



19TH APRIL 2025

# Brantree Town FC

Gegenpress? We're Still Ironing Out The Wrinkles



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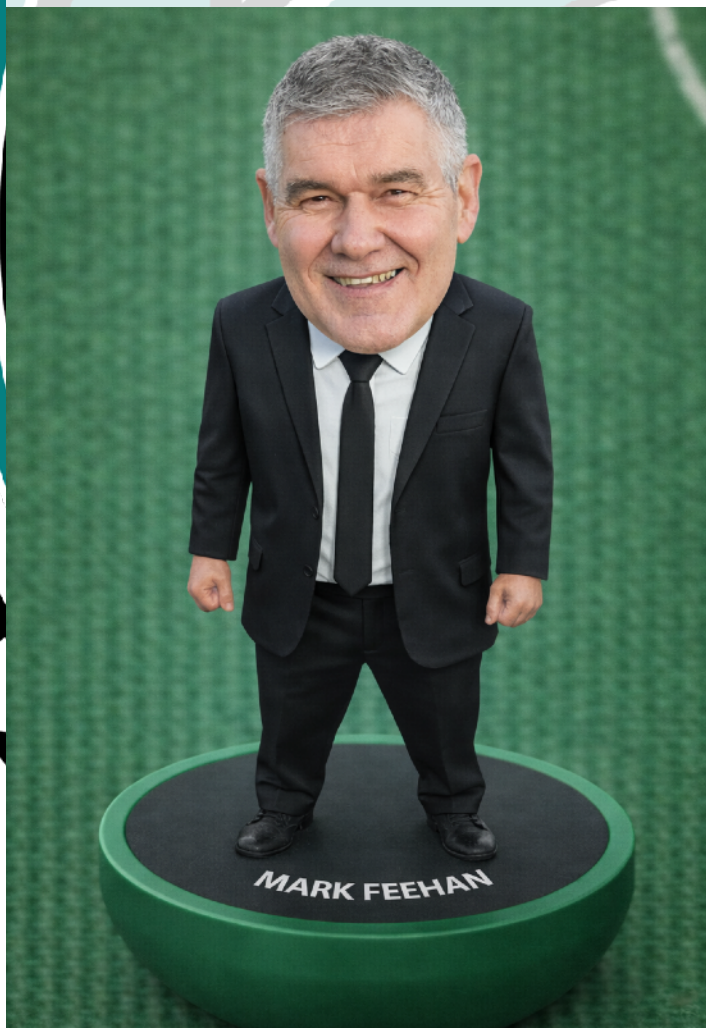
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**And, in what feels like the blink of an eye - although our knees might disagree - here we are again. Six weeks on from our first outing of 2026, and our summer season is already upon us.**

The boots are (just about) laced, the hamstrings are (mostly) intact, and the deep heat sales in the local area have mysteriously spiked. Welcome back to Cressing Road aka The Rare Breed Meats



Stadium, the spiritual home of our very own Adam Canning... and, increasingly, his second home full stop.

Our last trip to Staveley was a real highlight. A superb set-up and fantastic hosts who looked after us brilliantly. Special mention for reopening the bar and kitchen after the game; clearly they recognised the nutritional importance of post-match pie, chips and a pint (appetiser prior to Maccies). I had to dash off early to catch the train from Chesterfield, so I can only assume the lads stuck rigidly to our strict curfew... or at the very least stayed safe when they heard Terry reporting “two suspicious individuals”. To be fair, at our age, anyone moving quickly *is* suspicious.

Looking ahead, we’ve got a cracking run of fixtures lined up over the coming weeks. We’ve managed to spread them nicely across the country and the calendar - giving everyone just enough recovery time to remember



#### Committee

Chairman - Mark Feehan  
Kitman - Jon Dixon  
Finance - Terry Rickeard

Stats/Website - Rob Dixon  
Awards - Bobby Green  
Programme - Tom Green

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**...From The Gaffer...**



where they left their shin pads, locate their reading glasses, and book in with the physio. It's a schedule designed with precision... and a healthy respect for ice packs.

