



8TH MAY 2026

Norwich City FC

Where are you? Lets be havin' you!



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What an incredible couple of games we've had to start our Summer end of season games.

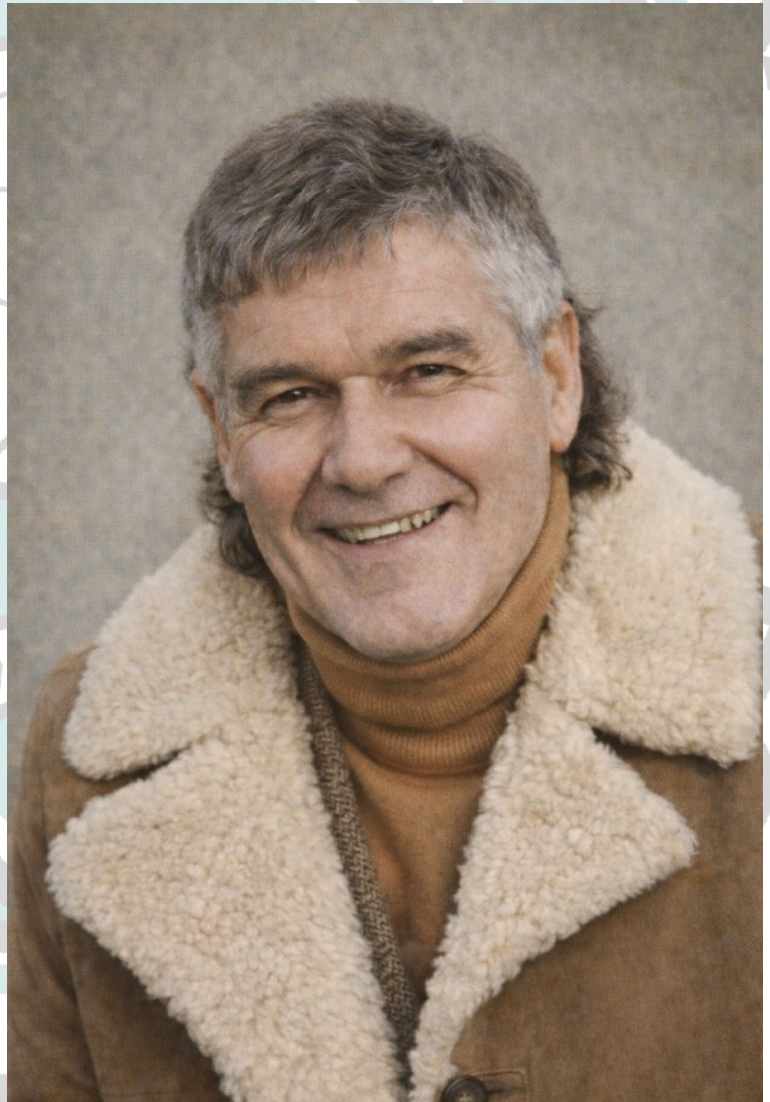
The scorelines have been completely absurd which, naturally, makes it the perfect start to our summer fixtures.

Two games. Two draws. Not just any draws either, but a pair of scores that look more like a broken scoreboard than actual football matches: 5-5 followed by 6-6. If anyone had that double in an accumulator, please come forward immediately, we'd like to study you, possibly worship you, and definitely have you picking next week's lottery numbers.

The second game in particular deserves its own Netflix documentary (although I hear they may need to go through AFC Bolton's media team to gain access to the image rights if they want to feature the video). The Reds somehow managed to build not one but two three-goal leads 3-0 and then 6-3 only to generously hand it all back (potential footsteps for Arsenal to follow in the end of season run in perhaps?). At various points the in-play odds must have been doing cartwheels. Somewhere, a bookmaker was quietly taking early retirement. Credit to everyone involved: defenders for their commitment to attacking football, and attackers for their refusal to acknowledge the concept of game management.

