

1ST MAY 2026

Blackpool FC

Sun, Sea & Sore Hamstrings



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As we kick off our May fixtures, I thought I'd do something a little different with this address—partly to lift the curtain on fixture planning, and partly because I've clearly watched far too much 70s and 80s television.

So, picture the scene. I stride onto the stage of *Stars in Their Eyes* and declare, "Tonight Matthew, I'm going to be Jim Bowen"... before immediately wandering over to *Bullseye* to deliver the line every one of us knows: "Here's what you could have won..."

Because what follows is essentially that - a look at the clubs we spoke to before landing on the excellent schedule we've got lined up. Consider it a mix of near-misses, what-ifs, and "not a chance at that price."

It might also give you a few ideas for where we should be heading next season - assuming the budget stretches beyond a round of teas and a bag of ice packs.

As ever, plenty of clubs were keen to have us back (always a good sign we didn't completely outstay our welcome), and the following made firm offers. For transparency, I've included a rough cost guide per player:

£ – under £100 (a bargain, by modern football standards)

££ – £100–£200 (you'll notice it, but won't need to remortgage)

£££ – £200+ (start practising your "it's an investment" speech at home)

Clubs offering fixtures:

AFC Wimbledon (££)
Birmingham City (££)
Bolton Wanderers (££)

Brighton (£££ – bring a packed lunch)

Bristol City (££)

Bristol Rovers (£ – practically a steal)

Charlton Athletic (£)

Crewe Alexandra (£)

Derby County (££)

Doncaster Rovers (£)

Leicester City (££)

Leyton Orient (£)

Lincoln City (£)

Millwall (££ – no messing about)

Peterborough United (£)

Plymouth Argyle (££)

Southend United (£)

Stoke City (££)

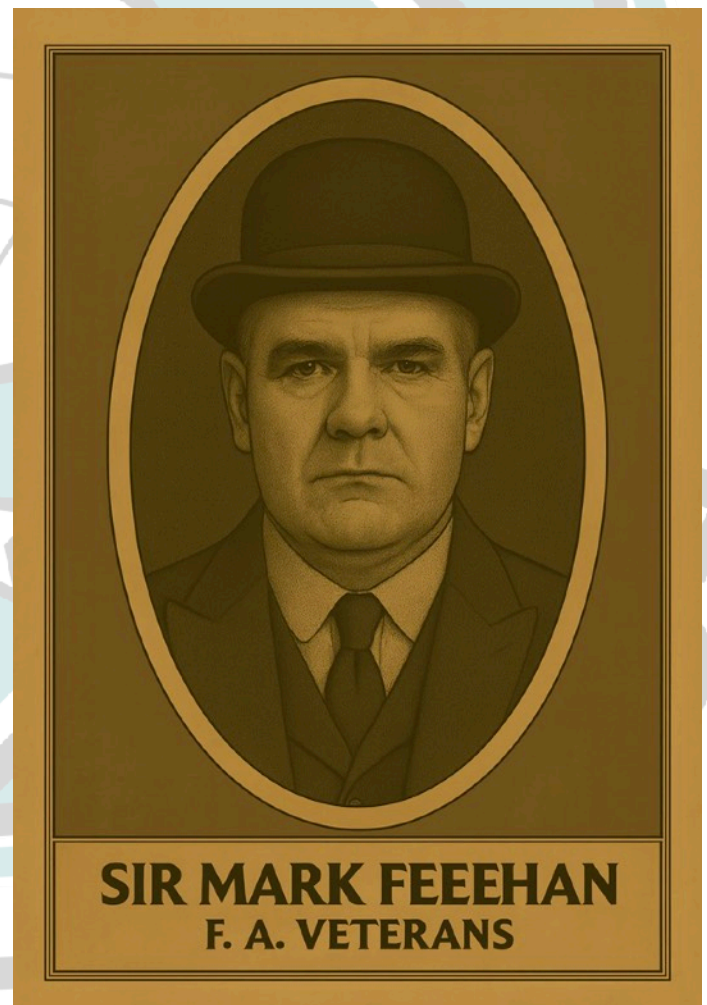
Swansea City (££)

Tranmere Rovers (£)

Walsall (£)

West Bromwich Albion (££)

Wigan Athletic (£)



...From The Gaffer...