It's a shame we've lost the Hull City fixture, but I'm sure you'll agree with the Norwich game coming in we have secured a top replacement. The good news is that Hull is now already pencilled in for 2027 - proof, if nothing else, that our long-term planning is far better than our short-term memory.

Back to today, and Braintree and "the Iron". A huge thank you to Adam for pulling this fixture together - especially managing to secure it so soon after the National League season wrapped up. That's no small feat, so thanks Mr Canning... or "Buddy," as he seems to prefer these days. Since joining the board last year, he's thrown himself into the role with real energy, commitment, and just the right amount of questionable decision-making - so well done mate, it really is appreciated.

We're also introducing mascots over the first couple of games - an excellent way to involve family and friends, and to remind us all

what youthful energy actually looks like. Details are included in today's programme, once again superbly produced by Tom Green. Mascots are already sorted for Blackpool, but if you know anyone keen to take part in future games, please do shout - applications from anyone who can still run 90 minutes will be considered carefully... and probably rejected.

As always, days like today are what it's all about. Good football, great company, and plenty of laughs along the way. So whether you're playing, watching, or just here for the refreshments, we hope you have a fantastic time.

**And so, in those immortal words heard at Olympic opening ceremonies around the world...**

**Let the games commence... and may all hamstrings survive the afternoon.**

*Mark F*

Congratulations to the following players on hitting their own personal appearance milestones at today's game:  
 Dave Heason - 40  
 Danny Cheng - 40  
 Asa McKenzie - 10

Note: Do not trust illegal programme touts - especially in the Gatwick area. This programme is available FREE OF CHARGE



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# Update From The Paul Alan Project

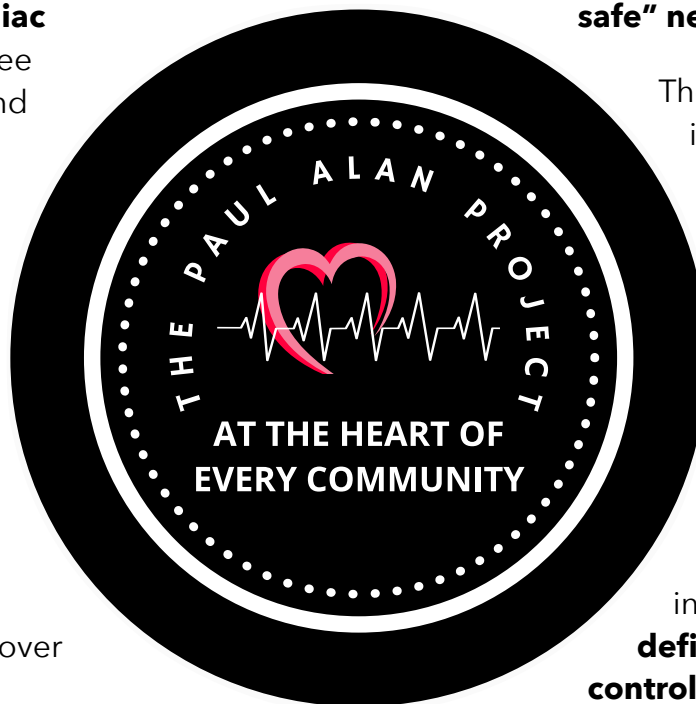
Founded after the sudden passing of Clare's father, Paul Alan Parish in January 2022, the Paul Alan Project works to **prevent out-of-hospital cardiac deaths** by offering free life-saving training and installing public defibrillators and bleed-control kits.

In 2024, the charity trained **1,100 people**, delivered sessions to over **20 organisations**, and installed **21 new defibrillators** across local communities raising over **£35,000** in total.

Highlights in the past 12 months included the first Parish Golf Day, a Halloween Family Fun Day at **Sutton United**, and a Heart Month partnership with **Fulham FC** to raise awareness of cardiac arrest and defibrillator access.

