

# TUFFLEY ROVERS



## **TUFFLEY ROVERS VS. ARDLEY UNITED**

**TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2020 /  
7:45pm KICK OFF**



**UHLSPORT HELLENIC  
LEAGUE**





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# EDITOR'S COMMENT

Welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this evening, for our first home Uhlsport Hellenic League game of the 2020/21 season. It is perhaps a sign of the times that our first fixture was postponed last week, when Longlevens had to report two potential Covid cases. Fortunately, tests came back negative.

This season, as part of our response to Covid-19, we have introduced an online version of the match-day programme but, as many of our regular readers will know, I am a traditionalist and it is my intention to continue with the paper version for as long as that is permitted. The online version will, I hope, increase interest in the programme because we can reach further, but there is no compromise to be made, as far as the printed version goes and those who would like one will be allowed to collect a printed version on match-days.

Others who write in this edition will focus on what has been a poor start to the season, so I'll simply acknowledge that and turn my attention to more positive news.

We have some fantastic volunteers who are working damn hard to help make sure that the club is a success and meets its obligations in making the club tick over, as well as meeting current challenges, alongside those pre-existing commitments.

As ever, I am grateful, in particular, to the band of family volunteers I have coerced into helping at games but it seems to have been 'cometh the covid, cometh the volunteer', as a number of people from the club have added their time and support to helping us manage first team fixtures. There are simply too many people to list in the programme, but I want to say thank you, to everyone who has helped.

One particular thank you goes to Brian Rossiter, who is known to both clubs, and has greatly helped us over the past couple of seasons, with his excellent photography at our matches, with many images used regularly in this publication.

The other positive has been the success of the new draught lines we've installed in the bar at our home. The sale of cans served a purpose but having a pint is, for many, part of the match-day experience and I'm delighted that we've made a step to support that. Sales have been going well, which is really positive when things are so difficult in so many respects.

Anyway, here is hoping for some more positive news from tonight's game. We haven't started well and this game has probably taken on increased importance, as a consequence.

Thank you to everyone who has visited today. We hope to see you again at Glevum Park this season – we need your support more than ever.

– **NEIL** #uptherovers

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# CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

I would like to start by welcoming everyone visiting Glevum Park this evening for our Hellenic League fixture against Ardley United.

First of all, it is great to be able allow spectators back to the home of Tuffley Rovers and I hope your visit is an enjoyable and safe one. You will see some changes to the ground where we have invested significantly over the last few months and thanks must go to the volunteers and the football committee to make all this happen. Please be respectful of the social distancing measures at all times and if our volunteers have to remind gatherings to separate, please know they are doing this as a safety measure.

On the field, our results have not been as we would have hoped and that Coxy, who sets high standards, would expect. We have a young, talented and capable team that need to get that first win to kick on from; hopefully that comes tonight.

Away from the action, a small group of the players involved in our club took on a charity walk approximately three weeks ago - myself included - walking the Cotswold Way, from Bath to Gloucester, in aid of a truly fantastic charity, Heart Heroes. We managed to raise just over £3,000 and you will see charity buckets and merchandise that can be purchased in the bar and burger bar if you wish to donate or purchase, with all funds going to the charity.

Again I sincerely hope you enjoy your visit to Glevum Park and have a safe return journey home.

– **DAN BOON** #uptherovers

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 **MARSH**

# MANAGER'S COMMENT

Hello to all of those who are visiting us today, including our opponents from Ardley United.

It has been a tough start to the season. There have been some positives we need to look to and keep in mind; we were good during large parts of the FA Cup game and in the defeat at Virginia Water, but chances went begging and we were punished at the other end. Since then, things have continued to be challenging but we are working hard to try and put things right.

This has been a big period of reflection for all involved and we must stick together now and stand up to be counted. Responsibility and accountability in the face of adversity is needed if we are to get out of this blip.

I fully believe it is just that – a blip – and nothing more serious, but this young squad need to learn quickly and action will speak louder than words.

We've finally been able to bring in some additional players and I hope that Luke Soule will have completed his transfer from Shortwood United in order to be able to feature this evening. He is a natural goalscorer, which is something we've been missing of late. I hope everyone can give him a warm welcome to the club.

One thing I hope we can be sure of, there won't be many Tuffley Rovers team that has ever worked harder than this group will tonight.