And then there was Bloomfield Road itself. Resplendent, bathed in the floodlights and the gentle glow of the Blackpool Tower. But what a surface! You can see why it picked up the "English Football League Ground Staff of the Year" award - it was immaculate. The ball actually did what it was told, which made a refreshing change for many of us. A few of you looked like better players purely by association with the pitch, which is a testament to just how good it was.

Off the pitch, Blackpool F.C. were first class. They looked after us, our supporters, and - most importantly - our mascots from AFC Bolton Girls brilliantly. Feedback filtering back via Dean and Darren suggests the girls had a night to remember, and they certainly played their part in what was probably our best atmosphere yet. Clearly buoyed by the opportunity to become our own section of Ultras, at times they were even threatening to out-sing our very own Matt O'Regan... although let's not get carried away.



...From The Gaffer...

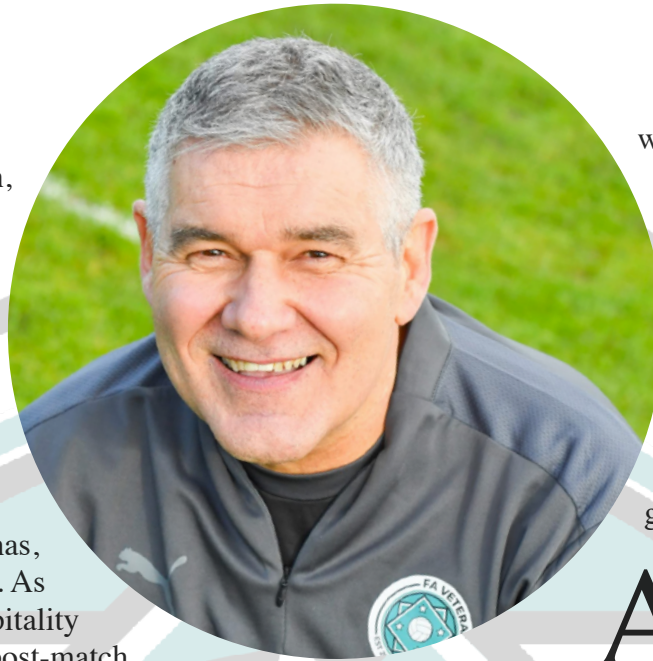
A special mention as well to Jamie-Leigh, who was instrumental both in the build-up and on the night itself. These things don't happen by accident, and her efforts didn't go unnoticed, so *thank you!*

Fast forward to today and the culinary bar has, sadly, dipped slightly. As much as we respect the hospitality on offer, it's fair to say the post-match spread couldn't quite compete with what you'd expect if Delia Smith had been in charge. Standards have been set now, we can't go backwards.

That said, it's another fantastic venue ticked off. Carrow Road is a ground many of us have been lucky enough to experience before, and once again the welcome from Norwich City F.C. has been spot on. A proper club, a proper setting, and another great addition to our ever-growing list.

Behind the scenes, things remain as busy (and slightly chaotic) as ever. While communication may dip slightly over the next week with Eurovision calling and a quick detour to Vienna for some "important meetings" (interpret that as you wish)—the wheels are very much still in motion. There's a potential early June fixture in the works, and even a conversation lined up with First Vienna FC about taking this circus on the road.

As for Seville... we're calling it a strategic pause. Not off, just... simmering. The introduction of VAT numbers into what



was previously a blissfully informal arrangement has, understandably, taken some of the romance out of things. Add in a bit of financial uncertainty their side, and it's a case of "watch this space." One thing's for sure—we'll get a European game in before geopolitics beats us to it.

A small nod as well to a rare moment of logistical genius: switching from Hull to Norwich. With Hull City sneaking into the playoffs, today's fixture there would almost certainly have fallen victim to scheduling chaos. As it stands, Hull is now safely parked in the 2027 diary—forward planning at its finest.

Congratulations to the following players on hitting their own personal appearance milestones at today's game:
Tom Green - 30
Colin Griffiths - 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

So, as we wrap up and head into today's game which is our first venture into the eastern reaches, there's only one question left... What are the odds on a 7-7?

