



3RD & 4TH OCTOBER 2026

FORTH-ITUDE

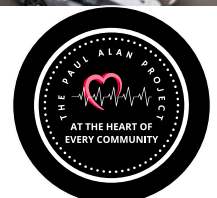
*Two games. Two venues. One Scottish adventure
spanning two banks of the Firth of Forth.*

Alloa Athletic & East Kilbride



THREE60
TRAINING & RECRUITMENT
FULL CIRCLE

THANK YOU
to our club sponsors Three60 Training and The
Paul Alan Project for their ongoing support



First for TRAINING



THREE60 SPECIALIST TRAINING AREAS INCLUDE:

- Health & Social Care • First Aid & Safety
- Food Safety & Hygiene • Manufacturing & Engineering
- Business & Professional Skills

THREE60°

TRAINING & RECRUITMENT
FULL CIRCLE

- ✓ 700+ Online & Accredited Courses
- ✓ CPD, Highfield & ROSPA Approved
- ✓ Unlimited Training Subscriptions
- ✓ Flexible Learning – Anytime, Anywhere
- ✓ Tailored Qualifications & Specialist Skills

01902 382250 | support@three60training.com

View our course list: www.three60training.com

 **Highfield**
Approved Centre

 **ROSPA**
Member

Well, after a summer of increasingly questionable football, a somewhat unpredictable Last Man Standing competition and a frankly ridiculous amount of effort simply trying to find someone willing to play us, here we are in Scotland.

I suppose we should start with the football. Six events, 53 goals and enough defensive errors to suggest that our collective understanding of the game is roughly on a par with our performance in the LMS competition. For those unfamiliar with the concept, Last Man Standing is supposed to reward knowledge, judgement and sensible decision-making. Judging by some of the entries this year, it appears that the actual strategy was to select a team based on shirt colour, a vague memory of something Gary Lineker said in 1998, or simply pick whoever happened to be playing at home that weekend.

The Vets results over the summer season have certainly provided plenty of entertainment. Braintree finished 5-5, Blackpool 6-6, Norwich 2-9, Mansfield 2-5, Wycombe 0-9 and MK Dons 3-3. In other words, if you came to watch goals, you weren't disappointed.

There is a certain consistency to the numbers, although I am still trying to work out exactly what it is. We have managed two 9-2 and 9-0 scorelines, two 6-6 and 3-3 draws and enough goals overall to suggest that the concept of keeping a clean sheet is viewed by some of our players as an unnecessarily restrictive tactical experiment.

And now we find ourselves in Scotland, where the challenge this year has not been scoring goals but actually finding somewhere to play. Organising the Scottish weekend has been considerably harder than usual. Seventeen clubs were contacted and, despite numerous emails, phone calls and increasingly desperate attempts at communication, getting conversations started has proved incredibly difficult. Livingston were the first to respond (gold star to them) but, unfortunately, SPFL conditions meant they could not

accommodate us. Ross County and Cove Rangers were two very positive options, although learning that the two grounds are more than three hours apart did present something of a logistical challenge.

Of the other fourteen clubs, several have not even managed the traditional courtesy of a "thanks, but no thanks". Edinburgh City, whose facilities are owned by Edinburgh Council, did at least provide a ticket number for the request. Shockingly, we are still waiting for the response.

I have even been making phone calls while travelling, although that has mostly resulted in answerphones, no answers or the occasional feeling that perhaps Scottish football has collectively agreed to hide from me.



Thankfully, Allan Todd has come to the rescue and we now have our second game of the weekend at East Kilbride, with a 9am kick-off. That should provide an interesting combination of football, an extremely early start and the opportunity for those heading south afterwards to get away before the rest of the country wakes up.

A huge thank you also goes to Callum, who has been rallying around his contacts to help secure the Alloa game. After the amount of work that has gone into simply getting these fixtures over the line, it will be great to get everyone out on the pitch.

The reality is that a number of clubs who initially indicated that they would be interested have subsequently had to withdraw for various reasons. That is football, and these things happen, but it has certainly made this year's planning considerably more challenging. *So, to everyone who has helped us get to this point, particularly those who have made introductions, chased clubs, made calls or simply kept the conversations going, a massive thank you.* And if anyone is wondering why we didn't go to Oslo instead, we were actually offered a game there. Unfortunately, at roughly the same time some of you

...From The Gaffer...

were melting in the British sunshine, it had been snowing in Oslo a couple of days earlier.

Looking further ahead, Worthing is lined up for January which is another National League ground, which gives us something else to look forward to. We are still trying to sort the Christmas fixture and, despite contacting a number of clubs, progress has been somewhat limited.

Apparently there are people out there who have better things to do over Christmas than allow a collection of middle-aged men who will spend most of the day discussing whether they used to be quicker play football.