Thanks for the support this evening.

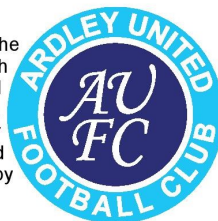
– COXY





## Ardley United • Club History

Ardley United were formed in 1945 just after the end of the Second World War. In the early years, the club plied its trade in the Lord Jersey FA and played on a pitch which was situated close to the railway line on the Oxford Road. The 1950's and '60's were successful for the club as they won both league titles and cups; most notably the Oxfordshire Junior Shield on three occasions as well as many other trophies. The acquisition of the current Playing Field site in the mid-60's enabled the club to move into the heart of the village, and a number of volunteers led by life-long supporter Doug Hodges built modest changing rooms.



Ardley continued to compete in the Jersey League throughout the 70's and early 80's without much success but this was to change in the mid-'80's with the arrival of Norman Stacey as chairman. In 1988 the club were promoted to the Oxfordshire Senior League and won the Division One title at the first attempt, following this up with the Premier Division title the following season. Accepting a place in the Hellenic League for the 1993/4 season, Ardley spent six seasons in the 'old' Division One winning it in both 1996/7 and 97/8 as well

as winning the Division 1 Cup for a record four consecutive seasons before it was merged with the Premier Division Cup to become the Challenge Cup that we know today. The manager during these years was ex-Oxford United leading scorer Peter Foley and he was to be the first in a line of managers to keep Ardley at the forefront who include Paul Spittle, Paul Berry, Dan Still and Kevin Brock among their number.



Major change was to come in the early 2000's as, along with the Ardley Playing Field Committee,

Ardley United oversaw the construction of dedicated facilities along with a separate village hall which enabled the club to be independent of community activities. The new clubhouse, which had been awarded the Non-League Paper's Hungerford Cup for most-improved facilities, allowed the club to be promoted to the Hellenic Premier Division and so began the club's most successful years to date.

Kevin Brock took the reins for seven seasons which saw Ardley win several cups including the Oxfordshire Senior Cup in 2013/14, a season during which they narrowly lost out on the Premier Division title by just two points. Following Brock's departure, Paul Davis took over as manager for nearly two seasons until the resignation of long-time chairman Norman Stacey in June 2017 for personal reasons. Ian Feaver took over the role of Chairman and appointed Craig Adey as First Team Manager. A decision to be voluntarily relegated to UHlsport Hellenic League Division One West gave everyone some breathing space to adjust to the new regime.

Craig brought with him a talented squad of players and they won the Division title gaining promotion back to the Premier Division at the first time of asking. The 2018/2019 season had its ups and downs but the team finished on a high winning the Hellenic League Floodlit Cup.

Lee Matthews was appointed manager for the 2020-21 season, after being joint manager with Danial (Elvis) Knight after Craig departed during the 2019-20 season. The club went through a restructure in the back office, leading to Eddie Nix being appointed as Director of Football and the creation of the Ardley United Development team, managed by Carl Reed.







## **Working with children and their families living with Heart Conditions**

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**UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION  
FLACKWELL HEATH 2-1 TUFFLEY ROVERS  
SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Tuffley Rovers dismal start to their 2020/21 season continued when they visited Flackwell Heath on Saturday afternoon and although a late Henry Birkett goal – the first Richard Cox's side had scored in their four league games - offered some hope, it was another afternoon when a victory had seemed unlikely almost from the earliest moments in the game. By contrast, the three points awarded to the hosts took them to the summit of the Premier Division table.

Following the previous week's disappointing exit from the Buildbase FA Vase, Cox made four changes to his starting line-up, with Miles Ferguson, Toby Lawrence, Rudi McKinnon and James Sunley all included from the outset. Rovers' most experienced player, Warren Mann, was absent however, due to an injury picked up the previous week.

The hosts were immediately on the front foot and Cameron Gray's shot, within the opening three minutes, went incredibly close to Luke Merchant's goal, but whistled narrowly wide with the Rovers keeper beaten.

Merchant, making his fiftieth competitive appearance for the club, was collecting the ball from the back of the net ten minutes later and he had to take responsibility for his side falling behind, as he misjudged James Burrell's cross, allowing Gray a simple chance to head the ball into an empty net from close range.