At this point, it would almost be disappointing if we defended.

Yours in sport

Mark F

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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

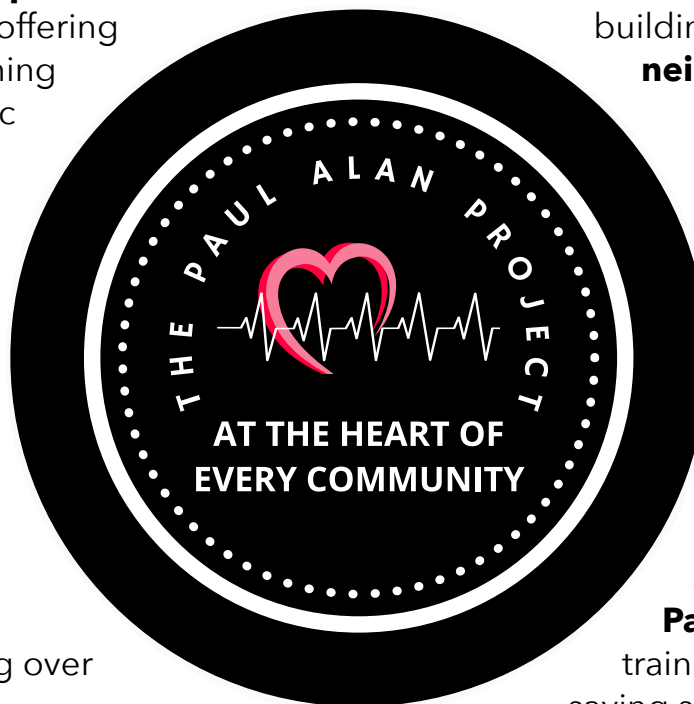
charity's goal is that no one lives more than two minutes from a defibrillator and, by training bystanders and installing accessible equipment, they're building truly **"heart-safe" neighbourhoods**.

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...

Norwich City F.C. has a rich and distinctive history that reflects both resilience and community pride.

Founded in 1902, the club quickly established itself as a key part of life in Norwich. Early years were spent playing at Newmarket Road and then The Nest, a former chalk pit that became one of the most unusual grounds in English football. However, by the 1930s, it was clear the club needed a larger, more modern home to match its growing support.

That new home arrived in 1935 with the opening of Carrow Road. Built in an astonishingly short period of just 82 days, Carrow Road was constructed after Norwich were forced to leave The Nest due to safety concerns. The stadium's name comes from the nearby Carrow Abbey, grounding it firmly in the local heritage. The inaugural match saw Norwich face West Ham United, marking the beginning of what would become one of English football's most characterful venues.

Throughout the decades, Norwich City's fortunes have ebbed and flowed, but the club has enjoyed several notable high points. The 1970s and 1980s are often considered a golden era. Norwich won the League Cup twice, in 1962 and 1985, defeating Sunderland A.F.C. and Sunderland A.F.C. respectively (the latter victory coming against a different opponent but still marking a historic achievement). These triumphs cemented Norwich's reputation as a competitive force capable of success on the national stage.

The club also enjoyed memorable moments in European



2025/26 Review:

Norwich City F.C.'s 2025/26 season was defined by a decisive managerial change, with Philippe Clement taking charge after Christmas. His arrival sparked an immediate upturn in form, bringing structure, belief, and a clear identity. Results improved sharply in the EFL Championship, with a strong run propelling the Canaries into playoff contention. Carrow Road became a fortress once more. Although promotion ultimately proved elusive, the transformation under Clement laid solid foundations and renewed optimism heading into the 2026/27 season.



