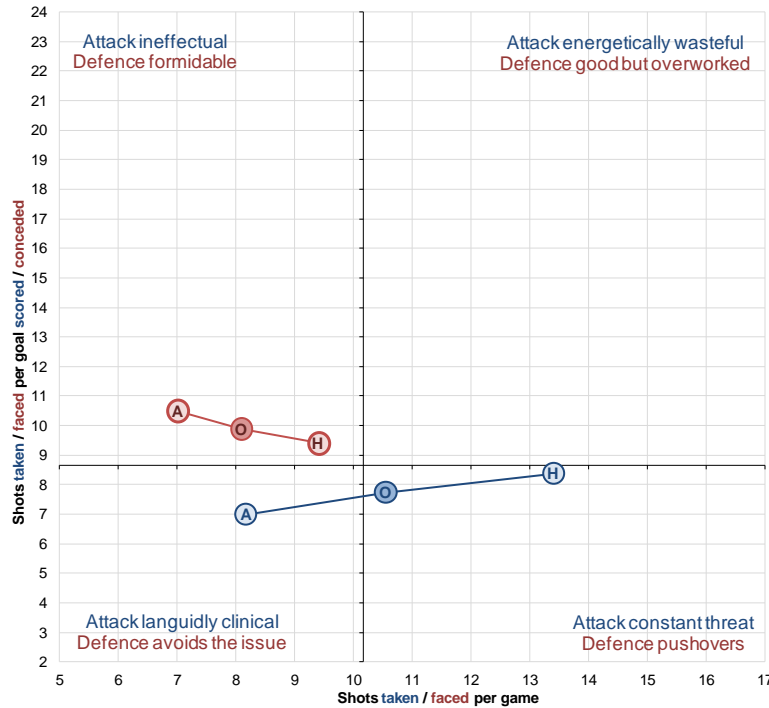
Many teams with strong defences end up conceding a higher proportion of goals from set pieces, and the Blades are no exception. Corners are their main weakness, but they are also susceptible to headers and close range goals more generally. Despite a frustratingly high number of draws they remain unbeaten.



0 1 of 3 unbeaten Football League sides, all from League 1

44% Proportion of goals conceded from headers, the 2nd highest in the Football League

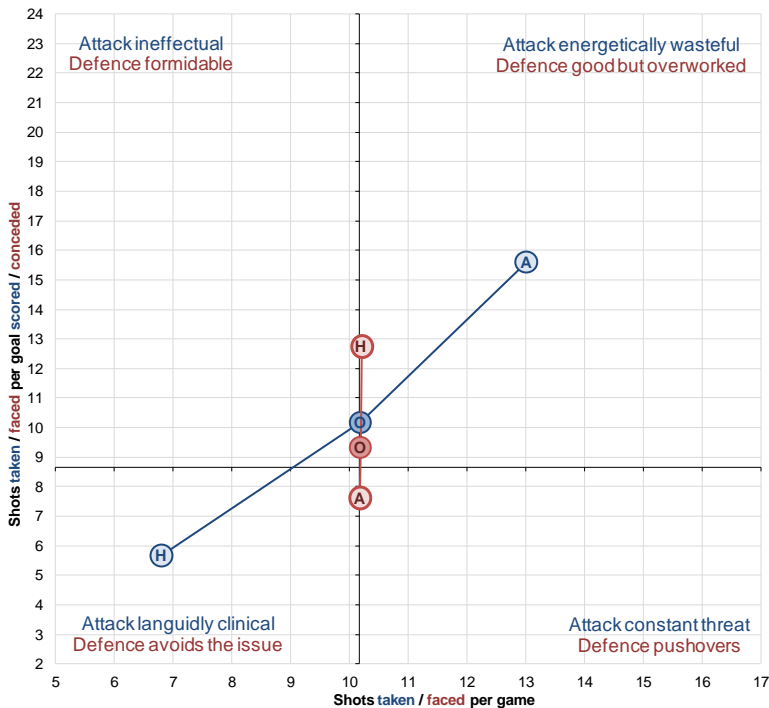
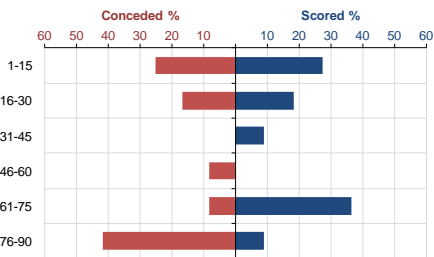
44% Proportion of goals conceded from within the 6 yard box, the joint highest in League 1



Shrewsbury Town



Shrewsbury played attractive football in League 2 last season, so I was surprised to see such a high proportion of set piece goals. On closer examination, 5 of the 8 were from free kick situations and only one a header, so I suspect they haven't abandoned their principles entirely. That's not the only element of their attacking which raises eyebrows: at home they're patient and clinical, while away they bombard the goal with almost twice as many chances and a third of the accuracy.



73%

The highest proportion of goals from set pieces of any Football League side

100%

1 of only 2 Football League sides to have created all of their goals through the centre of the pitch

17%

Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the 3rd lowest in League 1



Stevenage



Stevenage continue to improve and evolve – they're currently unbeaten and have scored in every league match so far. Clinical in attack and resilient in defence, it's hard to pick fault with their record so far. It looks as though they favour the left side of the pitch in both attack and defence, suggesting a potential weakness on the right flank. Those early goals they conceded are perhaps a minor frustration.



0

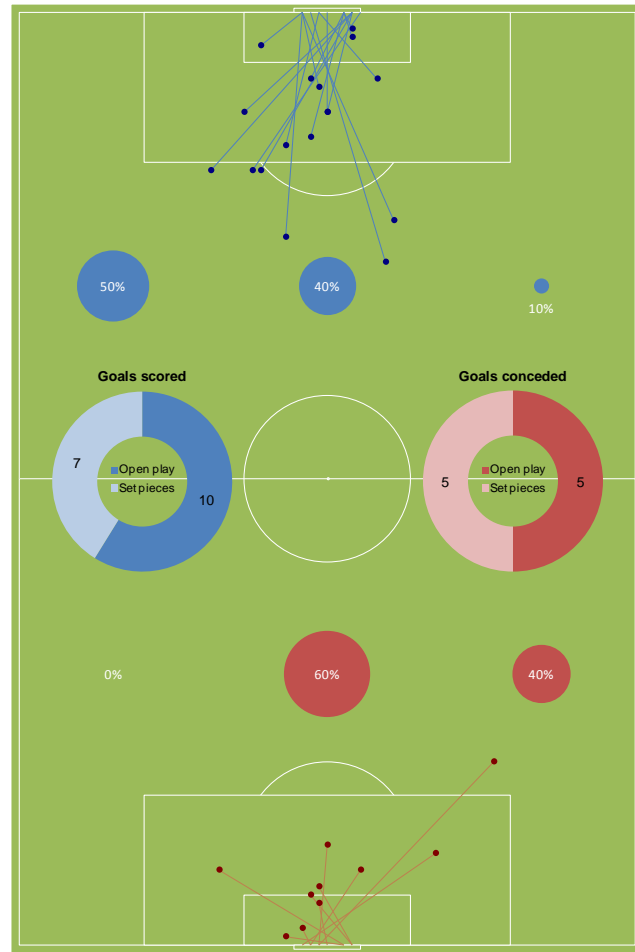
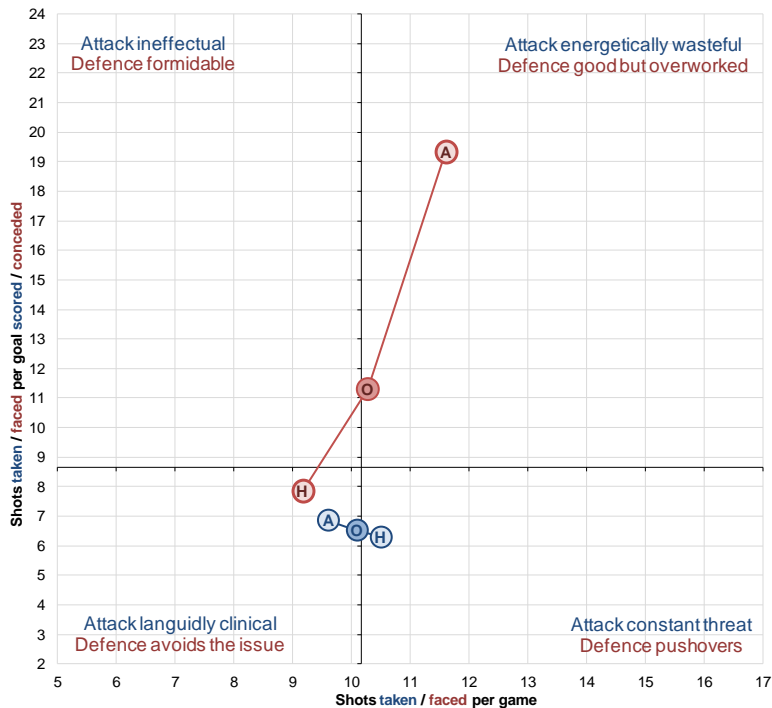
1 of 3 unbeaten Football League sides, all from League 1

11

The only League 1 team to have scored in every match

40%

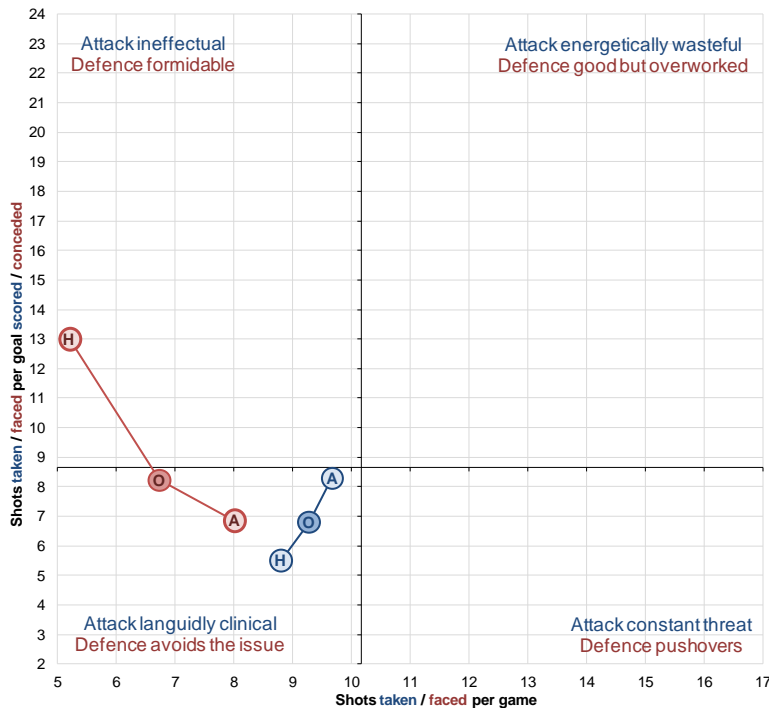
Conceded the joint highest proportion of goals in the opening 15 minutes in the Football League



Swindon Town



For those who were wondering, Matt Ritchie is almost single-handedly responsible for Swindon's high proportion of long range goals, including a couple of those from ridiculous-seeming angles. Their opponents seem to take inspiration from them though, rattling in almost as many in reply. It's actually in defence where Swindon make the more telling impact – no League 1 side can match their ability to restrict their opponent's chances.



40%

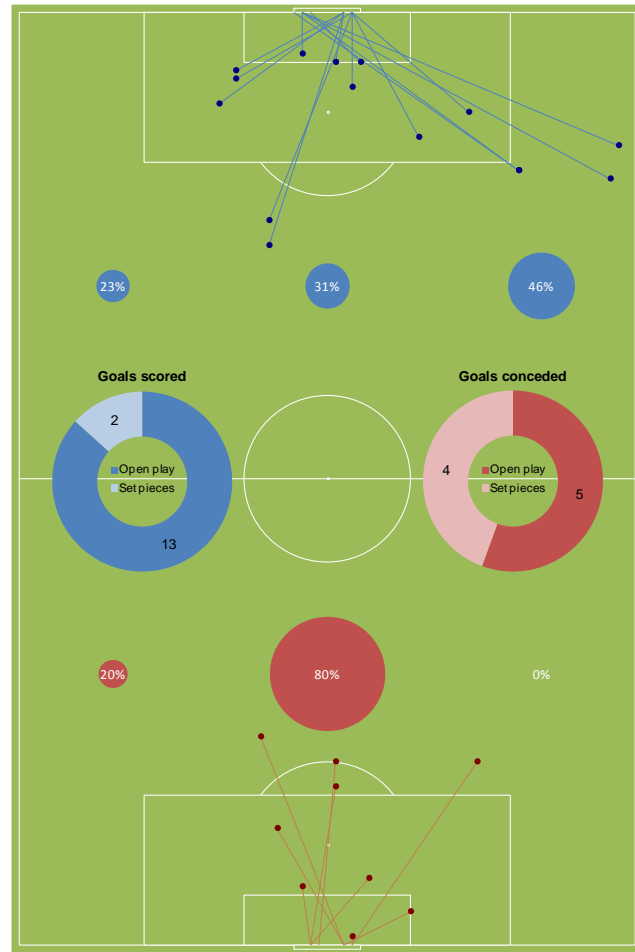
Scored the 3rd highest proportion of goals from outside the penalty area in the Football League

56%

Joint highest proportion of shots on target in League 1

44%

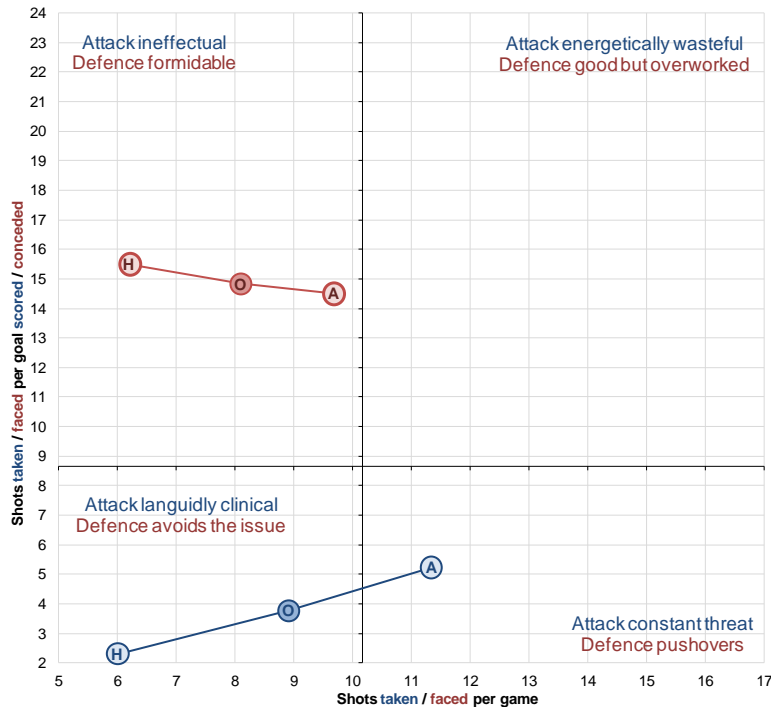
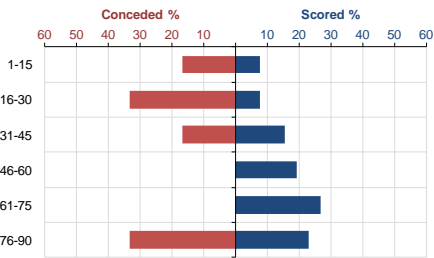
Proportion of goals conceded from outside the area, the joint highest in the Football League



Tranmere Rovers



The tightest defence in the Football League, like Gillingham's in the division below a set piece seems the best way to breach it. Travel doesn't seem to affect the efficiency of attack or defence particularly, although both ends of the pitch are a lot busier when they're on the road. Scoring a pleasing variety and quantity of goals, there's little cause to begrudge the division's surprise early leaders.



