



31ST MAY 2026

MK Dons FC

It's Roundabout Time To Go See The Concrete Cows



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As all those German *Fräuleins* keep saying when I try to chat to them, “nein, nein”, or as the squad from Brooklyn Nine-Nine would proudly shout, “Nine-Nine!” It seems that nine has become the theme of our recent fixtures.

After two hard-fought draws, we somehow managed to produce not one but two matches featuring nine goals for one side. At Mansfield it finished 5-2, while at Wycombe the red shirts rattled in nine unanswered goals. That’s fifty five goals this summer season, 2 games featuring nine of them, and for some unfortunate souls on the receiving end it probably felt like ninety nine. By the time the ninth goal hit the net at Adams Park, I suspect several players were desperately wishing they could skip straight to the ninth hole of a golf course, take a nine-hour nap, or simply spend the next nine days avoiding any mention of the number altogether. Suffice to say, if anyone suggests forming a five-a-side team with four substitutes this summer, don’t be surprised if a few players suddenly develop Acute Enneaphobia - from the Greek *ennea* (nine) and phobia (fear) meaning a fear of the number nine, Post-Traumatic Nine Disorder (PTND) or simply Nine-xiety. Do my constant references to nine help? Nein? I’ll move on...

Starting with Mansfield, I’m convinced that the uphill trek from the changing rooms to the pitch

took all the energy out of some of our players before kick-off. Whatever was left was soon absorbed by a very soggy, heavy playing surface. Unfortunately, the victims of these conditions happened to be wearing black shirts. To be fair, some players looked exhausted before the warm-up had even finished, although age, fitness levels and questionable pre-match nutritional choices may also have played a small part?

Then came Wycombe. That one can only be put down to heat exhaustion. Once again, it appeared to affect the black-shirted team slightly more than their opponents. I drive past Wycombe most weeks and, without fail, deliver my finest Dad joke by waving and saying, “Hi, Wycombe!”. Every week the area seems to be under dark clouds and heavy rain, so who would have thought that the day we turned up to play there would produce temperatures in excess of 80 degrees? At the time, it was not only the hottest day of the year but reportedly the hottest May day on record. I’m fairly certain several players spent more energy searching for patches of shade than they did tracking runners in midfield.

Jokes aside, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mansfield Town and Wycombe Wanderers for the way they looked after us before, during and after our visits. Both clubs effectively gave us the run of their stadiums and could not have been more welcoming.

It is also worth mentioning our players here. Both clubs commented on the excellent condition in which



...From The Gaffer...

we left their facilities, particularly the changing rooms. These clubs talk to each other, and we continue to receive glowing feedback wherever we go. We are regularly invited back, and that is entirely down to the respect you all show towards the stadiums, pitches, dugouts and staff. Well done and thank you to every one of you. It may seem a small thing, but these details matter enormously and help ensure that future invitations keep arriving in my inbox.



all, playing the games in exactly the spirit they are intended. Seeing friendships formed, smiles on faces and players enjoying football again is what these occasions are all about. And I would particularly like to thank you for only mentioning how awful Wolves have been this season a relatively manageable number of times. It is genuinely rewarding to watch players from different clubs, backgrounds and parts of the country come together and share a love of the game without taking themselves too seriously.

Today marks the end of our Summer Series, which is always a slightly sad moment. I hope everyone has enjoyed the events and created plenty of great memories along the way. Admittedly, if you happened to be wearing black in the last couple of matches, some of those memories may take a little longer to appreciate! Looking back across the series, we have enjoyed competitive football, fantastic stadiums, plenty of laughs and the chance to catch up with old friends while making some new ones too.

As this is our final game for a short while, I would also like to thank those who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Terry, Jon and Rob provide invaluable support throughout the planning process - you would be amazed at the number of messages flying around when organising these events. A special thank you also goes to Tom Green for producing another excellent set of matchday programmes.

Most importantly, thank you to all of you, the players. Thank you for continuing to support these events, travelling hundreds of miles, paying promptly and, above

A word, too, for families and supporters. I have met many of your relatives over the years and remain amazed that so few of them have disowned you. Thank you to those who come along to cheer from the stands and to those who kindly grant permission for your men to disappear for an entire day in pursuit of footballing glory.

Finally, thank you to all the clubs that have hosted us this year and to our match officials. Without your support, these events simply would not happen. Your professionalism, generosity and enthusiasm continue to help make every event a success.

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you all again in September and December for more football, more friendship and, hopefully, a few fewer nines.

Mark F

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

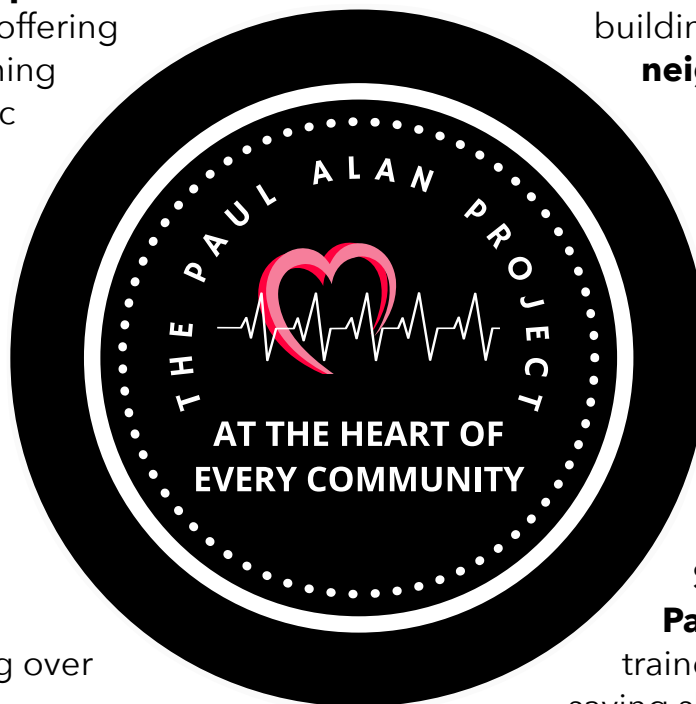
charity's goal is that no one lives more than two minutes from a defibrillator and, by training bystanders and installing accessible equipment, they're building truly **"heart-safe" neighbourhoods**.