THE CANARIES

- HEAD COACH**
Philippe Clement
- STADIUM**
Carrow Road
Norwich, Norfolk
- STADIUM CAPACITY**
27,000+
- PITCH**
Grass
- CLUB COLOURS**
Yellow Shirts,
Green Shorts,
Yellow Socks

- RECORD ATTENDANCE**
43,984
vs. Leicester City
(1963)
- RECORD VICTORY**
10-0
vs. Coventry City
(League Cup, 1983)
- BIGGEST DEFEAT**
0-10
vs. Sheffield Wednesday
(1930)
- TOP ALL-TIME GOALSCORER**
JOHNNY GAVIN
122 GOALS
- TOP APPEARANCE MAKER**
KEVIN KEELAN
673 APPEARANCES
- MOST GOALS IN A SEASON**
TEEMU PUKKI
29 GOALS
(2018/19)

competition. In the 1993–94 season, Norwich famously defeated Bayern Munich at the Olympiastadion, becoming the first English club to beat Bayern on their home ground in European competition. This remains one of the standout achievements in the club's history and is fondly remembered by supporters.

Carrow Road itself has evolved significantly over time. Originally a modest ground, it has been redeveloped into a modern, all-seater stadium with a capacity of over 27,000. Despite these changes, it has retained its intimate atmosphere and strong connection to fans. The Barclay and River End stands, in particular, are known for generating a vibrant matchday

environment, reinforcing Norwich's identity as a club deeply rooted in its community.

In more recent years, Norwich City has become known as something of a "yo-yo club," frequently moving between the Premier League and the Championship. Despite this, the club has maintained an attractive style of play and a commitment to developing talent, earning respect across English football.

Ultimately, the story of Norwich City and Carrow Road is one of perseverance, identity, and belonging. From humble beginnings in a chalk pit to nights of European glory, the Canaries' journey reflects the enduring spirit of football in East Anglia.



Icons: The Five Legends Who Defined Norwich Football Club

Norwich City F.C. has been graced by several iconic players who shaped its identity. Darren Huckerby became a cult hero in the early 2000s, driving promotion with pace and flair. Grant Holt embodied leadership, captaining the Canaries from League One to the Premier League. Chris Sutton emerged as a prolific striker, earning a then British-record transfer. Martin Peters, a World Cup winner, brought elegance and experience in the 1970s. Teemu Pukki became a modern great, firing Norwich to promotion with remarkable consistency and goalscoring instinct.

Darren Huckerby arrived initially on loan in 2003 from Manchester City and instantly transformed Norwich's attacking threat. His blistering pace, fearless dribbling, and ability to run in behind defences made him a constant outlet. Huckerby scored 20 goals in the 2003/04 Championship-winning season, forming a dynamic partnership with Leon McKenzie. His passion, work rate, and connection with supporters ensured he became one of the most beloved figures in the club's modern history.



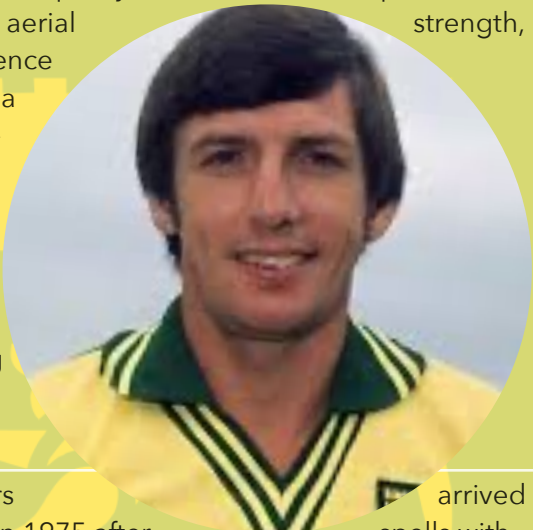
Grant Holt joined from Shrewsbury Town in 2009 and quickly became the heartbeat of the side. As captain, he led Norwich to consecutive promotions in 2010 and 2011, a rare achievement in English football. Holt's physicality, leadership, and ability to

score all types of goals made him indispensable. His 15-goal Premier League season in 2011/12 silenced doubters and even earned him an England call-up, underlining his remarkable rise.