Each minute without CPR or defibrillation **cuts survival chances by 10%**. The charity's goal is that no one lives more than two

minutes from a defibrillator and, by training bystanders and installing accessible equipment, they're building truly **"heart-safe" neighbourhoods**.



The project aims to expand installations—each costing about £1,600 and welcomes **new partners, donors, and fundraisers** to help spread vital **life-saving skills even further**. Since April 2023, the **Paul Alan Project** has trained **2,365 people** in life-saving skills and installed **50 public defibrillators and bleed-control kits** across local

communities. In 2024 alone, the charity added **21 new installations**, trained **1,100 people**, and delivered awareness sessions to

**...no one lives more than two minutes away from a defibrillator...**

more than **20 schools, businesses, and community groups**. Their impact is evident, with **130 defibrillator activations**

recorded via 999 calls since 2023.

**Braintree Town FC, affectionately known as "The Iron," have a rich and distinctive history rooted in industry, community, and steady progression through the English non-league pyramid.**

The club was founded in 1898 as Manor Works, the works team of the Crittall Window Company, that connection inspiring their enduring nickname.

From the outset, the club embodied its working-class origins, competing in local leagues and quickly establishing itself as a force in Essex football, with early success in the North Essex and Mid-Essex Leagues before the 1st World War.

In 1921, the club became Crittall Athletic, continuing its growth through leagues such as the Essex & Suffolk Border League and Spartan League. The move to Cressing Road in 1923 provided a long-term home, central to the club's identity despite periods of decline, particularly in the 1970s. A turning point came in 1981 when the club became Braintree FC, adopting its current name a year later, with success following in the 1980s and steady progress up the non-league ladder. Promotion in 2005/06 and a rise to the Conference Premier in 2010/11 marked their peak.

In recent years, Braintree have remained resilient through relegations and rebuilds, while FA Cup runs have boosted their profile. Still based at Cressing Road, the club continues to improve facilities while exploring plans for a new stadium to support long-term



growth and strengthen its community presence.

With a capacity of just over 4,000, like many ambitious non-league clubs, attention has increasingly turned to the future, specifically the development of a new stadium. Plans unveiled in the late 2000s outlined a vision for a modern, purpose-built community stadium that would better meet the club's long-term ambitions and provide improved facilities for supporters and the wider local area. The proposals included enhanced spectator amenities, commercial opportunities, and integration with community sports provision, reflecting a broader trend of clubs seeking sustainability beyond matchday income. While progress has been gradual and subject to planning and financial challenges, the intention remains clear: to move away from the historic Cressing Road site and into a modern venue capable of supporting further growth.

In essence, Braintree Town FC's story is one of evolution - from a factory team to a respected non-league club with national recognition. Its history reflects not just footballing success, but resilience, community identity, and ambition for the future.

## 2025/26 Review:

The Iron have built their recent approach around a disciplined, hard-working style that prioritises defensive organisation and physical intensity over flair. Under Angelo Harrop, the side has typically set up to be difficult to break down, pressing with energy and competing strongly in duels, while often taking a more direct route forward rather than overplaying. This season, following promotion to the National League, they have found life at a higher level challenging but not overwhelming, producing a mix of resilient performances alongside some tougher results against stronger, full-time opposition. As a result, Braintree have largely been engaged in a lower-table battle, relying on their structure and work rate to grind out points, though a lack of consistent attacking threat has at times limited their ability to turn draws into wins.

**Manager:** Angelo Harrop

**Nickname:** The Iron

**Stadium:** Cressing Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 3DE

**Stadium Capacity:** 4,222 (approx. 553 seated)

**Pitch:** Grass

**Club Colours:** Orange Shirt, Black Shorts, Orange Socks

**Record Attendance:** 4,373 vs. Ipswich Town (FA Cup, 1951)

**Record Victory:** 8-0 (achieved on multiple occasions)

**Biggest Defeat:** 0-8 (achieved on multiple occasions)

**Top All-Time Goalscorer:** Tommy Taylor (widely credited\*)

**Top Appearance Maker:** George Parris (widely credited\*)

**Most Goals in a Season:** Craig Edwards, 35+ goals (early 2000s era)

*\*historical records pre-1960s incomplete*

# #ASKANDY



CHATBOT

Our Resident Agony Uncle helps you with all your problems...

