Bulletin 5 – April 2026

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

Winners and losers

Sunderland stay top with four league games still to play, so there is time for a late wobble, but they have given themselves a strong perch going into the run-in. Brentford are still chasing, while Leeds United are the big climbers after a strong swing up the table. Bournemouth also make a good move, and Nottingham Forest give themselves a bit more room away from the danger branches. At the bottom, Newcastle United, Spurs and Wolves are in trouble. Wolves remain dead last, and all three will need a strong final swing to avoid being left holding the banana skin.

Coventry City have taken over at the top of the Championship, making this the tightest title race going into the final day. With Coventry already crowned champions in real life, they now have the chance to complete the double in Monkey League style too. Hull City are still in the mix, but no longer the monkey with the shiniest branch. Derby County and Portsmouth are the standout climbers, while Stoke City, Watford and Bristol City have taken the biggest tumbles. At the bottom, Sheffield United, Leicester City and Sheffield Wednesday are in the relegation places, with Wednesday still miles adrift.

Lincoln City are still well clear at the top of League 1 and, with just one game left to play, they look near enough impossible to catch from pole position. Cardiff City remain closest, while Stevenage make the big move into the podium places. Mansfield Town are the greatest climbers, with Doncaster Rovers also making a strong move. At the bottom, Port Vale, Northampton Town and Rotherham United sit in the relegation places. Rotherham are stuck at the foot of the table and the final round may need a full troop of monkeys to get them out.

Bromley stay top of League 2 with Cambridge United still chasing, and with a single game remaining they are in a strong position to see it out. Grimsby Town are the big climbers into the champion places, while Salford City and Chesterfield also make strong moves. Bristol Rovers pull off the biggest escape act, jumping clear after being bottom last time. Barrow are now rooted to the foot of the table with minimal hopes of staying alive, with Crawley, Harrogate only just above them and one last scramble left.

The Monkey League results

Sam Ashworth remains top of the overall table and is still the likely King of the Jungle going into the last bulletin, with **Tim Barlow** holding firm behind him. **George Koeltgen** is the big story near the summit, flying up into the top three after a huge points gain, while **Tom Howarth** and **Rob Walker** also keep themselves in the leading pack. A little further down, **William Sadler**, **James Milligan** and **Robert Nash** all enjoy big climbs while **Graham Hutchings** takes the biggest leap of the round, up 37 places, which is either excellent tactics or he has found a hidden stash of bananas. There were some painful tumbles too. **Mel Wilson** and **John Stock** both drop 35 places, while **Bethany Kissock**'s slide continues after leading earlier in the competition, and she now has plenty of branches to climb back through. At the bottom, **John Small** remains stranded on the forest floor, now a long way off the pace, and with one bulletin to go, it may be time for a spiderman-like swing.

Question of the month

With the 2026 World Cup rapidly approaching, who scored the fastest goal in World Cup history (11 seconds in 2002)?

first
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Handicap Tables as at 27 Apr 2026

	Premier Division	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1	Sunderland	34	46	46.5	92.5
2	Brentford	33	48	33.0	81.0
3	Leeds United	34	40	38.5	78.5
4	Aston Villa	34	58	19.7	77.7
5	Bournemouth	34	49	28.6	77.6
6	Fulham	34	48	29.5	77.5
7	Everton	34	47	29.5	76.5
8	Manchester United	33	58	18.2	76.2
9	Arsenal	34	73	2.7	75.7
10	Brighton and Hove Albion	34	50	24.2	74.2
11	Manchester City	33	70	2.6	72.6
12	Crystal Palace	33	43	28.7	71.7
13	Nottingham Forest	34	39	28.6	67.6
14	West Ham United	34	36	31.3	67.3
15	Burnley	34	20	45.6	65.6
16	Chelsea	34	48	10.7	58.7
17	Liverpool	34	58	0.0	58.0
18	Newcastle United	34	42	13.4	55.4
19	Tottenham Hotspur	34	34	19.7	53.7
20	Wolverhampton Wanderers	34	17	34.9	51.9