The hosts were applying constant pressure and Rovers skipper, Macaulay Herbert, then had to make an excellent headed clearance, under pressure, to keep his side in the game, before a wicked cross from Josh Baines left the visiting defence at sixes-and-sevens, only for Ashley Howell to head wide and over, with the goal at his mercy.

It wasn't until the 30-minute mark that Rovers mustered their first effort on goal, with Birkett's long range effort, with Flackwell keeper Aaron Watkins way off his line, audacious but misdirected and drifting wide of the goal.

Herbert then made two sensational defensive blocks to deny The Heathens and Rovers held out until the interval so that they, somewhat fortuitously, trailed by the narrowest of margins.

The second period started with both sides huffing and puffing, without testing the opposition keeper, but with the hosts having the greater share of possession and territorial advantage, with Rovers picking up a couple of cautions as they sought to keep the deficit to a single goal, including one card for Lawrence, just short of the hour, a consequence of a challenge that saw him both cautioned and collecting an injury that ended his game, as he limped off to be replaced by Jacob Geddes.

After his earlier error, Merchant was now looking an assured presence in the Rovers goal and he combined with Herbert to deny Phil Pryor, whose surging run from deep caused problems, but the respite proved temporary as, from the next phase of play, Burrell was given a chance to plant a low, well-struck shot into the bottom corner of the Rovers net on 62 minutes.

Cox then made a double-substitution, as Antoine Thompson and McKinnon were withdrawn, to be replaced by Brett James and Joe Shutt after 65 minutes.

The changes seemed to prompt an improvement in Rovers' game but they were grateful, once again, for some excellent defensive work from the substitute, Geddes, who made a terrific block to keep out Sodike Anyadike-Thompson's powerfully struck effort.

Merchant then made another great stop, this time to deny Khalid Simmo, before the Flackwell Heath man ballooned another effort over the Rovers bar.

With seven minutes remaining, Merchant launched a clearance that caused problems for the home defence, as James challenged for the ball, and Birkett showed composure to take the ball around Watkins and roll it into the goal, although a deflection off a covering defender slowed the shot and James Mansfield's desperate clearance looked as though it might have kept the ball out, before the Assistant Referee, who was well placed, signalled for the goal.



Merchant then had time to make another good stop, whilst his teammates pushed hard to try and find a way back into the game, but Watkins went untroubled in The Heathens goal and the game ended 2-1 in favour of the hosts.

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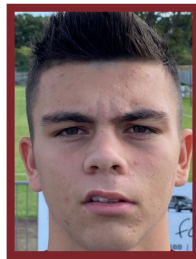
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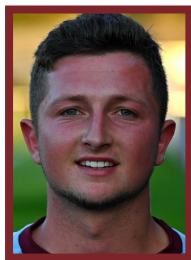
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### The last time out against today's opposition at Glevum Park

It has been a while since we last saw Ardley United visit Glevum Park, in February 2019, but it would be good to match result from that occasion tonight....

## **HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TUFFLEY ROVERS 4-0 ARDLEY UNITED SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2019**

Rovers returned to the familiarity of their Glevum Park home after a tiring road-trip which had seen them take five points from the nine available out of visits to Virginia Water, Reading City and Ascot United. With eight home league matches still to play, more than any other club in their division apart from Reading and Windsor, this visit from the Oxfordshire club gave Rovers the first of many opportunities to climb away from trouble near the foot of the table. Ardley United arrived in Gloucestershire in 15<sup>th</sup> place and although they seemed to be in a safe enough position to retain their Premier Division status, they knew there was no margin for error. With only two victories from their twelve away matches so far, this was an important fixture for Tuffley's visitors as well as for the hosts.

As it was, Rovers had a very productive afternoon; an emphatic four-goal victory over opponents who do not travel well, a clean sheet for the goalkeeper and his defence, a huge boost to their goal-difference and rising one place in the table above Abingdon United, who went down to a heavy defeat at Windsor.

There was little in the opening minutes to indicate that Tuffley would be heading for only their second home league win of the season. Manager Mark Pritchett elected to start with all three of the men he had brought on as substitutes at Ascot a week earlier so this meant a first Rovers home game for Adam Bloomfield. The personnel in the defence and the shape of that defence were unchanged from the match in Berkshire seven days previously.