0

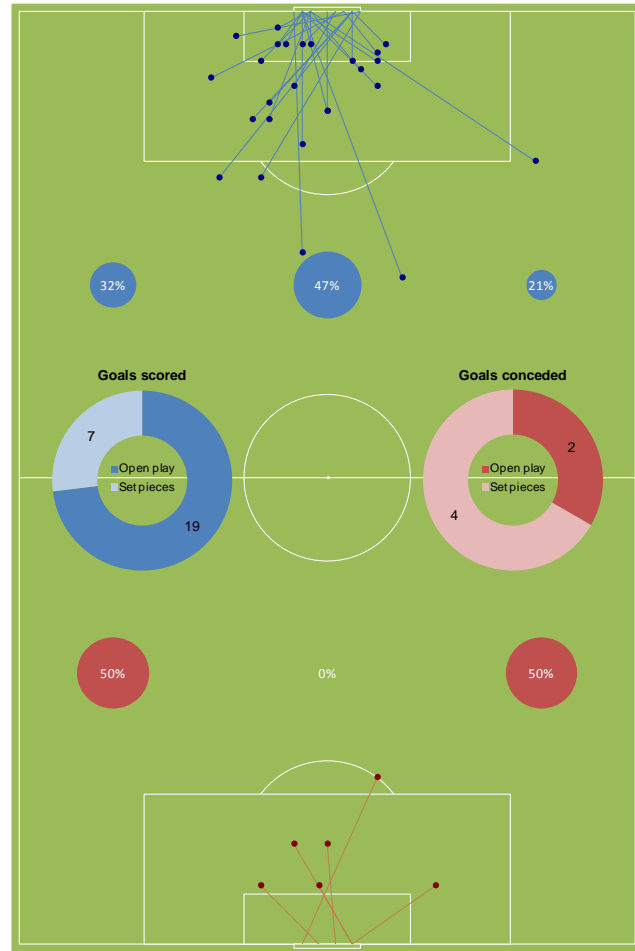
1 of 3 unbeaten Football League sides, all from League 1

67%

Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the highest in League 1

0

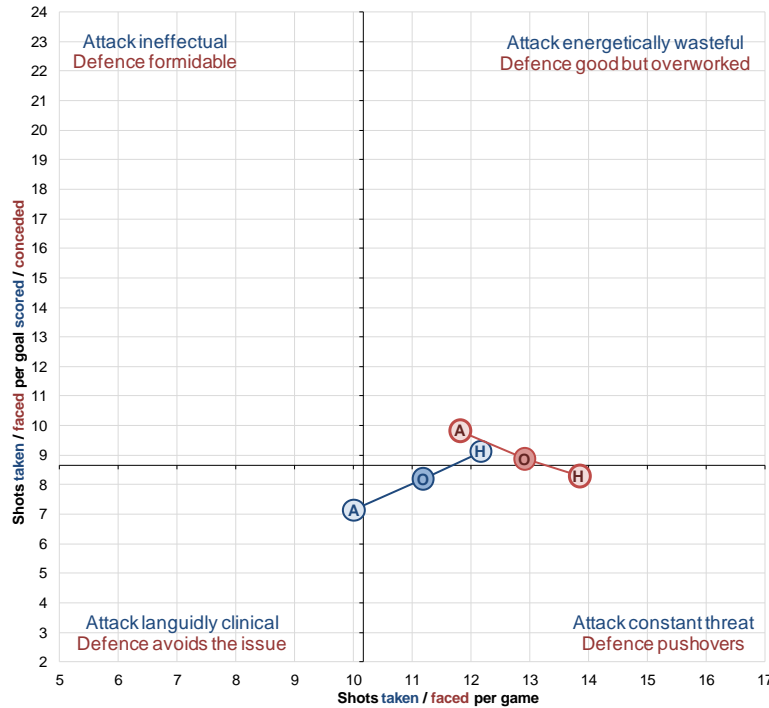
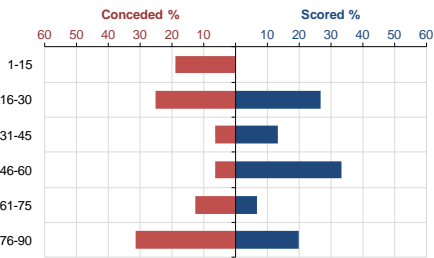
1 of 2 League 1 sides not to have conceded a goal from within the 6 yard box



Walsall



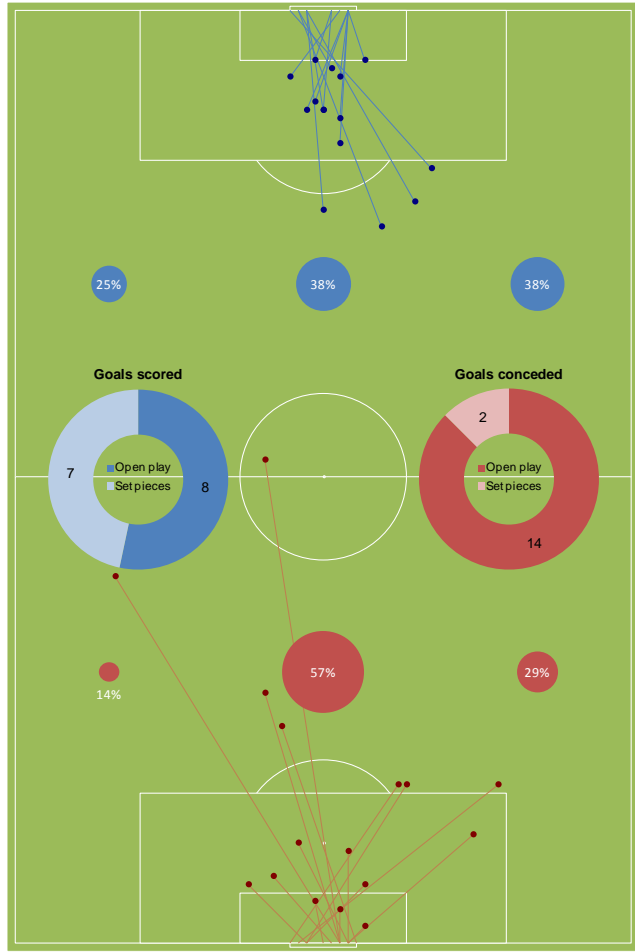
Defying expectations of a relegation struggle, Walsall have made a respectable start. The number of goals conceded from range is a concern, although they're giving almost as good as they've gotten in this department. They're impressive at set pieces whether attacking or defending, although there's a danger on over-relying on this.



10 After drawing a blank on the opening day, they have since scored in every successive league match

44% Proportion of goals conceded from outside the area, the joint highest in the Football League

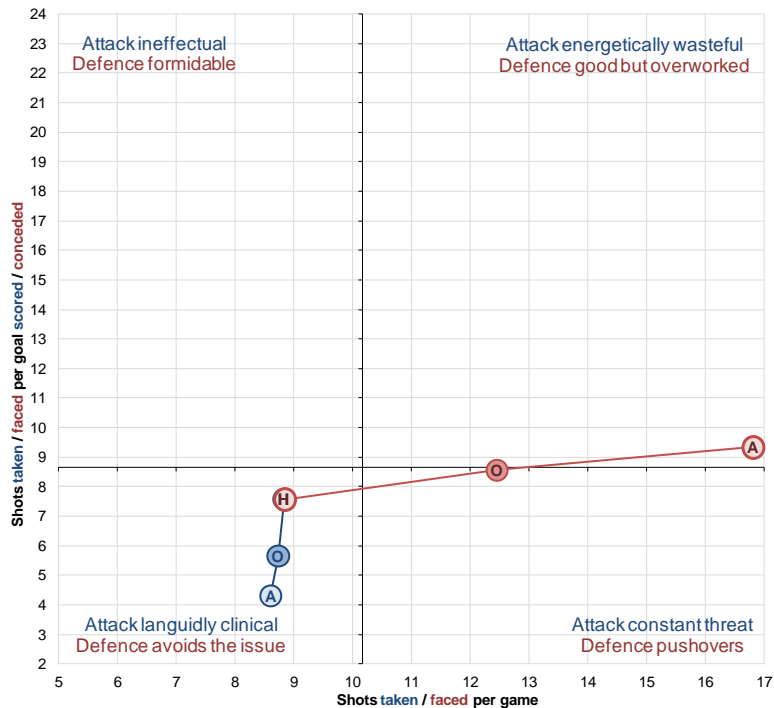
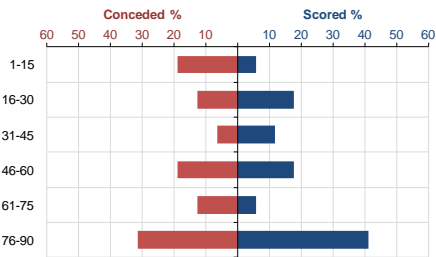
12% Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the lowest in League 1



Yeovil Town



Perhaps Yeovil's away kit should incorporate tin hats, such is the bombardment their goal endures on their travels. Despite this onslaught and a worrying run of defeats they've still maintained a slender positive goal difference, thanks in part to a clinical attack that seems to flourish away from home.



3

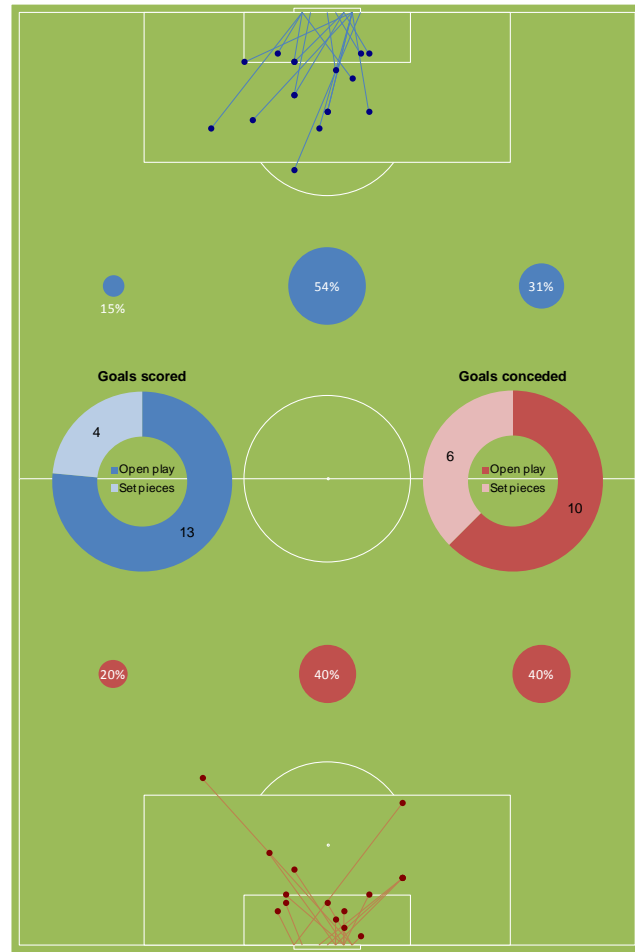
Average number of goals in matches involving Yeovil, the joint 3rd highest in League 1

16.8

No side in the Football League faces a higher number of shots per match away from home

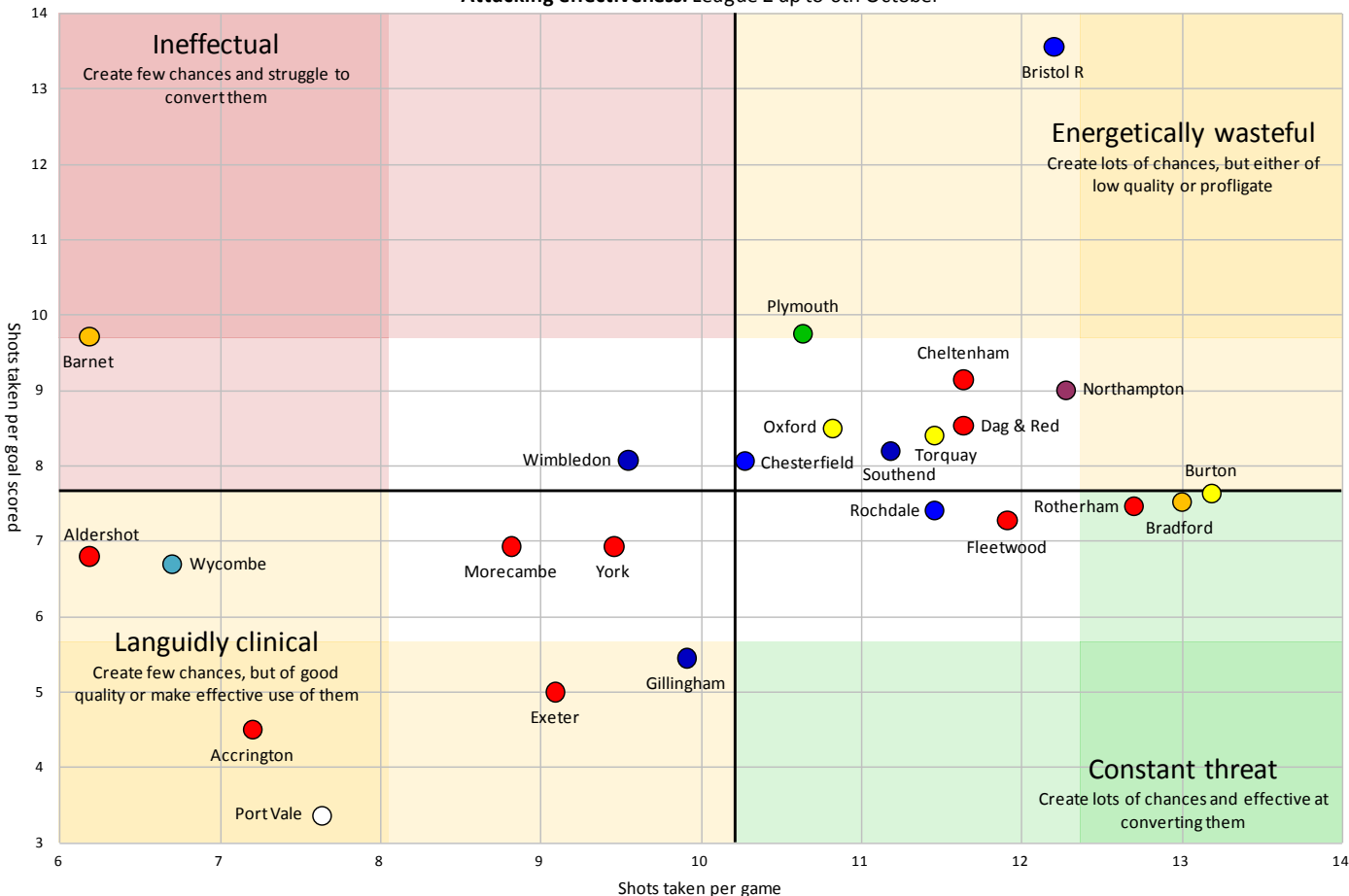
4.3

Average number of shots per each away goal; the most clinical in League 1



League 2: Attacking

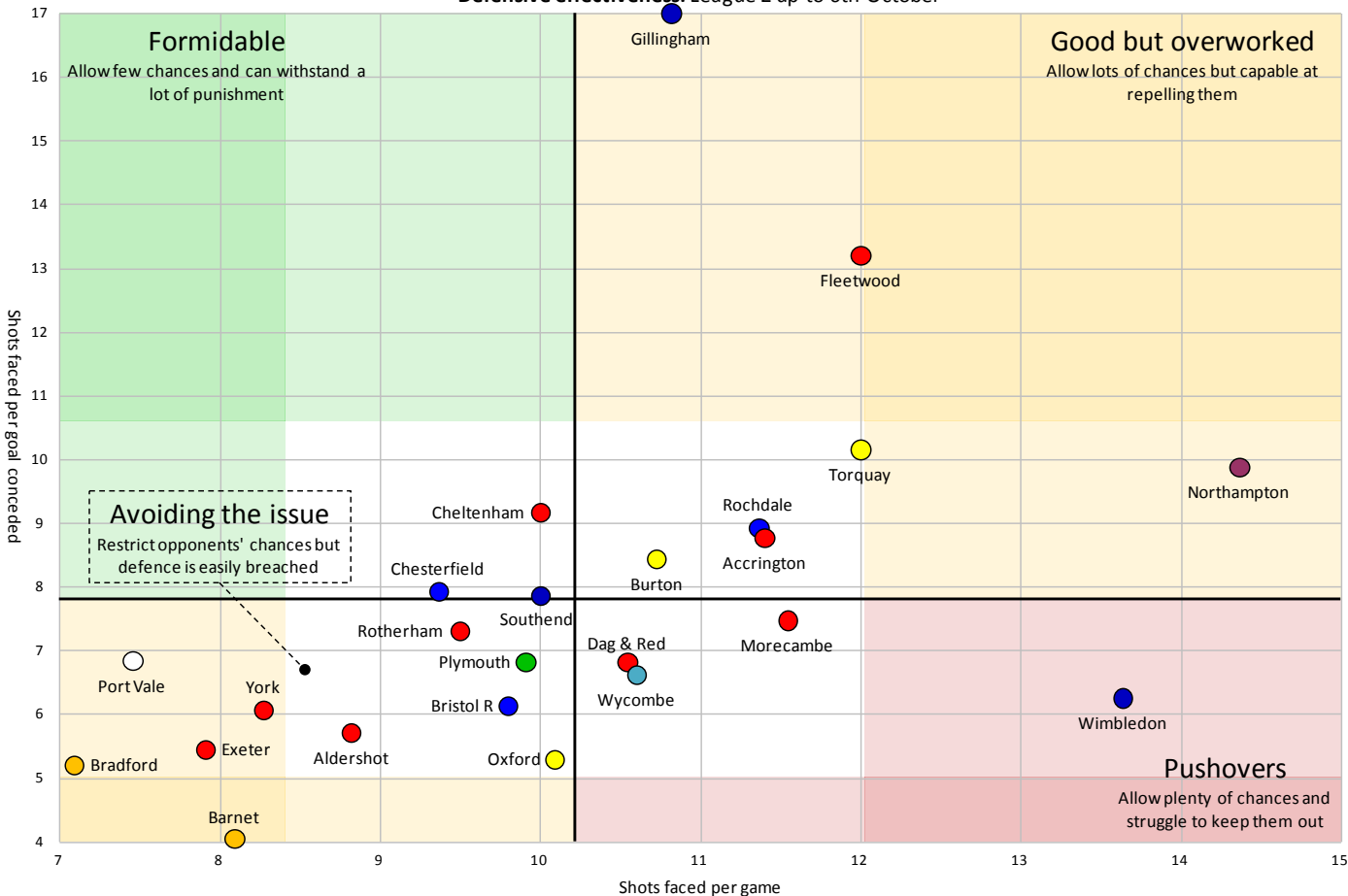
Attacking effectiveness: League 2 up to 6th October



- **Bristol Rovers** can look at the attack to explain their disappointing start, where far too many chances are being spurned.
- A clutch of 5 sides create substantially fewer attempts at goal than the rest, but while **Port Vale** and **Accrington** make the most of the ones they carve out, **Barnet's** strikers are struggling to convert what comes their way.
- **Burton** are the division's entertainers so far, but **Bradford** and **Rotherham** are also keeping defences busy.
- **Gillingham's** table-topping performances have more to do with precision in front of goal than an all-out assault.

