

DONS COLUMN



James Reeve posts his Cowshed Commentaries blog on our website. You can get involved at onemk.co.uk

DONS enter the international break in 21st place in the Championship after a 2-1 defeat to high-flying Brighton and Hove Albion.

Dons have struggled to find the net regularly, with Simon Church, Carl Baker, Daniel Powell, Ben Reeves and Dean Bowditch all recording two league goals each this season.

But after the match at Brighton, Nicky Maynard is the Dons' new hope for scoring more regularly.

Maynard opened his account against Brighton and due to a lack of playing time, it took a while for Maynard to regain full fitness.

Simon Church is a decent striker but he does not have a strong goal scoring record in the Championship, having scored six goals across the previous three seasons at this level.

Maynard has equally struggled over the previous three seasons, scoring twice in the Championship.

But during his three-and-a-half year spell with Bristol City, Maynard managed 45 league goals in more than 120 appearances for the club, who are now also struggling in the Championship alongside the Dons.

If he is given the chance to start matches regularly, his drive, determination and work ethic during matches could see him eclipse 10 goals throughout the rest of the season.

With the majority of goals coming from midfield players, the Dons will be hopeful that Maynard can have the kind of impact they need to survive.

Maynard will be relied on heavily and hope will surround him and his potential to be the Dons' leading goal scorer for the rest of the season.

FIXTURES

- NOV 21 FULHAM (H)
- NOV 28 WOLVES (A)
- DEC 5 BRENTFORD (A)
- DEC 12 IPSWICH (H)
- DEC 15 SHEFF WED (A)

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

Team	P	Home					Away					GD	PTS
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1 Hull	16	6	2	0	16	3	4	2	2	10	5	18	34
2 Brighton	16	6	2	0	10	4	3	0	11	8	9	34	
3 Burnley	16	6	1	1	16	8	3	4	1	7	6	9	32
4 Middlesbro	16	6	1	1	15	2	3	2	3	9	10	12	30
5 Derby	16	4	3	1	13	6	4	3	1	9	5	11	30
6 Birmingham	16	3	2	3	9	10	5	2	1	15	7	7	28
7 Cardiff	16	5	2	1	10	4	1	5	2	7	8	5	25
8 Reading	16	3	4	1	11	5	3	2	3	12	12	6	24
9 Sheff Wed	16	4	3	1	12	8	2	3	3	8	11	1	24
10 Ipswich	16	3	4	1	11	7	3	2	3	12	16	0	24
11 Brentford	16	3	1	4	9	13	3	2	3	12	10	-2	21
12 Fulham	16	3	2	3	15	15	2	3	3	14	13	-1	20
13 QPR	16	3	4	1	16	11	2	1	5	6	13	-2	20
14 Wolves	16	2	3	3	9	10	3	1	4	11	11	-1	19
15 Leeds	16	1	3	4	5	10	3	4	1	11	9	-3	19
16 Blackburn	16	1	4	2	8	5	1	4	3	7	10	0	17
17 Preston	16	2	5	2	5	6	2	3	3	6	7	-2	17
18 Notts Forest	16	2	3	3	7	8	2	2	4	5	8	-4	17
19 Huddersfield	16	2	3	3	10	10	1	3	4	6	13	-7	15
20 Bristol City	16	2	2	4	10	15	1	4	3	7	11	-9	15
21 DONS	16	3	0	5	7	10	1	2	5	7	13	-9	14
22 Charlton	16	3	2	3	11	13	0	2	6	3	13	-12	13
23 Bolton	16	1	6	1	6	6	0	2	6	4	16	-12	11
24 Rotherham	16	1	2	5	9	18	1	1	6	8	15	-16	9

ICE HOCKEY

Food for thought over netminders

BY SCOTT KIRK
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THE pitfalls of withdrawing a netminder in favour of an extra skater were put into sharp focus for MK Lightning at the weekend as they both benefited and suffered from it.

On Saturday coach Pete Russell took off goalie Dean Skinnis to get a late equaliser against Guildford Flames at the MK Arena. The move backfired as the Surrey team secured the points with a fourth goal to make it 4-2.

A day later though it was Lightning who were rewarded as Swindon Wildcats withdrew Stevie Lyle while on a powerplay to give the side a six on four skater advantage at the Link Centre – only for James Griffin to blast into the unguarded goal and seal a 4-1 Lightning win.

Such is the competitiveness of the English Premier League this season that, despite only gaining two out of four points, Lightning are still joint top with Peterborough Phantoms, although Lightning have played three more games.

Sunday's win at Swindon was



Disappointment: Guildford shot down in flames MK Lightning on Saturday

sweet revenge for Lightning who had gone down 4-3 to Wildcats eight days earlier at MK Arena.

It went some way to make up for the previous evening's disappointment when Lightning were second best to a well drilled Guildford Flames.

The home side struggled to put

passes together with too many going astray and others that were cut out by Flames' which upset Lightning's rhythm.