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...

It's Roundabout Time for the Dons

Few clubs in English football have a story quite as unique - or as controversial - as Milton Keynes Dons.

In little more than two decades, MK Dons have travelled from a temporary home at a hockey stadium to one of the finest sporting venues in the lower leagues, becoming a club that is now firmly embedded in the fabric of Milton Keynes.

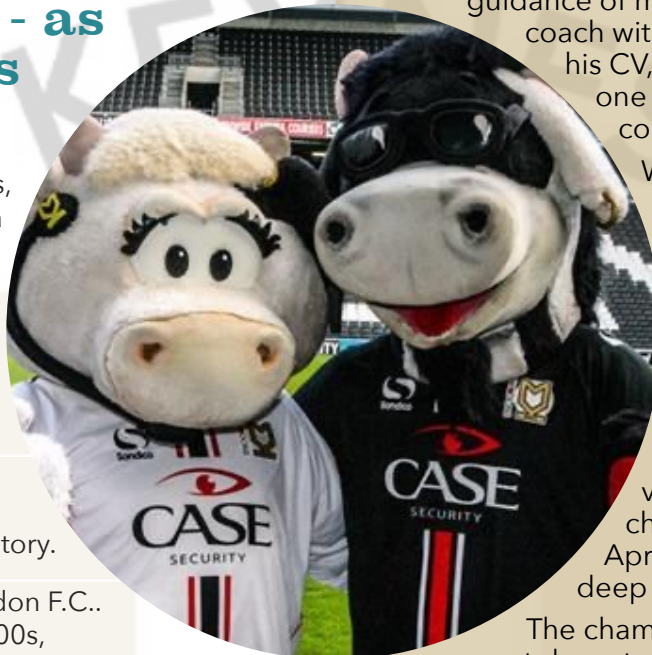
Their origins, however, remain one of the most debated chapters in English football history.

The story begins with Wimbledon F.C.. By the late 1990s and early 2000s, Wimbledon were a club in crisis. Homeless after leaving Plough Lane, they spent years ground-sharing at Selhurst Park, struggling to attract supporters and carrying significant financial burdens. Attendance figures dwindled, investment was scarce and the club's future appeared increasingly uncertain.

In 2002, football authorities approved the relocation of Wimbledon to Milton Keynes, a decision that sparked outrage across the football world. Many supporters felt a club's identity should remain rooted in its community and regarded the move as a betrayal of football tradition. The controversy remains divisive to this day and led to the creation of fan-owned club AFC Wimbledon, established by supporters determined to preserve Wimbledon's heritage in south London.

Yet while the arguments surrounding the relocation continue, Milton Keynes itself embraced professional football. The newly formed MK Dons began life at the National Hockey Stadium, a venue adapted to host football while plans were developed for a permanent home. Those early years were far from glamorous. Temporary stands, limited facilities and a stadium never truly designed for football created a stop-gap solution rather than a long-term vision.

Behind the scenes, however, a far more ambitious project was taking shape.



2025/26 Review:

The 2025/26 campaign proved to be a hugely successful one for Milton Keynes Dons F.C., who secured automatic promotion from EFL League Two after finishing second in the table. Under the guidance of manager Paul Warne, a coach with multiple promotions on his CV, the Dons developed into one of the division's most consistent and resilient sides.

Warne's experience, organisation and ability to build a strong team culture were evident throughout the season as MK Dons combined attacking quality with the mentality required to sustain a promotion challenge over 46 matches. A crucial 2-1 victory over eventual champions Bromley F.C. in April kept the title race alive deep into the campaign.

The championship battle ultimately went down to the final day. MK Dons entered the weekend knowing the title was within reach but were held to a 1-1 draw at Fleetwood Town, while Bromley defeated Walsall to clinch the League Two crown. The Dons therefore had to settle for second place, finishing just one point behind the champions despite an outstanding season.

While missing out on top spot by the narrowest of margins was disappointing, promotion back to League One represented a significant achievement and validation of the club's ambitions. With Paul Warne at the helm, a talented squad and first-class facilities at Stadium MK, the future looks bright as the Dons prepare for life in the third tier.

In 2007, Stadium MK opened its doors and immediately transformed perceptions of the club. With a capacity far exceeding most clubs at that level, modern hospitality areas and room for future expansion, it represented a statement of intent. While some questioned whether such a large venue was necessary, the stadium demonstrated a belief that Milton Keynes could support top-level football in the future.

The development did not stop with the stadium itself. Training facilities, community programmes and youth development structures were gradually expanded, creating an infrastructure many clubs in the Football League could



only envy. Regardless of opinions on the club's origins, few could deny that substantial investment had been made in creating a sustainable sporting institution.

That investment has also allowed Stadium MK to become far more than simply the home of MK Dons.

The venue has hosted major international events, bringing world-class sport to Buckinghamshire.



During the 2015 Rugby World Cup, the stadium welcomed matches featuring some of the biggest nations in world rugby, introducing thousands of travelling supporters to Milton Keynes. Seven years later it played a prominent role during the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 tournament, hosting several fixtures and showcasing elite women's football on a major international stage.