League 2: Defending

Defensive effectiveness: League 2 up to 6th October

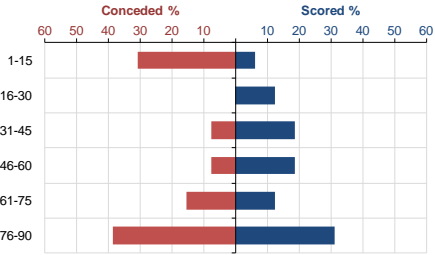


- Like **Tranmere** in League 1, leaders **Gillingham** are giving a master class in defensive resilience. More than twice as many shots as the divisional average are required to breach their defence.
- **Northampton** and **Wimbledon** both seem to live life on the back foot, but the Cobblers seem the more comfortable as things stand.
- **Fleetwood** and **Torquay**, who played out a 0-0 draw on the opening day, both rely on their defence to soak up pressure, but the former are much more assured in doing so,

Accrington Stanley



Stanley have had a promising start, which would have been all the more so if they could tighten up the left side of defence. Two thirds of goals conceded have been in either the first or last 15 minutes, which is surely a source of frustration. Their resilience from set pieces is admirable, although scoring from a few more of their own could well give them an added edge.



88%

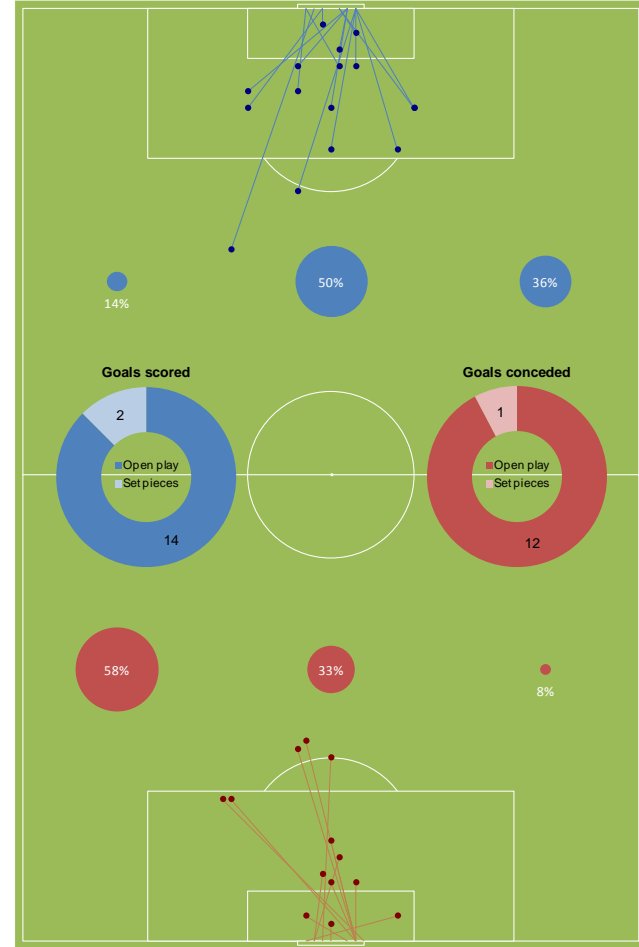
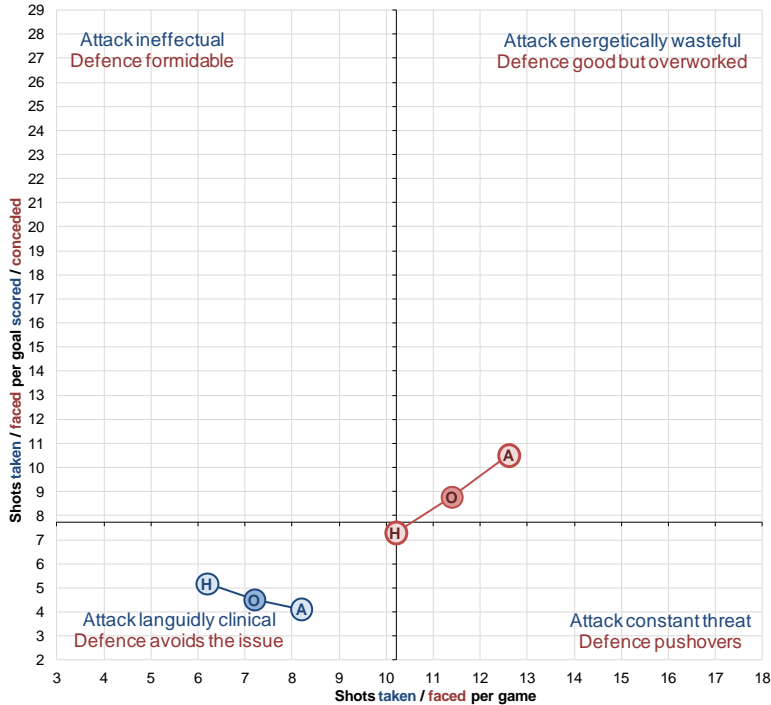
Proportion of goals scored from open play, the highest in League 2

8%

Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the joint lowest in the Football League

58%

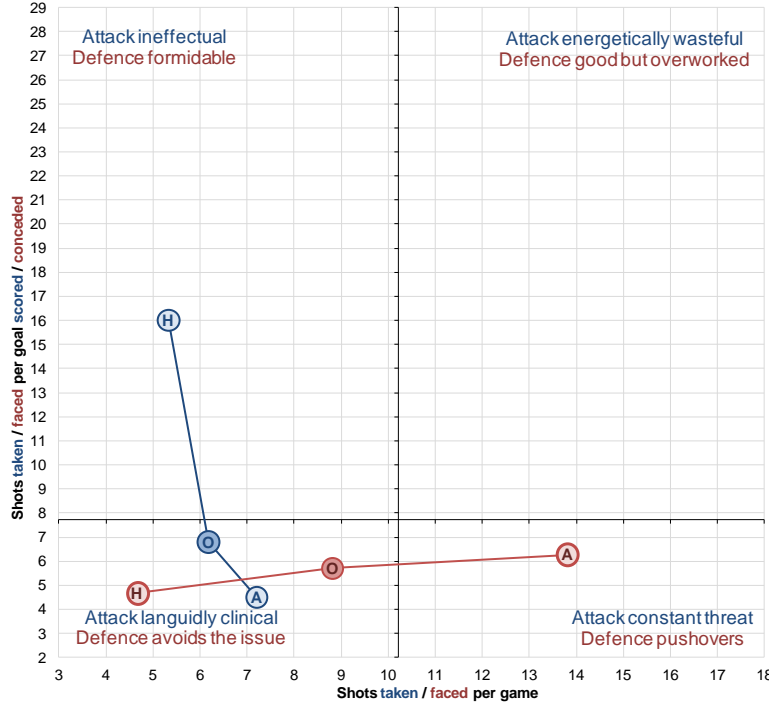
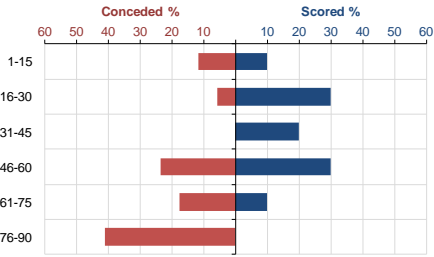
Proportion of open play goals conceded down the left, the 3rd highest in League 2



Aldershot Town



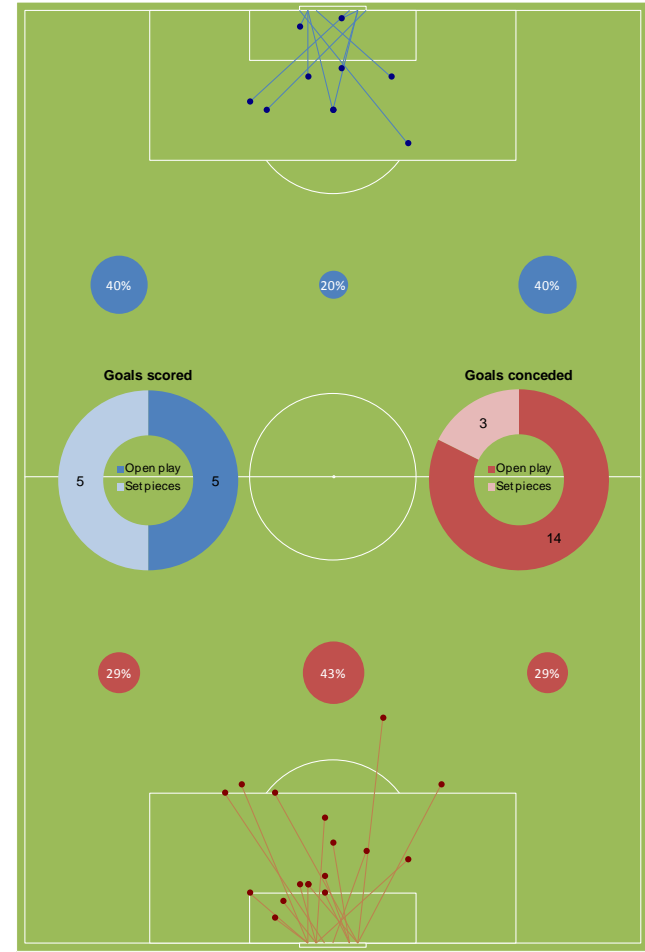
Another club whose fans probably wish matches finished earlier, with virtually all goals being scored in the first hour and conceded in the second half. The bottom line is that the attack aren't creating enough chances (which has been the case for a while now) and are fluffing their lines in front of goal, particularly at home. With 3 times as many shots per match being faced in away matches, the defence is also in need of toughening up.



0 1 of only 3 Football League sides not to have scored in the last 15 minutes of matches

0 1 of 3 League 2 sides not to have scored a goal from outside the penalty area

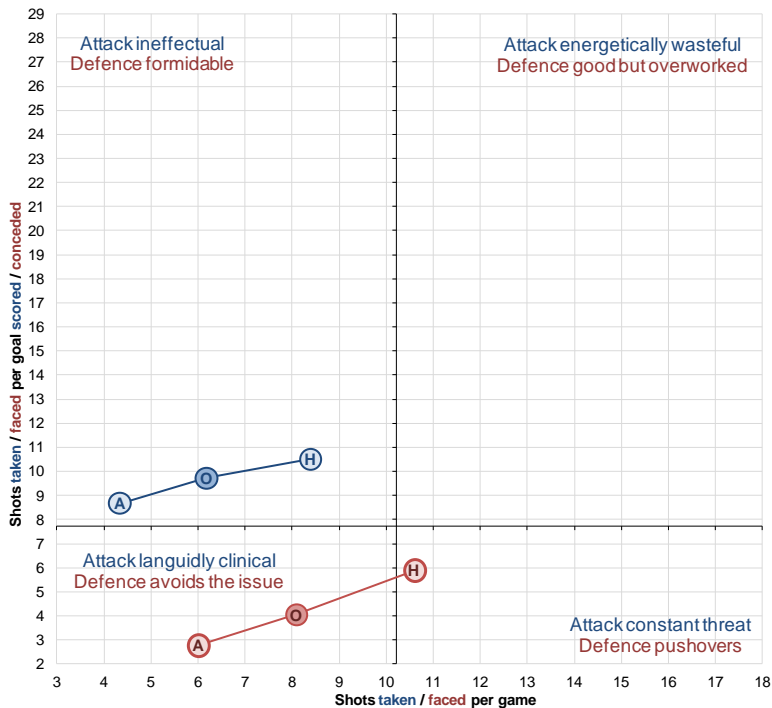
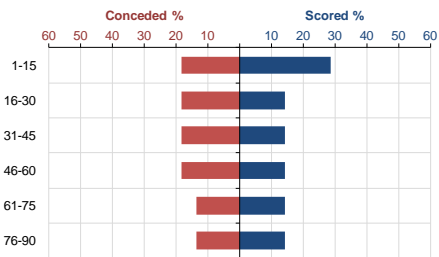
18% Concede the 3rd lowest proportion of goals in the first half in the Football League



Barnet



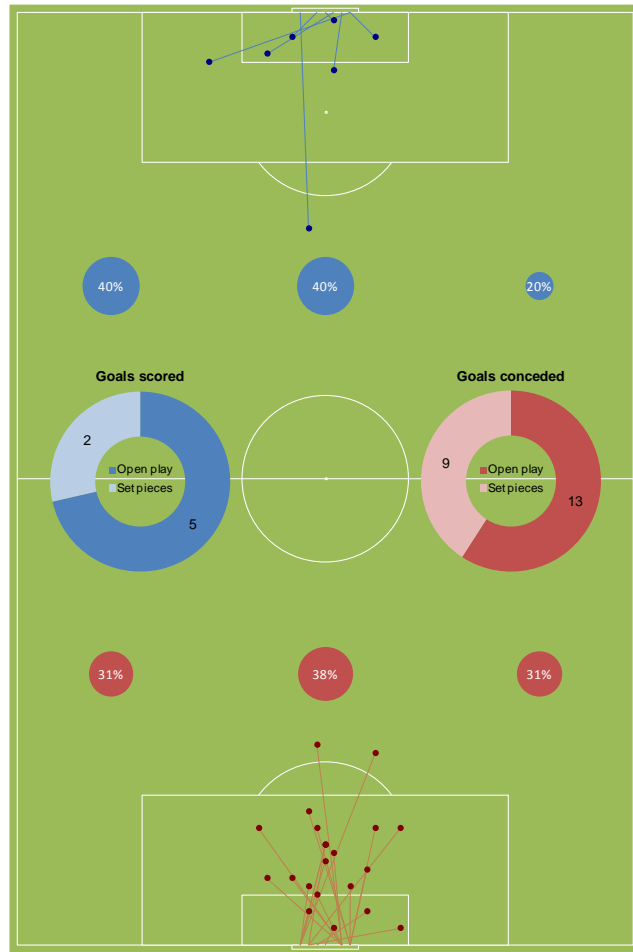
1 of 2 sides in the Football League without a win, it's hard to find positives here just yet. A high number of goals conceded from set pieces – penalties in particular – haven't helped their cause. The eye-catching signing of Collins John will hopefully give their attack the added dimension it desperately needs.



3 Conceded the joint 2nd highest number of goals from the penalty spot in the Football League

57% Scored a higher proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box than any other Football League side

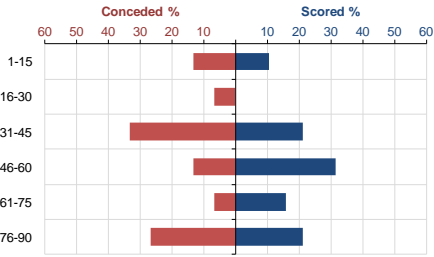
29% The joint largest proportion of goals from corners in League 2



Bradford City



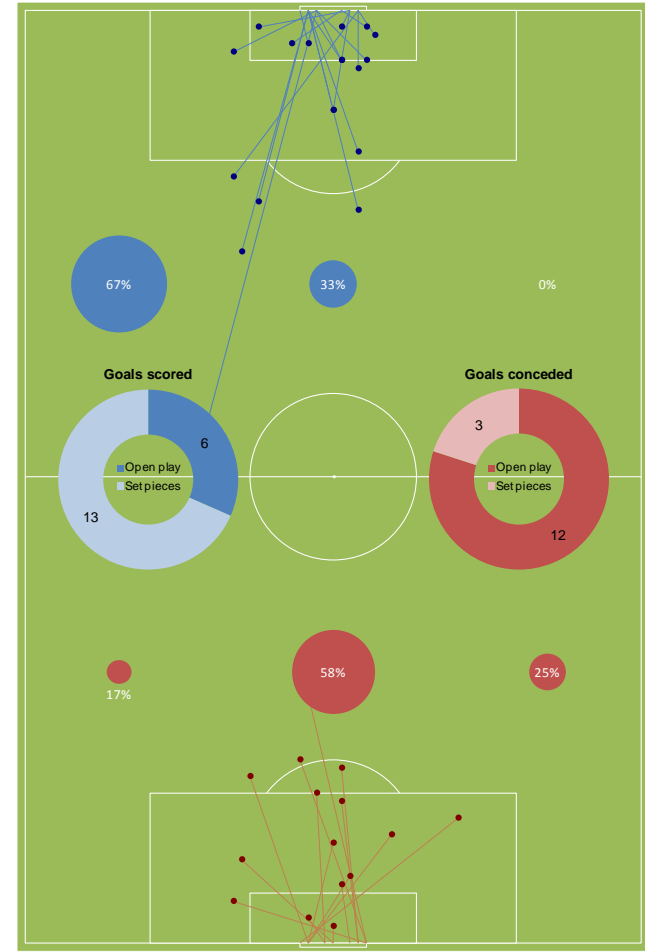
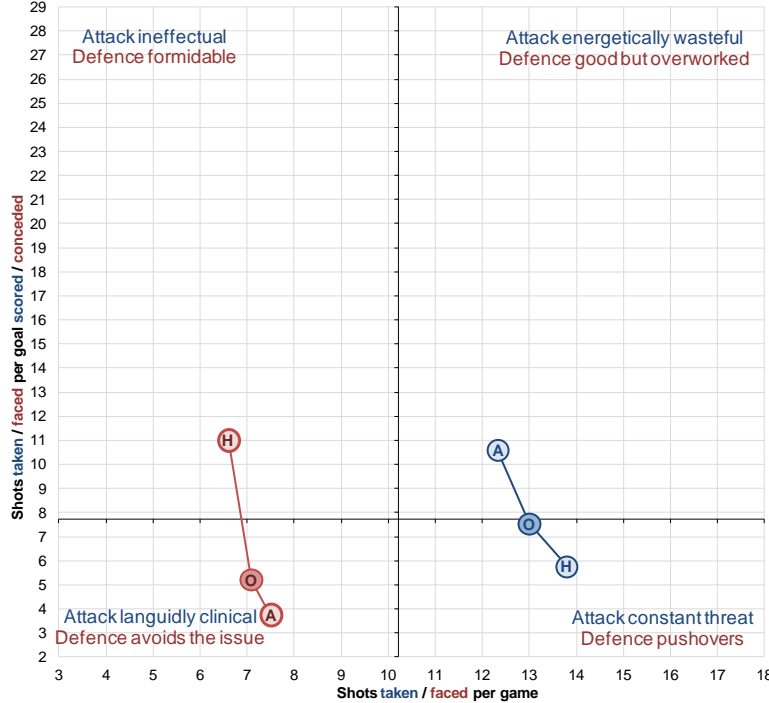
The division's set piece specialists; what few goals aren't yielded from dead ball situations tend to be fashioned on the Bantams' left side. Bradford spend most matches in the driving seat, creating significantly more chances than they face – after a few false starts in this division, could this finally be the season they challenge for promotion?