The Seville game is also looking increasingly likely for 17 April 2027. We are still working through the logistics and finances, so **please do not book anything yet**. We are trying to arrange a block hotel booking and secure better rates, including coach options for transfers from somewhere along the Malaga coast, potentially around Torremolinos, through to Seville and back. The intention is to combine the match with some time in Seville and potentially another game around the hotel area on the Sunday.

There are still plenty of details to resolve, so we will confirm everything properly before anyone starts booking flights, hotels or explaining to their partners why they have suddenly become unavailable for an entire weekend in April.

We also have the end-of-season awards coming up after this weekend, with Bobby once again taking responsibility for the voting process, I suspect there will be some fiercely contested categories.

I had also hoped to have the 5yr anniversary yearbook ready by now, but unfortunately it has been slightly delayed due to what I can only describe as "circumstances beyond my control". More specifically, my doctor. Apparently there are some things more important than getting a publication out on time, although I am yet to be convinced that this is one of them.



Sadly, that also means I will not be able to join you this weekend. I had every intention of being there, but my health has not been great recently and I have had to accept that, on this occasion, I need to stay away. It must be fairly serious because I have even been forced to cut out Wolves games. I am not sure whether this is a medical issue or simply the consequence of watching the pace and frequency of games in the EFL after years of being perfectly healthy while watching the Premier League.

Looking aside, I am genuinely disappointed not to be there. These weekends are what FA Veterans FC is all about and I will certainly be thinking of everyone while you are running around Scotland, attempting to remember which way we are playing and what colour we are wearing.

Most importantly, I want to thank everyone who continues to make these events possible. The effort involved in arranging the fixtures, organising travel, communicating with clubs, sorting payments, producing programmes and keeping everyone informed is considerable, and much of it happens quietly in the background.

Thank you to Terry, Jon, Rob, Allan, Callum, Bobby, Tom, Ryan and everyone else who has played a part this year. The fact that we are still managing to organise football at some fantastic grounds, including two games in Scotland this weekend, is testament to the work that goes on behind the scenes. And, of course, thank you to all of you who continue to turn up. You travel hundreds of miles, pay your money, put your boots on and then spend the next couple of hours running around. So enjoy Scotland, the football, the company, the stadia and, most importantly, enjoy the weekend. I am sorry I cannot be there to share it with you, but I will be looking forward to hearing all about it afterwards.

Yours in sport...

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

Congratulations to
Jon Dixon on his
50th Appearance

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

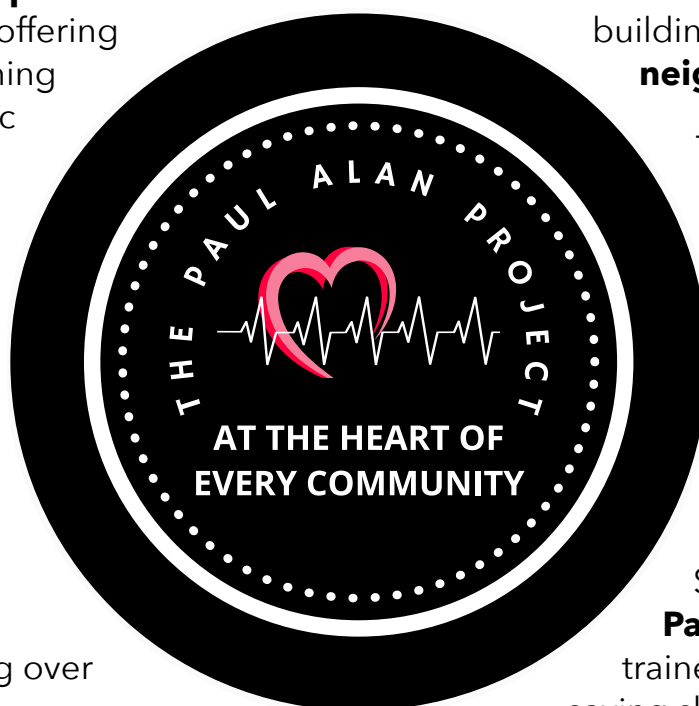
prevent out-of-hospital cardiac deaths by offering free life-saving training and installing public defibrillators and bleed-control kits.

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**

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

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.

Founded in 1878, Alloa Athletic are one of Scotland's oldest football clubs, with a history stretching back almost 150 years.

The club was originally formed as **Clackmannan County**, before becoming Alloa Association Football Club in 1879 and finally adopting the name Alloa Athletic in 1883. Their distinctive gold and black colours have earned them the enduring nickname "**The Wasps**", while their small-town roots have never stopped them competing on the national stage.