These occasions highlighted the value of possessing a modern, versatile stadium capable of attracting events that many traditional football grounds could never accommodate. They also demonstrated how the club's facilities benefit not only MK Dons but the wider town and region.

Today, MK Dons remain a club with ambitions that extend beyond their current league position. Progress on the pitch has not always been straightforward, and supporters continue to dream of establishing themselves higher up the football pyramid. Yet the foundations beneath the club are undeniably strong. Modern infrastructure, a sizeable stadium, quality training facilities and an expanding community presence provide a platform for long-term growth.



Perhaps that is the key distinction between Milton Keynes and the circumstances surrounding Wimbledon's final years. While Wimbledon were battling uncertainty, financial difficulty and the challenge of operating without a true home, MK Dons were built around the idea of permanence. The stadium, facilities and long-term planning were designed to create stability rather than simply survive another season.

The debate over the club's creation will always form part of the story. Football supporters are passionate custodians of history and tradition, and those emotions remain understandable. But more than twenty years on, MK Dons have established their own identity, their own

supporters and their own place within the English game.

From temporary beginnings at a hockey stadium to hosting international tournaments at one of the country's most impressive lower-league venues, the journey has been remarkable. Whatever the future holds, the infrastructure is already in place—and for MK Dons, that may prove the most important foundation of all.



MK DONS
CLUB FACTS & RECORDS
OUR CLUB. OUR CITY. OUR DONS.

TOP APPEARANCE MAKER
DEAN LEWINGTON
950+
APPEARANCES
(ALL COMPETITIONS)

MANAGER
PAUL WARNE

CLUB INFORMATION

- STADIUM**
Stadium MK
- LOCATION**
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire
- CAPACITY**
30,500
- PITCH TYPE**
Natural Grass
- HOME COLOURS**





RECORD ATTENDANCE
26,969
MK DONS 4-0 MAN UTD
CAPITAL ONE CUP
SECOND ROUND
26 AUGUST 2014

ALL-TIME LEADING GOALSCORER
IZALE MCLEOD
71
GOALS
(ALL COMPETITIONS)

BIGGEST WIN
7-0
vs Oldham Athletic
LEAGUE ONE
18 OCTOBER 2014

BIGGEST DEFEAT
0-6
vs Peterborough United
LEAGUE ONE
13 SEPTEMBER 2008

RECORD ATTENDANCE
26,969
MK DONS 4-0 MAN UTD
CAPITAL ONE CUP
SECOND ROUND
26 AUGUST 2014

MOST GOALS IN A SEASON
IZALE MCLEOD
24
GOALS
2006/07 SEASON
(ALL COMPETITIONS)

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Don but not forgotten... ...MK Dons Legends

Although MK Dons are a relatively young club, they have produced and developed several players who have gone on to enjoy outstanding careers at the highest level. From England internationals to Premier League stars, few clubs outside the top divisions can boast a record quite like it.

The most famous player ever to wear an MK Dons shirt is undoubtedly Dele Alli. A product of the club's academy, Alli joined as a youngster and quickly emerged as one of the most exciting talents in English football. He made his senior debut at just 16 years old before becoming a key figure in the Dons side that earned promotion from League One in 2014-15. His performances, including a starring role in the famous 4-0 victory over Manchester United in the League Cup, attracted interest from some of Europe's biggest clubs. After making 76 appearances and scoring 20 goals for MK Dons, he moved to Tottenham Hotspur for around £5 million and went on to become an England international, twice winning the PFA Young Player of the Year award. Many supporters still regard him as the finest talent ever produced by the club's academy.

Another player forever associated with MK Dons is Sam Baldock. One of the academy's first success stories, Baldock progressed through the youth ranks and became a prolific goalscorer for the first team. His pace, work rate and eye for goal made him a fan favourite, and he scored more than 40 goals for the club before earning a lucrative move to West Ham United. Baldock later enjoyed successful spells with Bristol City, Brighton and several other clubs, but remains one of the most important graduates in MK Dons history because he helped establish the academy's reputation for producing talent.

Sam's younger brother, George Baldock, also came through the MK Dons academy and forged an impressive professional career. A determined and energetic full-back, George made more than 100 appearances for the club and was named MK Dons Young Player of the Year in 2015-16. After leaving Stadium MK, he became a key player for Sheffield United, helping the Blades win promotion to the Premier League and establishing himself as one of the division's most reliable wing-backs. He later represented Greece at



international level. His tragic death in 2024 at the age of 31 shocked the football world and prompted heartfelt tributes from former teammates, supporters and clubs across the game.

Alongside these three, players such as Will Grigg and Benik Afobe also left lasting marks on the club's history, but no player is more synonymous with MK Dons than Dean Lewington. While others earned moves to bigger clubs and higher-profile leagues, Lewington became the embodiment of loyalty, consistency and leadership at Stadium MK.



The son of former Wimbledon captain Ray Lewington, Dean was already part of the Wimbledon setup before the club's relocation to Milton Keynes in 2004 and remained with the team throughout its transformation into MK Dons. Over more than two decades of service, he established himself as one of the most respected figures in English football. Primarily a left-back but capable of playing in central defence, Lewington combined professionalism, determination and remarkable durability, making him a constant presence regardless of managers, divisions or changing squads.



As club captain for much of his career, Lewington led by example both on and off the pitch. He played a pivotal role in some of the club's most memorable moments, including promotion-winning campaigns and the famous 4-0 victory over Manchester United in the League Cup in 2014. His leadership was particularly important during the 2014-15 season when MK Dons secured automatic promotion to the Championship, one of the greatest achievements in the club's history.

By the time he retired, Lewington had become MK Dons' all-time appearance holder with well over 900 competitive appearances, placing him among the most loyal one-club servants in modern English football.



