

Bulletin 3 – January 2025

Welcome to the third bulletin of the 2025/26 Monkey League season.

Winners and losers

Sunderland remain swinging through the jungle with ease, effortlessly coasting to a top-half position, defying all expectations and guarding their top-of-the-league spot like the kings of the jungle. A resurgence in form sees Carrick's United climbing four places, while on the other side of the city their rivals drop four spots. The reigning champions continue monkeying around, clinging on to the vines for dear life down in 19th, while Wolves are losing their grip and look likely to be facing the drop in the not-so-distant future. Crystal Palace have really dropped the banana, going from 3rd to 10th since the last bulletin after losing their best players and, by the end of the season, their manager too, in what has been a torrid couple of months for the Eagles.

The Championship top spot is swinging from contender to contender week by week, as Coventry, Middlesbrough, Preston and Millwall are all currently being mauled by the Tigers in what is a very tightly contested title race. Sheffield Wednesday remain the worst choice to overperform, as their -7 points set them further apart from the rest of the bunch in what's been an absolute 'owler of a season for them. Watford have lost their manager despite sitting in a satisfactory 8th place, but the loss of a couple of key players on loan could lead the Hornets to be stung in the second half of the season. Meanwhile, Wrexham climb three more places, leaving them in good stead to manage the playoffs. They couldn't do it again... could they?

Lincoln and Cardiff look like favourites for the automatic spots in League One, but local sides Stockport County and Bolton seem likely to be in the playoffs come the end of the season, as they sit 4th and 6th respectively in their chase to become Championship sides. Mansfield are on quite the run at the moment as the Stags bring in some youth on loan from Spurs to bolster their already bananas form, picking up 14 points in their last six league games, alongside slaying the Blades in the cup! After back-to-back relegations for Luton Town, they sit 21st in the Monkey League. Their points tally doesn't look bad enough to suggest making it three in a row, but don't write them off in their speedy tour of the whole jungle.

Bromley are peeling away in League Two, 11 Monkey League points clear of 2nd with serious daylight between them, despite Cambridge being on an inspired run at the moment with 16 points from their last six games, shooting them up the table by four places. Salford City are on the rise thanks to mediocre form from surrounding teams, mediocre being a generous term to describe the form of Fleetwood Town. Something must be in the water over on the north-west coast, as Tranmere have now lost five on the bounce.

The Monkey League results

Beth Kissock has established a bit of a lead up at the top of the league with an incredible climb from 8th place in the last bulletin. **Beth** is currently beating 995 monkeys and the rest of the table by 11 points. There are too many people at the other end of the table to name and shame them all but competition organiser **George Metcalf** languishes in the bottom 20!

Biggest Fallers since last bulletin has been **Olly Wallace** and **Duncan Carter** dropping 45 and 44 places respectively - nightmare!

On the other hand, the biggest risers are **Neil Kennedy** rising up an impressive 48 places and **Jonah Rawlinson** climbing by 41 to get inside the top 30, incredible form 🍌

Question of the month

Liverpool aren't exactly putting up an impressive title defence but there has most definitely been worse.

Which team have the lowest finish in the table as defending Premier League champions?

Lucas Eagleton

Handicap Tables as at 28 Jan 2026

Premier Division	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1 Sunderland	23	33	31.5	64.5
2 Aston Villa	23	46	13.3	59.3
3 Brentford	23	33	23.0	56.0
4 Fulham	23	34	20.0	54.0
5 Everton	23	33	20.0	53.0
6 Leeds United	23	26	26.0	52.0
7 Arsenal	23	50	1.8	51.8
8 Manchester United	23	38	12.7	50.7
9 Bournemouth	23	30	19.4	49.4
10 Crystal Palace	23	28	20.0	48.0
11 Manchester City	23	46	1.8	47.8
12 Brighton and Hove Albion	23	30	16.3	46.3
13 Burnley	23	15	30.9	45.9
14 Nottingham Forest	23	25	19.4	44.4
15 Chelsea	23	37	7.3	44.3
16 Newcastle United	23	33	9.1	42.1
17 Tottenham Hotspur	23	28	13.3	41.3
18 West Ham United	23	20	21.2	41.2
19 Liverpool	23	36	0.0	36.0
20 Wolverhampton Wanderers	23	8	23.6	31.6