Alloa joined the Scottish Football League in 1921 and made an immediate impression. Their first season was a spectacular success, with the club winning the Second Division title by 13 points. The campaign also produced one of the great individual achievements in the club's history, as striker Willie Crilley scored an extraordinary **49 goals**, a record that still stands.

The Wasps have spent much of their history moving between Scotland's top three divisions, with occasional spells in the top flight. Their first promotion to the Scottish top division came in 1939, although the outbreak of the Second World War brought that season to an abrupt end. They returned to the top tier in 1978 and again in 1998, although each spell was relatively brief.

Cup competitions have also provided plenty of memorable moments. Alloa have reached the Scottish Cup quarter-finals on three occasions - in **1939, 1961 and 1989** - while their first national cup triumph came in 1999/2000 when they lifted the **Scottish Challenge Cup**, defeating Inverness Caledonian Thistle in the final.

The club has enjoyed numerous lower-division successes over the years, including Second Division

Alloa Athletic enjoyed a strong 2025/26 campaign, finishing fourth in Scottish League One with 53 points from 36 games. The Wasps were competitive throughout the season, winning 15 matches, drawing eight and scoring 50 goals, while conceding just 38.

Their cup form was particularly eye-catching. Alloa topped their Premier Sports Cup group with four wins from five, including an impressive 1-0 victory over Dundee, before eventually bowing out to Rangers in the last 16.

The real drama came in the Championship play-offs. Alloa produced an excellent semi-final comeback against Airdrieonians, winning 2-1 away after a 1-0 home victory to progress 3-1 on aggregate. Their promotion hopes ultimately ended against Stenhousemuir, despite a 1-0 victory in the second leg, as Stenny progressed 3-2 on aggregate.

The new campaign has begun steadily, with Alloa taking six points from their opening five league games, including wins over Montrose and Queen of the South. They have also remained unbeaten in their last three league outings, drawing with Peterhead and Cove Rangers.

Managed by Andy Graham, the Wasps will be hoping that promising start can develop into another serious promotion challenge.

titles in 1921/22, 1938/39 and 1959/60, and a Third Division championship in 2011/12. The latter began a particularly successful period, with Alloa winning promotion again in 2014 after defeating Dunfermline Athletic in the play-offs.

Home has been **Recreation Park** for most of the club's existence. After 119 years at the ground, Alloa moved to their current home in 2014, with the stadium now known as the **Indodrill Stadium**. Despite their relatively modest resources, the Wasps have consistently shown an ability to compete, produce memorable cup runs and upset bigger clubs - a tradition that continues to make Alloa a respected and entertaining fixture on the Scottish football landscape.



East Kilbride FC may be one of Scottish football's younger clubs, but their story has developed at remarkable speed.

The modern club was formed in 2010 through the merger of Stewartfield FC and Jackton Boys Club, with the ambition of bringing senior football to one of Scotland's largest towns. The club also proudly traces its identity back to an earlier East Kilbride FC, first established in 1871, with the modern club adopting the motto "**A Priori**" - **based on what went before.**

The new club initially competed in amateur football before becoming founder members of the **Lowland League in 2013**. Success followed quickly. East Kilbride won their first Lowland League title in 2016/17, adding another championship in 2018/19. They also established themselves as a formidable cup side, winning the Lowland League Cup and South Region Challenge Cup on multiple occasions.

Perhaps their most famous early achievement came in the **2015/16 Scottish Cup**, when a run to the last 16 earned them a glamour tie against Celtic. The match, played at Airdrie's Excelsior Stadium, ended in a 2-0 defeat, but represented a remarkable occasion for a club only six years old.

The route into the SPFL proved considerably harder. East Kilbride suffered play-off disappointment, including defeat to Cowdenbeath on penalties in 2017 and a 5-3 aggregate loss to Stranraer in 2024. Under manager **Mick Kennedy**, however, the breakthrough finally came in 2025.

East Kilbride's first season in the SPFL could hardly have gone better. Having secured promotion from the Lowland League in 2024/25, the club carried their momentum into League Two and produced another outstanding campaign, finishing as **champions at the first attempt.**

The Wasps were relentless throughout the season, combining attacking ambition with impressive consistency. They recorded a remarkable seven-match winning run and finished top of the table, with 77 goals scored across the campaign. There were some emphatic victories along the way, including 5-0 wins over both Forfar Athletic and Clyde, while a 6-1 away victory at Elgin was another indication of their firepower.

The title confirmed an extraordinary period of growth for East Kilbride. Three league championships in three seasons had taken them from the Lowland League to **League One**, with back-to-back promotions establishing the club as one of Scottish football's fastest-rising sides.

The step up to League One has inevitably proved tougher. After six matches of the 2026/27 campaign, East Kilbride sit sixth with seven points, having won two, drawn one and lost three. A 3-1 victory over Peterhead on 12 September provided a timely boost ahead of the visit to Alloa.