Although Dele Alli and the Baldock brothers brought national recognition through their achievements elsewhere, Dean Lewington's legacy is unique. He represents the club's journey from its earliest days to the modern era and is widely regarded as the greatest servant in MK Dons history. For many supporters, no individual has had a greater influence on shaping the identity and culture of the football club.

More Than Just Roundabouts

Mention Milton Keynes to most people and two things immediately spring to mind: roundabouts and concrete cows. Yet Britain's largest new town has grown into one of the country's most distinctive cities - awarded city status in 2022 - combining innovative planning, green spaces, royal connections, wartime history and even a close relationship with the world of Formula One motor racing.

Milton Keynes was officially designated a new town in 1967 as part of a Government scheme to accommodate London's growing population. Unlike most British towns and cities, it was carefully planned from the outset, with wide roads, extensive parkland and dedicated routes for pedestrians and cyclists. One of its most famous features is its grid road system, connected by more than 130 roundabouts. These were designed to keep traffic flowing efficiently and reduce congestion by minimising the need for traffic lights. While newcomers can find themselves taking the scenic route on occasion, residents often appreciate the ease with which they can travel across the city. The abundance of roundabouts has become such a defining characteristic that Milton Keynes is often jokingly referred to as the roundabout capital of Britain, maybe even the world!?

No discussion of Milton Keynes would be complete without mentioning the Concrete Cows. Created in 1978 by Liz Leyh as part of a community arts project, the life-sized sculptures quickly became the unofficial mascot of the city. Positioned near Bancroft, they celebrate both the area's rural heritage and its modern outlook. Over the years the cows have become one of Britain's most recognisable public artworks, attracting visitors and inspiring countless local tributes.

While Milton Keynes is a modern city, the area has a rich history stretching back centuries. One of its most

important landmarks is Bletchley Park, the famous wartime codebreaking centre. During the Second World War, thousands of mathematicians, linguists and intelligence specialists worked in secrecy to decipher encrypted German

communications. Among them was Alan Turing, whose pioneering work on the Enigma code helped shorten the war and laid foundations for modern computing. Today, Bletchley Park remains one of Britain's most significant heritage attractions.

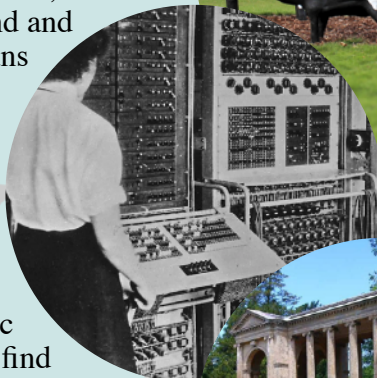
Milton Keynes sits within the historic county of Buckinghamshire, whose county town is Buckingham. The town's name is recognised worldwide thanks to Buckingham Palace.

The palace takes its name from Buckingham House, built in 1703 for John Sheffield. Purchased by King George III and later expanded by successive monarchs, it became Buckingham Palace, preserving a direct connection between Buckinghamshire and Britain's royal family.

Just a short drive from the city lies Stowe Gardens, one of Europe's finest landscape gardens. Developed during the eighteenth century by celebrated designers including Capability Brown, Stowe features magnificent lakes, temples and sweeping vistas that continue to attract visitors from around the world.

Milton Keynes also enjoys a privileged position at the heart of Britain's motorsport industry. Less than 20 miles away sits Silverstone Circuit, home of the British Grand Prix and the venue of Formula One's first World Championship race in 1950. The surrounding area, known as Motorsport Valley, is home to several Formula One teams. Milton Keynes hosts Oracle Red Bull Racing, while nearby are Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, Aston Martin Aramco Formula One Team, Williams Racing, BWT Alpine Formula One Team and MoneyGram Haas F1 Team. Together they help make the region one of the world's leading centres of engineering and technological innovation.

From its famous roundabouts and beloved Concrete Cows to wartime codebreakers, royal connections, historic gardens and Formula One technology, Milton Keynes is far more than simply a new town. It is a city that successfully combines modern ambition with local character, making it one of Britain's most fascinating places.



The George Baldock Foundation

The George Baldock Foundation was established in memory of former MK Dons, Sheffield United and Greece international defender George Baldock, who tragically passed away in October 2024 at the age of 31. Created by his family, led by his brother Sam Baldock, the foundation seeks to ensure that George's legacy lives on by creating opportunities for young people through sport. Its central aim is simple but powerful: to remove financial barriers that prevent children from participating in football and other sporting activities.

Born in Aylesbury and raised in nearby Steeple Claydon, George attended the Royal Latin Grammar school in Buckingham (Buckingham YFC are represented as today's mascots) where his mum taught yours truly. His football journey began in the local area playing grassroots with Steeple Claydon, following in his brothers footsteps and rising through the ranks at MK Dons, before he went on to enjoy a distinguished professional career. He made more than 100 appearances for MK Dons, later becoming a fan favourite at Sheffield United. Over seven seasons at the Blades, Baldock made 219 appearances and established himself as one of the club's most respected modern players, playing a pivotal role in two promotion-winning campaigns. He later represented the Greek national team through his family heritage. Regardless of the heights he reached in football, those closest to him consistently spoke of his humility, generosity and commitment to helping others and the foundation has been built around those same values.



The charity focuses on supporting disadvantaged children and families who may otherwise miss out on sporting opportunities. Through fundraising events, donations and community

partnerships, it provides access to football camps, coaching sessions, equipment and organised activities. The belief underpinning the foundation is that sport can be transformative, helping young people develop confidence, teamwork, discipline and friendships while improving both physical and mental wellbeing.