Now, onto the Premier League... or as it's otherwise known, "you're joking, right?". Of the few who replied, the quotes were north of £30,000 plus VAT. Yes, really. For that money I was half expecting to be playing up front alongside the first team:

- Arsenal
- Chelsea
- Tottenham Hotspur
- West Ham United

Unsurprisingly, we politely declined. The term "politely" putting it, well, erm, politely.

We also spoke to a number of clubs who, through no fault of their own, couldn't commit—either due to pitch renovations or being too busy chasing promotion. The good news is they've offered us first refusal next year:

- Ipswich Town
- Luton Town (who may still have a late slot this summer - watch this space)
- Middlesbrough

I'll keep an eye out for any late availability over the coming weeks. There are always a few last-minute opportunities, particularly from Premier League clubs who suddenly remember they own a pitch. Early noises suggest possible movement from:

- Bournemouth
- Brentford

Fulham
Sunderland (although apparently this one has been vetoed by Terry for reasons I'm not entirely clear on... and slightly afraid to ask about)

Further afield, we did explore overseas options. Alongside Sevilla, we had a very tempting offer from Barcelona. Not quite the Camp Nou, but their 'B' stadium next door - plus the small matter of being picked up in the first-team coach from a hotel in the city. Which, let's be honest, is exactly the level of treatment our ageing hamstrings deserve.

So as you can see, putting this schedule together is no small task. There's a fair bit of juggling, negotiating, and occasionally being told - in true *Grange Hill* fashion - to "just say no."

But all things considered, we've landed on a fantastic set of fixtures, and I'm confident there's plenty to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

I hope you all enjoy today's game, play well, and remember, stretching is no longer optional.

Yours in sport,

Congratulations to the following players on hitting their own personal appearance milestones at today's game:
Kev Robertson - 20
Ben Middleton - 20

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

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

Contact:
favetsfc@gmail.com

Website:
www.fa-veterans-fc.co.uk



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Update From The Paul Alan Project

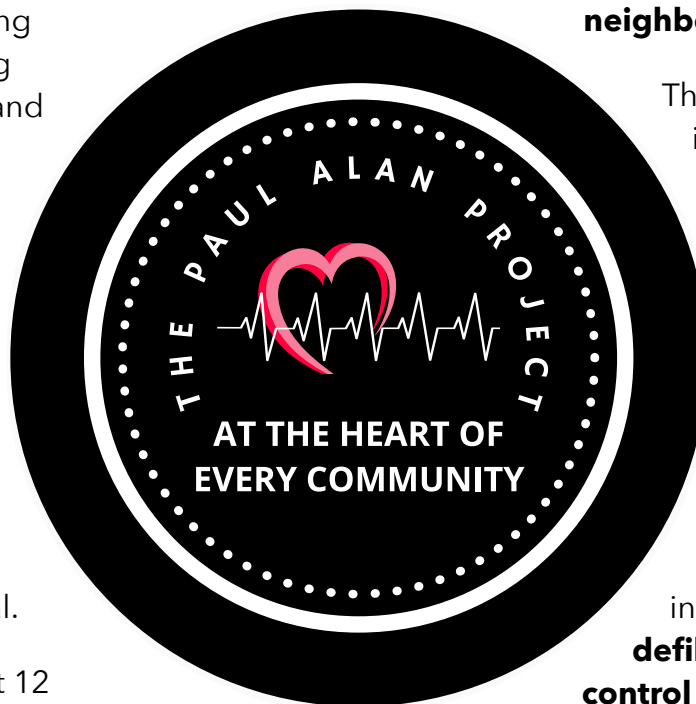
Founded after the sudden passing of Clare's father, Paul Alan Parish in January 2022, the Paul Alan Project works to **prevent out-of-hospital cardiac deaths** by offering free life-saving training and installing public defibrillators and bleed-control kits.

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 more than **20 schools, businesses, and**

community groups. Their impact is evident, with **130 defibrillator activations** recorded via 999 calls since 2023.

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

Tonight's fixture holds particular significance for the Alan family, as Paul tragically passed away during the Fulham vs Blackpool game in January 2022, making the occasion a deeply meaningful moment to reflect, remember, and continue the vital work being done in his name.