They defeated Bonnyrigg Rose 3-1 on aggregate to win promotion to the SPFL for the first time.

What followed was extraordinary. East Kilbride won **League Two at the first attempt in 2025/26**, recording 21 victories and scoring 77 goals. It meant back-to-back promotions and three league titles in three seasons.

Now established in League One, East Kilbride's rise from amateur football to Scotland's third tier in just 16 years is a remarkable story - and one that looks far from finished.





Legendary Players



Every football club has players who become more than just names on a team sheet. Some are remembered for goals, some for trophies, some for longevity - and some simply become synonymous with the shirt. Alloa Athletic and East Kilbride have both produced plenty of memorable characters, but four names in particular stand out.

Stefan Scougall has become one of the defining players of modern-day Alloa Athletic. The Edinburgh-born midfielder joined the Wasps in 2020 following a career that had already taken him through the Scottish and English professional game.

Scougall came through the youth systems at Hibernian and Dunfermline before making his senior breakthrough with Livingston. His performances there earned him a move to Sheffield United in 2014, where he made 76 appearances and scored seven goals, most notably in an 8-goal thriller FA cup semi final vs Hull at Wembley. He subsequently had spells with Fleetwood Town, St Johnstone and Carlisle United before arriving at Alloa. At the Indodrill Stadium, Scougall has found a home. His technical ability, close control and versatility have made him a hugely valuable member of the squad, while his experience of playing at a higher level has given him an important leadership role. By the end of the 2025/26 season, he had passed 165 appearances for the Wasps.

Still playing a prominent role in 2026/27, Scougall is now one of the familiar faces that opponents and supporters immediately associate with Alloa. For a club that has spent much of the last decade competing in and around League One, his consistency and experience have been invaluable.

If Scougall represents the modern Wasps, **Kevin Cawley** represents the club's recent past. Few players have embodied Alloa Athletic quite like "Wee Kev".

Cawley joined Alloa in 2011 and went on to spend 14 seasons with the club, interrupted only by a brief spell at Dumbarton. He was there for one of the most successful periods in Alloa's history, winning the Third Division title in 2011/12 before helping the club achieve another promotion through the play-offs the following season.



He became a fixture through promotions, relegation battles, Championship campaigns and cup adventures. His 500th appearance came in January 2025, and he eventually retired having made 502 appearances and scored 80 goals for Alloa. Captain, leader and fan favourite, he left as the club's record appearance holder and one of its most obvious modern legends.

East Kilbride's rise through Scottish football is a more recent story, and **Craig Malcolm** was one of the men at its heart.

The striker initially joined East Kilbride on loan from Alloa in January 2018 before making the move permanent that summer and becoming club captain. His goals and experience were crucial as the club established itself as a force in the Lowland League.

Malcolm was central to East Kilbride's successful 2018/19 campaign, when they won the Lowland League title. He finished his East Kilbride career with 47 league goals and 58 in all competitions, leaving a significant mark on the club's early rise. His previous spell at Alloa also provides a neat connection between the two clubs.

Jack Leitch represents the next chapter of that East Kilbride story. A midfielder with professional experience at Motherwell, Airdrieonians, Peterhead and Stirling Albion, he arrived with the sort of experience needed to help the club make the difficult transition into the SPFL.

That transition proved remarkably successful. East Kilbride won promotion to the SPFL in 2025 after defeating Bonnyrigg Rose, before immediately following it up by winning League Two in 2025/26. Leitch was an important part of that title-winning side, providing composure and experience as the club adapted to professional football.

The challenge now is different: establishing East Kilbride in League One and continuing the momentum that has taken the club from the Lowland League to the third tier in such a remarkably short period.

Four players, four different stories - but all great examples of what makes Scottish football's smaller clubs so compelling: loyalty, character, experience and the players who become inseparable from the history of the shirt.

A weekend taking in Alloa Athletic and East Kilbride

gives the FA Veterans a chance to visit two very different parts of Scotland – one an historic industrial town on the banks of the Forth, the other a remarkable modern town that grew from a small Lanarkshire village into Scotland's first new town.

Alloa sits on the **north bank of the River Forth**, with the Ochil Hills

providing an impressive backdrop. Its history is closely linked to

industry, trade and brewing. By the 18th century, Alloa was an important river port, exporting coal, salt and other goods to continental Europe.

At one point, almost a third of Scotland's coal exports passed through the town, while Alloa later became famous for brewing, with at least nine major breweries operating in the area.

The town's standout landmark is **Alloa Tower**, the ancestral home of the Earls of Mar. Dating back to the 14th century, it is one of Scotland's largest surviving tower houses and remains remarkably impressive.