One of the foundation's first major successes came through partnerships with community organisations in Milton Keynes and Sheffield. Funds raised at a commemorative fundraising dinner enabled hundreds of children to access free holiday football camps, complete with coaching, meals and sports equipment. These initiatives reflected George's strong connections to both cities and ensured that support reached families facing financial hardship.



Use the above QR code if you would like to make a donation

The foundation also serves as a lasting tribute to a player who left a significant mark on every club he represented. While supporters remember George for his wholehearted performances on the pitch, the foundation highlights the qualities that defined him away from football. By investing in young people and encouraging participation in sport, it creates positive opportunities that can have a lasting impact on local communities.

For many supporters of MK Dons, Sheffield United and the Greek national team, the foundation represents a fitting continuation of George Baldock's story. Rather than focusing solely on remembrance, it channels grief into positive action, helping children experience the enjoyment, friendships and life lessons that sport can provide. In doing so, it ensures that George's influence extends far beyond his playing career and continues to make a difference to future generations.



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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 every away day includes at least one debate about whether “we definitely took the right exit at that roundabout.” Let’s dive in.

“Andy, I keep getting dizzy going round roundabouts on the way to games. Is this normal or am I finished?” - Midfielder

Completely normal. If anything, it’s part of the warm-up now.

Roundabout dizziness is a recognised condition in veteran football: confusion at exits, silence when someone says “I think it’s the third one,” and the creeping suspicion you’ve passed the same BP garage twice.

Quick fixes:

- Lock onto a fixed point (preferably not another car doing the same lap as you)
- Stop mentally counting exits like it’s a set-piece routine
- Don’t ask “have we been here already?” unless you’re ready for existential silence

You’re not broken. You’re just being educated by infrastructure.

“Andy, what do we do if someone accidentally bumps another car in a McDonald’s car park after a game? Is there a protocol?” - Stalwart / Part-time insurance broker

Yes. There is. And it starts with deep breathing. Step-by-step:

- Stay calm. There is no VAR. Nobody is overturning it.
 - Check everyone is okay. Including pride. Pride is usually the most damaged.
 - Exchange details properly. Not “I think Dave’s got it on WhatsApp somewhere”, actual insurance details.
 - Do not immediately try to analyse the incident in tactical terms. (“He came out of nowhere on the left flank”) is not legally useful.
 - Move the vehicles safely before someone tries to reverse again out of embarrassment.
- And remember: McDonald’s car parks are not governed by football rules, even if someone insists they had “right of way down the wing.”

“Andy, how do I stay focused when the sat nav disagrees with the driver who ‘knows a shortcut?’” - Full Back

You don’t win this battle. You endure it.

Sat nav is logic. “I know a shortcut” is hope. Hope is how you end up in an industrial estate outside a retail park arguing about postcode geography.

Once the phrase is spoken, you’re no longer travelling—you’re on a team-building exercise disguised as navigation.

Best approach:

- Accept the detour early
- Avoid checking arrival time more than once (it only gets worse)
- Trust that somehow, you will still arrive 7 minutes before kick-off with half a warm-up

Back next time with more essential advice, which may include: “Is it normal to argue about formation while queuing at Maccies?”, “Where is safest to park?” and “How many halftime oranges is too many before it becomes tactical sabotage?”

Social Matt-ers

The last two weeks have delivered 744 messages of vintage FA Veterans FC content: equal parts football administration, stand-up comedy, and middle-aged men desperately trying to remember conversations they had six months ago.

The opening act belonged to the now-infamous “Banksy Rant Retrieval Project”. An innocent request triggered a group-wide investigation that quickly established two things: while everyone knows of it, finding the rant itself, and everyone had very strong opinions about it anyway. Matt described it as “not a noteworthy message”, before spending the next fifteen seconds locating it with the dedication of a man searching for buried treasure.

Elsewhere, Chester City’s cancellation generated the usual mixture of disappointment and financial opportunism. While Terry

negotiated refunds with diplomatic precision, several members immediately began calculating how their unexpected savings could be redirected into Last Man Standing entries. Dean Twyman’s mysterious “pot” became a recurring topic, attracting the sort of attention normally reserved for offshore tax arrangements.

Football discussion remained present throughout, although mostly as a vehicle for winding up supporters of Arsenal, Spurs and West Ham. Brett once again proved

capable of influencing football matches merely by mentioning them, while VAR continued to be blamed for events both related and unrelated to football.

Matt retained his crown as the group’s most prolific contributor, posting with the frequency of a man simultaneously running the organisation, raising a family and conducting a one-man comedy tour. Dave continued to provide elite-

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



level deadpan observations, while Jon Dixon remained the group’s emergency sarcasm response unit.

Special mentions also go to the Blackburnleypool transport network, Andy Balmforth’s apparently unreliable railway operation, and the ongoing collective effort to recruit children as mascots before Terry gets them arrested.

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, 1-4 HT, **2-9 FT**

Black - Twyman, H.Powlter

Red - Rickeard, Ja.Feehan (2), Thomas (2), R.Powlter (2),

Batsford, Robertson



Mansfield Town "The Stags"

One Call Stadium / Field Mill - 9,186

Mon 18th May - 1-4 HT / **2-5 FT**

Black - Rickeard, Weaver

Red - Winnard, Lake, Heason (2), Davids



Wycombe Wanderers "The Chairboys"

