

Welcome to the Super Saturday Showdown between



and



As our planet teeters on the brink of climate and ecological disaster, here's a showdown to delight all lovers of the beautiful game. Can icons of corporate capital, Sharklays, see off the challenge of environmental activists, Extinction Rebellion FC?

The Sharklays board and shareholders will see their team as hot favourites. [With their history of shameless investment strategies](#) - apartheid South Africa, anyone? – Sharklays certainly have the corporate clout up front to see off XR, and the rest of the planet. They'll be confident [their familiar defensive wall of hollow promises and meaningless long-term 'commitments'](#) will hold up yet again.

But Sharklays underestimate an XR team at their peril. The Rebellion's simple but effective style of play asks questions of opposing teams, like ['Why are you ignoring the Climate and Ecological Emergency?'](#) They won't make it easy for Sharklays to get away with [funding oil wells, fracking and tar sand extraction](#) while claiming to be 'a force for good in society'...

Key fact: *Barclays provided \$118.11bn of financing (lending and underwriting) - nearly \$30bn of it in 2019 - to fossil fuel companies since 2015, making them 7th in the 'worst banks' international ranking.*

Analysis

Sharklays' success speaks for itself. Since the 2015 Paris Agreement, they've been mopping up some of the game's most coveted titles. [#1 European banker for all fossil fuels.](#) [#1 Banker worldwide for Arctic oil and gas 2019.](#) [#1 European banker of coal power.](#) [#1 European banker of fracked oil and gas.](#) Some are hailing it as a golden age for the bank.

Nevertheless, questions must be asked of the Sharklays defence. At the end of the day, there isn't one. [Claiming to be 'a force for good in society' in the Annual Report convinces no one.](#) In the modern game, hoofing a banal slogan up the pitch and hoping the public will get on the end of it, looks tactically naive. The truth is, [Sharklays seem to be lacking that all-important bit of moral quality](#), not just in the final third but all over the pitch.

Sharklays' continued funding of fossil fuel producers and other egregious polluters makes a mockery of the bank's net zero ambition.

Sharklays' credibility with the humans who work for them and the ones who bank with them is also coming under increasing scrutiny. Critics say the management's negative tactics risk 'losing the dressing room' – and are testing the patience of even their most loyal fans.

Sharklays' motto might as well be "No one likes us. We don't care. " [Far from being over the moon, customers and staff are likely to be as sick as a poisoned, overheated planet...](#)

Sharklays: The Manager's View

“Sharklays vs XR is a new fixture for us and like all major banks involved in funding climate damage, we have to take it seriously. Or pretend to, anyway.

“We’ve been doing a great job of [hiding behind making cuts to our Scope 1 and 2 emissions](#) (operational and building emissions). It looks as though we’re doing something. [But 90% of the game is Scope 3](#) (Investments, travel etc), and there we’re doing almost nothing except talk about it. Still, big finance is a results business, and look at ours. [We put over US\\$ 6 billion into fossil fuel projects with ExxonMobil](#), and our profits have soared!

“People say [we’ve been getting the rub of the greenwash](#) and that [we invest in dirty players](#). But signings like Royal Dutch Shell and Eni in Nigeria have proved outstanding value – even if they are [among the worst polluters in the world](#).

[For us, words speak louder than actions](#). So, against tricky opponents like XR, we’ll look to play a high press, with lots of localised, cherry-picked greenwashing policies and statements.

“Am I worried about the opposition today? To be honest, no. The game’s ours to lose. We’re Sharklays! [We’re too big to go down! Aren’t we?](#) And if we’re not, let’s hope it doesn’t happen today. Or tomorrow. (If there is one!)”

XR: The Manager's View

“We can only play what’s in front of us. Sharklays talk a good game, and with players like ExxonMobil, we expect them to cover up, pack the defence and catch us on the break.

“Everyone knows what they’ve achieved in the game – the vast profits, their massive global influence – but on the pitch it’s eleven against eleven, and we fancy our chances.

[“At the end of the day, it’s not a game of two halves, it’s a game of one planet](#). Too many of Sharklays’ investments are toxic. It’s just not sustainable. They know it and we know it.

“So we’ll be looking to unlock their corporate defence and hit them where it hurts – by urging their employees and customers to demand that [Sharklays tells the truth, acts now and shows some real leadership in the climate crisis](#). With a quarter of our football pitches due to be under water by 2050 due to climate change including Chelsea, Fulham and West Ham in London, we’ve nothing to lose”

The Match Day Referee is...a banker.

Today's match day official is a nameless but highly respected figure from the world of high finance. Any suggestion that he might not be the fairest and most honest referee imaginable is frankly ridiculous.

The Sharklays Premier League of polluting banks:

The top 12 banks by investment in fossil fuels (and this is funding in the last 3 years SINCE the Paris agreement was signed) <https://www.ran.org/bcc-2020-data-explorer/>

1. JP Morgan Chase	\$268.59bn
2. Wells Fargo	\$197.91bn
3. Citi Bank	\$187.67bn
4. Bank of America	\$156.92bn
5. RBC	\$140.68bn
6. MUFG	\$118.81bn
7. Barclays	\$118.11bn
8. TD	\$103.43bn
9. Mizuho	\$103.08bn
10. Scotiabank	\$97.75bn
11. Morgan Stanley	\$91.97bn
12. HSBC	\$86.53bn

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