For those wanting to stretch their legs, **Gartmorn**

Dam Country Park

offers woodland, water and walking trails.

The wider area also provides access to the spectacular Ochils, including **Alva Glen**, with its waterfalls and woodland walks.

And, naturally, anyone visiting Alloa should allow a moment to reflect on the town's most

important cultural contribution: footballers called Wasps.

East Kilbride couldn't be more different. Although its history stretches back more than 1,000 years, it became **Scotland's first new town in 1947**, designed to accommodate people moving out of overcrowded Glasgow. The result is the sprawling town, parks, neighbourhoods and shopping areas familiar today.

The original **East Kilbride Village** is still worth exploring, with cobbled streets, the 18th-century Old Parish Church and the historic Montgomerie Arms.

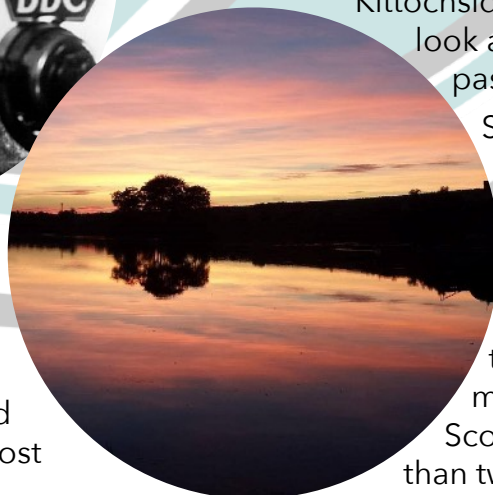
The area also has some surprisingly famous connections. **William and John Hunter**, pioneering 18th-century surgeons and anatomists, were born at Long Calderwood in what is now East Kilbride. The

Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University takes its name from William Hunter.

Perhaps the most unexpected literary connection is **George Orwell**. He spent time recovering from tuberculosis at Hairmyres Hospital in the 1940s and wrote part of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* while there.

For something more recreational, **James Hamilton Heritage Park** has a 16-acre loch, watersports, playgrounds and walking areas, while the National Museum of Rural Life at nearby Kitchside provides a fascinating look at Scotland's agricultural past.

So, from medieval tower houses and Forth-side industry to George Orwell, pioneering surgeons and Scotland's first new town, there's rather more to this particular Scottish double-header than two football matches.



Bobby's Bargain Buys - Always Officially Unofficial

FA VETERANS
INDEPENDENT TRADING CO
NEW YORK - PARIS - PECKHAM

T-Shirt
£13.99 + postage

Winter Hat
£15.99 + postage

Baseball Cap
£12

Travel Mug
£12

Mug
£10

GENUINE FAKE!
BEST PRICES
RODNEY

**LAST CHANCE
GET YOUR BARGAINS**

Baseball Caps and Travel
Mugs available in
Scotland, because
Bobby Always Delivers!

Please request any unofficial merchandise not shown above to:
favetsfc@gmail.com subject: Bobbys Bargains

#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 nobody has ever admitted they were wrong about the sat nav. This time, we're heading north of the border. Let's dive in.

"Andy, I'm going to Scotland for the football and the forecast says rain. Should I be worried?" -

No. You should be worried if it says **dry**.

Scottish weather operates on a simple principle: if you can currently see the sky, that's merely because the rain hasn't arrived yet.

Pack waterproofs. Then pack waterproofs for your waterproofs. And if someone says, "It'll probably brighten up

later," immediately question every other decision they've ever made.

Remember: a little rain never hurt anyone.

Although a lot of rain, cold wind and a dodgy hamstring can make a surprisingly strong case for retiring at half-time.

"Andy, how many Irn-Brus constitute hydration?" -

Midfielder / Sports Scientist

Excellent question.

Technically, Irn-Bru is a liquid, so by the very loose standards applied by veteran footballers, you're already doing reasonably well.

The recommended protocol is:

- One Irn-Bru = hydration

- Two Irn-Brus = serious hydration
- Three Irn-Brus = carb loading
- Four Irn-Brus = you can hear colours
- Five Irn-Brus = probably time to involve a medical professional

Obviously, none of this replaces water. But if you're in Scotland, you're going to need something to wash the water down with.

See you next time for more essential advice, probably involving breakfast buffets, questionable hotel decisions and somebody forgetting which side of the road they're on.

Social Matt-ers

The last two weeks have delivered **quite the volume of messages of peak FA Veterans FC content**: equal parts Scotland tour logistics, football analysis, questionable medical advice and a group-wide determination to ensure nobody is allowed to enjoy a birthday in peace.