Adams Park - 9,617

Fri 22nd May - 0-3 HT / **0-9 FT**

Red - Fellows, Heason, M.Thorpe (2), J.Dixon, Clough,

D.Thorpe (2), Winnard



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





Top bins - self explanatory	Top Bins or Bottom Corner	Bottom corner - Coz if you screw it up, it can accidentally end up in top bins. Aim for top bins it ends up in the stand.
Volley - less time to think and mess it up	Volley or Half Volley	Volley - At our age attempting a clean half volley pulls too many muscles
Curler - I've never attempted a knuckleball	Knuckleball or Curler	Curler - As if I could do a knuckleball.
First time finish - too much thinking time with a skill finish	First Time Finish or Skill	First time finish - Much prefer to watch good goalscorers than scorers of good goals.
Nutmeg - GK would probably still make the save if I took my time to sit him down	Nutmeg or Sit GK Down	Sit GK down - Purely based on what R9 did to the Lazio keeper all those years ago. I reckon the keeper is still sitting there today
Driven pass - less time for a defender to get back in position	Driven Pass or Chip	Driven pass
In off the post- keeper less likely to reach	In Off Cross bar or In Off Post	In off crossbar can look awesome. A pain to argue whether it crossed the line though.
Assist - stats show I'm better at leaving the finishing to others - bar Dave Heason	Goal or Assist	Goal, of course
Team goal - I'm not quick enough for a solo run	Solo Run or Team Goal	Team goal - Especially at our level. It normally means we completed more than three passes!
Power - again, less thinking time	Power or Placement	Placement
Right foot - left foot is for standing only	Left Foot or Right Foot	Left foot - It's the only one that works
Eyes open - better to see the instant disappointment of the keeper	Eyes Open or Eyes Closed	Eyes open, tongue out
Bicycle kick - looks better	Power Header or Bicycle Kick	Bicycle kick - if anyone in FA Vets ever scored one i think both teams would have to celebrate it
Lob - I'd bottle the one on one	Lob or One on One	Lob, when 1-on-1

 App 30 (0)	 App 16 (5)	 App 44 (13*)	 App 47 (24)	 App 36 (3)	 App 46 (4)
 App 44 (4*)	 App 44 (28)	 App 45 (8)	 App 37 (14)	 App 32 (3)	 App 14 (3)
 App 6 (10)	 App 10 (0)	 App 35 (0)	 App 16 (1)	 App 30 (3)	 38. Brett Davids App 14 (4)
 App 22 (6)	 App 5 (2)	 App 12 (0)	 App 17 (1)	 App 10 (0)	 App 25 (13)
 App 17 (11)		 App 22 (2)	<p>Top Goals per Game (todays players, 10+ apps):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steve Foreman - 0.64 2. Dave Heason - 0.64 3. Dan Thomas - 0.52 <p>Total Appearances: 676 Total Goals: 102 Total Own Goals*: 2 Gaffers: There can only be 1</p>		

Last Time Out (pt1)...



When the FA Veterans visited Field Mill, home of Mansfield Town FC it produced an entertaining and ultimately decisive contest that swung dramatically in the closing stages of the first half, as the designated away side (the Red team) turned a finely balanced match into a commanding lead before going on to secure a 5-2 victory.

The opening exchanges were competitive, with both sides settling quickly into a rhythm appropriate for a showcase veterans fixture. It was the home side who struck first in the 11th minute, when Terry **Rickeard** finished clinically to put them 1-0 ahead. The early goal gave the hosts a platform, and for the next phase of the half they looked organised and compact, restricting space and attempting to control the tempo.

However, the Red team gradually grew into the game, and their persistence was rewarded in the 20th minute when Darren **Winnard** found the equaliser, restoring parity at 1-1. From that moment, momentum began to shift. The match became more stretched, with both sides showing attacking intent, but it was the Red team who increasingly looked the more threatening in transition.

As the first half approached its conclusion, the game turned decisively in a remarkable three-minute spell that defined the outcome. In the 40th minute, Chris **Lake** put the Red team ahead for the first time at 1-2, capitalising on their growing dominance. Barely had the home side had time to regroup when Dave **Heason** extended the advantage to 1-3 in the 43rd minute, striking to further tilt the contest in favour of the visitors.

The situation then worsened for the home side almost immediately after the restart, as just one minute later, in the 44th minute, Dave **Heason** struck again to complete his brace and push the scoreline to 1-4. This

extraordinary burst of three unanswered goals in the final five minutes of the half effectively broke the game open. What had been a competitive fixture was suddenly a steep uphill challenge for the home side heading into the interval.

At half-time, the Red team held a commanding 1-4 lead, reflecting their ruthless efficiency in front of goal and their ability to capitalise on momentum at a critical stage of the match.

The second half began with the home side attempting to respond positively, showing renewed energy and pushing forward in search of an early breakthrough. Their efforts were rewarded in the 50th minute when Andy **Weaver** pulled a goal back to make it 2-4, briefly raising hopes of a potential comeback and injecting some tension back into the contest.

However, those hopes were short-lived.

Just two minutes later, in the 52nd minute, Brett **Dauids** restored the three-goal cushion with a well-taken finish to make it 2-5. That goal effectively settled the match, extinguishing any momentum the home side had begun to build and reasserting control for the Red team.

From that point on, the game settled into a more measured pattern, with both sides continuing to compete but without further additions to the scoreline. The Red team managed the remainder of the match effectively, seeing out a deserved victory built on their explosive end to the first half and their immediate response after the home side's brief second-half resurgence.

Full-time at Field Mill confirmed a 2-5 win for the Red team, in a match defined by a decisive five-minute spell before the break and an efficient response after half-time.



Last Time Out (pt2)...