Chris Sutton progressed through Norwich's academy and broke into the first team as a teenager. Initially playing as a centre-back, he was converted



into a striker, where he thrived. His standout 25-goal Premier League season in 1993/94 helped Norwich finish third and qualify for Europe. Sutton's composure, aerial strength, and intelligence earned him a then British-record £5 million move to Blackburn Rovers, highlighting his elite potential.



Martin Peters arrived at Norwich in 1975 after spells with West Ham and Spurs, bringing world-class pedigree. Known as "the Ghost" for his intelligent movement, Peters added composure and creativity in midfield. He was instrumental in Norwich's 1975 League Cup triumph, the club's first major honour. Beyond his

technical ability, his professionalism and experience helped elevate the standards of the squad during a formative period in the club's history.



Teemu Pukki signed on a free transfer in 2018 and quickly became one of the most clinical strikers in the club's history. His intelligent positioning, sharp movement, and calm finishing made him perfectly suited to Norwich's attacking style. Pukki scored 29 goals in the 2018/19 Championship-winning campaign and continued to impress in the Premier League, even winning Player of the Month early in the 2019/20 season. His consistency and humility made him a fan favourite.

Famous Fans

Norwich City has long been defined not only by its players and managers, but also by a passionate and distinctive fanbase that blends local pride with national recognition. Perhaps the most influential supporter is Delia Smith. A household name through her cooking career, Delia's connection to Norwich goes far beyond celebrity. Alongside her husband Michael Wynn-Jones, she became a majority shareholder and former joint-chair of the club. Her famous 2005 half-time "Where are you? Let's be having you!" speech remains part of English football folklore, reflecting her deep emotional investment.



Another notable supporter is Stephen Fry, who grew up in Norfolk. He has often expressed affection for the Canaries, linking the club to the region's wider cultural influence in arts and media.

In broadcasting, Jake Humphrey is a well-known supporter who has frequently spoken about his loyalty to the club, helping keep

Norwich visible in national sporting conversations. Together, these figures highlight a fanbase rooted in authenticity and regional pride. Whether through Delia Smith's passion, Stephen Fry's cultural ties, or Alan Partridge's comedic legacy, Norwich City's identity reflects the character of Norfolk itself—warm, proud, and unpretentious, with Carrow Road at its heart.



Norfolk 'n' Chance: Bassett, Partridge and Beautiful Chaos

Few fictional characters capture the quirks of English football and culture quite like Mike Bassett and Alan Partridge. Though created for very different purposes, both have become enduring figures in British comedy, offering sharp, often affectionate satire of the national psyche.

Mike Bassett, brought to life by Ricky Tomlinson in *Mike Bassett: England Manager*, is the archetypal old-school English football manager. Thrust unexpectedly into the role of England boss, Bassett embodies the clichés of the game: a love of 4-4-2, a reliance on "proper lads," and an almost stubborn resistance to modern tactics. The humour comes from the contrast between the enormity of the job and Bassett's limited tactical sophistication. Yet beneath the jokes lies a certain warmth—he is sincere, patriotic, and deeply committed, even if out of his depth. The film cleverly parodies the media frenzy and unrealistic expectations surrounding the England national team, while also celebrating the passion that defines it. It even brushes up against Norfolk in classic fashion: early in the film, Bassett memorably leads an open-top bus parade the wrong way down a one-way system and out onto the bypass—an absurd, very on-brand detour that neatly ties his chaos to the kind of local geography and humour associated with places like Norwich.

In contrast, Alan Partridge, created and portrayed by Steve Coogan, is not rooted solely in football but in the broader world of British media and middle-aged aspiration. However, his identity is closely tied to Norfolk and, by extension, Norwich City F.C.. Partridge frequently references the club, positioning himself as a proud—if somewhat embarrassing—supporter. His character thrives on

social awkwardness, misplaced confidence, and a desperate need for approval, making him both cringe-inducing and oddly relatable.



What links Bassett and Partridge is their embodiment of a certain type of Englishness. Both are figures slightly out of step with the modern world, clinging to outdated ideas while navigating environments that have moved on without them. Bassett does this on the touchline, barking instructions and trusting instinct over analysis, while Partridge does it in the media landscape, forever pitching questionable ideas and clinging to past glories.