Championship	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1 Hull City	28	50	19.5	69.5
2 Coventry City	29	58	7.6	65.6
3 Middlesbrough	29	55	10.1	65.1
4 Preston North End	29	43	21.4	64.4
5 Millwall	29	49	15.1	64.1
6 Queens Park Rangers	29	40	21.4	61.4
7 Derby County	29	42	17.7	59.7
8 Watford	28	43	15.8	58.8
9 Stoke City	29	42	16.4	58.4
10 Bristol City	29	43	13.9	56.9
11 Wrexham	29	44	12.6	56.6
12 Charlton Athletic	28	32	20.7	52.7
13 Swansea City	29	36	16.4	52.4
14 Oxford United	28	27	23.1	50.1
15 Ipswich Town	28	50	0.0	50.0
16 Portsmouth	27	30	20.0	50.0
17 Blackburn Rovers	28	29	19.5	48.5
18 Leicester City	29	38	7.6	45.6
19 Birmingham City	29	39	6.3	45.3
20 West Bromwich Albion	29	32	11.3	43.3
21 Norwich City	29	33	10.1	43.1
22 Sheffield United	28	35	6.1	41.1
23 Southampton	29	37	3.8	40.8
24 Sheffield Wednesday	28	-7	21.9	14.9

Sky Bet League 1	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1 Lincoln City	28	55	12.2	67.2
2 Cardiff City	28	59	3.0	62.0
3 Bradford City	27	46	10.6	56.6
4 Stockport County	28	49	6.1	55.1
5 Stevenage	27	42	12.9	54.9
6 Bolton Wanderers	29	49	5.0	54.0
7 Exeter City	27	37	15.8	52.8
8 Peterborough United	28	38	11.6	49.6
9 Mansfield Town	26	37	11.9	48.9
10 AFC Wimbledon	26	32	16.4	48.4
11 Huddersfield Town	29	45	3.2	48.2
12 Wycombe Wanderers	28	39	6.7	45.7
13 Northampton Town	27	29	16.4	45.4
14 Burton Albion	27	30	15.3	45.3
15 Reading	27	37	7.0	44.0
16 Doncaster Rovers	27	30	11.7	41.7
17 Barnsley	24	33	8.3	41.3
18 Leyton Orient	28	32	9.1	41.1
19 Plymouth Argyle	28	37	3.7	40.7
20 Wigan Athletic	27	31	8.8	39.8
21 Luton Town	28	39	0.0	39.0
22 Rotherham United	27	28	10.0	38.0
23 Blackpool	28	32	5.5	37.5
24 Port Vale	25	18	13.6	31.6

Sky Bet League 2	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1 Bromley	28	56	13.4	69.4
2 Cambridge United	27	50	8.2	58.2
3 Walsall	27	48	7.0	55.0
4 Salford City	27	49	5.3	54.3
5 Notts County	27	48	5.9	53.9
6 Grimsby Town	27	43	9.4	52.4
7 Swindon Town	27	46	5.9	51.9
8 Accrington Stanley	27	37	14.1	51.1
9 Crewe Alexandra	28	40	10.3	50.3
10 Colchester United	27	42	8.2	50.2
11 Milton Keynes Dons	28	50	0.0	50.0
12 Barnet	27	41	8.2	49.2
13 Fleetwood Town	27	37	11.2	48.2
14 Chesterfield	28	44	3.0	47.0
15 Oldham Athletic	26	35	9.0	44.0
16 Tranmere Rovers	28	32	11.6	43.6
17 Gillingham	26	38	5.1	43.1
18 Cheltenham Town	27	30	12.9	42.9
19 Newport County AFC	27	20	16.4	36.4
20 Barrow	26	24	10.7	34.7
21 Harrogate Town	28	18	15.8	33.8
22 Crawley Town	28	23	9.7	32.7
23 Shrewsbury Town	27	22	9.4	31.4
24 Bristol Rovers	27	21	5.9	26.9

Results

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
1	Bethany Kisson	995	256
2	Tim Barlow	993	245
3	Sam Ashworth	991	240.9
4	Mark Warnes	986	235
5	Nick Saxton	984	229.6
6	Luke Vickers	981	226.7
7	Andy Pritchard	978	221.9
8	Gary Symons	973	216.5
9	Rob Walker	967	212.3
10	Olly Roper	963	210.7
11	Tom Howarth	957	207.9
12	Brendan O'Connor	956	206.4
13	Will Rose	954	204.1
14	John Matczak	951	203
15	Darren Goodall	948	202.1
16	Tim Poil	947	199.9
17	Philippa Lloyd	945	199.3
18	Bradley Todd	933	193.2
19	Richard Hague	920	187.5
20	Zoe Sadler	919	186.7
21	Dale Walmsley	914	184.3
22	Bryan Gardner	910	182.5
23	Tim Jones	895	180.4
24	Usman Asif	888	177.4
25	Jack Presswell	888	177.1
26	Jamie McLeod	865	169.4
27	Jonah Rowlinson	862	168.8
28	Paul Landreth	858	167.6
29	Thomas Harrington	855	167
30	John Stock	849	165.7
31	James Gardner	838	163.2
32	Mel Wilson	824	159.4
33	John McLeod	820	157.5
34	Lucas Eagleton	820	157.4