The FA Veterans FC summer series rolled into Adams Park, home of Wycombe Wanderers, on a scorching afternoon that will be remembered not only for the soaring temperatures but also for one of the most emphatic victories in the club's history. With the mercury climbing throughout the day and a midway match temperature recorded at a sweltering 80.4 degrees, conditions were challenging for players and spectators alike. While supporters could seek refuge in the welcome shade of the stands, the players had only a narrow strip of shelter alongside the main stand in which to escape the relentless sunshine. Nevertheless, both teams embraced the occasion in the spirit that has become synonymous with FA Veterans FC events. For much of the first half, there was little indication of the goal avalanche that was to follow. The black-shirted side competed well and remained firmly in contention as the game settled into an evenly balanced contest. It took until the 21st minute for the deadlock to be broken when Matt **Fellows** found the breakthrough, giving the red-shirted away side a 1-0 advantage. The lead was doubled eight minutes before the interval through Dave **Heason**, whose finish provided a little breathing space heading into the break. Even at 2-0 down, the black-shirted team could take encouragement from a competitive first-half display, and few could have predicted what was about to unfold.

Half-time arrived with the score standing at just 2-0, but the second period belonged entirely to the men in red. The floodgates opened two minutes after the restart when Matthew **Thorpe** extended the lead to three. Ten minutes later he struck again, completing his brace and putting daylight between the sides at 4-0. Before the black shirts had time to



regroup, Jon **Dixon** added a fifth in the 59th minute, and suddenly the game had taken on a very different complexion.

The relentless heat appeared to sap energy levels, but the red-shirted side continued to find reserves of strength and quality. Peter **Clough** made it six with eighteen minutes remaining before Dean **Thorpe** joined the scoresheet three minutes later. Darren L **Winnard** then added an eighth in the 77th minute as the attacking momentum showed no signs of slowing.

Even with the result beyond doubt, both teams continued to play with enthusiasm and good humour. The final word belonged to Dean Thorpe, who grabbed his second goal of the afternoon in the 88th minute to complete a remarkable 9-0 victory.

The scoreline represented one of the highest-scoring wins in FA Veterans FC history and was a testament to the clinical finishing displayed by the red-shirted side throughout the second half. Yet, as is often the case at Veterans events, the result was only part of the story. The camaraderie, sportsmanship and shared enjoyment of the game remained at the heart of the afternoon.

Special thanks go to Jimmy Heywood and everyone at Wycombe Wanderers for their assistance in organising the event and for their outstanding support on the day. Their efforts helped ensure another memorable occasion for players and supporters alike.

Thanks must also be extended to referee Barry Baptiste, who handled proceedings superbly. He managed the contest with a perfect understanding of the spirit in which our brand of football is played, engaging positively with players throughout and helping create an enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved.



The 2026 FA Veterans FC season delivered

everything supporters have come to expect: magnificent stadiums, spectacular goals, questionable decision-making and enough comedy to fill several programme editions.

Across six events, 53 goals were scored, countless friendships strengthened and at least one player forgot which team he was playing for. Business as usual.

The campaign opened at Inkersall Road Stadium on a chilly Derbyshire evening with Black recording a comfortable 5-1 win, although football was often secondary.

Dave Heason immediately entered Moment of the Season contention by re-introducing himself to Bob Thorpe with a challenge suggesting he thought he was still playing in National League North. John Donnellon spent the entire evening calling Dan Thomas "Dean", apparently deciding names were merely advisory.

Bobby Green somehow earned two nominations: passing when through one-on-one with the goalkeeper before later launching a clearance into the next postcode instead of conceding a corner. Terry Rickeard suspiciously reported the Thorpe boys to stadium staff, unaware they were part of the travelling FA Veterans family, while Jack Feehan injured himself kicking a perimeter fence after colliding with Matt.

Nathan produced an early Goal of the Season contender and Chris Lake's immaculate 90s boyband haircut made its debut, refusing to disappear for the remainder of the campaign.

Played before 4,222 seats in glorious sunshine, Braintree ended 5-5 after both sides collectively abandoned defensive responsibilities.

Ryan Cheeseman and Matt Fellows produced Goal of the Season nominees, while R. Powlter's brace repeatedly put Black ahead before Red responded through Feehan, Fellows, Foreman and H. Powlter.

Dave Heason turned a rebound from seven yards into an attempted satellite launch, creating a leading Miss of the Season contender and possible NASA sponsorship. Nick Enright's wife made a terrace save many felt surpassed several goalkeeping displays on the pitch.

Danny Cheng's son spent the day calling virtually every adult male "Dad" before stealing a training cone, while

the referee's instruction to Dean Thorpe to "stop being a knob, 36" remains favourite for Quote of the Season. Dave Heason briefly served as assistant referee, causing concern that offside decisions might now be determined entirely by vibes, while Canning's handball from point-blank range completed an afternoon where common sense appeared to have been left somewhere on the A12.

Bloomfield Road's 17,338 seats witnessed arguably the greatest game in FA Veterans FC history as the sides shared 12 goals in a 6-6 draw.

The award-winning pitch was immaculate. Passes went where intended and several players appeared to gain ten years of technical ability simply by



standing on it. Black led 4-3 at half-time before the teams traded blows all afternoon.

Matt Fellows' strike from the touchline earned a Goal of the Season nomination, while Nathan Moore's header and Kev Robertson's astonishing miss from three yards entered Miss of the Season contention. Darren Winnard claimed he couldn't pass to Nathan because he blended into the orange seats behind him, while Robbo's mascot somehow appeared taller than Robbo himself.

The standout moment belonged to Chris Lake, who collapsed face-down after the final whistle convinced his side had lost. Despite teammates repeatedly directing him towards the scoreboard showing 6-6, he refused to accept reality until reaching the dressing room.

Off the pitch, Blackpool were outstanding hosts. AFC Bolton Girls helped create the best atmosphere of the season, even threatening to out-sing resident shouty-man Matt O'Regan.

The season's most dominant display arrived at Carrow Road as Red stormed to a remarkable 9-2 victory.

Dan Thomas entered Moment of the Season contention by appearing in an Alice band suggesting he had mistaken the fixture for an indie band audition. Dave Heason then embarked on a solo

run covering virtually the entire pitch before producing no shot, cross or corner.