3 Have scored the joint most goals directly from free kicks in the Football League

68% Highest proportion of goals from set pieces in League 2

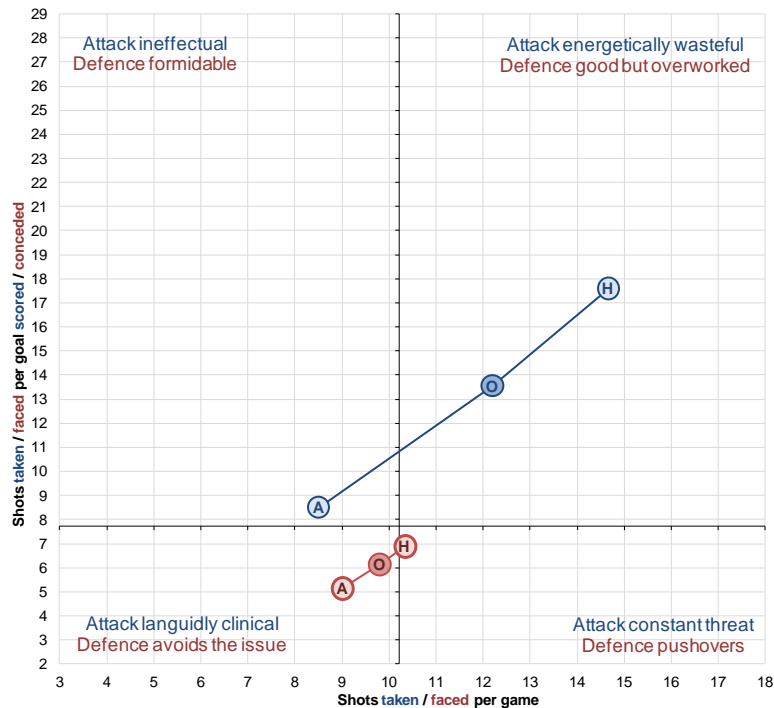
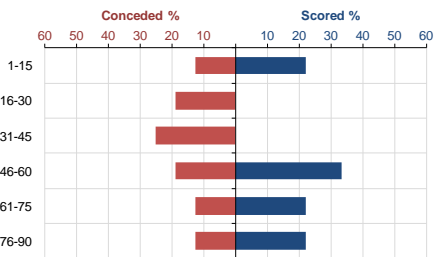
67% Highest proportion of open play goals created on the left in the Football League



Bristol Rovers



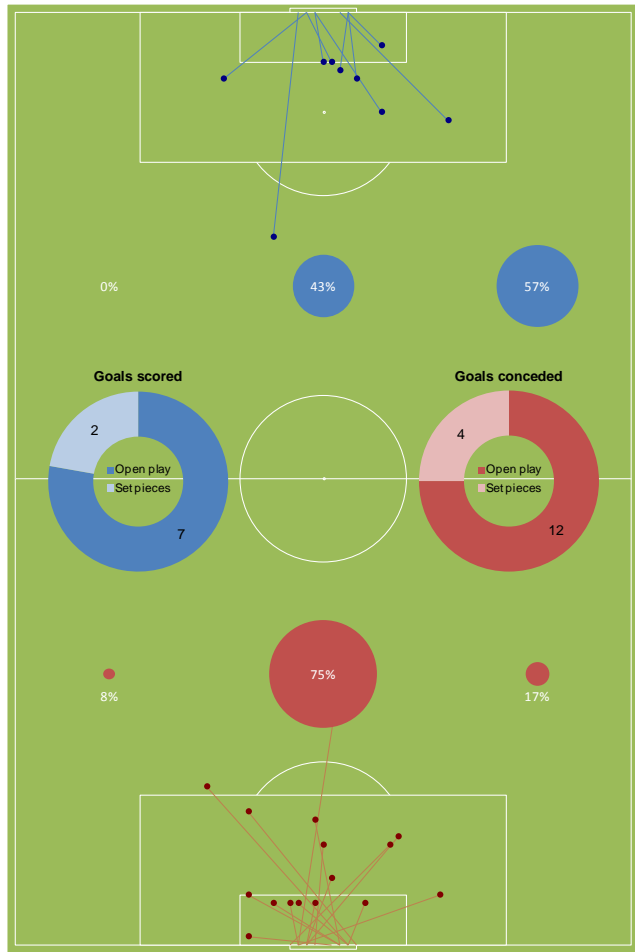
Rovers seem to be recovering from a poor start in which their attacking profligacy was largely to blame for a winless first 7 games. Their lack of an outlet on the left could be a contributing factor, while at the other end they seem to be conceding a lot of goals from close range. A few more goals in the first half will help them to take control of matches.



0 1 of 3 League 2 sides not to have created a goal from open play on the left flank

2 Number of goals conceded from throw-in situations, the joint most in the Football League

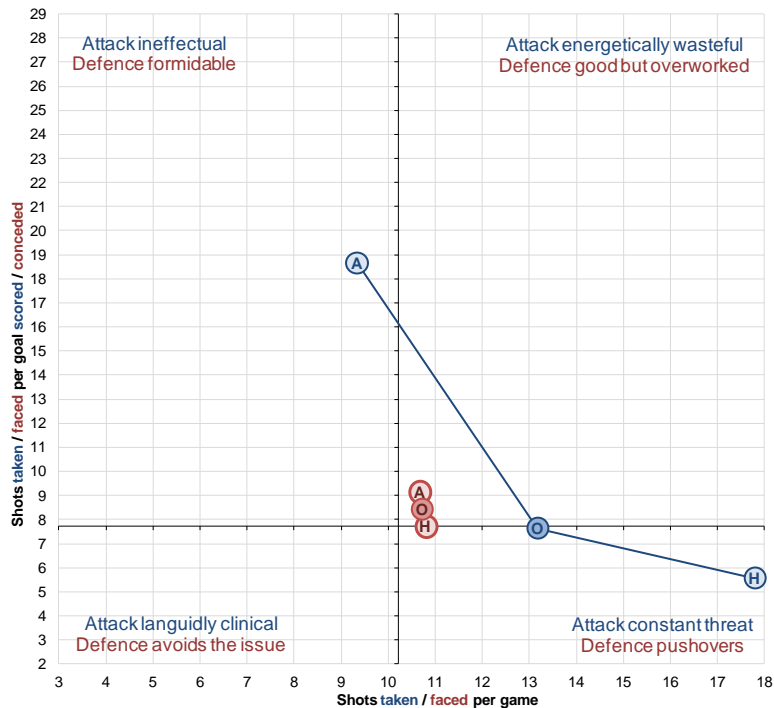
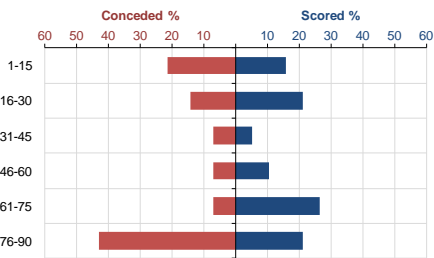
56% 2nd highest proportion of shots on target in League 2



Burton Albion



Burton have a taste for the spectacular going forward, with almost half their goals coming from long range. At the back it's a different story though, with most goals conceded from close quarters. Their propensity for conceding late and from set pieces could ultimately scupper their promotion ambitions if not addressed, as could their relative meekness up front on their travels.



3

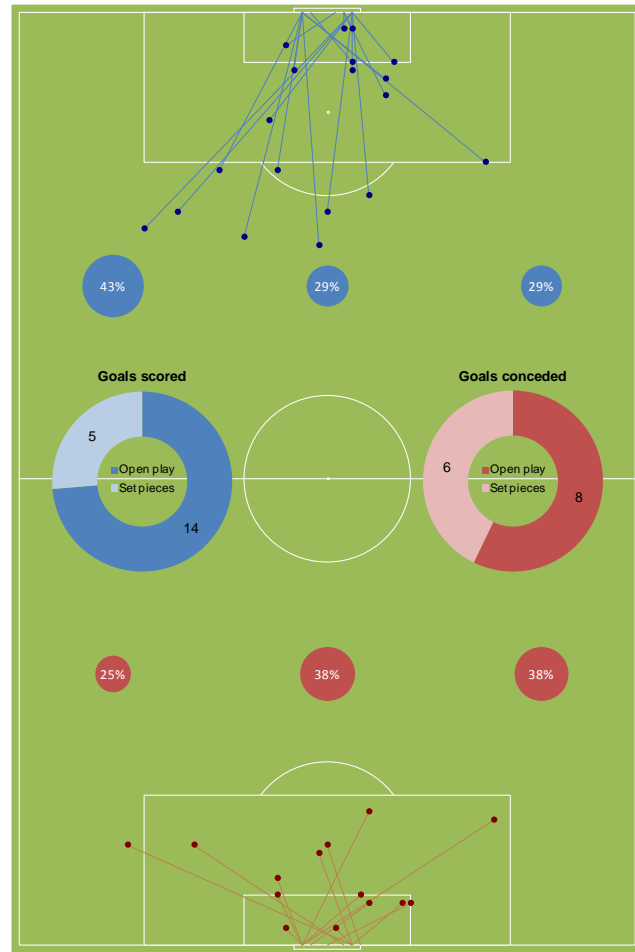
Have scored the joint most goals directly from free kicks in the Football League

42%

Scored the 2nd highest proportion of goals from outside the penalty area in the Football League

50%

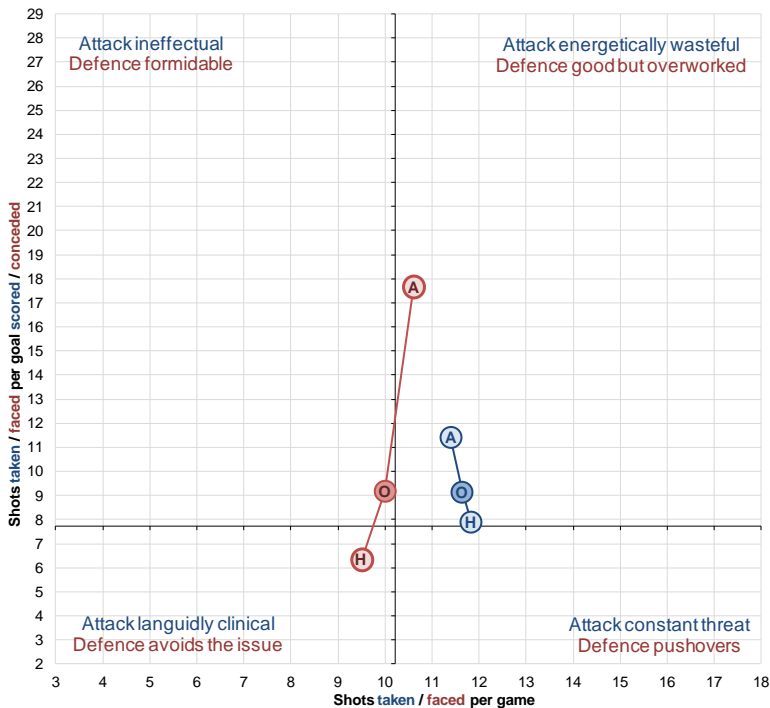
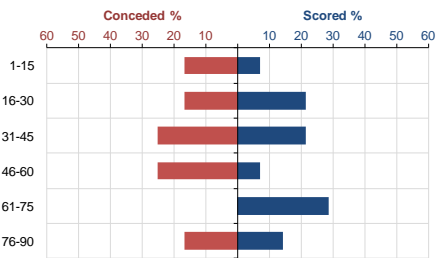
Proportion of goals conceded from within the 6 yard box, the 2nd highest in the Football League



Cheltenham Town



A lot of goals at both ends begin in the centre of the pitch, suggesting a central midfield more geared towards attacking than defending. Bizarrely for a team in the play-off zone, Cheltenham actually have the worst shot accuracy in the Football League (34%). They seem vulnerable in the air, while going forward most goals are either from long range efforts or corners, neither of which is necessarily a bad thing but may prove less effective against better drilled opponents.



2.4

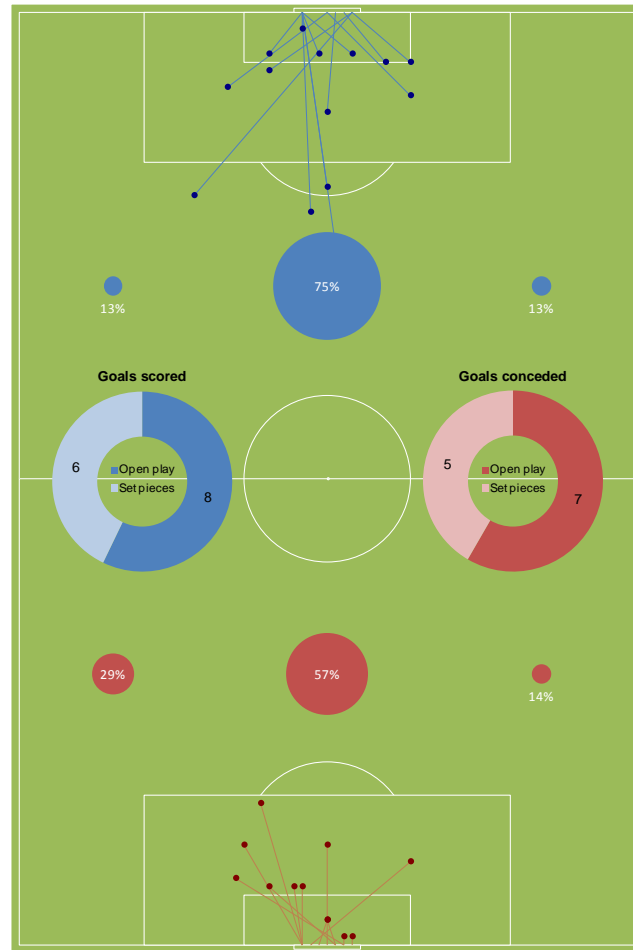
Number of goals in matches involving Cheltenham, the lowest in League 2

42%

The 3rd highest proportion of goals conceded from headers in the Football League

0

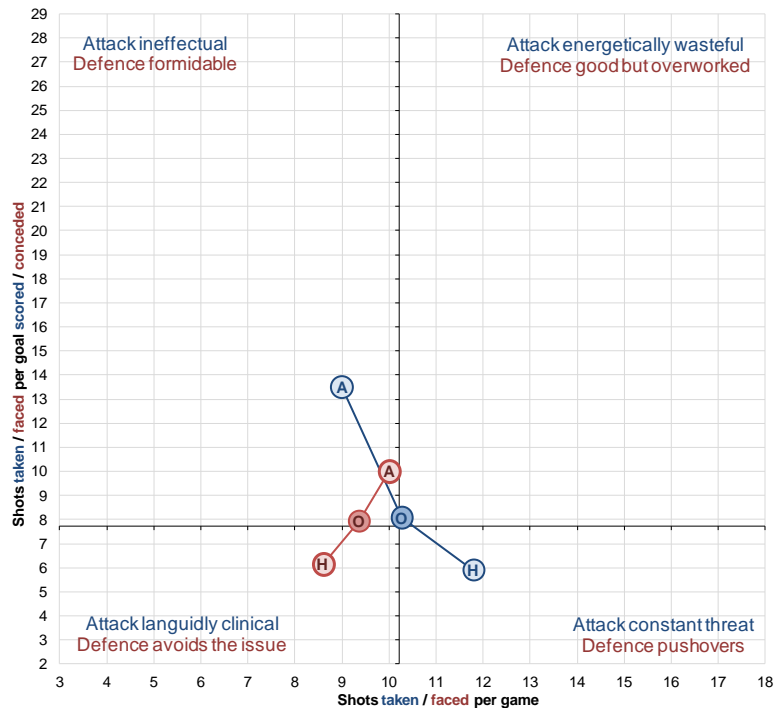
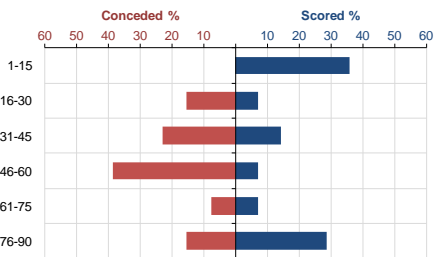
1 of 3 Football League teams not to have conceded a goal from outside the area



Chesterfield



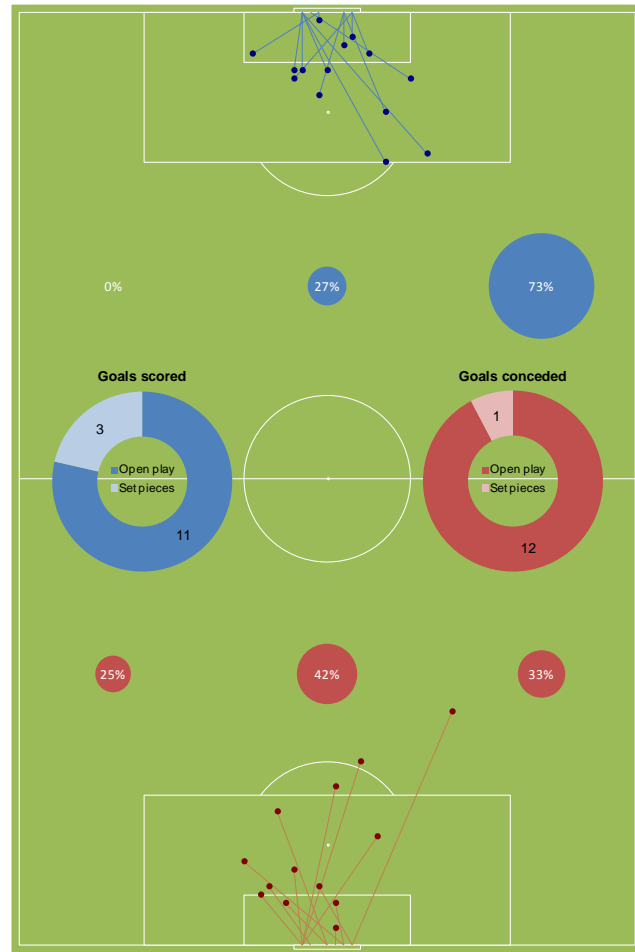
The Spireites start and finish games strongly, with over half of their goals coming in the first and last 15 minutes of matches, although at the expense of being mostly second best for the intervening period. They also seem to be channelling a lot of their attacks down the right – well the successful ones anyway. Defensively, they have an admirable resilience from set pieces.



