



## Liverpool 2026 Summer Rebuild: Life After Salah and the Pursuit of Anfield's New Kings

### Description

The curtain has fallen on the Mohamed Salah era at Liverpool, and the **Liverpool summer rebuild 2026** is now officially underway. After nine extraordinary seasons at Anfield — 257 goals, a Premier League title, a Champions League, and an FA Cup — the Egyptian King played his final game in red against Brentford on Sunday as the season drew to a close. Andy Robertson, too, ended a long and storied chapter at the club. The task now falls to Arne Slot and sporting director Richard Hughes to reshape a squad that fell well short of expectations in 2025-26.

### The End of an Era: Salah Bids Farewell to Anfield

Talk of Salah's exit has dominated much of the second half of the season. The 33-year-old departs as Liverpool's third-highest all-time scorer with 257 goals in 474 appearances — arguably the most impactful attacking player English football has witnessed in a generation. A special *Farewell to the King* film, released via LFC's official channels, captures Salah in his own words as he reflects on a Liverpool journey that produced historic collective success.

The main image I will remember will be going up the steps and getting onto the pitch at Anfield, Salah said. He arrived in 2017 as an ambitious winger. He leaves as a legend. Robertson, the barnstorming Scottish left-back whose nine-year service included Champions League glory, departs alongside him — two pillars of a golden era making way for the next chapter.



Mohamed Salah and Andy Robertson at Anfield – two Liverpool legends who depart this summer. Source: Liverpool FC official website (liverpoolfc.com)

## The Liverpool Summer Rebuild Challenge: How Big Is the Task?

Liverpool's 2025-26 season was a chastening one. Finishing outside the top four – watching Arsenal claim the Premier League title – and ultimately missing out on the Champions League makes this summer's recruitment critical. Slot oversaw promising moments, but the squad's ageing spine exposed its limits. This is not tinkering at the edges; this is architectural reconstruction.

One significant piece of the defensive rebuild is already in place. Stade Rennais centre-back Jérémy Jacquet, 20, was signed in February in a deal worth up to £60 million. The Frenchman

described joining Liverpool as an "honour" and will arrive at Anfield in the summer bursting with potential. At his age and with his technical profile composed on the ball, aggressive in his press Jacquet looks tailor-made for Slot's high-tempo system.



©my Jacquet Liverpool FC's first major summer signing. Source: Liverpool FC official website (liverpoolfc.com)

## The Akliouche Chase: Liverpool's Summer Transfer Priority

The bigger challenge is replacing the goals, assists, and creative dynamism of Salah. Liverpool are reportedly leading the race to sign AS Monaco's Maghnes Akliouche for around £50 million. The 24-year-old French international is not a direct like-for-like replacement drifting from the right into

central pockets, he connects midfield to attack with intelligence rather than raw pace alone – but he would inject the technical quality the Reds desperately need in forward areas.

The challenge? Competition is fierce. PSG want him too, and a World Cup deadline adds urgency: if Liverpool cannot finalise a deal before France’s summer preparations, the asking price could balloon to –70 million after a strong tournament. The Reds have been warned to move decisively. Alongside Akliouche, Slot is understood to be targeting at least one additional forward, with Yan Diomande of RB Leipzig, PSG’s Bradley Barcola, and Hoffenheim’s Bazoumana Toure all mentioned as options.

## Robertson’s Replacement Also Needed

Robertson’s departure leaves a left-back void on top of the attacking overhaul. The Scotsman’s nine years of service deserve the fullest tribute, but football does not wait. Several left-back targets have been identified, though none have been publicly confirmed. The summer transfer window opens on 15 June, giving the club just over three weeks before the World Cup complicates the market further.

## What This Rebuild Means for Liverpool’s Future

This is perhaps the most consequential summer at Anfield since 2017 – the window that first brought Salah to Merseyside. Miss on the key targets and the rebuild could be a long, painful grind. Land Akliouche, bed in Jacquet, add a prolific striker, and find a reliable left-back, and Slot’s Liverpool could be challenging Arsenal and Manchester City again as soon as 2026-27.

The King has left. A new chapter begins. For the full picture of English football’s summer transfer activity, see our comprehensive guide to the [Premier League 2026 summer transfer window](#). For context on how Liverpool’s difficult campaign unravelled, revisit the [Aston Villa 4-2 Liverpool match report](#) that sealed the Villans’ Champions League place at Liverpool’s expense. Stay across all the action at our [Sports section](#).

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