



September 2026

Issue 1

WELCOME TO THE NEW SEASON

Welcome to the very first edition of the **AYFC monthly newsletter** — a short round-up for parents and coaches covering everything happening around the club, published around the middle of each month at abbotsyouthfc.co.uk/news.

The biggest piece of news this month is the launch of our **brand-new website**. Everything is now in one place: teams, fixtures, results, fees, the Boot Room, club documents and this newsletter. It works properly on phones, so add it to your home screen and check in before matchdays.

As ever, everything we do is run by volunteers — thank you to every coach, helper and parent who makes the club what it is.

AROUND THE CLUB

U9 Red are Evergreen champions

Huge congratulations to our **Under 9 Red squad**, who won the Evergreen tournament at the end of August to lift the trophy. A brilliant team performance from every player — and a proud moment for their coaches. Well done, team!



The U9 Red squad celebrate winning the Evergreen tournament

Season start delayed — now Sunday 4 October

West Herts Football League have confirmed a further delay to the season start following the weather-hit summer. **All age groups (U7–U18) will now kick off on Sunday 4 October.** Keep an eye on the FULL-TIME app and the fixtures page for confirmation of kick-off times and venues.

Fireworks night — sweet stall

The club is once again running the **sweet stall** at the parish fireworks night on **Friday [TBC — early November]**. It's one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and great fun. If you can spare an hour to help on the stall, please speak to your team manager — many hands make light work (and there are sweets in it for you).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Sunday 4 October** — league season begins for all age groups (U7–U18)
- **Friday [TBC] November** — fireworks night; AYFC runs the sweet stall — volunteers needed
- **Around the middle of each month** — the next AYFC newsletter is published at abbotsyouthfc.co.uk/news

CLUB LOTTERY — PLAY FROM £1 A WEEK

A quick plug for the **Watford Community Lottery**, which supports the club directly. Tickets start at just **£1 a week**, with a top prize of £25,000 — and 50p in every £1 comes straight back to AYFC to help keep running costs down for families.

If you can, sign up or gift a ticket: watfordcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/abbots-youth-fc

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Each month we'll celebrate a player who has stood out for effort, attitude or improvement — as nominated by their coach.

[Player name] — *[add a line or two about why they earned it]*. A brilliant example for their teammates. Collect your certificate at training this week!

KIT & BOOT ROOM

The **Boot Room** is our second-hand kit shop, raising funds for the club. If you're after boots, astros, shirts or shorts at sensible prices, have a look at the Boot Room pages on the website.

For brand-new club kit and training wear, the **AYFC Shop** (run with Total Football Direct) is open all year round — perfect timing with the new season starting on 4 October.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. All of our coaches are DBS-checked and we follow FA guidance on children's football.

If you ever have a concern about a child's welfare — on or off the pitch — please contact our Club Welfare Officer, **Gordon Wilson**, or speak to any of your child's coaches in confidence.

COACHES' CORNER

A section for the coaching team — this part is included in the PDF edition only.

- **Session planning:** [add monthly session theme]
- **FULL-TIME:** make sure result reporting is up to date once the season starts on 4 October — home teams report scores by [time TBC] on matchday.
- **Coaches' meeting:** [date TBC], [venue TBC]. Agenda: season logistics, fireworks night rota, kit returns.
- **Safeguarding refresher:** renew your FA safeguarding certificate via the FA website if it expires before the new year — the club will cover the cost.