Their humour also shares a foundation in realism. Bassett feels like a composite of countless lower-league managers, while Partridge mirrors familiar figures from regional broadcasting. This grounding makes their exaggerated traits all the more effective. Audiences recognise elements of truth in both characters, whether it's the football punditry clichés Bassett embodies or the small-talk disasters and ego-driven blunders of Partridge.



Importantly, both characters have endured because they are more than just punchlines. There is a humanity to them that invites both laughter and sympathy. Bassett's underdog journey, however chaotic, is easy to root for, while Partridge's endless quest for relevance reveals a vulnerability beneath the bravado.

Together, Mike Bassett and Alan Partridge stand as comic reflections of British culture—one from the dugout, the other from the studio—each highlighting, in their own way, the absurdities, passions, and peculiarities of the world they inhabit.



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#ASKANDY



CHATBOT

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

Back again with Ask Andy, the only agony uncle column where hamstrings are fragile, egos are strong, and away days in Norwich are treated like a spiritual pilgrimage... with added half-time pies. Let's dive in.

"Andy, what's the best pre-match meal in Norwich? I want performance and local authenticity." - Striker (still waiting for service)

Finally, a proper football question disguised as tourism! In Norwich, you've got options:

A Norwich City FC pie - Delia's choice, structurally sound, emotionally comforting, and slightly hotter than is medically advisable.

Anything involving mustard - local, powerful, and capable of clearing your sinuses and tactical confusion simultaneously. Avoid overthinking it. If it looks like it belongs in a

gastro-pub Instagram reel, it's probably too complex for Vets football metabolism.

"Andy, I've heard Norwich is very 'civilised'. Should I be worried we'll lose our edge?" - Midfield Engine

Let's be clear: Norwich is not soft. It is organised. There's a difference.

Yes, people queue properly. Yes, the roundabouts are respectful. Yes, even the pigeons seem to understand spatial awareness.

But don't mistake politeness for weakness. This is a city that produced Delia Smith, meaning half-time motivation could be followed by a cooking lesson and still somehow improve your finishing. Your real danger isn't aggression—it's comfort.

One decent pint, one sensible conversation about positional shape, and suddenly you're pressing

like a man who's just discovered he enjoys zoning. Stay focused. And don't let the calm streets lull you into passing accurately.

"Andy, what's the atmosphere like at Carrow Road for Vets football?" - Right Back, emotionally fragile

Carrow Road is a place of gentle expectations. The fans will clap your warm-up. The steward will wish you luck. Even your mistakes will be acknowledged with a quiet nod, as if to say "yes, that was inevitable at your age." But don't mistake kindness for safety. One misplaced clearance and you'll still hear it echoing politely into the night air.

The key is acceptance. You are not here to dominate Norwich. You are here to survive it with both hamstrings and dignity intact.

Social Matt-ers

In the last 14 days, the group has fired off **~660 messages**, which is less "quiet period" and more "everyone's phone permanently on vibrate". The vibe? A healthy blend of: Match chat (optimistic before, forensic after). Relentless personal slander disguised as "banter". The occasional sincere moment, quickly stamped out by sarcasm. Main Threads - What's Actually Been Going On):

Match Talk (The Anchor Tenant). Unsurprisingly, "the game" is the most recurring concept.

But this isn't tactical analysis - it's: Pre-match optimism bordering on delusion. **Post-match breakdowns** that read like a police incident report.

Selective memory (good bits remembered, everything else blamed on pitch / refs / someone called Matt). **Birthdays & Milestones** (Emotional... briefly) "Happy birthday" made a strong showing - which tells you:

-The squad is ageing
-And increasingly aware of it
Any heartfelt message lasts approximately **2-3 replies** before being derailed by:

-Age jokes
-Hairline references
-Or something legally borderline about physical decline

Engagement Insights (Who's Actually Carrying This Thing)

1. Matt Fellows - 127 messages

Running the chat like a one-man content machine. Somewhere between club captain and a TalkSport caller who won't hang up.