Blackpool F.C. was founded in 1887 and has carved out a unique place in English football history, best known for flair, famous names, and one of the game's most iconic finals.

Based at Bloomfield Road, the club became a founding member of the Football League Second Division in 1896 before settling into a long period of steady development.

Blackpool's golden era came in the late 1940s and 1950s, when they established themselves as a top-flight side. The team reached the FA Cup final three times in six years, cementing their place in football folklore. Their crowning moment arrived in the 1953 FA Cup Final, often dubbed the "Matthews Final." Inspired by the brilliance of Stanley Matthews, Blackpool came from behind to defeat Bolton Wanderers 4-3, with a hat-trick from Stan Mortensen. It remains one of the most celebrated matches in English football history.

Following this success, Blackpool continued to compete at the top level for much of the 1950s, but relegation in 1967 marked the end of their top-flight consistency. The decades that followed saw fluctuating fortunes, with periods in the lower divisions and financial



Head Coach: Ian Evatt

Nickname: The Seasideers

Stadium: Bloomfield Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 6JJ

Stadium Capacity: 17,338

Pitch: Grass

Club Colours: Tangerine Shirt, White Shorts, Tangerine Socks

Record Attendance: 38,098 vs. Wolverhampton Wanderers (1955)

Record Victory: 10-0 vs. Ashford (FA Cup, 1959)

Biggest Defeat: 1-10 vs. Manchester United (1897)

Top All-Time Goalscorer: Jimmy Hampson (252 goals)

Top Appearance Maker: Jimmy Armfield (627 appearances)

Most Goals in a Season: Jimmy Hampson, 45 goals (1928-29)

challenges impacting the club's stability. Despite this, Blackpool maintained a strong identity and loyal support.

A modern revival began in the late 2000s, culminating in promotion to the Premier League in 2010 under manager Ian Holloway. Their debut season in the top flight during 2010/11 was widely admired for its fearless attacking style, earning plaudits across the country despite eventual relegation. Players like Charlie Adam became central figures in that memorable campaign.

In recent years, the club has worked to stabilise both on and off the pitch following changes in ownership and governance. Promotion back to the Championship in 2021 signalled renewed ambition, and while results have varied, the focus has been on building a competitive squad and sustainable future.

Today, Blackpool remains a club steeped in history, known for its traditional tangerine colours and attacking spirit. With a passionate fanbase and a legacy that includes one of football's greatest cup finals, the Seasideers continue to balance respect for their past with hopes of future success.

2025/26 Review:

Blackpool F.C.'s 2025/26 campaign proved a season of steady progress and resilience. Under the guidance of Ian Evatt, the Seasideers blended attacking intent with improved organisation, making Bloomfield Road a difficult place for visitors. A strong mid-season run pushed them into promotion contention, with key players delivering consistently in crucial moments. While results dipped slightly in the closing weeks, the squad showed character and depth throughout. Young talents emerged alongside experienced heads, giving supporters real optimism. Ultimately, it was a season that laid solid foundations, with clear signs that bigger challenges can be met in the near future.

Icons in Tangerine: The Five Legends Who Defined Blackpool Football Club

Blackpool Football Club, draped in its unmistakable tangerine, has long punched above its weight when it comes to producing and hosting footballing greatness. While the club may not boast the trophy haul of England's traditional giants, its history is enriched by players whose influence on the game stretches far beyond the Lancashire coast. Among them, five names stand tallest: **Stanley Matthews**,



Stan Mortensen, **Alan Ball**, **Jimmy Armfield**, and **Charlie Adam**. Each represents a different era, but together they define Blackpool's enduring footballing identity.

At the heart of it all is **Stanley Matthews**, quite simply one of the

greatest players the game has ever seen. Known as "The Wizard of the Dribble," Matthews built his reputation on extraordinary close control, balance, and an ability to glide past defenders as if they were rooted to the spot. Remarkably, he achieved this without relying on physicality, instead using intelligence, precision, and impeccable timing. His career longevity borders on the mythical—playing top-flight football well into his 50s—and his influence helped shape modern wing play. Matthews' crowning moment in a Blackpool shirt came in the 1953 FA Cup Final, forever immortalised as the "Matthews Final." Though he didn't score, his mesmerising performance inspired a dramatic comeback victory that remains one of English football's most celebrated occasions.