The main storyline was, inevitably, **Scotland**. With the Alloa Athletic and East Kilbride double-header looming, the club discovered that getting enough players to actually play football was proving considerably harder than getting people excited about the prospect of drinking in Scotland. The numbers initially hovered around the sort of figure normally associated with a casual five-a-side, before slowly climbing towards something resembling a football squad. Callum was eventually deployed to round up some unsuspecting mates, while the rest of the group threatened naming and shaming anyone who had voted "yes" three weeks earlier and subsequently turned lurker. The prospect of **Predaterry in action**, free breakfasts and an increasingly desperate search for opponents provided additional incentives.

Daz Winnard then helpfully broke his foot, immediately creating the possibility of him playing in goal. This was treated less as a medical emergency and more as a minor logistical inconvenience. Suggestions included Carrie replacing

him, an Adidas Predator cast and simply encouraging him to "man up". With 17 players eventually committed, plus Callum's mysterious recruits, the club may even be approaching the luxury of substitutes.

Football discussion remained the group's preferred vehicle for personal abuse. **Burnley** continued to provide almost limitless material, with Bobby's association with the club ensuring that every defeat, transfer, statistic and general administrative decision could be interpreted as part of the ongoing **BlackBurnleypool** saga. Jordan Ayew's arrival prompted generous predictions of Premier League glory for Sheffield United. Kyle Walker's visit to Bobby's workplace generated an attempted Q&A, although suggestions for respectful questions rapidly deteriorated into hypotheticals and enquiries about his availability for the Scotland trip.

Bobby subsequently reported that Walker had spent much of the session discussing social-media criticism, which naturally resulted in the group immediately criticising him for complaining about criticism.

Elsewhere, **Villa, Spurs, Sheffield United and Birmingham** continued to provide reliable sources of ammunition. Andy Balmforth remained particularly committed to the long-running Birmingham hierarchy debate, while Spurs' struggles prompted accusations that Dean's mysterious "pot" may have



finally infected the entire group with Spurs tendencies. Sheffield United's attempts to not spend money were discussed, while Villa's ability to register shots on target continued to be treated as a statistical curiosity.

Terry continued collecting money, with **DirectDean** introduced as the group's newest payment technology. Robbo, meanwhile, remains firmly in contention for **Miss of the Season**, seemingly determined complete the hatrick.

And finally, the group demonstrated that there is still room for one final prediction: **4-3 Spurs**. Which, given the evidence available, probably tells us everything we need to know.

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

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 - 0-1 HT / **3-3 FT**

Black - Rickeard, Thomas, Foreman

Red - Davids, Balmforth, Waterfall



Alloa Athletic "The Wasps"

Indodrill Stadium - 3,100

Sat 3rd Oct

Kick off 1:45pm



East Kilbride "The Kilby"

Bumblebee Stadium - 700

Sun 4th Oct

Kick off 9:00am



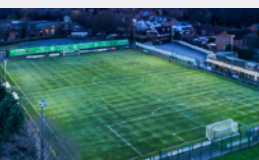
Christmas Game - Bedworth United "The Greenbacks"

The Oval - 3,000

Fri 27th Nov

Kick off 1:00pm

SOLD OUT!!

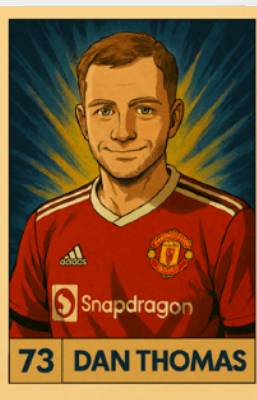


Captain's



Corner

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.	Top bins just watching it nestle in there	Top Bins - which in our games could either mean the goal or out the stadium
Volley or Half Volley	Volley - At our age attempting a clean half volley pulls too many muscles	Half volley I love the power you can get on it	Volley
Knuckleball or Curler	Curler - As if I could do a knuckleball.	Curler. I put this right up there with top bins, you can't beat it	Curler, a knuckleball is way outside my skillset
First Time Finish or Skill	First time finish - Much prefer to watch good goalscorers than scorers of good goals.	Skill, I love to bring out the skills	First Time Finish - there's not much skill to be seen in our games
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	Nutmeg. And it's got to be called in the moment...Megggsssss!	Nutmeg
Driven Pass or Chip	Driven pass	Driven straight and direct	Driven Pass
In Off Cross bar or In Off Post	In off crossbar can look awesome. A pain to argue whether it crossed the line though.	Off the cross bar, to hear the rattle on the way in...	In off the Crossbar - Always satisfying
Goal or Assist	Goal, of course	Goal, I like to take the glory	Goal, although I can barely remember what that feels like now
Solo Run or Team Goal	Team goal - Especially at our level. It normally means we completed more than three passes!	Team goal for me. In football, everything is a team effort	Team Goal
Power or Placement	Placement	Has to be placement, accuracy is important to me	Placement
Left Foot or Right Foot	Left foot - It's the only one that works	Left foot it's not very often it happens so just feels that little bit more special	Right, if only I could say left foot
Eyes Open or Eyes Closed	Eyes open, tongue out	Eyes open, always	It depends on the context, but as I know how we play, I'd say eyes closed!
Power Header or Bicycle Kick	Bicycle kick - if anyone in FA Vets ever scored one i think both teams would have to celebrate it	Bicycle kick, I'm not blessed with height for headers	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
Lob or One on One	Lob, when 1-on-1	One on one, I love the challenge of a 1v1 scenario	Lob