Welcome to Ask Andy, the only agony aunt column fully committed to your problems - especially the ones on top of your head.

We had a lot of hair-loss questions. So many that we needed to condense them:

**“What happens your old brushes and combs?”**

Some die quietly in drawers, some become shrines to what was, a few heroic combs are promoted to beard duty, sculpting fluff like tiny fluffy generals while you stare at your own sad chin.

**“Who’s the baldest bald you know?”**

Take your pick: Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Vin Diesel, Patrick Stewart, Jeff Bezos. Heads

so shiny, they could guide ships at night.

**“Is there much jealousy?”**

Sure - when a gust of wind ruin someones perfectly coiffured do. Otherwise, baldness = freedom: shampoo-free, panic-free, aerodynamicism. Hair commercials lied.

**“Does the Government issue hats for balds?”**

Nope. If they existed, they’d be beige, itchy, and fit like a wet sock. Missed opportunity? Someone call Parliament before the next royal corgi garden party.

**“I think my mate might have a bald fetish - what should I do?”**

Just Breathe. Remind them to respect boundaries. Maybe get

them a mirror and a swim hat. Shiny domes are people, not magic lamps. No wishes, just awkward stares.

And finally: **“What should I do if I come face-to-face with Buddy the Braintree boar?”**

Don’t run straight - he’s Usain Bolt with tusks. Zigzag, climb a tree, pretend you’re a hedge. If he lectures you on life, offer a biscuit and back away slowly, praying to any vaguely remembered deity.

There you have it: baldness, boars, and bizarre obsessions—all terrifying, absurd, and guaranteed to make you snort your coffee.

## Social Matt-ers

Since the final whistle blew on 6<sup>th</sup> March, the FA Veterans WhatsApp group has been a hive of activity—just not necessarily football-related.

The immediate aftermath saw the usual **post-match analysis**, including debates over refereeing decisions, injuries, and who should or shouldn’t have been awarded a penalty, most of which remain unresolved and increasingly exaggerated with every retelling.

Attention quickly turned to **future fixtures**, with games selling out faster than Oasis tickets, leaving several squad members desperately refreshing their phones and questioning life choices. Selection has become so competitive that simply *being in the group chat* is no longer considered sufficient for an appearance - much to the disappointment of several “lurkers.”

As ever, **availability** has been a key theme. Commitments ranging from family duties to long-distance travel have ruled players out, often at the

last minute, with at least one heartfelt apology arriving mid-journey after a tactical defeat to childcare responsibilities.

Off the pitch, the chat has maintained its usual high standards of **topical debate**, including Premier League analysis, questionable betting logic, and bold tactical suggestions for teams that will never hear them. Confidence levels remain high, accuracy less so.

Meanwhile, organisational discussions have continued in the background, with ideas ranging from digital programmes to full end-of-season yearbooks. Ambitious plans that, like many things in the group, may or may not ever fully materialise.

Perhaps most importantly, the group has stayed true to its core values - relentless banter, questionable availability and a firm commitment to going to Maccies before,



- 1 **Matt Fellows**
- 2 **Jon Dixon**
- 3 **Dave Heason<sup>^</sup>**
- 4 **Tom Green<sup>v</sup>**
- 5 **Dean Twyman<sup>v</sup>**

during, and after matches.