If Matthews provided the artistry, **Stan Mortensen** delivered the ruthlessness. A natural goalscorer, Mortensen possessed an instinctive understanding of positioning and finishing that made him one of the most feared forwards of his era. His place in football history is cemented by a unique achievement:



© FA Photos

he remains the only player to score a hat-trick in an FA Cup Final at Wembley, doing so in that same 1953 showpiece. While Matthews' brilliance often captured the headlines, Mortensen's clinical edge was just as vital to Blackpool's success. Across his career, he scored goals with remarkable consistency, becoming a central figure in the club's golden era and one of its most revered figures.

Alongside them stood **Alan Ball**, the youngest member of Blackpool's iconic 1953 side and a player who would go on to achieve global recognition.

Ball's energy, intelligence, and technical quality marked him out early, and his relentless style became a hallmark of his career. He later earned immortality as part of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team, bringing his tenacity and drive to the international stage. At Blackpool, Ball represented the bridge between youthful exuberance and elite performance, a player who combined work rate with genuine class. His legacy is not only tied to his achievements but also to the way he embodied the spirit of a team that refused to accept defeat.



While Matthews, Mortensen, and Ball formed the spine of Blackpool's most famous side, **Jimmy Armfield**

represents the club's enduring loyalty and consistency. A one-club man in the truest sense, Armfield made over 600 appearances for Blackpool,



serving with distinction at right-back. His composure, leadership, and tactical awareness earned him international recognition with England, including captaining his country. Beyond his playing career, Armfield became a respected voice in football as a broadcaster, further cementing his place in the national game. Yet despite opportunities to move elsewhere, he remained synonymous with Blackpool, embodying a sense of commitment that feels increasingly rare in the modern era.

Fast forward to the 21st century, and **Charlie Adam** emerges as the figurehead of Blackpool's modern revival. While the club's time in the Premier League was brief, it was unforgettable, and Adam was at the centre of it all. A midfielder blessed with exceptional vision and a wand of a left foot, he dictated play with a confidence that belied Blackpool's underdog status. Whether spraying long passes with pinpoint accuracy or delivering dangerous set-pieces, Adam gave the team a creative edge that allowed them to compete against far wealthier opponents. During the 2010–11 Premier League season, Blackpool's fearless, attacking style won admirers across the country, and Adam's performances earned him individual accolades and a move to Liverpool. In many ways, he carried forward



the club's tradition of flair and individuality into the modern game.

What unites these five players is not just talent, but a shared sense of identity. Blackpool has never been about quiet efficiency; it has been about expression, resilience, and moments of brilliance that linger long in the memory. Matthews' elegance, Mortensen's goals, Ball's drive, Armfield's loyalty, and Adam's creativity each capture a different facet of that identity.

Their stories also reflect the changing nature of football itself. From the post-war era of muddy pitches and heavy balls to the globalised spectacle of the Premier League, Blackpool's greatest players have adapted to and shaped the game in different ways. Yet the essence remains the same: a commitment to playing football that excites, inspires, and occasionally defies expectation.

For a club often viewed as an outsider, Blackpool's contribution to football history is anything but minor. Through these players, it has left an indelible mark on the game, proving that greatness is not solely the preserve of the biggest clubs. Instead, it can emerge from anywhere - even from a seaside town where, for generations, the tangerine shirt has been worn by some of football's finest.



#ASKANDY



CHATBOT

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

"Dear Andy, I'm worried I won't be able to stay focused during the game in Blackpool. Between the beach, arcades, and temptation of an early pint, my tactical discipline goes out the window." - Midfield Maestro

Fair play still calling yourself a "midfield maestro" at Vets level—confidence is half the battle. Blackpool isn't for the faint-hearted. Seagulls press harder than most strikers, and a short walk along the promenade becomes a full tactical review of how you lost your boots to the tide. Treat it like a cup final. You wouldn't wander into an arcade before one—unless you fancy spending the second half defending Space Invaders instead of a counter-attack. And the "quick pint"? Nothing says peak performance like explaining zonal marking while juggling chips, a paper cup, and regret.

