

DONS COLUMN



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

THE January transfer window is growing closer and MK Dons manager Karl Robinson has been scouting desired targets, hoping to boost his team's chances of winning their relegation battle.

But, with Dons having the lowest budget of any team in the Championship, the club will need to let players leave before they can bring in their preferred players.

Sergio Aguza has failed to make any appearances for the club in the league and has made just one league cup showing. He has failed to adapt to the physicality of the English game and will likely be one of the first players to go in January.

Mark Randall has suffered injuries and failed to break into the first team while fit, making him another likely departure this January.

Cristian Benavente's recent appearance on the bench suggests the Peruvian international has finally turned a corner but he has still not made an appearance for Dons since the early stages of the season.

Dale Jennings' fitness has not been up to scratch and he has been a big disappointment. Karl Robinson admits he's been a failed gamble thus far and he could depart in January.

Tom Hitchcock has made only a handful of league appearances for Dons and spent two loan spells at Fleetwood Town and Stevenage.

Dons need fresh faces to help boost their survival chances this season and these players may be unfortunate and find themselves moving to new homes come January to help the club finance new signings.

FIXTURES

- SAT IPSWICH (H) (12.30PM K-O)
- TUES SHEFF WED (H)
- DEC 19 NOTTS FOREST (A)
- DEC 26 CARDIFF (H)
- DEC 28 BIRMINGHAM (A)

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

Team	Home					Away					GD	PTS	
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A			
1 Brighton	19	8	2	0	15	7	3	6	0	12	9	11	41
2 Middlesbrough	19	7	1	1	16	2	5	2	3	13	10	17	39
3 Derby	19	5	3	1	15	6	5	4	1	11	5	15	37
4 Hull	19	6	2	1	16	5	4	3	3	12	8	15	35
5 Burnley	19	6	2	2	17	11	3	5	1	9	8	7	34
6 Cardiff	19	5	3	1	12	6	2	5	3	10	12	4	29
7 Sheffield Wed	19	5	4	1	15	9	2	4	3	10	13	3	29
8 Birmingham	19	3	2	5	9	13	5	2	2	16	9	3	28
9 Ipswich	19	3	5	2	13	11	4	2	3	15	16	1	28
10 Brentford	19	5	1	4	13	14	3	3	3	13	11	1	28
11 Reading	19	4	4	2	13	7	3	2	4	13	15	4	27
12 QPR	19	4	4	1	17	11	3	1	6	7	14	-1	26
13 Blackburn	19	2	5	2	10	7	3	4	3	11	11	3	24
14 Wolves	19	2	4	3	9	10	2	4	5	15	14	0	24
15 Notts Forest	19	4	3	3	13	9	2	2	5	6	10	0	23
16 Fulham	19	3	3	3	16	16	2	4	4	15	17	-2	22
17 Leeds	19	2	3	5	7	12	3	4	2	11	10	-4	22
18 Preston	19	1	5	3	6	8	3	4	3	9	8	-1	21
19 Huddersfield	19	2	3	4	10	12	2	3	5	9	16	-9	18
20 DONS	19	3	1	5	8	11	1	3	6	7	15	-11	16
21 Bristol City	19	2	3	5	11	18	1	4	4	7	14	-14	16
22 Charlton	19	3	2	4	11	16	1	2	7	6	16	-16	16
23 Rotherham	19	2	2	6	13	20	2	1	6	9	15	-13	15
24 Bolton	19	1	7	2	9	10	0	2	7	5	18	-14	12

BADMINTON

Penty returns to haunt old team

BY SCOTT KIRK
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BIRMINGHAM Lions captain Toby Penty put old friendships to one side on his return to Milton Keynes, setting the tone for his new team to earn an impressive victory at Oakgrove School.

MK went down 3-2 to the Lions before captain Peter Mills confident they can turn it around to qualify for the play-offs.

The hosts had edged the clash 3-2 last season, but they were no match this time around.

Penty had won in the men's singles, beating Sam Parsons, before Fontaine Chapman swept aside Caroline Westley and in the women's doubles Anita Kaur and Sarah Walker triumphed over Swedish debutant Clara Nistad and Marie Roepke.

The result could have been worse for the home side but for Gordon Thomson and Sophie Sankey, who won the mixed doubles, while alongside youngster Sean Vandy, skipper Mills edged a thrilling men's doubles contest.



Defeat: Birmingham Lions (red) defeated MK Badminton at Oakgrove School on Monday night
Pic by Harry Marshall

"We're disappointed to lose the match of course, but to take the last two points from 3-0 down is really important," Mills said. "We learned last year when we just missed out on the play-offs that you have to be absolutely clinical, so we wanted to make every game count.

"You could see that by how much it meant to everyone just to win the last couple of matches, so it's onwards and upwards hopefully from here." For NBL fixtures, tickets and team news visit nationalbadmintonleague.co.uk or follow @NBL_official on Twitter.