*In summary, while performances on the pitch may vary, the WhatsApp group remains in **peak condition**, delivering consistency where it matters most.*

# 2026 Story So Far...



## Staveley Miners Welfare "The Trojans"

Fri 6th March, 2-1 HT, 5-1 FT  
 Black Team - Moore (2), J.Dixon, Ja.Feehan, Davids  
 Red Team - Lake



## Braintree Town "The Iron"

Sun 19th April  
 Kick off 13:00  
**SOLD OUT!!**



## Blackpool "The Seaside"

Fri 1st May  
 Kick off 19:00  
**1 places remaining £105**



## Norwich City "The Canaries"

Fri 8th May  
 Kick off 16:00  
**5 places remaining £165**



## Mansfield Town "The Stags"

Mon 18th May  
 Kick off 18:45  
**SOLD OUT!!**



## Chester City "The Seals"

Wed 20th May  
 Kick off 19:45  
**8 places remaining £40**



## Wycombe Wanderers "The Chairboys"

Fri 22nd May  
 Kick off 18:00  
**SOLD OUT!!**



## MK Dons "The Dons"

Sun 31st May  
 Kick off 13:00  
**SOLD OUT!!**



## Sevilla "Los Palanganas" (The Basins/Bathtubs)

Sat/Sun 3rd Oct (provisional)  
**4 places remaining £100 deposit**



Captain's



Corner

Top Bins every time, footballs about entertainment	<b>Top Bins or Bottom Corner</b>	Top bins - self explanatory
Half Volley always looks good for the camera	<b>Volley or Half Volley</b>	Volley - less time to think and mess it up
A nice Curler past the keeper	<b>Knuckleball or Curler</b>	Curler - I've never attempted a knuckleball
You don't see many strikers that hit a First Time Finish anymore	<b>First Time Finish or Skill</b>	First time finish - too much thinking time with a skill finish
Everyone loves a cheeky Nutmeg	<b>Nutmeg or Sit GK Down</b>	Nutmeg - GK would probably still make the save if I took my time to sit him down
Driven Pass into feet	<b>Driven Pass or Chip</b>	Driven pass - less time for a defender to get back in position
In Off both Posts!	<b>In Off Cross bar or In Off Post</b>	In off the post- keeper less likely to reach
Quite often the Assist is better than the finish itself	<b>Goal or Assist</b>	Assist - stats show I'm better at leaving the finishing to others - bar Dave Heason
Team Goal is a good watch, although a solo goal brings energy	<b>Solo Run or Team Goal</b>	Team goal - I'm not quick enough for a solo run
Power: when someone just puts their laces right through the ball and stings the keeper on the way in	<b>Power or Placement</b>	Power - again, less thinking time
You've got to be able to use both feet	<b>Left Foot or Right Foot</b>	Right foot - left foot is for standing only
With my heading abilities probably eyes closed	<b>Eyes Open or Eyes Closed</b>	Eyes open - better to see the instant disappointment of the keeper
Bicycle Kick is a showpiece	<b>Power Header or Bicycle Kick</b>	Bicycle kick - looks better
One on One is always a satisfying finish	<b>Lob or One on One</b>	Lob - I'd bottle the one on one



App - 28, Gls - 0    App - 15, Gls - 5    App - 42, Gls - 23    App - 31, Gls - 3    App - 39, Goals - 4    App - 21, Gls - 23    App - 39, Gls - 24



App - 40, Gls - 4    App - 34, Gls - 13    App - 32, Gls - 4    App - 23, Gls - 29    App - 4, Gls - 6    App - 31, Gls - 0    App - 22, Gls - 12



App - 14, Gls - 1    App - 5, Gls - 9    App - 27, Gls - 1    App - 18, Gls - 0    App - 10, Gls - 3    App - 18, Gls - 4    App - 10, Gls - 3



App - 10, Gls - 0    App - 15, Gls - 1    App - 30, Gls - 17    App - 20, Gls - 11    App - 14, Gls - 10    App - 9, Gls - 5    App - 2, Gls - 0    App - 21, Gls - 2

Top Goals per Game:

1. Joe Feehan - **1.3**
2. Jack Feehan - **1.1**
3. Steve Foreman - **0.7**



Total Appearances: **624**

Total Goals: **217**

Total Own Goals: **1**

Gaffers: **1**

# Today's Mascots

## Louis & Theo Taylor



Both with a Rugby Dad, and as Mark's better half Melanie being Godmother to Theo, Gaffer has jumped in quick trying to convert them away from the egg shaped ball to the round one, and of course, buying them nice football kits as seen in photo!