"Andy, what's the best pre-match meal in Blackpool?" - Striker (still waiting for service)

Finally—football disguised as nutrition. Two options: **Fish and chips** - explosive pace, long throws, and a guaranteed 70th-minute wobble. **3 sticks of rock and a can of pop** - ideal for wingers powered entirely by vibes and knee strapping. Avoid anything "world cuisine" within 200 yards of the Pleasure Beach. If it comes in a cone or involves a kiss-me-quick hat, it's part of the warm-up.

If you can still smell vinegar in the tunnel, you've done it right.

"Andy, should I worry about distractions in Blackpool?" - Defender, I've seen things

Handle it like a military mission. Blackpool is full of neon lights, arcade noise, and at least one Spider-Man

offering karaoke rematches. The real enemy isn't distraction, it's stamina. If you can survive 90 minutes and still find your hotel without following a brass band, you've won. Stay focused, hydrate, and remember: you're here to play football, not audition for Britain's most questionable dance floor decisions.

In Summary. Blackpool is football's great equaliser. It humbles strikers, tests defenders, and turns simple passes into interpretive weather art. Survive the wind, chips, arcades, seagulls, and at least one teammate disappearing into "The Almost Famous Legend," and you haven't just played a match...

You've experienced Blackpool Vets football in its purest form. Now get out there, keep it simple—and stay away from the 2-for-1 cocktail pitchers before kick-off.

Social Matt-ers

The Vets WhatsApp chat has delivered exactly what you'd expect from a group of ageing footballers: organisational ambition rapidly derailed by nonsense, questionable availability, and a worrying number of hamstring updates.

Early optimism around fixtures was strong. Availability lists went up, thumbs went flying, and for a brief, shining moment it looked like we might field a squad of fully functioning adults. That illusion lasted roughly six minutes before it descended into excuses ranging from "family commitments" to "I think I once felt a twinge in 2007."

Travel plans have been discussed in forensic detail, only for half the group to ignore them entirely and turn up via their own mysterious routes like middle-aged pilgrims. Whilst there are suggestions that someone should formulate a sensible plan. No one follows it up.

On the pitch, confidence remains sky high. Largely because most of the chat is based on performances from 10–15 years ago. In reality, the biggest competition is now between the physio table and the substitutes bench. Ice packs are getting more minutes than some players.

Off the pitch, standards haven't dropped. If anything, they've improved. The commitment to post-match food has been relentless, with tactical debates seamlessly transitioning into discussions about chips, pints, and whether a second meal counts as recovery or preparation.

There's also been the usual steady stream of absolute nonsense—voice notes no one asked for, opinions no one needed, and at least three conversations happening at once, none of which are related. Yet somehow, buried in the chaos, things do get organised... eventually.

- 1 **Matt Fellows**
- 2 **Jon Dixon**
- 3 **Dave Heason**



Special mention must go to the unwavering confidence of certain individuals who continue to talk like elite athletes while warming up like a man defusing a bomb.

All in all, it's been a vintage period: minimal structure, maximum entertainment, and just enough football to justify calling it a team.

2026 Story So Far...



Staveley Miners Welfare "The Trojans"

Inkersall Road Stadium - 5,000
 Fri 6th March, 2-1 HT, 5-1 FT
 Black - Moore (2), J.Dixon, Ja.Feehan, Davids
 Red - Lake



Braintree Town "The Iron"

Rare Breed Meat Co. Stadium - 4,222
 Sun 19th April, 2-2 HT, 5-5 FT
 Black - R.Powlter (2), Foote, McKenzie, Cheeseman
 Red - Ja.Feehan (2), Fellows, Foreman, H.Powlter



Blackpool "The Seaside"

Bloomfield Road - 17,338
 Fri 1st May
 Kick off 19:00

1 places remaining £105



Norwich City "The Canaries"

Carrow Road - 27,244
 Fri 8th May
 Kick off 16:00

5 places remaining £165



Mansfield Town "The Stags"

One Call Stadium / Field Mill - 9,186
 Mon 18th May
 Kick off 18:45

SOLD OUT!!



Chester City "The Seals"

Deva Stadium - 5,126
 Wed 20th May
 Kick off 19:45

8 places remaining £40



Wycombe Wanderers "The Chairboys"

Adams Park - 9,617
 Fri 22nd May
 Kick off 18:00

SOLD OUT!!