	Championship	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1	Coventry City	45	92	11.7	103.7
2	Millwall	45	80	23.5	103.5
3	Hull City	45	70	31.3	101.3
4	Derby County	45	69	27.4	96.4
5	Middlesbrough	45	79	15.7	94.7
6	Preston North End	45	60	33.3	93.3
7	Queens Park Rangers	45	58	33.3	91.3
8	Wrexham	45	70	19.6	89.6
9	Portsmouth	45	54	33.3	87.3
10	Swansea City	45	61	25.4	86.4
11	Charlton Athletic	45	53	33.3	86.3
12	Oxford United	45	47	37.2	84.2
13	Blackburn Rovers	45	52	31.3	83.3
14	Watford	45	57	25.4	82.4
15	Southampton	44	76	5.7	81.7
16	Norwich City	45	65	15.7	80.7
17	Bristol City	45	59	21.5	80.5
18	Stoke City	45	55	25.4	80.4
19	Ipswich Town	44	80	0.0	80.0
20	Birmingham City	45	63	9.8	72.8
21	West Bromwich Albion	45	51	17.6	68.6
22	Sheffield United	45	57	9.8	66.8
23	Leicester City	45	43	11.7	54.7
24	Sheffield Wednesday	45	-3	35.2	32.2

	Sky Bet League 1	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1	Lincoln City	45	100	19.6	119.6
2	Cardiff City	45	91	4.9	95.9
3	Stevenage	45	72	21.5	93.5
4	Bradford City	45	74	17.6	91.6
5	Stockport County	44	74	9.6	83.6
6	Bolton Wanderers	45	75	7.8	82.8
7	AFC Wimbledon	45	53	28.4	81.4
8	Mansfield Town	44	61	20.1	81.1
9	Burton Albion	45	53	25.4	78.4
10	Doncaster Rovers	45	57	19.6	76.6
11	Plymouth Argyle	45	70	5.9	75.9
12	Exeter City	45	49	26.4	75.4
13	Reading	45	63	11.7	74.7
14	Barnsley	44	56	15.3	71.3
15	Luton Town	45	71	0.0	71.0
16	Wycombe Wanderers	45	60	10.8	70.8
17	Wigan Athletic	45	56	14.7	70.7
18	Peterborough United	44	52	18.2	70.2
19	Huddersfield Town	45	64	4.9	68.9
20	Blackpool	45	57	8.8	65.8
21	Leyton Orient	45	51	14.7	65.7
22	Port Vale	44	39	23.9	62.9
23	Northampton Town	44	35	26.8	61.8
24	Rotherham United	45	41	16.6	57.6

	Sky Bet League 2	Played	Points	H'cap	Total
1	Bromley	45	84	21.5	105.5
2	Cambridge United	45	81	13.7	94.7
3	Grimsby Town	45	77	15.7	92.7
4	Salford City	45	80	8.8	88.8
5	Notts County	45	79	9.8	88.8
6	Barnet	45	73	13.7	86.7
7	Milton Keynes Dons	45	85	0.0	85.0
8	Swindon Town	45	75	9.8	84.8
9	Crewe Alexandra	45	66	16.6	82.6
10	Chesterfield	45	76	4.9	80.9
11	Oldham Athletic	45	65	15.7	80.7
12	Fleetwood Town	45	60	18.6	78.6
13	Walsall	45	65	11.7	76.7
14	Colchester United	45	63	13.7	76.7
15	Accrington Stanley	45	53	23.5	76.5
16	Cheltenham Town	45	52	21.5	73.5
17	Bristol Rovers	45	61	9.8	70.8
18	Newport County AFC	45	40	27.4	67.4
19	Shrewsbury Town	45	49	15.7	64.7
20	Harrogate Town	45	39	25.4	64.4
21	Gillingham	45	50	8.8	58.8
22	Tranmere Rovers	45	40	18.6	58.6
23	Crawley Town	45	39	15.7	54.7
24	Barrow	45	36	18.6	54.6

Results

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
1	Sam Ashworth	997	321.8
2	Tim Barlow	993	310.9
3	George Koeltgen	991	302.4
4	Rob Walker	990	299.1
5	Tom Howarth	988	291.3
6	Gary Symons	987	288.2
7	Nick Saxton	975	269
8	Emma Robinson	966	259.4
9	Andy Pritchard	963	256.3
10	Philippa Lloyd	941	238
11	John Matczak	938	236.9
12	Hugo Berry	938	235.7
13	Mark Warnes	923	226.1
14	Kelly Winter	919	224
15	Bradley Todd	916	222.1
16	Bethany Kissock	913	219
17	Usman Asif	905	216.9
18	Luke Vickers	883	208.2
19	Will Rose	879	206.7
20	Richie Lloyd	848	190.7
21	Darren Goodall	848	190.7
22	Mike Common	846	189.8
23	Mark Sadler	846	189.7
24	Tim Jones	840	187.8
25	Tim Poil	839	187.2
26	William Sadler	823	182.1
27	Olly Roper	811	177.8
28	Dale Walmsley	809	177.6
29	James Gardner	803	176.1
30	Paul Marriott	798	174.7
31	Zoe Sadler	793	173.7
32	Brendan O'Connor	792	173.3
33	Jude Keane	774	166.6
34	Jamie McLeod	771	165.9