0 1 of 3 League 2 sides not to have scored a goal from outside the penalty area

73% Proportion of open play goals created on the right flank, the 2nd highest in the Football League

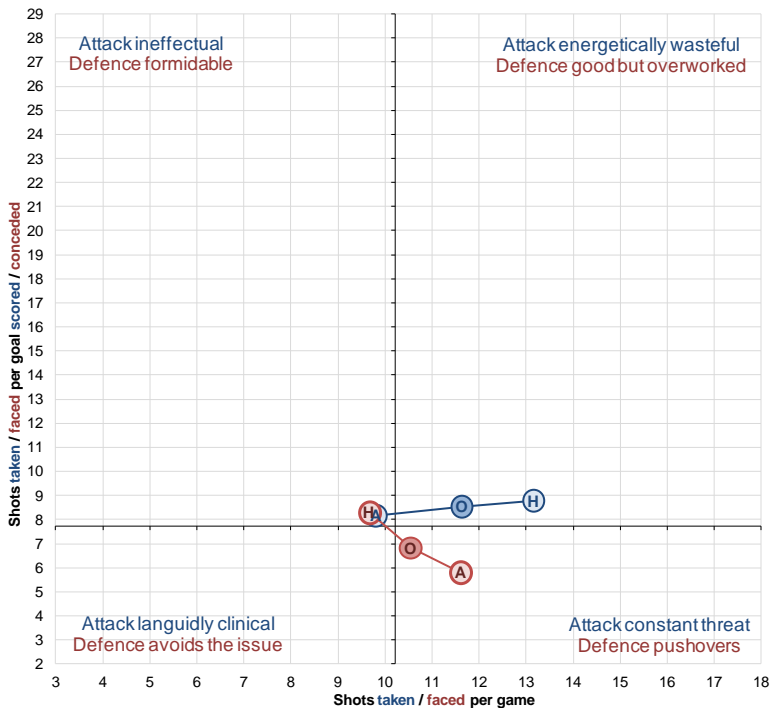
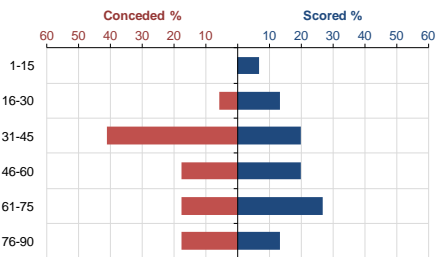
8% Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the joint lowest in the Football League



Dagenham & Redbridge



Conceding goals just before half time is an unwanted speciality, particularly coming after a defensively tight opening half hour as it often has this season. The right side is looking much stronger than the left at present, both in defence and attack. Set pieces are a concern – it's relatively unusual for a side good at scoring from them to be as vulnerable to them at the other end.



6%

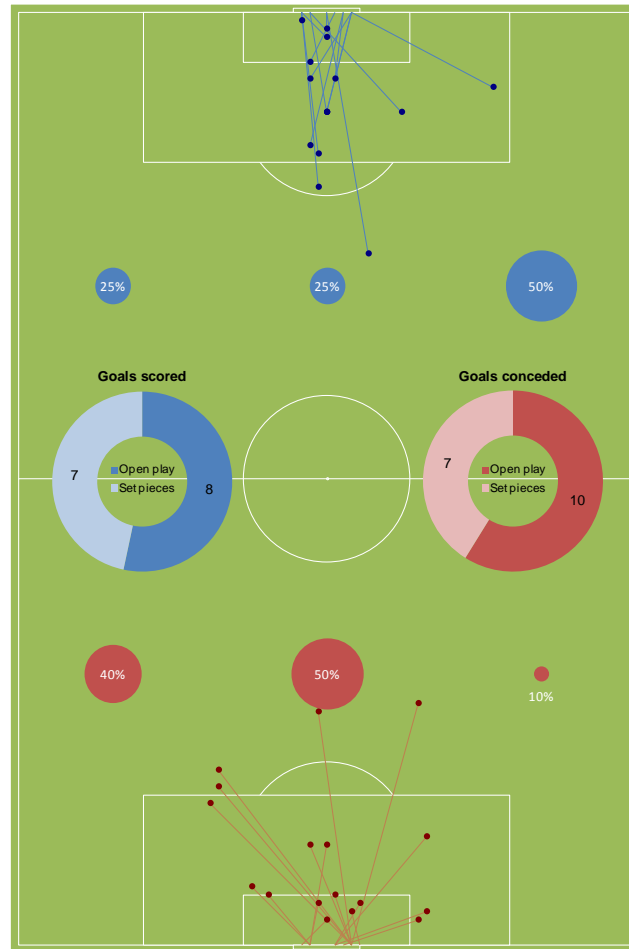
Concede the joint lowest proportion of goals in the opening half hour of any Football League side

41%

Concede the Football League's 2nd highest proportion of goals in the 15 minutes before half time

50%

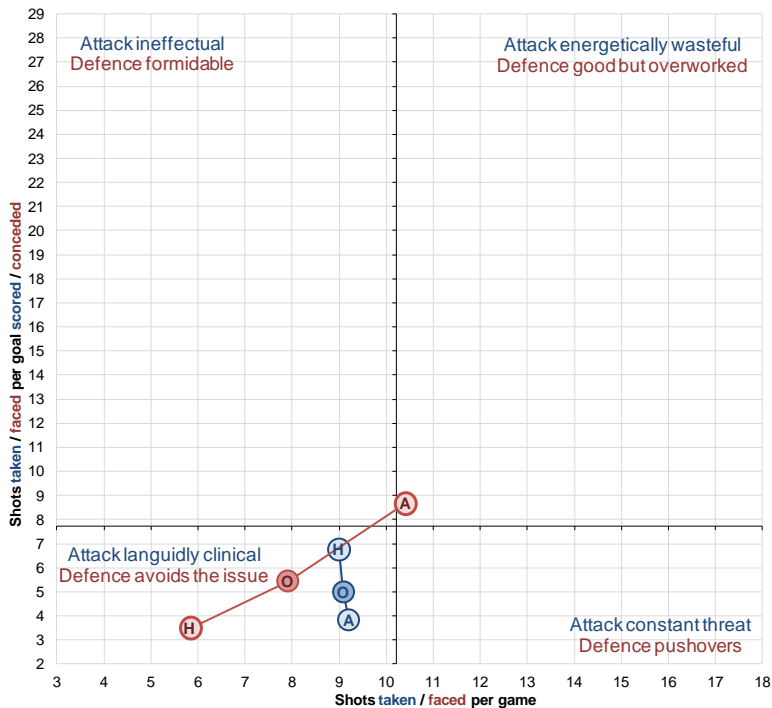
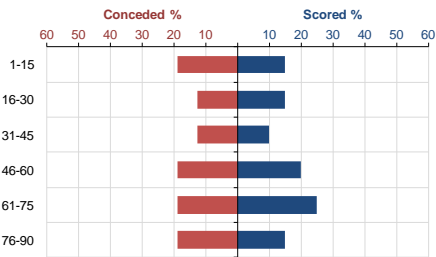
Create the 3rd highest proportion of open play goals from the right flank in League 2



Exeter City



Currently looking capable of an instant and entertaining return to League 1, the biggest potential stumbling block seems to be the number of goals they concede. The attack seems to rely on shooting accuracy – most notably that of Jamie Cureton, scorer of 4 of their last 6 goals - rather than the volume of chances created.



3.3

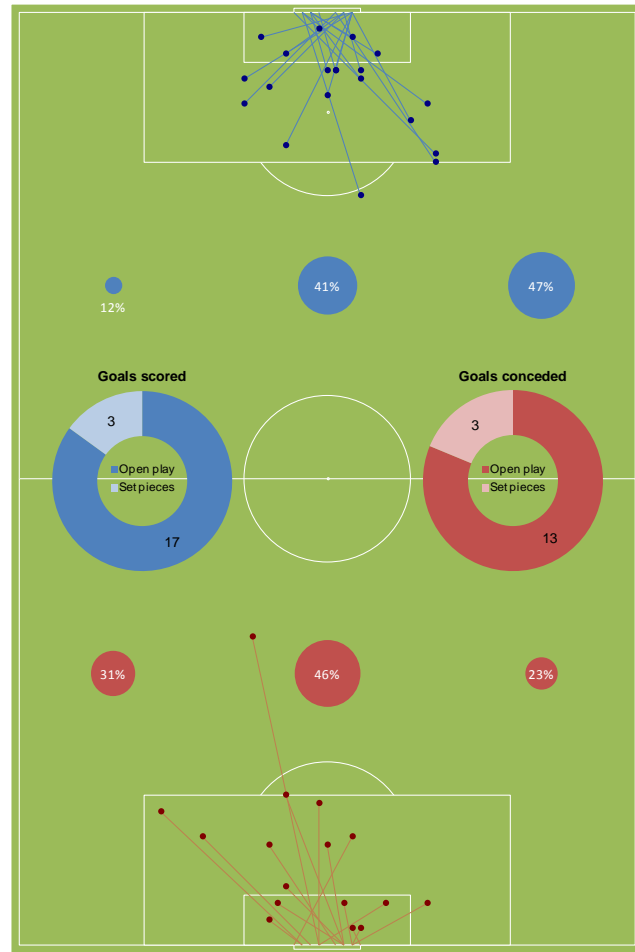
Average number of goals in matches involving Exeter, the 3rd highest in League 2

3.8

Average shots per goal in away matches, the most clinical in League 2

3.5

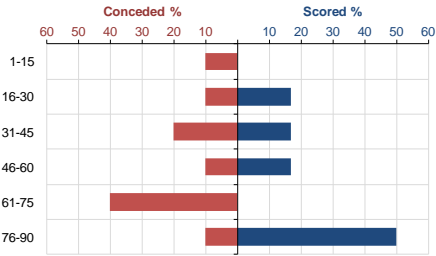
Average shots faced per home goal conceded, the 2nd lowest in the Football League



Fleetwood Town



Now we know why the scatter plot for this division is so large: Fleetwood's defence has been ridiculously resilient away from home, needing 28 shots to breach on average. Up front they've wasted no time in imposing themselves on League 2 with a relentless barrage of shots, although it often takes a while for opposing defences to cave in.



50%

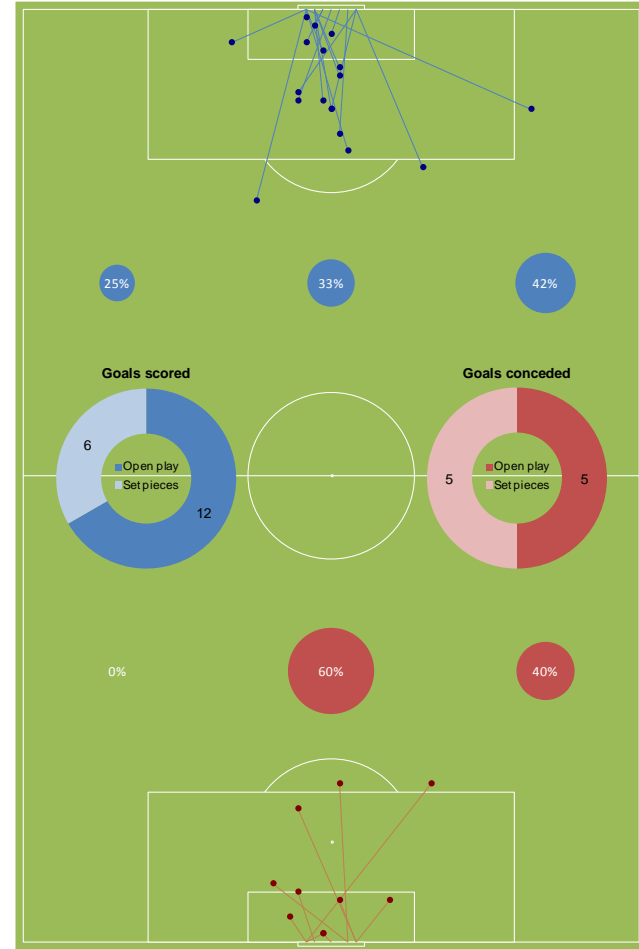
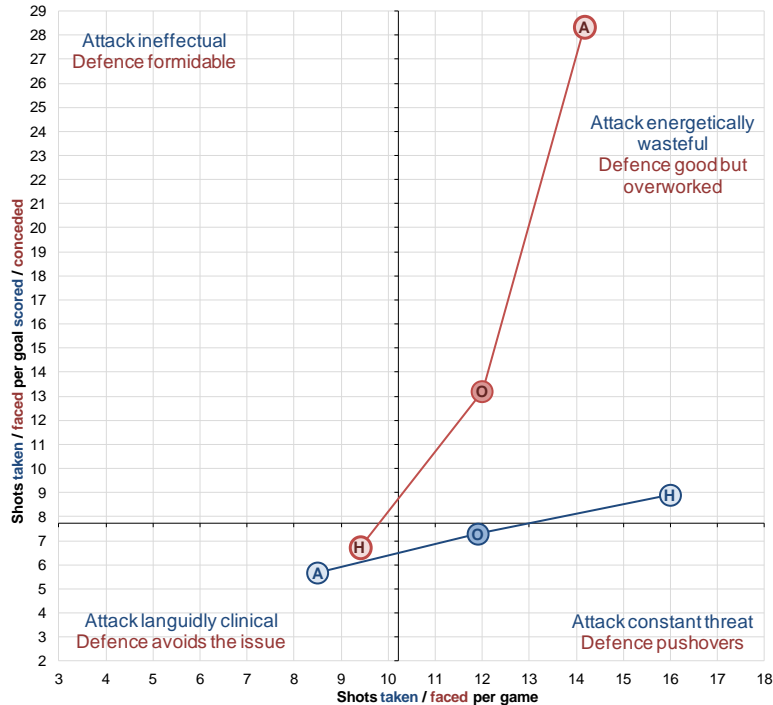
Proportion of goals scored in the final 15 minutes of matches, joint 2nd highest in the Football League

60%

Proportion of goals conceded from within the 6 yard box, the highest in the Football League

40%

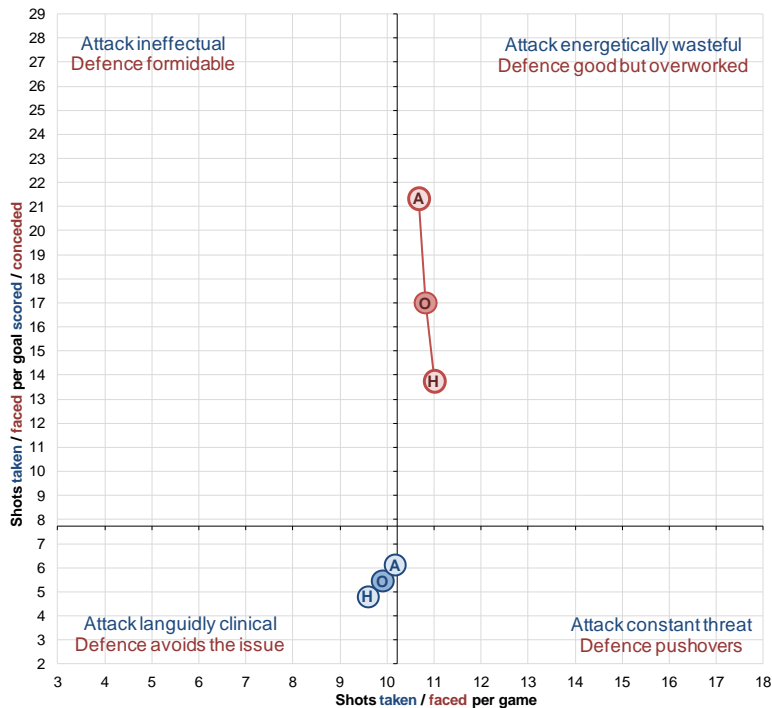
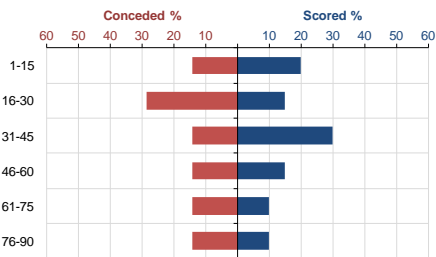
Proportion of goals conceded from corners, the 3rd highest in the Football League



Gillingham



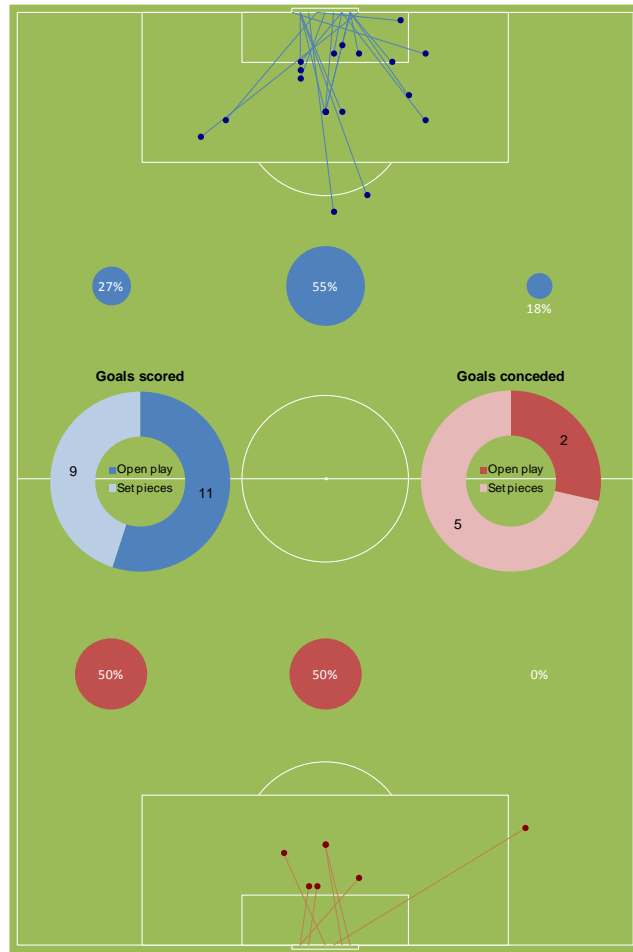
Set pieces are virtually the only way to score against Gillingham this season, given that their defence is roughly twice as resilient as the average Football League side. They're pretty good at them themselves though and are making their chances count in front of goal.