MK Dons "The Dons"

Stadium MK - 30,500
 Sun 31st May
 Kick off 13:00

SOLD OUT!!



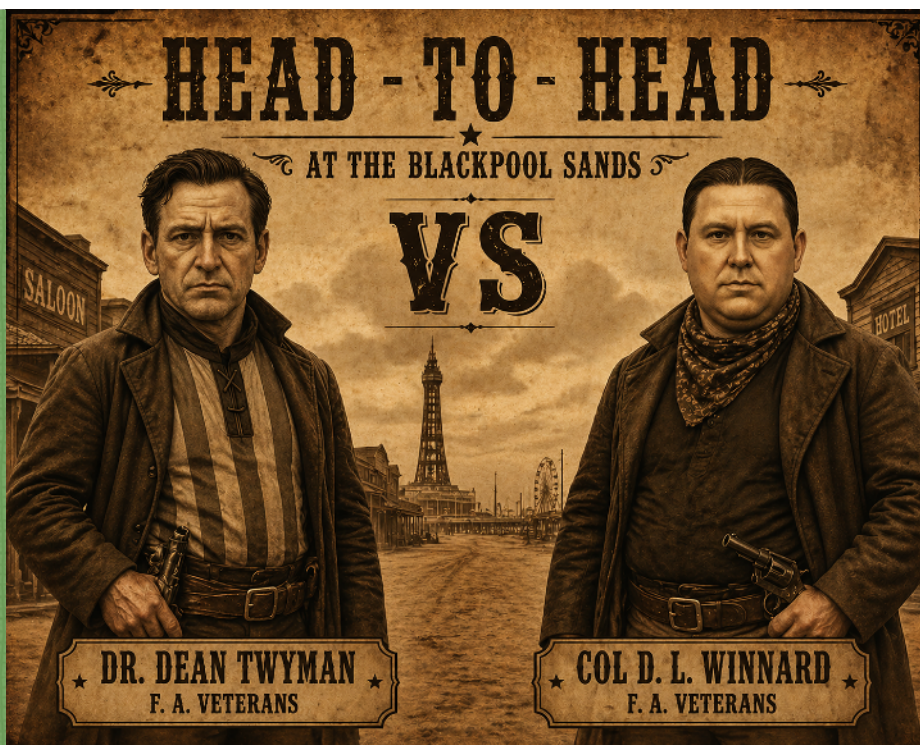
Sevilla "Los Palanganas" (The Basins/Bathtubs)

Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán Stadium - 43,883
 Sat/Sun 3rd Oct (provisional)

4 places remaining £100 deposit



Captain's



Corner

Top Bins all day, not that it's part of my game these days, but they always look more spectacular	Top Bins or Bottom Corner	Top bins just watching it nestle in there
Half Volley. I think it's a more difficult skill as you've got to be spot on with timing as well as technique	Volley or Half Volley	Half volley I love the power you can get on it
An exquisite curler always feels and looks good	Knuckleball or Curler	Curler. I put this right up there with top bins, you can't beat it
A bit of skill for people to talk about afterwards	First Time Finish or Skill	Skill, I love to bring out the skills
Sorry to our goalkeepers, but putting them on their backsides is way more satisfying than a nutmeg	Nutmeg or Sit GK Down	Nutmeg. And it's got to be called in the moment...Megggsssss!
I prefer a driven pass as again, I think it's a more difficult skill to get right, and if it's a diagonal cross field pass, even better	Driven Pass or Chip	Driven straight and direct
As long as it goes in, I don't have a preference on what or where it hits	In Off Cross bar or In Off Post	Off the cross bar, to hear the rattle on the way in...
Nothing beats scoring a goal. Very few assists are ever remembered	Goal or Assist	Goal, I like to take the glory
A solo run, particularly if it's a defender that does it from their own half. Hold my beer.....	Solo Run or Team Goal	Team goal for me. In football, everything is a team effort
Power all day long! Always aim to break the net	Power or Placement	Has to be placement, accuracy is important to me
Right foot. Left foot is only there for show these days	Left Foot or Right Foot	Left foot it's not very often it happens so just feels that little bit more special
Always try and keep your eyes open but somehow the match photos always catch you with eyes closed.	Eyes Open or Eyes Closed	Eyes open, always
If I tried a bicycle kick these days, I'm not sure I'd ever get up again, so power header	Power Header or Bicycle Kick	Bicycle kick, I'm not blessed with height for headers
Gotta love a cheeky lob	Lob or One on One	One on one, I love the challenge of a 1v1 scenario

