



But he has suffered a shocking relapse — culminating in The Sun’s photo yesterday showing a drunken Gazza propped up next to a litter bin outside a London hotel by concerned passers-by.

In his pockets were two gin bottles. He is said to have bought them from an off licence.

The Sun is urging landlords, shopkeepers and off licence staff to refuse to serve him alcohol.

And we want his friends, football fans — or anyone who should come across the stricken star — not to buy him drink.

Gascoigne began drinking again after having hip surgery last month. He was arrested last week for allegedly assaulting ex-wife Sheryl during a drunken row at Stevenage railway station, Herts.

Gazza, on crutches, was later caught on CCTV guzzling a bottle of gin as he stood in a London shop.

After being found outside the hotel he was taken to hospital, where he is thought to be still receiving treatment.

THE Sun today calls on Britain’s pub landlords and shopkeepers to help save Paul Gascoigne’s life — by refusing to sell him alcohol.

Gazza, 46, ended up in hospital this week after a mammoth booze binge.

Gazza's pal Ronnie Irani yesterday said too many pub staff are willing to sell the tragic star booze — just for the thrill of serving an England legend.

And Ronnie — who backs The Sun’s campaign to stop Gazza getting hold of the alcohol that is killing him — said many football lovers were also all-too eager to buy such a big star a drink.

He added: “The trouble is the ego-trip that goes with having a beer with Paul Gascoigne or serving him.

“It’s so wrong in so many ways but clearly for some people the temptation is too much.

Ronnie, 41, said: “The relapse stats for alcoholics are frightening. They relapse all the time, as Paul has now, and he’s just got to get himself out of it again.

“It’s not going to be easy so it’s a good thing The Sun is doing. If it sparks a bit of awareness, it can only be a good thing.”

When the former Newcastle, Spurs, Everton and Rangers midfielder left the clinic he was full of joy at having kicked his booze habit.

#### **Gazza has spent at least 15 years battling the booze**

1998: First stint in rehab after drinking 32 whiskies.

BOXING DAY 2004: Back on bottle after two years sober.

NEW YEAR’S EVE 2004: Hospitalised with pneumonia — sparking fresh bid to quit.

DEC 2005: Sacked as boss of Kettering for being drunk.

MAY 2007: Surgery for stomach ulcer after 40th birthday.

FEB 2008: Sectioned after answering hotel room door naked with “mad” written on his head.

APR 2009: Says he is off drink thanks to Tony Adams’ clinic.

FEB 2010: Arrested twice in 24 hours for drink driving and hotel bust-up.

JUL 2010: Goes to Raoul Moat’s police stand-off with lager and some chicken.

SEP 2012: Back on drink after 17 months off.

FEB 2013: Celeb pals fly him to rehab clinic in Arizona, US. Fights for life with organ failure after sudden detox before vowing never to touch booze again.

JULY: Nicked for alleged drunken assault on ex-wife Sheryl. Days later rushed to A&E after stumbling drunk into a London hotel.