4 Scored the 2nd most penalties in the Football League

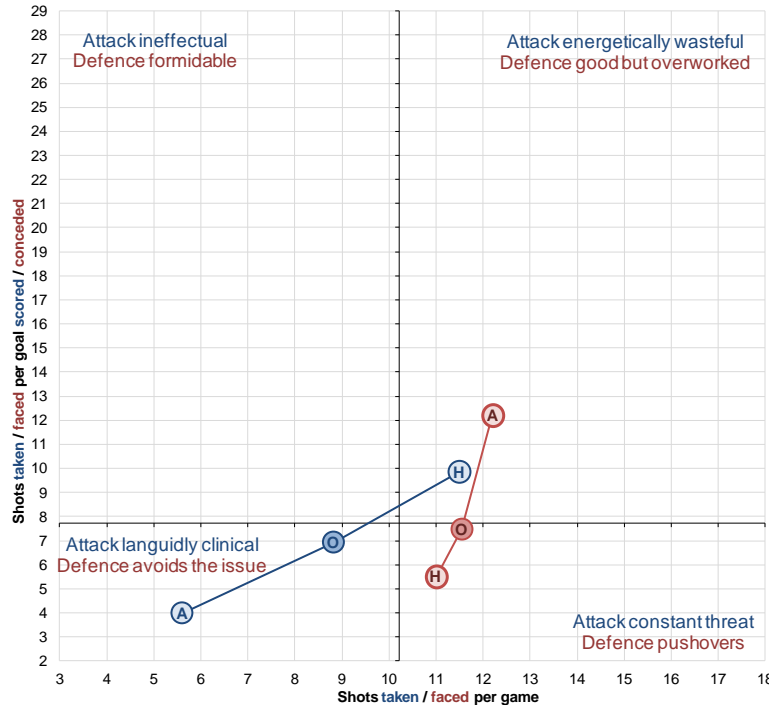
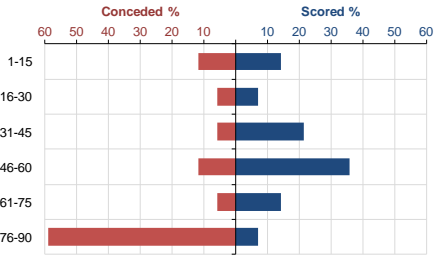
71% Proportion of goals conceded from set pieces, the highest in the Football League

0 The only League 2 side not to have conceded a goal from within the 6 yard box



Morecambe

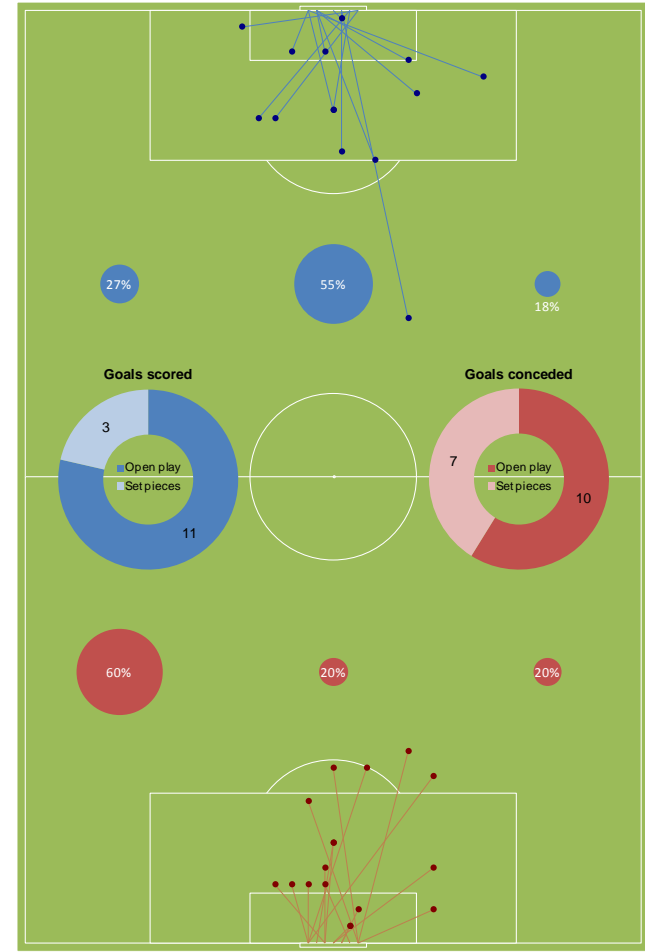
Morecambe would probably be at least in the play-off places if matches were 75 minutes long, as over half of the goals they concede coming agonisingly late in the game. The left side of defence could also do with toughening up, as could their defending at set pieces.



59% Proportion of goals conceded in last 15 minutes – the highest in the Football League

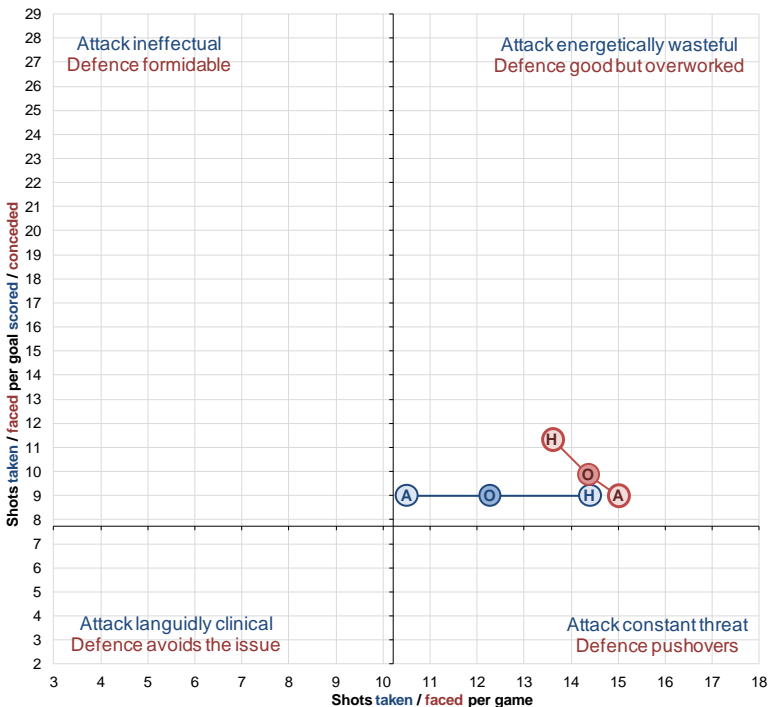
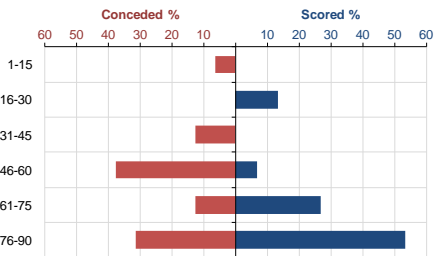
0 1 of only 2 League 2 sides not to have scored from a header

60% Proportion of open play goals conceded down the left, the 3rd highest in the Football League



Northampton Town

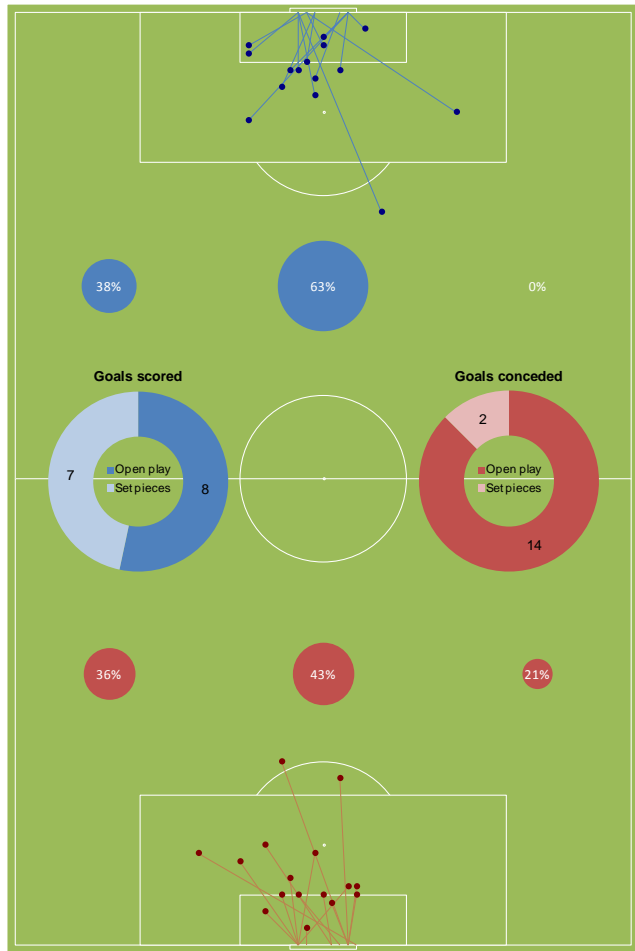
First halves see few goals at either end for the Cobblers, who save most of their scoring for the final half hour. Ben Tozer's long throws are causing havoc this season, and in Adebayo Akinfenwa he couldn't ask for an easier target to hit – 27% of their goals have come from throw in situations.



53% Proportion of goals scored in the last 15 minutes - the highest in the Football League

4 The highest number of goals from throw ins in the Football League

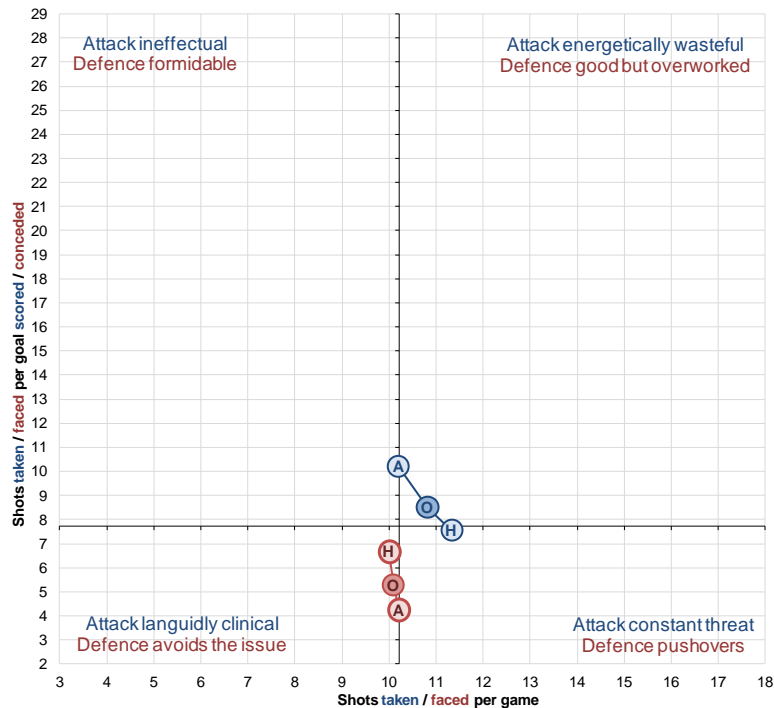
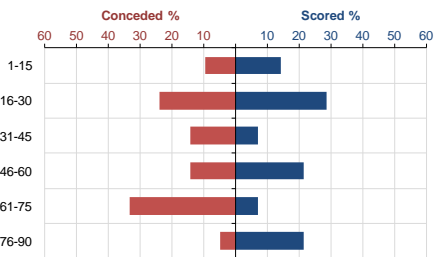
87% The Football League's highest proportion of goals scored in the second half of matches



Oxford United



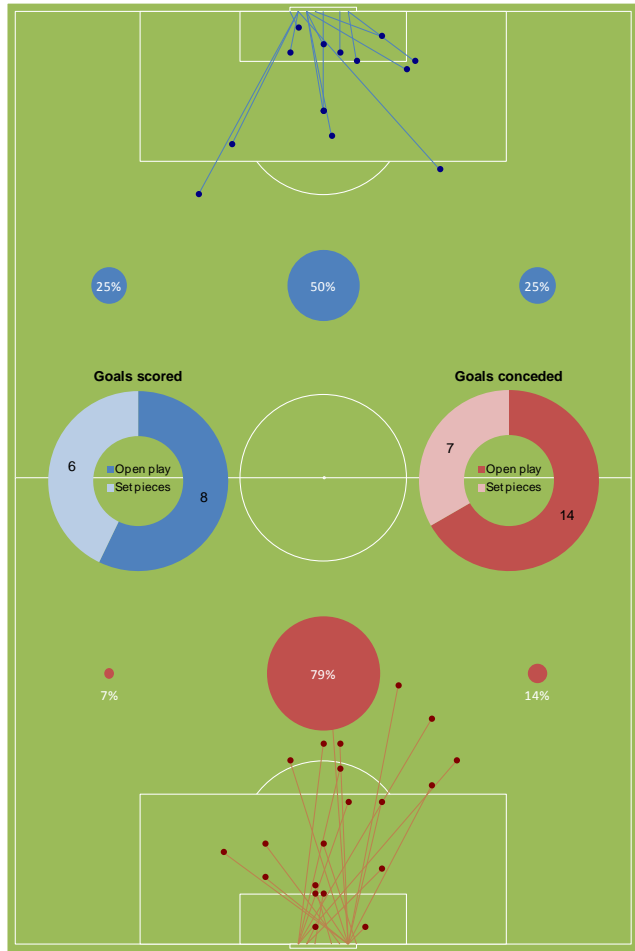
A worrying number of goals conceded from outside the area have helped to undermine Oxford's strong initial showing, while the lack of headed goals suggests that they may lack an aerial dimension going forward. However they seem adept at closing games out with few goals conceded in the twilight minutes of matches.



0 1 of only 2 League 2 sides not to have scored from a header

43% Proportion of goals conceded from outside the area, the highest in League 2

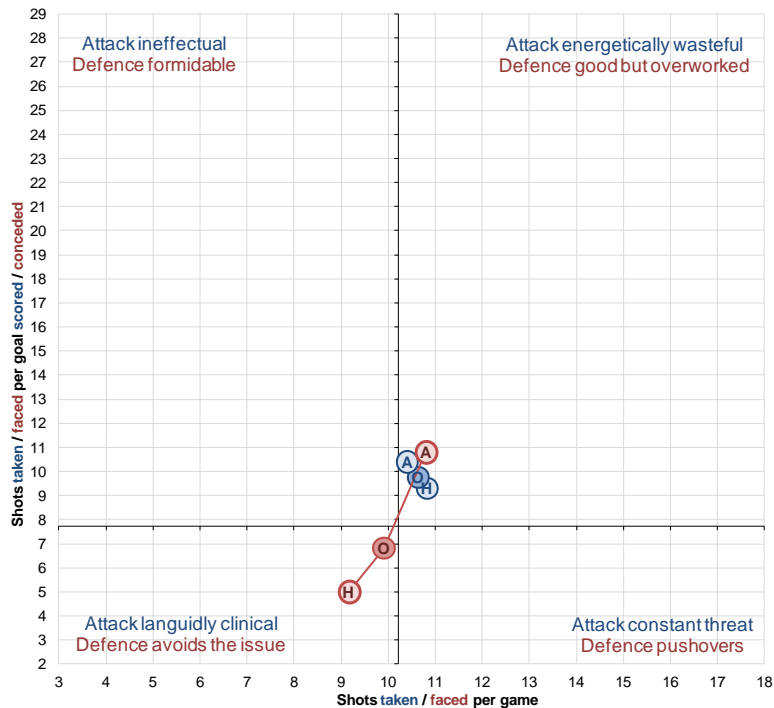
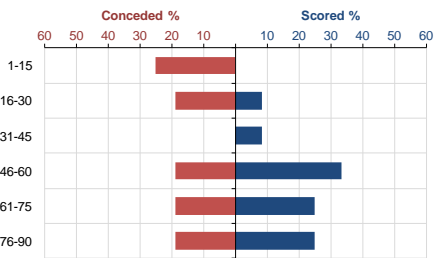
5% Proportion of goals conceded in the final 15 minutes of games, the lowest in League 2



Plymouth Argyle



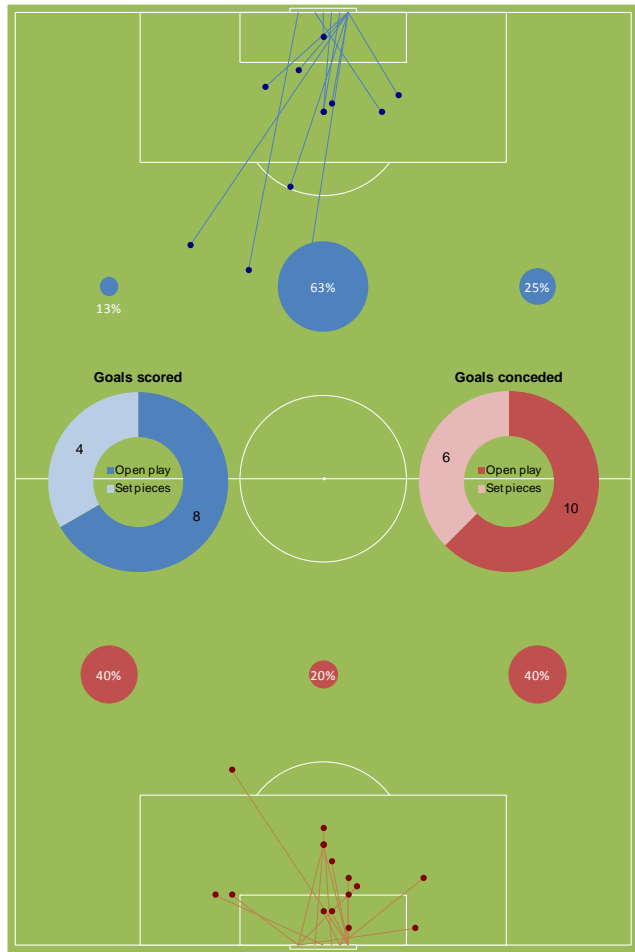
Plymouth have been slow starters this season, with the majority of their goals arriving in the second half. At the back they seem especially vulnerable down the flanks, where low crosses into their box have caused havoc.