This weekend Lightning have the chance to gain immediate revenge when they entertain Guildford, before they travel to Bracknell Bees on Sunday.

FORMULA ONE

Brazil GP doesn't do it for Daniel

DANIEL Ricciardo has admitted that the Brazilian Grand Prix doesn't give him the same buzz as other Formula One tracks.

It is the penultimate race of the season this weekend but Ricciardo for one doesn't sound like he is too thrilled at the South American track.

"Brazil's a wonderful Grand Prix with a great atmosphere but the track doesn't really do it for me," Ricciardo told the team's website.

"There's just not a corner that gives you any real satisfaction. It needs a few more corners and something really high speed.

"The crowd really gets your heart-rate up before the sessions, so you want to be really on it but instead have to be very patient."

Ricciardo goes into the weekend in eighth place on 84 points, four behind his Red Bull teammate Daniil Kvyat.



Ain't no satisfaction: Daniel Ricciardo isn't the biggest fan of the Brazilian Grand Prix

BADMINTON

Finals are two tournaments away

CHRIS and Gabby Adcock will be looking to secure their place in the end-of-season BWF Dubai World Superseries Finals.

The Adcocks currently occupy the final spot for the finals as they compete for the chance to win £1million.

The Thaihot China Open takes place this week and the Yonex-

Sunrise Hong Kong Open finishes on November 22.

Their first match in China took place in the early hours of this morning.

Gabby told the Badminton England website: "Dubai is obviously a great event to be a part of and we are in a very strong position for making the

finals. Mixed doubles is very strong so we won't leave any room for complacency."

Meanwhile, Ben Lane and Jess Pugh are preparing for the World Junior Championships in Peru one year after winning the Hungarian International title, which was their first senior victory together.

SPORTS SHORTS

ATHLETICS

THE second Chiltern Cross-Country League match took place at Teardrop Lakes and Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club used home advantage to snatch a team win over Bedford and County.

In the senior men's 9,500m race, Steve Tuttle came home fifth while in the ladies 6,000m race, Lara Bromilow finished fourth.

There was a team win for the U15 girls who raced over 3,600m while Jack Meijer was the best placed MMKAC individual with his third position in the U15 boys over 4,400m.

RUGBY UNION

OLNEY beat Vipers 41-20 in the Midlands Two East (South) with skipper Jack Sutton opening the scoring for Olney in a high-scoring game. Vipers kicked a penalty but converted tried from James Brock, Phil Bowden and Will Durden made it 28-3 at half time. Vipers brought it back to 28-15 before Sutton's try and a penalty extended the lead to 36-15. Vipers scored another try but Bowden had the last say to cap a 41-20 win.

In Southern Counties North, Bletchley were beaten 18-3 by Bicester, while the Berks/Bucks and Oxon Premier Division saw Milton Keynes win 38-20 at Slough in a result that would mean up to top spot in the division following fellow title challengers Gosford All Blacks beating Abingdon 28-26.

HOCKEY

MILTON Keynes ladies lost their first match of the South Clubs Women's League Division 3A 4-1 at PHC Chiswick, which allowed their opponents to go top of the table.

Liam Foster scored four goals but that still wasn't enough as the men lost 7-4 in a high-scoring South Hockey League Premier Division One match at unbeaten Old Georgians.

TABLE TENNIS

TABLE toppers MK Spinners whitewashed MK Powers 10-0 in the Milton Keynes Table Tennis League, while second-placed Monarchs hammered Kings 9-1 in the Greenleys derby.

MK Walking Wounded were in great form, beating MK Kingpins 7-3 and MK Sasaki lost no ground at the top of the Premier League with a 9-1 success over MK Phoenix.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

ZIAHN White's brace and goals from Emmanuel Dahie and Jake Pym earned Clean Slate a 4-4 draw at Loughton Manor, whose goals all came from James Davey, in the Spartan South Midlands Division Two.

HANDBALL

OLY Cat made an impressive start to the new season with the club's youngsters sitting top of the early England Handball U18s Southern Division table. In the opening week, the team narrowly lost to Ealing 17-14 before producing a dominant display to beat Ipswich 25-8. However, there was no stopping Bobby White's young charges in the second round of fixtures, as they moved to the division's summit with three wins out of three on the day. A hard-earned 17-14 success over Carshalton Titans was backed up by comfortable triumphs over Poole Phoenix (26-3) and Hackney GD (21-1) to send the club up to top spot.

This season has seen the introduction of a second under-18 side and they too have made an impressive start. Oly Cats II also defeated Poole and Hackney, 18-3 and 15-3 respectively, while a forfeit win over Ilington put the team third.

In the Championship South, Oly Cats senior team haven't fared quite so well, but the two matches have given White the opportunity to test his young squad. The season opener resulted in a closely-fought battle against Cranfield which they lost 19-17 before they were beaten 42-26 at Brighton.