HOW THE TABLE WORKS

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO FIT A4;
I STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU PRINT IT OUT AND HAVE IT NEXT TO YOU BEFORE USING THE MAIN TABLE.

The main table includes every club which has played League football, the division it was in and its final league position, season-by-season, from 1888/89 to 2008/09.

Each division of the League is represented by its own horizontal coloured bar; red for the top division, blue for the second, green for the third and yellow for the fourth. Each colour darkens slightly as its division's status has evolved (see also along the top of the main table), and this evolution can be measured against each of the individual league seasons which are in turn represented by the vertical columns of final place numbers. In order to help you not lose your way, the annual league season dates are repeated a few times within the body of the main table.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE	FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION						FA PREMIER LEAGUE	FA PREMIERSHIP	FA PREMIER LEAGUE
	FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION						FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION		FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
		FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION	FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION NORTH / FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION SOUTH		FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION		FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION		FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEAGUE ONE
					FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOURTH DIVISION		FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION		FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEAGUE TWO
1888/89 · 1891/92	1892/93 · 1919/20 · 1920/21 · 1921/22 · 1957/58				1958/59 · 1991/92		1992/93 · 1993/94 · 2003/04		2004/05

To trace a club's progress, read its name on the left and follow along towards the right (the names are also repeated within the body of the table to help you keep track of where you are). Find the first occurrence of a coloured bar on that club's line and read from the nearest annual season dates row find out in which season it first played. The coloured bars, left-to-right, tell you in which division the club played each season (see above). A change of coloured bar means the club was either promoted or relegated. Simply follow along the horizontal line to establish which division the club was in for each season, as shown in the vertical year columns.

Annotations around the sample table:
- vertical columns identify each league season
- championship-winning seasons highlighted
- horizontal rows represent consecutive end of season league positions for each club
- alphabetical list of all participating clubs from 1888/89 to 2008/09
- GREEN horizontal line above represents Third Division North
- GREEN horizontal line below represents Third Division South
- RED horizontal bar represents the First Division
- BLUE horizontal bar represents the Second Division
- GREEN horizontal bar represents the Third Division
- YELLOW horizontal bar represents the Fourth Division

1948/49	1949/50	Club	1950/51	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54	1954/55	1955/56	1956/57	1957/58	1958/59	1960/61
—	—	Aberdare Athletic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Accrington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	13	Accrington Stanley	23	re22	24	re15	2	3	3	2	19	24
—	—	Accrington Stanley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21	re20	Aldershot	18	12	19	17	14	15	19	18	22	re18
—	—	Aldershot Town	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	Ardwick	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	6	Arsenal	5	3	1	12	9	5	5	12	3	13
—	—	Ashington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	12	Aston Villa	15	6	11	13	6	20	10	14	21	1
—	—	Barnet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	13	Barnsley	15	20	22	2	1	18	19	14	22	17
—	—	Barnsley St. Peter's	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	15	Barrow	19	12	19	12	17	22	10	18	23	re18
—	—	Birmingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	22	Birmingham City	4	3	6	7	1	6	12(j)	13	9	19
14	16	Blackburn Rovers	6	14	9	3	6	4	4	2	10	17
16	7	Blackpool	3	9	7	6	19	2	4	7	8	11

It has not always been easy to decide what constitutes a club's name at any one time, and where names have changed sources sometimes conflict. A common-sense approach has been taken. Some clubs have changed their name and the table shows these. For example, Wimbledon's coloured line ceases at the end of season 2003/04; the continuity of the club can be picked up as Milton Keynes Dons with its first entry in season 2004/05. It should be noted that this continuity is not shown for Accrington and Accrington Stanley, which, despite the mythology, were two separate clubs nothing to do with one another (both now defunct) and the present Accrington Stanley is a further, different, club. There are other examples too.

A club's record is only included for the period during which it belonged to the League; its history before and after is beyond the scope of the table.

KEY TO CODES

d	demoted	f	failed to gain re-election	TM	Test Matches (see Brief History)
d*	won Play Offs but demoted and so remained in same division	(j)	jointly	up	promoted (see Promoted and Relegated Clubs)
		m	mid-season	n-	relegated to non-league
dn	relegated (see Promoted and Relegated Clubs)	PO	Play Offs (see Promoted and Relegated Clubs)	n+	promoted from non-league
e	elected to the Football League	r	resigned	n-*	not relegated to non-league
		re	re-elected	x	expelled