8% Scored the joint 2nd lowest proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box in the Football League

3 Conceded the joint 2nd highest number of goals from the penalty spot in the Football League

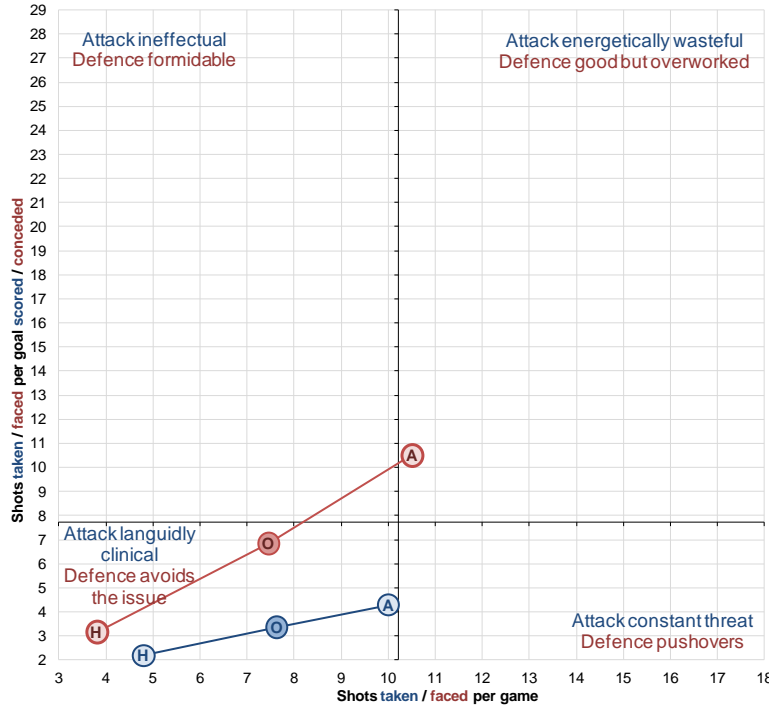
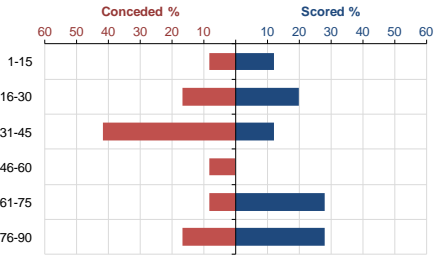
8% Scored the joint lowest proportion of goals inside the opening half hour in the Football League



Port Vale



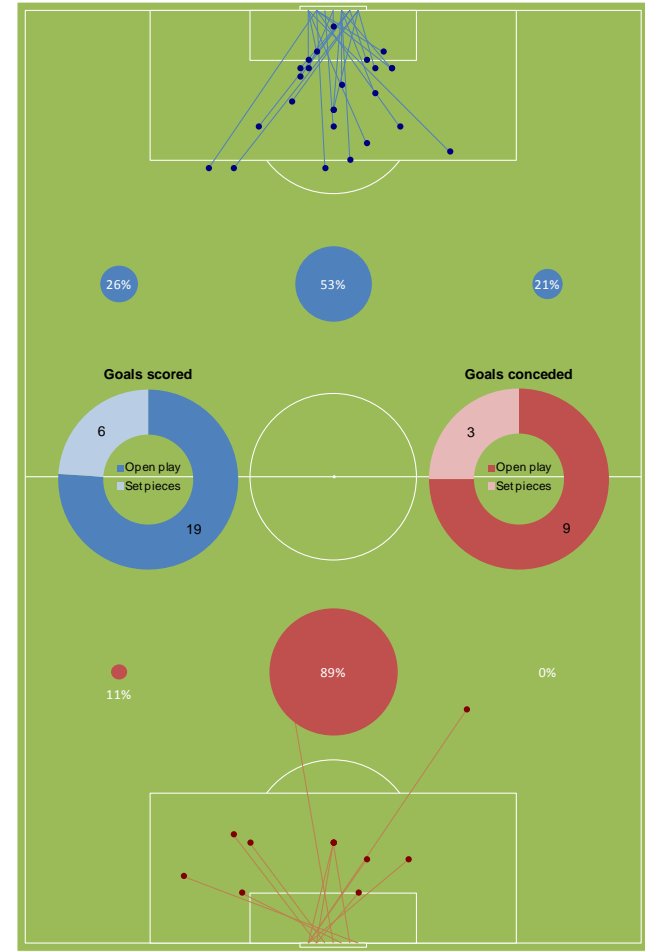
While chances at both ends are less frequent in Vale matches, goals certainly aren't. At Vale Park it's worth following every attack with interest as such a high proportion of shots end up in the back of the net (although this is skewed by the 6 Vale put past Rotherham from 7 shots). If the defence could reduce the number of goals they concede shortly before half time then their hold on an automatic promotion place would be a lot more secure.



3.4 The average number of goals in a match involving Port Vale – League 2's joint highest

57% Joint 2nd highest proportion of shots on target in the Football League

67% Concede the highest proportion of goals in the first half in League 2



Rochdale



Like Exeter, Rochdale are making a strong case for an instant return to League 1, although their home and away performances have been very different. While the number of shots per game hardly changes, goals are few and far between at Spotland but the air is thick with them elsewhere. Their attack is around 3 times as efficient away from home, although the reverse is true of the defence, almost as if playing more expansively leaves them vulnerable at the back.



47%

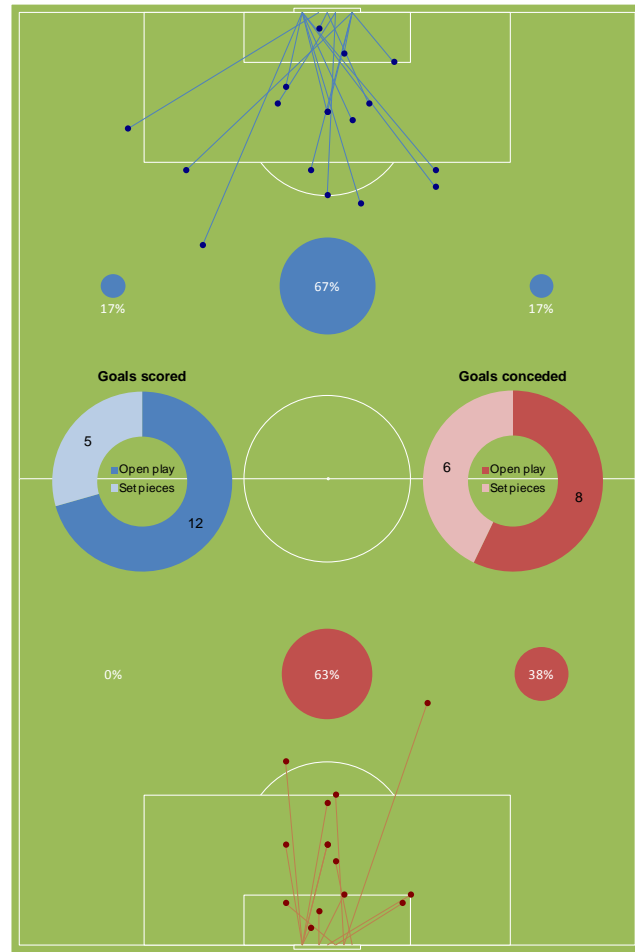
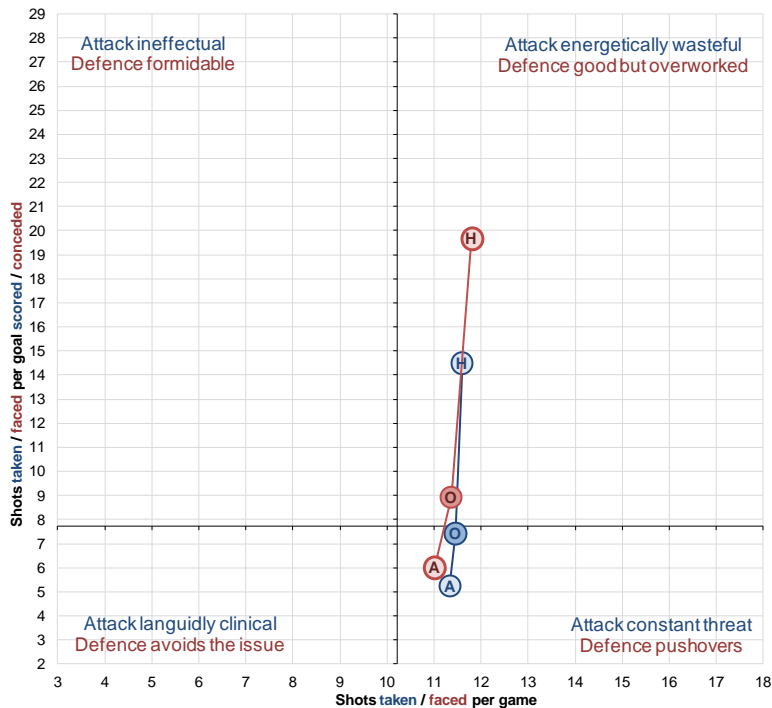
Scored the highest proportion of goals from outside the penalty area in the Football League

7%

Concede the joint 3rd lowest proportion of goals in the opening half hour of any Football League side

19.7

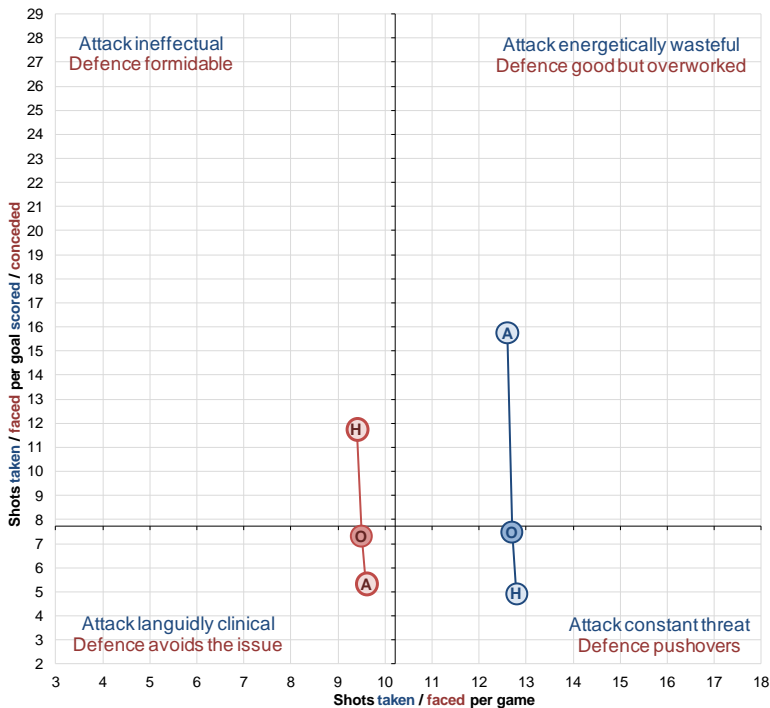
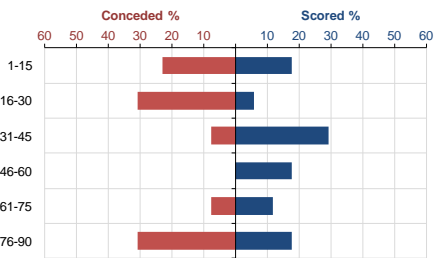
Average shots faced for each goal conceded at home, the most resilient in the Football League



Rotherham United



What first struck me here was the almost perfectly vertical lines on the central chart below. Home or away, the average number of chances for and against hardly varies; it's all about the efficiency. At their shiny new home, the Millers are a force to be reckoned with, while away they become wasteful and leaky. Small wonder they've yet to record a win on their travels.



0

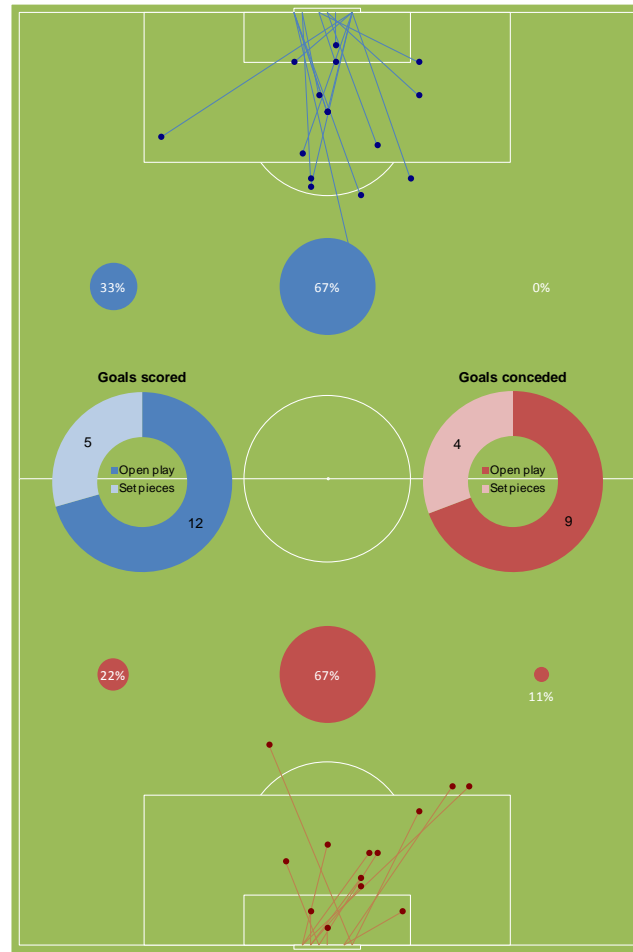
1 of 3 League 2 sides not to have created an open play goal from the right flank

8%

Proportion of goals conceded from headers, the 2nd lowest in League 2

54%

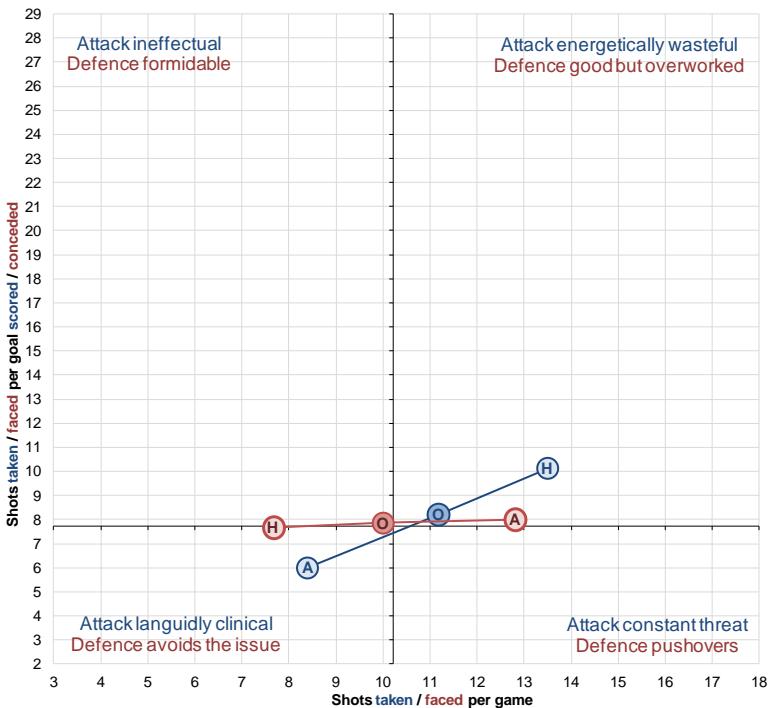
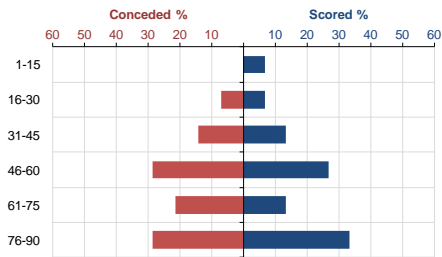
Proportion of goals conceded in the opening half an hour, the highest in League 2



Southend United



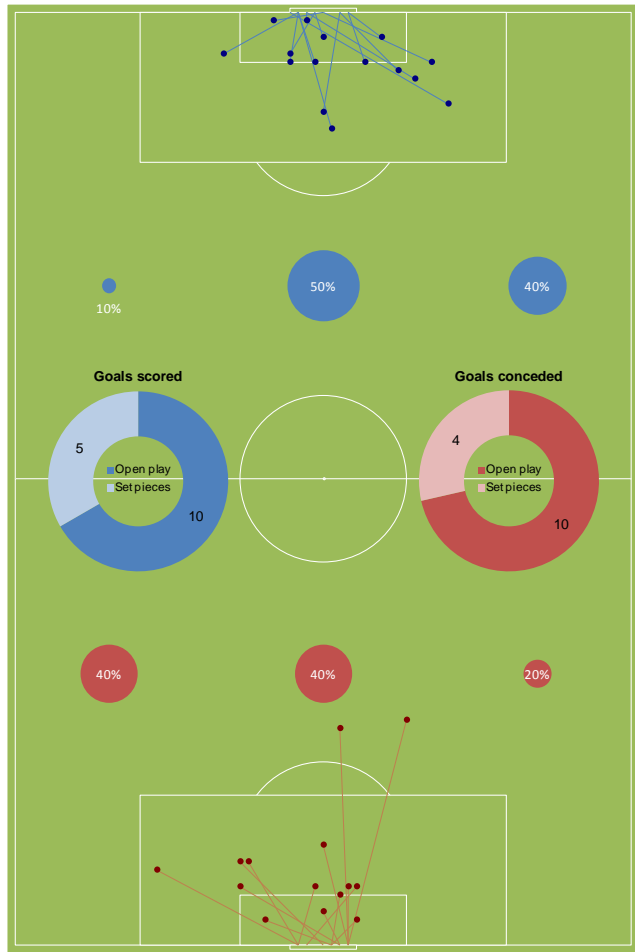
Southend matches seem to get more interesting as they go on, with the probability of goals rising as they progress. The balance of power seems to be determined by whether they're playing at home, where they create significantly more chances than their opponents, although the reverse is true away.