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
35	Bryan Gardner	756	162.9
36	Ryan Trevelyan	752	160.7
37	James Milligan	746	159.3
38	Tracy Underdown	733	155.1
39	Robert Nash	732	154.8
40	James Wallace	725	152.8
41	Neil Kennedy	723	152.1
42	Graham Hutchings	722	151.9
43	Paul Landreth	713	148.9
44	Michael O'Donnell	710	147.5
45	Jack Presswell	708	147.4
46	George Hinkley	701	146
47	Melissa Jackson	698	144.8
48	John McLeod	685	141.9
49	Katie Trevelyan	683	141.6
50	Sharon Royston	679	139.2
51	Stuart Briely	655	135.2
52	Richard Hague	655	135.2
53	Stephen Fairclough	655	135.2
54	Lewis Ward	640	131.7
55	Will Pickles	638	130.8
56	Sam Mullock	636	130
57	Thomas Harrington	631	129.1
58	Jonah Rowlinson	624	127.8
59	Lance Havell	620	127
60	John Stock	616	126.1
61	Lucas Eagleton	611	124.7
62	Elliot Malcolm	590	121.9
63	Kev Brocklesby	585	121.5
64	George Orton	579	120.2
65	Amrita Dasgupta	570	117.6
66	John-Henry Paul	556	114.3
67	Joe Bronstein	550	112.5
68	Michael Johnson	549	111.9
69	Dan Chapman	537	109.6
70	Nathanael McPherson	526	107.7

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
71	James Allen	521	106.7
72	Matthew Clark	511	105.2
73	Eesha Savani	511	105.2
74	Henry Tapper	511	105.1
75	Kim Metcalf	509	104.5
76	Ben Doran	499	103.1
77	Ian Stirling	478	98.1
78	Samuel Nyarko	476	97.4
79	James Yacoub	474	96.8
80	Nicola Brocklesby	458	90.4
81	Oliver Nicholls	457	89.2
82	Gary Potts	446	86.9
83	Owen Adams	441	85.8
84	Jon Gulzar	407	78.4
85	Gyll Mauchline	405	78.3
86	Kester Young	399	77.6
87	Chris Rose	396	76.3
88	Ian Metcalf	394	76
89	Eddie Hopkins	389	74.2
90	Chas Goddard	367	69.1
91	Cam McGrath	362	67.3
92	Aaron Love	346	64.8
93	Benjamin Robinson	338	61.1
94	Max Mauchline	319	56.6
95	Katie Fairclough	309	53.8
96	Matt Price	308	53.5
97	Craig Moran	308	53.4
98	Lauren King	297	50
99	Sebastian Boeck	292	49.3
100	Charlie Hewson	252	40
101	Michael Garland	246	38.1
102	Mel Wilson	246	37.7
103	Paul Devine	225	32.6
104	Katie Morgan	218	30.9
105	Ben Hoskins	217	30
106	Henry Burton-Wilson	217	29.9

Position	Name	Monkeys beaten	Points
107	Duncan Carter	214	28.4
108	Chris Marson	213	28.2
109	Marcus Johansson	191	20
110	Maria Heyns	180	15.8
111	Patrick Goudard	174	13.4
112	Riley McDonagh	171	12.8
113	Cara Scobie	169	12.2
114	Olly Wallace	167	11.3
115	George Metcalf	155	7.9
116	Toni Johnson	154	7.7
117	Sean Richmond	146	4
118	Michael Donaghy	140	1.3
119	Sean Delaney	120	-10.5
120	Emma Hawthorne	114	-13.3
121	Bex Thompson	101	-20.4
122	Indi Rehman	88	-29
123	Robbie Burns	73	-36.4
124	Caroline Rye	73	-38.8
125	Charlotte White	69	-39.6
126	Andy Wyatt	62	-46
127	Simon Redfern	57	-51
128	Alexander French	57	-51.6
129	Lucy Humphray	16	-86.2
130	Megan Valentine	14	-94.8
131	John Small	1	-235.4