1  PROF MATTHEW O'REGAN F. A. VETERANS	3  THE RT HON T.J. RICKEARD F. A. VETERANS	4  J. DIXON. ESQ. F. A. VETERANS	6  WG CDR R. DIXON F. A. VETERANS	7  MAJ ROBERT GREEN F. A. VETERANS	8  D. CHENG ESQ. F. A. VETERANS	9  LT. JACK "JACK" FEEHAN F. A. VETERANS
Apps - 28, Gls - 0	Apps - 40, Gls - 11*	Apps - 43, Gls - 23	Apps - 32, Gls - 3	Apps - 42, Gls - 4	Apps - 40, Gls - 4*	Apps - 22, Gls - 25
10  REVD D HEASON F. A. VETERANS	11  MATTHEW FELLOWS, MP F. A. VETERANS	13  A. BALMFORTH ESQ. F. A. VETERANS	14  LORD BENJAMIN MIDDLETON F. A. VETERANS	15  DR. DEAN TWYMAN F. A. VETERANS	16  FR. THOMAS GREEN F. A. VETERANS	17 Nathan Moore
Apps - 40, Gls - 24	Apps - 41, Gls - 5	Apps - 34, Gls - 13	Apps - 19, Gls - 1	Apps - 33, Gls - 4*	Apps - 28, Gls - 3	Apps - 21, Gls - 16
24	25	38	39	40	41	
 REV D R MARSH F. A. VETERANS	 CHRISTOPHER LAKE ESQ. F. A. VETERANS	26 Roberto Donay	 DR. BRETT DAVIDS F. A. VETERANS	 PROF. K ROBERTSON F. A. VETERANS	 MATTHEW PORTER ESQ. F. A. VETERANS	 R. CHEESEMAN ESQ. F. A. VETERANS
Apps - 32, Gls - 0	Apps - 23, Gls - 12	Apps - 10, Gls - 1	Apps - 11, Gls - 3	Apps - 19, Gls - 4	Apps - 8, Gls - 0*	Apps - 11, Gls - 4
42	52	67	69 Wayne Batsford	20		
 PVT A MCLOUGHLIN F. A. VETERANS	 SIR JOHN DONNELLON F. A. VETERANS	 COL D. L. WINNARD F. A. VETERANS	 SGT C BOROWSKI F. A. VETERANS	 SIR MARK FEEHAN F. A. VETERANS		
Apps - 12, Gls - 5	Apps - 15, Gls - 1	Apps - 30, Gls - 17	Apps - 7, Gls - 0	Apps - 3, Gls - 5	Apps - 21, Gls - 2	

Top Goals per Game (10+ apps):

1. Jack Feehan - **1.1**
2. Nathan Moore - **0.8**
3. Dave Heason - **0.6**



Total Appearances: **665**

Total Goals: **190**

Total Own Goals*: **4**

Gaffers: **1**

Today's Mascots

AFC Bolton Football Club

AFC Bolton was founded in 2016 by Darren Winnard, marking the start of an incredible journey that continues to grow today.

The story actually began in 2014, when Darren's daughter, Ellie, wanted to join a football team. At the time, opportunities in girls' football were limited, and suitable teams were hard to find. Eventually, a local club was identified, but they did not have an appropriate age group. Rather than let that be the end of the story, Darren stepped up, completed his coaching badges, and created his own team.

In 2016, that idea evolved further into the formation of AFC Bolton. Starting from nothing—no funding, no equipment, and no facilities—the club relied heavily on a dedicated group of parents and players. That early support laid the foundation for everything that has followed.

Today, the club has grown significantly, now comprising just under 700 players, 47 teams, 109 coaches, and a committee of 16 members.