53% Scored the 2nd highest proportion of goals from inside the 6 yard box in League 2

0 1 of 3 League 2 sides not to have scored a goal from outside the penalty area

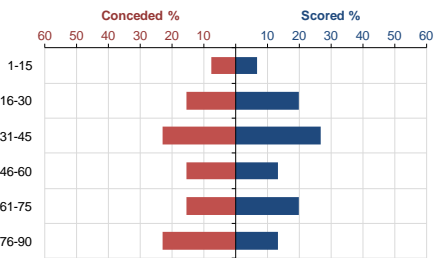
7% Concede the joint 3rd lowest proportion of goals in the opening half hour of any Football League side



Torquay United



As was the case last season, the Gulls defence is being worked hard, particularly away from home where the attack is significantly less imposing. Channelling some of the relentlessness from Plainmoor would give the back line some breathing room. The team looks to be less effective on the right, with less goals being created and more conceded from this flank. Set pieces don't seem to be working too well at the moment either.



87%

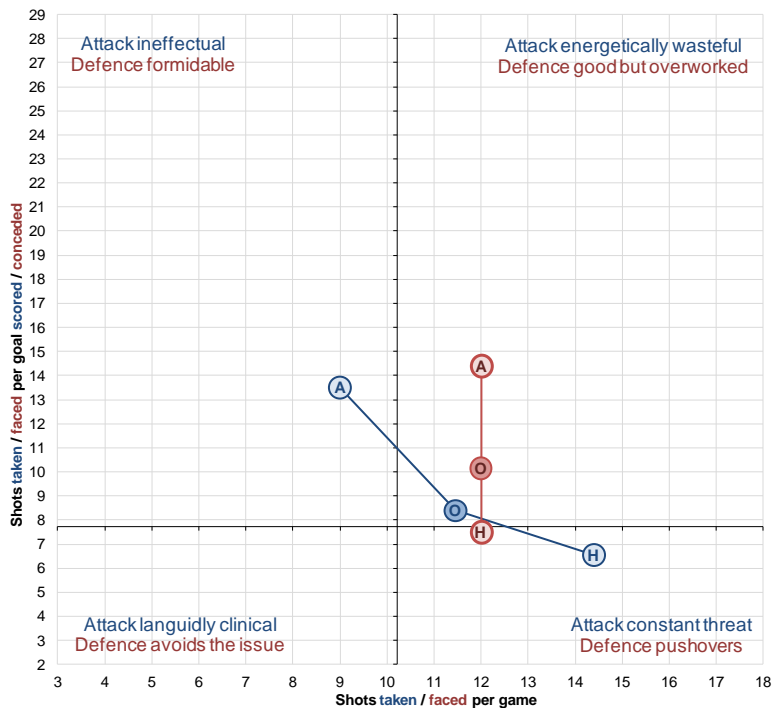
Proportion of goals from open play, joint 2nd highest in League 2

50%

Proportion of open play goals conceded from the right, the joint 2nd highest in the Football League

10.2

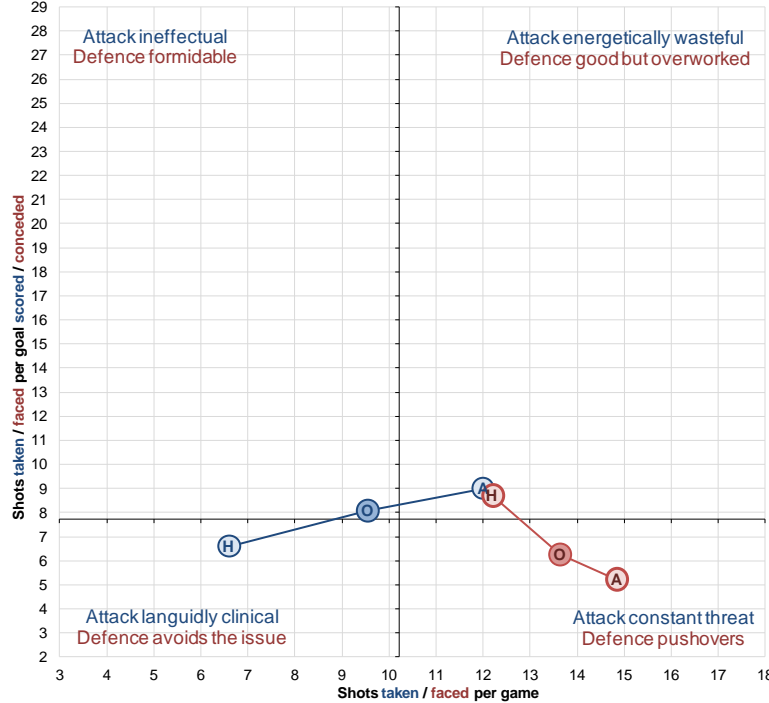
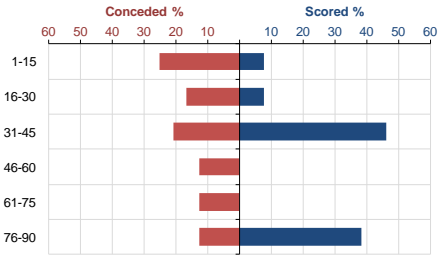
Average shots faced per goal conceded, the 3rd most resilient defence in League 2



AFC Wimbledon



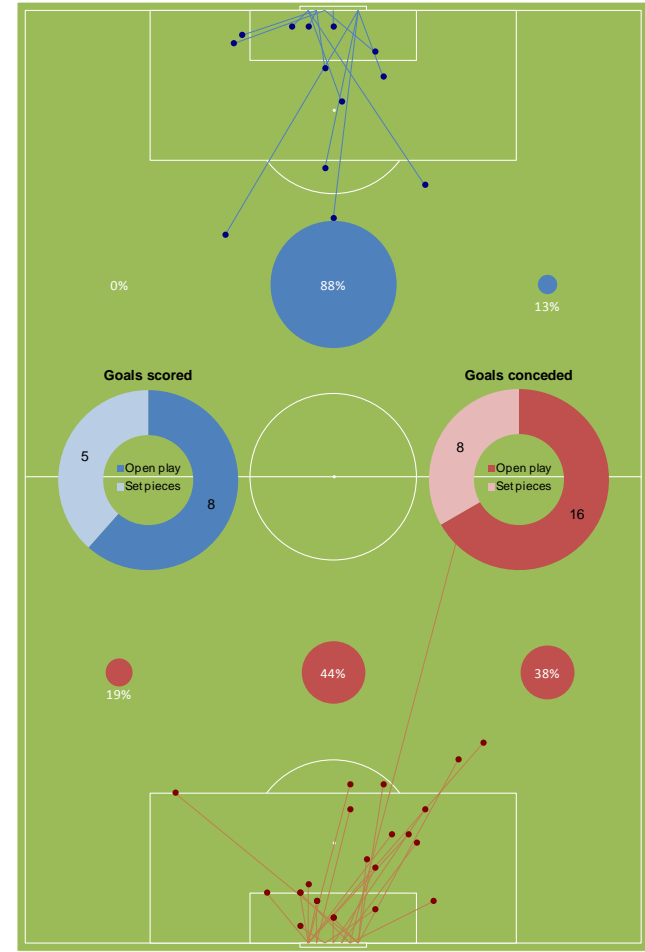
One of the odder records in League 2, Wimbledon score nearly all of their goals towards the end of halves. In high proportions, this trait is normally associated with superior fitness and discipline, however the lack of goals at other times suggests that it may just be a blip. Their defensive record and almost complete reliance on the centre of the pitch going forward indicates the problems facing whoever succeeds Terry Brown.



3.4 The average number of goals in a match involving Wimbledon – League 2's joint highest

88% Created the highest proportion of open play goals from the centre in League 2

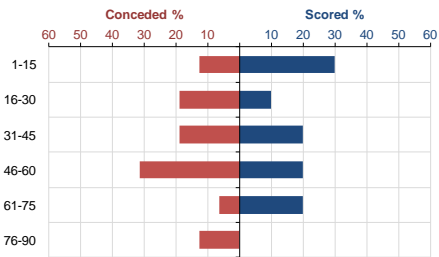
85% No Football League side scored a higher proportion of goals in the last 15 minutes of halves



Wycombe Wanderers



Another side whose start to the season has cost the manager his job, Wycombe are certainly in need of a change. Up front the goals aren't really flowing and almost all that are scored come from the same direction, while defensively they leak too many goals from set pieces and seem vulnerable down their left side. Plenty for the new manager to ponder.



0

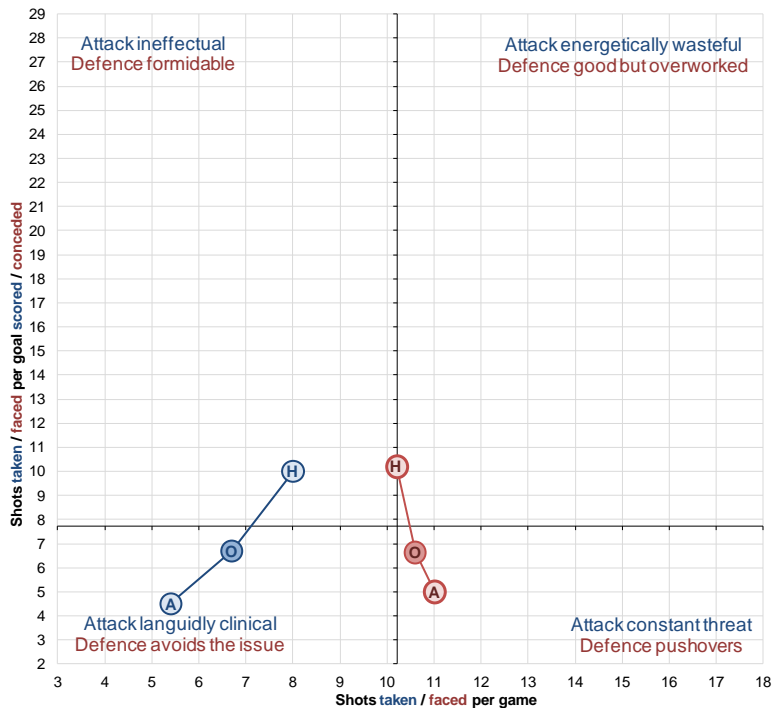
1 of only 3 Football League sides not to have scored in the last 15 minutes of matches

2

Benefited from the joint highest number of own goals in the Football League

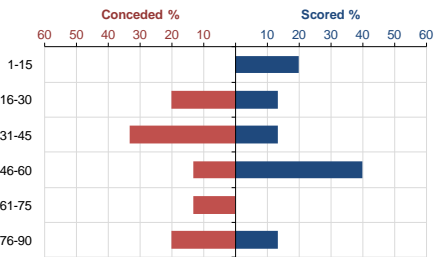
67%

Proportion of open play goals conceded down the left, the 2nd highest in the Football League





It's been a respectable start for the less heralded newcomers to the Football League, who start halves well and seem relatively well-balanced. They could arguably do with creating a few more chances per match and pose more of a threat from set pieces, but these are relatively minor quibbles.



87%

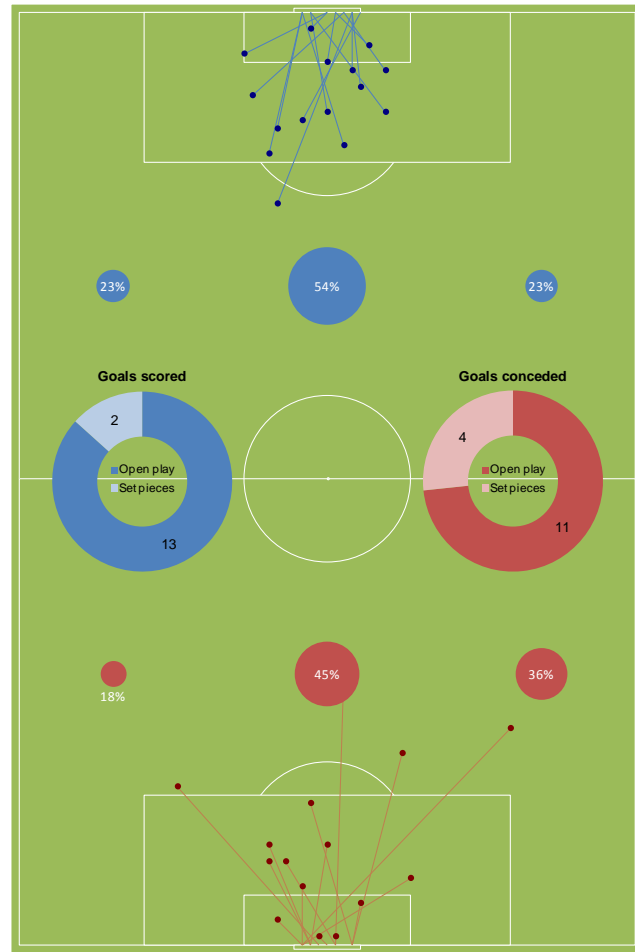
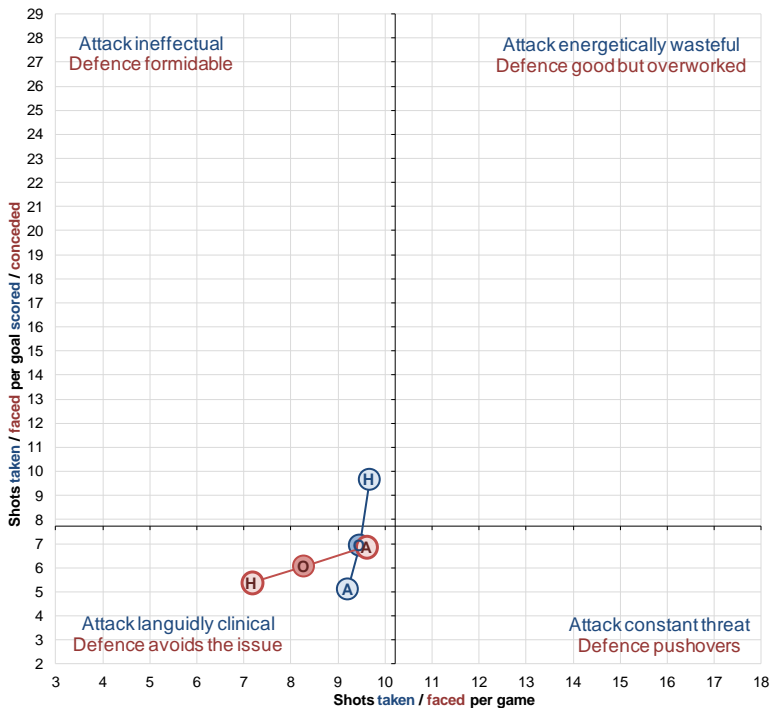
Proportion of goals from open play, joint 2nd highest in League 2

0

1 of 2 sides in the Football League not to have conceded a headed goal

60%

Proportion of goals scored in the opening 15 minutes of halves, the highest in the Football League



Next steps

I'll be discussing this report on the Monday 15th October edition of the excellent **We Are Going Up** podcast. The next planned publication is the aforementioned **Half Season Report**, which this document has been a dry run for, although I won't rule out more regular reports if this one proves successful. You can expect future reports to draw from a much wider pool of metrics including:

- Shot distribution and accuracy
- Fouls and discipline
- Form and sequences
- Effectiveness from set pieces
- Squad rotation and substitutions
- Ability to hold leads and claw back deficits
- The influence of expectations and the fixture list

Between now and the next report I'll continue to churn out regular analytical posts based on the metrics contained in this document and those mentioned above. There will also be updates to existing visualisations and hopefully a few new ones which will feed into future reports.

Thanks for downloading and reading. If you've enjoyed this and want more then details of my various social media presences can be found on the next page. Please feel free to reference and share this data, although please provide an acknowledgement and a link back to me if you do.

Acknowledgements

Data compiled and analysed by Ben Mayhew

Web: Experimental361.com **Twitter:** [@Experimental361](https://twitter.com/Experimental361) **Facebook:** [Experimental361](https://www.facebook.com/Experimental361)

Player illustrations by Sam Mayhew

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