 4 JON DIXON App 48 (24)	 6 ROB DIXON App 37 (3)	 7 ROB GREEN App 47 (4)	 10 DAVE HEASON App 45 (28)
 11 MATT FELLOWS App 46 (8)	 16 TOM GREEN App 33 (3)	 24 RICH MARSH App 36 (0)	 25 CHRIS LAKE App 26 (13)
 33 JEZ CRAGGS App 17 (1)	 36 DEAN THORPPE App 31 (3)	 42 ALEX McLOUGHLIN App 15 (5)	 52 JOHN DONNELLON App 18 (1)
 67 DARREN WINNARD App 34 (20)	 73 DAN THOMAS App 26 (14)		 MARK FEEHAN 22 (2)

Top Goals per Game (10+ apps):

1. Dave Heason - **0.62**
2. Darren Winnard - **0.59**
3. Dan Thomas - **0.54**



Total Appearances: **481**

Total Goals: **129**

Total Own Goals*: **0**

Gaffers: **There can only be 1**

3-3 - Last Time Out...



The FA Veterans FC season arrived at Stadium MK on 31st May, home of MK Dons, for an entertaining afternoon that produced one of those matches where the final score tells only part of the story.

With the impressive surroundings of the Stadium MK providing the backdrop, both sides settled into the occasion with plenty of energy. The opening exchanges were closely contested, with neither team able to establish a sustained period of control, although there was plenty of intent going forward.

It was the visiting side who made the breakthrough in the 11th minute. Rickeard found the net to give his team an early 1-0 advantage and provide them with the perfect start. The goal ensured that the team trailing had to chase the game, but they responded positively and continued to look for an opening.

The lead remained intact through the rest of the first half, with both teams creating opportunities but neither able to add to the score. The game remained competitive throughout, and at half-time there was still everything to play for.

The second half began with an immediate response. Just two minutes after the restart, Davids levelled the scores at 1-1, giving his side the momentum they needed. Suddenly, the complexion of the match had changed, and the side that had gone into the interval behind were now firmly on the front foot.

That momentum continued into the 60th minute when Thomas completed the turnaround, putting his team 2-1 ahead. Having trailed for almost 50 minutes, they were now in front and looking to take control of the contest.



The game then opened up further, and in the 72nd minute Steve Foreman extended the advantage to 3-1. With less than twenty minutes remaining, it appeared that his side had done enough to secure the victory and turn an early deficit into a comfortable-looking lead.

But the response was almost immediate. Just a minute later, Balmforth reduced the deficit to 3-2 and suddenly the game was back in the balance. The goal gave the trailing side renewed belief and ensured a nervy final period for the team who had been two goals ahead only moments earlier.

The pressure continued as both teams pushed for the next goal, with the game increasingly stretched as players committed bodies forward. The equaliser eventually arrived in the 85th minute when Waterfall found the net to make it 3-3.

From 1-0 down to 3-1 ahead, and then pegged back to 3-3, the match had produced a remarkable series of twists and turns. Neither side could find a decisive winner in the closing stages, despite both continuing to look for an opportunity to claim all three points.

A 3-3 draw was ultimately a fitting conclusion to an entertaining and competitive afternoon at Stadium MK. Six goals, a dramatic second-half comeback and a contest that remained alive until the final whistle provided another memorable chapter in the FA Veterans FC series.

As ever, the result was only part of the occasion. Both sides can take credit for the way they continued to attack and compete throughout, producing a game full of goals, momentum swings and the trademark spirit of FA Veterans FC football.



2026 AWARDS

VOTING OPENING SOON!

Goal of the Season

Nathan Moore - Staveley M.W.