Louis (6) is also into Taekwondo (don't argue with him!), swimming, gymnastics and likes

building lego sets. In his spare time he likes to boss Theo around!

Theo (2) plays rugby at little scrummers and is well into his dinosaurs meaning a fair few of us will fit in with that nicely! With his first introduction to football recently we think he fancies himself as a Goalkeeper.

They will lead the team out today with Braintree mascot Buddy the Boar for their first time watching a "proper" game, so let's not put them off football for life boys!



## Buddy the Boar



What's a typical matchday like for you, Buddy?

Do you have a pre-match ritual? Up early, a light jog round Cressing Road, a few selfies with fans, then straight into full-time chaos management. Before the game I like to Sniff the turf, fire up the crowd, windup the opposition supporters and try chase down their mascot.

**How did you become the face of Braintree Town FC?** Right place, right snout. And I look great in orange.

**Who's your favourite player past or present?** Anyone who feeds me after the game is top of the list.

**Toughest away ground?** Any one I've got to find directions to get to!

**Ever been sent off?** Only once, for excessive celebrations and entering the pitch "like a rampaging animal." Harsh.

**What position would you play?** Target man. Big, strong, and not afraid to get stuck in... mainly in the buffet after.

**Favourite chant?** "You've only come to see Buddy"

**Any hidden talents?** Surprisingly quick over 5 yards. After that... it's a slow decline.

**Describe Braintree Town in three words:** Pub. Team. Iron.

**Dream mascot five-a-side team?** Gunnersaurus. Buddy the Boar. Sammy the Shrimp. Eddie the Eagle. Hammerhead Westham.

**If you weren't a boar, what would you be?** A lollipop lady!

**Message for the fans:** Keep the noise up, back the lads, and remember - win, lose or draw, I'm still the best-looking one out there. Lock up your wives!

## Braintree Town FC

<b>1</b>	Matt O'Regan	Nick Enright	<b>50</b>
<b>24</b>	Rich Marsh	Jon Dixon	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	Adam Canning (c)	Rob Dixon	<b>6</b>
<b>10</b>	Dave Heason	Danny Cheng	<b>8</b>
<b>22</b>	Ryan Powlter	Jack Feehan	<b>9</b>
<b>33</b>	Jez Craggs	Matt Fellows (c)	<b>11</b>
<b>36</b>	Dean Thorpe	Andy Balmforth	<b>13</b>
<b>37</b>	Col Griffiths	Dean Twyman	<b>15</b>
<b>39</b>	Kev Robertson	Joe Feehan	<b>20</b>
<b>41</b>	Ryan Cheeseman	Chris Lake	<b>25</b>
<b>67</b>	Darren Winnard	Haydn Powlter	<b>34</b>
<b>73</b>	Dan Thomas	Brett Davids	<b>38</b>
	Asa McKenzie	John Donnellon	<b>52</b>
	Tom Kirton	Steve Foreman	<b>99</b>
<b>Officials</b>	Referee Mark Blackham		

## Match Day Schedule...

### Sunday 19th April 2026 - Braintree Town FC

**11:30pm:** Meet at ground, Clockhouse Way, Braintree, Essex (**CM7 3DE**)

**12:00pm:** Changing Rooms available.

**12:30pm:** Warm-up on the pitch

**1pm:** Kick Off

**3pm:** Vacate the Changing Rooms

**Closest McDonalds:** Cressing Rd, Galley Roundabout, Cressing, Braintree (**CM77 8EZ**) - 1.2miles, 6min

**Closest KFC:** Galleys Island, Braintree Rd, Braintree (**CM77 8GA**) - 1.2miles, 6min