The day ended with Kev Robertson and Rich's lengthy disagreement following an overenthusiastic challenge, culminating in the now legendary cry of "f*** off you dirty c***".

Red won again at Mansfield, running out 5-2 victors after building a commanding first-half lead.

Heason scored twice while Darren Winnard's finish earned Goal of the Season consideration. Terry Rickeard, Dan Thomas and Jez Craggs somehow found their way onto the Miss of the Season shortlist after failing to convert seemingly easier chances than scoring.

Alex McCarthy produced perhaps the strongest Moment of the Season contender. Tasked with organising substitutions, he confidently announced, "I don't know, I've not got my glasses," before heading towards the wrong half at kick-off. Danny Cheng maintained nutritional consistency by consuming both pre-match and post-match KFC, while Nathan Moore recovered from a seemingly season-ending knee injury in roughly ten minutes.

Dean Thorpe also enjoyed another spirited debate with an official over a corner decision, with witnesses divided over whether either participant fully understood the Laws of the Game.

The campaign concluded at Adams Park with Red recording a ruthless 9-0 victory.

Goals arrived from everywhere. Fellows, Heason, J. Dixon and Clough all scored, both Thorpe Father & Son grabbed doubles and Winnard completed the rout. An outstanding team move also earned a Goal of the Season nomination.

Brett Davids dominated the Miss of the Season category, first missing a clear chance before somehow striking both posts with a single header, a feat requiring astonishing precision.

The final laugh belonged to Alex McCarthy, who completed an unforgettable fortnight by walking into the wrong changing room at half-time just a week after apparently forgetting which team he represented at Mansfield.

The statistics record 53 goals across six superb football occasions, with one still to come. The memories tell a richer story: suspicious Thorpe brothers, stolen cones, orbital shots, immaculate pitches, Alice bands, wrong changing rooms and one player refusing to believe a scoreboard.

In other words, a perfect FA Vets season.



Today's Mascots



Sam (10) and **Charlie** (8) Green are 2 football mad young boys. Both can be found most Saturday mornings directing Mum & Dad around the wider Milton Keynes area to their matches representing Buckingham FC Youth. Most weekends are a bit of a blur of playing and watching football as they equally enjoy heading up with Mum & Dad to Bramall Lane to watch Sheffield United and a post-match Maccies.



For **Sam**, as the season comes to a close for Buckingham U10 Athletic, it's a great opportunity to reflect on what has been a really positive year for the tram. The progress they've made - both individually and as a team - has been clear to see. Whilst the effort has been consistent throughout the whole season, since Christmas in particular the penny dropped and results have really picked up with the team winning the majority of their games and, more importantly, playing some excellent football. The way they've worked for each other, moved the ball, and shown real togetherness has been a pleasure to watch. There's a strong team spirit in this group, with an environment of positivity and encouragement coming from each other as well as the coaches bringing a sense of resilience and confidence which has been just as important as the technical improvements made on the pitch.



Sid, Sam, McKenna, Bright, Harvey, Rhys, Charlie, Freddie, Ace

Just as encouraging has been the attitude of the players. Their effort in training, willingness to listen and improve, and support for one another has created a really positive environment for everyone involved.

For **Charlie**, it has also been another great season for Buckingham U8 Rovers who have enjoyed a degree of consistency by retaining all their players from the previous season, which has helped to develop the way they want to play. As a result, the players confidence, passing and movement has improved a great deal over the season. They have impressed with their willingness to take this into the game and have continued to show a terrific work ethic on Saturdays.



Charlie, Lucas, Finn, William, Harry, Zachary, Charlie B, Oscar (missing Ethan)

The results this season have been superb but one of the highlights for the season was our 7-6 away win at Newton Lions. The boys played against a very good team in a higher division and having spent most of the game behind, kept going and ended up winning the match.

Sam and Charlie are joined today by team mates from the U10s Athletic and U8s Rovers. **Ace, Charlie B, Ethan, Lucas, and Oscar**

Milton Keynes Dons FC

50	Nick Enright (gk)	Matt O'Regan (gk)	1
4	Jon Dixon	Rich Marsh (gk)	24
6	Rob Dixon	Adam Canning	2
8	Danny Cheng	Terry Rikeard (c)	3
11	Matt Fellows (c)	Bobby Green	7
16	Tom Green	Dave Heason	10
23	Adam Joyce	Andy Balmforth	13
33	Jez Craggs	Lee Waterfall	18
38	Brett Davids	Ryan Powlter	22
39	Kev Robertson	Dean Thorpe	36
44	Pete Clough	John Donnellon	52
73	Dan Thomas	Ian Palmer	57
99	Steve Foreman	Asa McKenzie	
	Leigh Banwaitt	Neil Phillips	
Officials	Club appointed officials. Not available at time of writing		

Match Day Schedule...

Sunday 31st May 2026 - Milton Keynes Dons FC

12:45pm: Meet at ground, outside the Hilton DoubleTree, Stadium Way W, Bletchley, Milton Keynes **MK1 1ST**

Parking is chargeable, payable through the RingGo app once onsite

1pm: Players enter the changing rooms

1:30pm: Warm-up on the pitch. Mascot Penalty shootout - **Please note you are not allowed to warm up inside the 18yard box**

1:40pm: Players and Mascots called to the tunnel, player walk out, presentation of the teams

1:45pm: Kick Off

2:45pm: Second Half

4pm: Vacate the Changing Rooms and the Stadium

4:05pm: Maccy's

Closest McDonalds: Stadium MK, Stadium Way W, Bletchley, Milton Keynes **MK1 1ET** - 74yrs, 1min walk