2. Dave Heason - 77 messages

Consistent, reliable, always lurking (in the 6yrd box) with a comment just when things might calm down.

3. Tom Green - 59 messages

Strong contribution numbers. Picks moments well, quantity with just enough quality control to avoid a full media ban.

1 Matt Fellows

2 Dave Heason

3 Tom Green



While exact thread tracking is messy (because this isn't a boardroom, it's a pub), the most engagement tends to cluster around:

-Anything mildly controversial about a game
-Direct digs at individuals (high-risk, high-reward)
-Photos / events / anything that can be mocked.

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, 3-4 HT, **6-6 FT**

Black - Robertson, Winnard, Borowski (3), Balmforth
Red - Heason, Fellows (2), Ja.Feehan, Batsford (2)



Norwich City "The Canaries"

Carrow Road - 27,244

Fri 8th May

Kick off 16:00

4 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 - which in our games could either mean the goal or the stadium	Top Bins or Bottom Corner	The glory of top bins; no keeper in the world stopping that one
Volley	Volley or Half Volley	To be honest if I can get to it I'd be happy, but the control of a half volley
Curler, a knuckleball is way outside my skillset	Knuckleball or Curler	Curling precision
First Time Finish - there's not much skill to be seen in our games	First Time Finish or Skill	A silky, mazy runthat I might have been capable of 30 years ago
Nutmeg	Nutmeg or Sit GK Down	Oh easy, sit the keeper down, particularly if it's my lad
Driven Pass	Driven Pass or Chip	Driven pass breaking the defence
In off the Crossbar - Always satisfying	In Off Cross bar or In Off Post	If it's gone in, not bothered
Goal, although I can barely remember what that feels like now	Goal or Assist	I do love an assist, but it has to be the glory goal
Team Goal	Solo Run or Team Goal	Is it not a team sport?
Placement	Power or Placement	Placement accuracy ahead of row Z power
Right, if only I could say left foot	Left Foot or Right Foot	Left, to prove it's not just for standing on
It depends on the context, but as I know how we play, I'd say eyes closed!	Eyes Open or Eyes Closed	Why would eyes be closed?
Power Header - I can do neither but anyone attempting a bicycle kick in our games would (a) miss and (b) have to retire due to injuries sustained	Power Header or Bicycle Kick	Theoretically the bicycle kick, but I'd need to borrow Heason's wheelchair straight after
Lob	Lob or One on One	A deft lob, particularly if O'Regan's between the sticks

3	4	6	7	8	9
					
Apps - 41, Gls - 11*	Apps - 44, Gls - 23	Apps - 33, Gls - 3	Apps - 43, Gls - 4	Apps - 41, Gls - 4*	Apps - 23, Gls - 26

10	11	13	15	16	18
					
Apps - 41, Gls - 25	Apps - 42, Gls - 7	Apps - 35, Gls - 14	Apps - 34, Gls - 4*	Apps - 29, Gls - 3	Apps - 13, Gls - 3

20	22	24	34	37	39
					
Joe Feehan Apps - 24, Gls - 29	Ryan Powlter Apps - 5, Gls - 8	Apps - 33, Gls - 0	Haydn Powlter Apps - 6, Gls - 10	Apps - 19, Gls - 0	Apps - 20, Gls - 5

57	67	69	73	20
				
Apps - 8, Gls - 0	Apps - 31, Gls - 18	Wayne Batsford Apps - 8, Gls - 2	Apps - 21, Gls - 11	Apps - 21, Gls - 2

Top Goals per Game (10+ apps):

1. Joe Feehan - **1.2**
2. Jack Feehan - **1.1**
3. Dave Heason - **0.6**



Total Appearances: **615**
 Total Goals: **212**
 Total Own Goals*: **3**
 Gaffers: **There can only be 1**

Last Time Out...



Just two weeks after a remarkable 5-5 draw at Braintree, FA Veterans FC somehow went one better—or worse, depending on your appetite for defending—with a scarcely believable 6-6 draw at Bloomfield Road.