Ryan Cheeseman - Braintree

Matt Fellows - Braintree

Matt Fellows - Blackpool

Darren Winnard - Mansfield

Outstanding team move - Wycombe

Miss of the Season

Dave Heason - Braintree: rebound from seven yards launched towards orbit

Kevin Robertson - Blackpool: astonishing miss from three yards

Terry Rikeard - Mansfield: Half Volley put on the roof from 6yds

Dan Thomas - Mansfield

Jez Craggs - Mansfield: volley on the run skied over the bar

Brett Davids - Wycombe: missed a clear chance before somehow hitting both posts with a single header

Moment of the Season

Dave Heason - Staveley M.W: re-introducing himself to Bob Thorpe with a particularly enthusiastic challenge

Alex McLoughlin - Mansfield: "I don't know, I've not got my glasses" whilst attempting to organise substitutions

Alex McLoughlin - Wycombe: walking into the wrong changing room at half-time

Chris Lake - Blackpool: collapsing at full-time believing his side had lost despite the scoreboard showing 6-6

Quote of the Season

Ref to Dean Thorpe - "Stop being a knob, 36"

Other notable contenders / incidents

Bobby Green - two separate incidents: passing when clean through, then launching a clearance into the next postcode.

John Donnellon - repeatedly calling Dan Thomas "Dean".

Jack Feehan - injuring himself kicking a perimeter fence.

Dan Thomas - arriving at Carrow Road in an Alice band.

Dave Heason - attempting a solo run covering virtually the entire pitch at Carrow Road.

Danny Cheng - maintaining his KFC-based nutritional strategy.

Nathan Moore - miraculous ten-minute recovery from a seemingly season-ending knee injury.

Terry Rikeard - reporting the Thorpe brothers to stadium staff despite them being part of the FA Veterans family.

Mrs Enright's (Nick's better half) - her terrace save potentially better than several of Nick's on-pitch goalkeeping performances.

.....Of course, Scotland presents the opportunity for further nominations, so keep the nominations coming!.....



Alloa Athletic FC

36	Dean Thorpe (c)	Darren Winnard (c)	67
7	Bobby Green	Jon Dixon	4
10	Dave Heason	Rob Dixon	6
25	Chris Lake	Matt Fellows	11
52	John Donnellon	Tom Green	16
42	Alex McLoughlin	Jez Craggs	33
	Callum Borrowski	Dan Thomas	73
	Oliver Bennett	Matty Reid	
	Keanu Munoz	Tam Fawcett	
	Chris Rowlands	Ross Stenhouse	
		Mikey Stack	
Officials	Referee: David Marshall, Assistants: Jayden Homes, Graeme Neary		

Match Day Schedule...

Saturday 3rd Oct 2026 - Alloa Athletic FC

12:45pm: Meet at ground, outside the players entrance. Indodrill Stadium, Clackmannan Rd, Alloa **FK10 1RY**

1pm: Players enter the changing rooms

1:30pm: Warm-up on the pitch

1:40pm: Players 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: Ochilview, Clackmannan Rd, Alloa **FK10 4DA** - 0.3miles, 1min

WEATHER:
LIGHT CLOUD AND A
GENTLE BREEZE

TEMP: 14°C
RAIN: 0%



East Kilbride FC

24	Rich Marsh (gk)	G Kontorinis (gk)	
4	Jon Dixon (c)	Yassine Gr	
6	Rob Dixon	Scott Cowan	
7	Bobby Green	Raj Samrai	
10	Dave Heason	Paul Gallacher	
11	Matt Fellows	David Telfer	
16	Tom Green	Ryan Cameron	
25	Chris Lake	John Blincow	
33	Jez Craggs	Cameron Scott	
36	Dean Thorpe	Darroch Ramsey	
42	Alex McLoughlin	Martin McGoldrick	
52	John Donnellon	David Russell	
67	Darren Winnard	Kilmacolm Codgers FC A very warm welcome to Kilmacolm Codgers, a Scottish veterans side from the Glasgow area. With a strong social spirit, they have been playing veterans and charity football for years, including against FA Veterans at East Fife in 2021 – with several players from that squad still involved today. Welcome back to David Russell, Raj Samrai, and Cameron Scott	
73	Dan Thomas		
	Oliver Bennett		
Officials	Referee: David Marshall, Assistants: Nathan Richardson, Alex Haywood		

Match Day Schedule...

Sunday 4th Oct 2026 - East Kilbride FC

8:15pm: Meet at ground, outside the players entrance - The Bumblebee Stadium, Calderglenn Country Park, St Leonards, East Kilbride, **G75 0QZ**

8:30am: Players enter the changing rooms

8:45am: Warm-up on the pitch

8:55am: Players called to the tunnel, player walk out, presentation of the teams

9:00am: Kick Off

10:00am: Second Half

11:15pm: Vacate the Changing Rooms and the Stadium

11:30am: Maccy's

Closest McDonalds: The Whirlies, Lees Burn Ct, Nerston, East Kilbride, Glasgow **G74 3XB** - 3.2miles, 11min

WEATHER:
 LIGHT RAIN SHOWERS
 AND A GENTLE BREEZE
 TEMP: 12°C
 RAIN: 40%

