ABBOTS YOUTH FC · MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & COACHES

October 2026

Issue 2

WELCOME TO OCTOBER

Autumn is finally here — there's a chill in the air and you can see your breath in the morning — and it's been a fantastic first few weekends, with great results right across the club. Whether it was a first-ever matchday or a hard-fought league win for the older teams, October has reminded us what the club is all about: **fun, safe, high-quality football for the children of Abbots Langley and beyond**.

Thank you to every coach, team manager, parent helper and volunteer who made the opening weeks happen. Everything at AYFC is run by volunteers, and we simply couldn't do it without you.

> *Coach me, I will learn. Challenge me, I will improve. Believe in me, I will grow.*

At a glance: the season is under way across every age group · Club Spirit Award nominations are open until the 9th · the parish fireworks night is coming up on 6 November · a club quiz night on Friday 20 November.

AROUND THE CLUB

Season kick-off

All age groups (U7–U18) got under way on **Sunday 4 October**. A huge well done to every team — and a special welcome to the families who have joined the club for the first time this season. Keep an eye on the fixtures page and the FULL-TIME app for kick-off times and venues.

Fireworks night — save the date

ABBOTS LANGLEY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The club is once again running the **sweet stall** at the parish fireworks night — **Friday 6 November at Manor House Playing Fields** — and it's one of the biggest nights of the year for the village. Come along, say hello and grab a sweet treat. Full details are on the Parish Council website.

Abbots Langley Fireworks Display — **Friday 6 November**, Manor House Playing Fields. A professional display set to music, hot food, children's amusements and the Manor House bar. AYFC will be there running the sweet stall — we'd love to see you.

Ref & linesman training — everyone welcome

Matches need a referee — and, as players get older, linesmen too. The more people we have trained, the more games we can run smoothly for the kids — without leaning on the same few volunteers every week. We're running **free training** for parents, players and volunteers.

Free ref & linesman training — **Saturday 17 & 31 October, 10:30am** at Manor House (outside the cricket club). Open to everyone, no experience needed. **Sign up online** or just turn up.

Quiz night — save the date

We're holding a **club quiz night on Friday 20 November at Manor House — doors 7pm for a 7:30pm start**. Get a team together, test your knowledge of everything from football to general trivia, and help raise funds for the club. **More details to follow on WhatsApp soon** — keep an eye on the club group.

QUIZ NIGHT AT MANOR HOUSE

CLUB SPIRIT AWARD

AVERY · U12 BLUE — THIS MONTH'S CLUB SPIRIT AWARD WINNER

> *Avery has made a brilliant start to life at Abbots Youth FC. Since joining the U12 Blue from United Dragons, he has settled into the squad seamlessly and made an immediate impact — earning Player of the Match on his debut against Berkhamsted Raiders Oranges.*
>
> *Playing at the back, Avery showed real composure, winning important battles in defence and consistently starting our attacks with his vision and distribution. Just as importantly, he brings great energy, discipline and work rate to training and matchdays, and sets a wonderful example for his teammates.*
>
> — **Dave Amiran**, U12 Blue Coach

A thoroughly deserved **Club Spirit Award** — a fantastic start to your Abbots Youth career, Avery. Keep it up!

Know a player who shows great **sportsmanship, respect, teamwork or community spirit**? Nominate them in the **coaches WhatsApp group** — nominations close on the 9th.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Friday 6 November** — parish fireworks night at Manor House; AYFC runs the sweet stall (details)
- **Friday 20 November** — club quiz night at Manor House, 7pm for a 7:30pm start (details via WhatsApp soon)
- **The 9th of each month** — Club Spirit Award nominations close
- **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**

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, we now use a **local supplier for all of our kit requirements** — contact the club for more information.

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 Child Welfare Officer, **Gordon Wilson** (07931 541535), or speak to any of your child's coaches in confidence.

You can read our full Safeguarding Children Policy on the club website, including the contact details for raising a concern.

CLUB COMMITTEE — WHO TO CONTACT

AYFC is run entirely by volunteers. If you need to reach the committee, here's who's who:

- **Marie Tailor** — Co-chair · 07956 192206
- **Chris Hurley** — Co-chair · 07968 366361
- **Gordon Wilson** — Child Welfare Officer · 07931 541535
- **Martin Dean** — Secretary · 07747 790617

abbotsyouthfc.co.uk · fun, safe, high-quality football for the children of Abbots Langley and beyond

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