ICE HOCKEY

Lightning give GB U20s workout

MK Lightning beat Great Britain U20s 3-0 thanks to a hat-trick from new import Frantisek Bakrlík.

The game on Wednesday at the MK Arena was a warm-up for GB's World Championships in Megreve, France, from December 12 to 18.

On Sunday, Finnish defenceman Martti Jarventie bagged two goals within as many minutes to steer MK Lightning to a 3-1 victory at Hull Pirates – their third success against the Humber-side outfit this season.

The win helped banish the disappointment of the previous evening's 2-1 defeat after penalties against Swindon Wildcats – a game in which former Great Britain netminder Stevie Lyle denied the hosts on 45 out of 46 shots. Lyle was awarded his team's man of the match while MK goalie Dean Skinnis was also outstanding – even though he faced far fewer shots and conceded twice in the shootout.



Victory: MK Lightning win
Pic by Lucy McGill

RUGBY UNION

MK century gives them top spot

ALCHESTER had to play their game against Milton Keynes with 14 men after their players suffered vehicle problems.

Their issues in the Berks/Bucks and Oxon Premier didn't improve when an MK player was punched resulting in a red card, which reduced them to 13 men before a late arrival meant their

numbers were able to go back up to 14.

It meant the result was never in doubt as MK charged into a 38-0 half time lead thanks to a Dan Pearson hat-trick and tries from Michael Fitzgerald, Dan Rolfe and Rob Lasbrey. Brian Purcell converted four of them.

They scored 10 tries in the

second half for an incredible final score of 102-0.

Tries from David Keating, Jason Buckley, Dean Williams and the boot of Phil Harman gave Bletchley a Southern Counties 20-10 victory over Drifters.

In Midlands Two East (South), Olney lost 24-6 at home to Belgrave.

SPORTS SHORTS

FUTSAL

OLY Cats, which has a handball team containing players from the area including Olympian Bobby White, have started up a futsal team.

Futsal is a five-a-side version of football and the team will be based predominantly in Northampton. Anyone interested can email howard.willmott@olycats.co.uk.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

NEWPORT Pagnell Town lost 1-0 at Deeping Rangers in the United Counties Premier League which sees them move down to fourth in the table.

In Division One, Olney Town beat Raunds Town 5-1 thanks to an Aaron Murrell brace and goals from Daniel Webb, Jack Weeden and William Wright.

With their senior team playing Bradford City in the FA Cup, Chesham United Reserves beat Old Bradwell United 3-0 in the Spartan South Midlands League Challenge Trophy. In the National Christian Cup, Clean Slate beat Boro Lane (Bromley) 4-3 after extra time.

In Division One, New Bradwell St Peter lost 3-2 at Buckingham Athletic, while in Division Two, Wolverton Town lost 1-0 at Tring Corinthians.

HOCKEY

MILTON Keynes ladies took on Witney on Saturday – a team who they have never taken points off – and came from behind three times to draw their South Clubs Womens Hockey League game 3-3, with goals coming from an own goal, Alice Vigor and Sophie Reynolds.

The men beat Lewes 3-2 in the South Hockey League Premier Division One with Ali McColl, Tom Murtagh and Luke Stone on the scoresheet.

TABLE TENNIS

GREENLEYS Monarchs remain top of the Milton Keynes Table Tennis League after crushing MK Walking Wounded 9-1 in one of the matches of the season so far.

Monarchs were flattered by the scoreline though with half the sets going to a decider and Steve Silk saved five match points in a 19-17 victory in the fifth game against Dave Murphy.

Second-placed MK Spinners white-washed MK Phoenix 10-0, while MK Kingpins fought out a well-earned draw with MK Sasaki after Dave Foster filled in for them while simultaneously playing for his own Division One team MK Rovers on an adjacent table.

Beleaguered Greenleys Kings squeezed past MK Powers 6-4 thanks to a Henry Arthur maximum. Powers' Peter Tillotson tripled his season's wins tally with a brace that included a fine win over Guy Sparrow.

ATHLETICS

MARSHALL Milton Keynes Athletics Club moved to the top of the Chiltern Cross-Country League with an emphatic team victory at Culham, near Abingdon.

Steve Tuttle and Liam Smith got the team on the right track in the men's race with second and fourth respectively, while the U17 men had three in the top ten, led by Alfie Yabsley, who finished second. Nadine Lewycky's third contributed to the effort as well, while in the U17/20 race, Emma Mears was also third. The U15 girls had a good victory over Windsor led by Enya Deysel with a season's best of fourth. There were 13 youngsters in the U13 girls race led by Barbara De Koning in fourth position.

There were 20 MMKAC seniors competing in the annual Bedford Half marathon which again attracted a field of a 1,000 runners. Gary Blaber led the team in ninth with a PB of 78.28. Wendy Webber was placed 10th lady with a season's best of 94.02.