From Left to Right - Georgia Wiggins, Aria Connor, Maggie Citarella, Isabella Dickinson, Emily Meadowcroft, Kennedy Bowen, Lux Dagnall, Dotty Walker

HOME TEAM MASCOTS - U8s Girls Greys

Team Coach: Dean Twyman

Assistant Coach: Charlotte Lewis

D of E Volunteer: Emily White

Our Under-8s Girls started their football journey last year, with several players completely new to the game. Since then, their progress has been outstanding, driven by enthusiasm and love for football. Their willingness to learn, support each other, and grow in confidence week by week has been excellent. Just as importantly, they have developed a strong team spirit and friendship that shines through on matchdays, making them a real credit to the club.

Season so far: Following a steady first season, the girls have developed into one of the standout teams in the division. Their growing understanding of the game, strong work ethic, and attitude in training have translated into excellent performances on matchdays. Their consistency and commitment have earned them a reputation as the team to beat, showing maturity, focus, and real team spirit each week. The results reflect both their attacking quality and defensive discipline, but most importantly the effort, teamwork, and enjoyment they bring every time they step onto the pitch.

The name AFC Bolton also carries personal significance. It was the club Darren represented as a child, and when researching possible names, he discovered that AFC Bolton had folded years earlier. With that in mind, bringing the name back felt like the natural and right choice.

It is also a proud moment that Darren's other daughter, Mia, now plays for the club and enjoys her football. From his perspective, having two footballing daughters is certainly a win.

Darren acknowledges that running a football club is not without its challenges, particularly when balancing work, family life, personal time, and club responsibilities.

However, strong support from excellent coaches, committed committee members, and an understanding family makes it all possible.

Beyond football, AFC Bolton plays an active role in the local community, supporting charity matches, food bank collections, fundraising events, and regular appearances on Bolton FM.



From Left to Right - Kiya Davies, Lacey Gittings, Isabella Wordsworth, Brooke Derbyshire, Maisie Hawkins, Apple-Rose Wallace, Maisie Peacock, Rose Young, Bella Layton, Gabriella Gill, Juwayriyah Farooq

AWAY TEAM MASCOTS - U15s Girls Yellows

Team Manager: Danny Young

Team Coach: Alison Hawkins

Today we have the privilege of our U15 Girls Yellows. This team is slightly special to the club as they were our first ever U7's team from back in 2018. They have two amazing coaches Danny and Alison, who are also blessed with very supportive parents group who clearly demonstrate our AFC Bolton Family Values.

Season so far: The girls earned promotion last season and have since embraced the challenge of competing in BBDL Section A. They have been consistent throughout the campaign, facing a number of well-established and highly competitive sides at this level.

Despite the step up, they have more than held their own in every fixture, picking up well-earned points through strong, disciplined performances. We are extremely proud of how they have adapted to life in a higher division, showing resilience, togetherness, and real progress as the season has developed. With almost their first season at this level now under their belts, there is a strong sense of excitement about continuing to build and push on.

Blackpool FC

24	Rich Marsh	Matt O'Regan	1
6	Rob Dixon	Terry Rikeard	3
7	Bobby Green	Jon Dixon	4
9	Jack Feehan	Danny Cheng	8
10	Dave Heason	Andy Balmforth	13
11	Matt Fellows	Tom Green	16
14	Ben Middleton	Nathan Moore	17
15	Dean Twyman (c)	Roberto Donay	26
25	Chris Lake	Kev Robertson	39
38	Brett Davids	Matt Porter	40
41	Ryan Cheeseman	Alex McLoughlin	42
52	John Donnellon	Darren Winnard (c)	67
69	Wayne Batsford	Callum Borowski	
	Rob Marsh		
Officials	Referee not available at time of writing		

Match Day Schedule...

Friday 1st May 2026 - Blackpool FC

6pm: Meet at ground, Bloomfield Rd, Seaside Way, Blackpool **FY1 6JJ**

Players meet at Main Reception, Spectators to the "Matthews Suite"

6:15-6:45pm: Warm-up on the pitch

6:55pm: Players called to the tunnel, player walk out, presentation of the teams

7pm: Kick Off

9pm: Vacate the Changing Rooms

9:15pm: Pie supper served in the Matthews Suite

Closest McDonalds: Leisure Park, Rigby Rd, Blackpool **FY1 5EP** - 0.7miles, 4min