In a game that defied logic from start to finish, the Reds surged into a commanding three-goal lead not

Amid the mayhem, credit must go to referee Lewis and his team of officials for overseeing proceedings, as well as everyone at Blackpool for hosting such a fantastic event. Special thanks go to Jamie-Leigh Matheson, whose work behind the scenes was instrumental in ensuring the evening ran smoothly—a real credit to the club, alongside Nicole Orr.



once, but twice—only to be pegged back in dramatic fashion, with the second collapse coming in the final ten minutes.

The visitors made a blistering start. Kevin Robertson opened the scoring after just three minutes, before Darren L Winnard doubled the advantage on 15 minutes. When Callum Borowski added a third just two minutes later, it looked like it might be a long night for the hosts.

But, true to the evening's chaotic script, the response was swift. Dave Heason pulled one back on 33 minutes, quickly followed by Matt Fellows to make it 3-2. Borowski restored the two-goal cushion before the break with his second, only for Fellows to strike again on 43 minutes, sending the sides in at half-time with the score finely poised at 4-3.

The second half followed a familiar pattern. Andy Balmforth extended the lead on 51 minutes, and when a mazy Beckenbauer-esque run from Green fed Borowski who completed his hat-trick on the hour mark to make it 6-3, the contest appeared settled.

It wasn't.

With ten minutes remaining, the tide turned once more. Jack Feehan sparked the comeback on 80 minutes (or was it the beetroot juice?), before Wayne Batsford struck twice in quick succession—84th and 85th minutes—to complete an extraordinary turnaround and seal a 6-6 draw that will live long in the memory.

A highlight off the pitch came from AFC Bolton Girls, who took on mascot duties and entertained the crowd with a lively half-time penalty shootout. Their energy and enthusiasm added to what was already a memorable occasion.



The evening also carried a moment of reflection, as players and supporters remembered Paul Alan and the work of The Paul Alan Project, founded by his daughter Clare Parish. Paul sadly passed away at a fixture between Fulham F.C. and Blackpool in 2022, and a tribute displayed on the stadium scoreboard ensured he remained at the heart of the occasion.

Finally, a word for the pitch. Recently crowned English Football League Grounds Team of the Season for League One, Blackpool's surface was nothing short of immaculate—an outstanding playing surface that drew universal praise and fully justified its award.

Twelve goals, countless twists, and a finish few could have predicted—this was a night that perfectly captured the spirit of FA Veterans FC.



Norwich City FC

24	Rich Marsh	Ollie Edghill	
4	Jon Dixon (c)	Terry Rikeard	3
7	Bobby Green	(c) Rob Dixon	6
8	Danny Cheng	Jack Feehan	9
10	Dave Heason	Tom Green	16
11	Matt Fellows	Lee Waterfall	18
13	Andy Balmforth	Joe Feehan	20
15	Dean Twyman	Ryan Powlter	22
34	Haydn Powlter	Kev Robertson	39
37	Colin Griffiths	Wayne Batsford	69
57	Ian Palmer	Dan Thomas	73
67	Darren Winnard	Mark Beare	
Officials	Club appointed officials. Not available at time of writing		

Match Day Schedule...

Friday 8th May 2026 - Norwich City FC

4pm: Meet at ground, outside the Directors Entrance, Carrow Road, Norwich, **NR1 1HU**

Parking is available in the main Carrow Road South Stand Car Park. First come, first served. Additional parking is available in the retail park next door (but is chargeable).

Players to the tunnel area and changing rooms. Spectators to the Directors Box (Spectators not permitted in the pitch area, tunnel or changing rooms)

4:15-4:45pm: Warm-up on the pitch

4:55pm: Players called to the tunnel, player walk out, presentation of the teams

5pm: Kick Off

6pm: Second Half

7:30pm: Vacate the Changing Rooms and the Stadium

7:45pm: Maccy's

Closest McDonalds: 7a Albion Way, Norwich **NR1 1WR** - 0.6miles, 4min