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
35	Will Pickles	804	154.7
36	Katie Trevelyan	797	154
37	Stephe Fairclough	797	154
38	Sharon Royston	796	153
39	Tracy Underdown	795	152
40	Paul Marriott	793	151.5
41	Mark Sadler	793	151.3
42	George Koeltgen	785	149.7
43	Hugo Berry	784	149.4
44	Emma Robinson	774	147.5
45	Mike Common	773	147.2
46	Dan Chapman	757	143.2
47	Richie Lloyd	754	143
48	Kim Metcalf	745	140.3
49	George Orton	721	135.7
50	Kev Brocklesby	719	135.3
51	John-Henry Paul	715	133.6
52	Sam Mullock	679	129.4
53	Neil Kennedy	678	128.9
54	Michael O'Donnell	670	127.1
55	Jude Keane	670	127.1
56	Stuart Briely	670	127
57	Melissa Jackson	650	124.4
58	Joe Bronstein	642	123.7
59	William Sadler	634	122.3
60	Amrita Dasgupta	624	120.5
61	Kelly Winter	623	120.3
62	Michael Johnson	618	119.6
63	James Wallace	617	119.4
64	Nicola Brocklesby	610	118.3
65	Samuel Nyarko	606	118
66	Craig Moran	605	117.7
67	Ian Stirling	605	117.6
68	Lewis Ward	602	117.1
69	Ian Metcalf	596	116.2
70	Eddie Hopkins	595	115.7

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
71	Olly Wallace	580	113.7
72	James Yacoub	580	113.6
73	Nathanael McPherson	579	113
74	Henry Tapper	566	110.8
75	Duncan Carter	559	109.5
76	Ryan Trevelyan	547	107.6
77	Oliver Nicholls	547	107.5
78	George Hinkley	526	105.2
79	Robert Nash	516	103.7
80	Chris Marson	496	100.7
81	Robbie Burns	483	98.2
82	Max Mauchline	473	96.8
83	Matthew Clark	470	96
84	James Allen	468	95.7
85	Graham Hutchings	457	94.5
86	Ben Doran	445	93
87	Henry Burton-Wilson	439	92.5
88	Owen Adams	433	90.6
89	Chris Rose	432	90.4
90	Sebastian Boeck	431	90.1
91	Jon Gulzar	427	89.4
92	Lauren King	422	88.1
93	Gyll Mauchline	414	86.7
94	Elliot Malcolm	403	84
95	Bex Thompson	397	82.6
96	Michael Garland	396	82.5
97	Eesha Savani	379	79.1
98	Sean Delaney	373	78
99	Gary Potts	353	74.3
100	James Milligan	351	74
101	Paul Devine	342	73
102	Chas Goddard	341	72.7
103	Charlie Hewson	312	67.7
104	Kester Young	296	65.3
105	Lance Havell	289	63.8
106	Matt Price	287	63.3

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
107	Riley McDonagh	279	61
108	Cam McGrath	246	55
109	Aaron Love	218	50.4
110	George Metcalf	216	50.2
111	Katie Morgan	213	50
112	Emma Hawthorne	202	47.3
113	Alexander French	202	46.9
114	Marcus Johansson	202	46.9
115	Sean Richmond	190	43.6
116	Lucy Humphray	181	40.3
117	Cara Scobie	181	40.1
118	Katie Fairclough	177	38.5
119	Toni Johnson	174	37.1
120	Maria Heyns	146	30.4
121	Indi Rehman	121	23.2
122	Charlotte White	120	23
123	Benjamin Robinson	111	21.4
124	Patrick Goudard	61	-3
125	Ben Hoskins	44	-11.7
126	Simon Redfern	42	-13.2
127	Andy Wyatt	41	-14.1
128	Michael Donaghy	24	-32.9
129	Caroline Rye	14	-52.5
130	Megan Valentine	9	-66.2
131	John Small	2	-116.5