Ardley kicked off playing towards the training ground end but there was little in the early exchanges that predicted the tetchiness and confrontation the second half would bring. Rovers goalkeeper Luke Merchant twice had problems clearing the ball to the distance he is capable of but the visitors were unable to profit from this, before Conor Harris' free-kick from a promising position, twenty yards out, sailed over the crossbar.

Merchant, who quickly recovered from some early nervy moments, had to dive smartly to his left to make a save and his defenders then had to scramble to clear the ball away to safety. The 'keeper also had to come out to the edge of his area to smother the ball at the feet of Troy Bryan but it was another of his own poor clearances that had led to this chance.



Despite plenty of Ardley pressure, with just over half an hour played Rovers took the lead in sensational style. Kieran Alder chased a ball played forward over the top of the Ardley defence, won possession and then lashed a twenty-yard shot with his right foot which flew past Christian Lawrence and nestled high up in the side-netting. Within two minutes Sam Hill tried a shot from the same distance but Lawrence



saved that one.

Not to be denied, Rovers would soon double their lead though when Alder steered a perfect pass to his right which Dominic Kent ran on to and pushed the ball carefully and accurately into the far corner.

Sam Hill then needed treatment for an injury so Rovers were forced to make a relatively early change and bring on Will Dawes in his place. Dawes got into the game immediately and had a very lively ten minutes leading up to the interval.

A third home goal by Bloomfield was disallowed because Herbert had tugged an Ardley defender to the ground as a cross came in from the right; Alder's free-kick after Warren Mann had been fouled was headed goalwards by Dawes but grabbed by Lawrence and the half ended when yet another foul on Mann resulted in a free-kick which Paul Carter took but when Lawrence caught that kick under pressure from Alder the referee brought the first period to a close.



Ardley's approach to the second period was very positive. They saw more of the ball in the opening ten minutes than they had done in the whole of the first half. A corner taken by Harris reached Sam Jenkins, whose shot was saved. The visitors then made a triple-substitution, bringing on McKirnan, Giles and Yusuf and when another corner came in from the right it was McKirnan who fired a fierce shot towards goal only to see it hit one of his own team-mates.

Earlier in the season they might have buckled under pressure, but Rovers weathered this brief storm and were soon making chances of their own. Alder ran clear, pushed the ball to one side of the advancing goalkeeper and was clipped by him as he went the other side of him. But the ball had enough pace on it to roll into the net without him needing to follow it in. There was immediately a melee of players from both sides scuffling on the edge of the penalty-area and just inside it and the aftermath of this was that Ardley 'keeper Lawrence was shown a yellow card. The referee was a busy man because moments before the third goal he had issued a straight card to Jenkins for stamping on Bloomfield's leg.

It wasn't a surprise that Jake Rhodes came on for Bloomfield shortly after Ashley Bird came on for Mann, and it was Bird who would have the final say in this match when he, like Alder before him, raced through to be confronted by a goalkeeper charging towards him and tucked the ball neatly past him and into the net.

Rovers exorcised a lot of demons with an hour and a half's hard work. They started the season with seven straight home defeats in all competitions. They now have seven homes left, all in the League. But the balance has definitely shifted. In taking ten points from the last eighteen available in an unbeaten run of six games they have not only climbed up the table a bit but also dragged other clubs (including Ardley!) into the mess that they have worked so hard to extricate themselves from. This should give the squad plenty of confidence as it plays its games in hand over many of the clubs above them in the coming weeks, and although Ardley stay in fifteenth place, the worry for them is that could still be caught by some of the clubs below them.

TOTAL APPEARANCES	4	2	5	5	4	5	5	5	3	5	5	2	0	1
STARTS	4	2	5	5	4	4	3	5	3	5	5	1	0	0
SUBSTITUTE	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

Goalscorers	
Henry Birkett	2
Warren Mann	1

[illegible]

**THE BUILDBASE FA VASE, 1<sup>st</sup> QUALIFYING ROUND**  
**CLANFIELD 2-0 TUFFLEY ROVERS**  
**SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2020**

For the fourth year in a row Tuffley Rovers' FA Vase aspirations ended at the first hurdle, and for the second consecutive season they perished at the hands of a lower division opponent, as a lamentable performance away at Division One (West) Clanfield saw them exit the competition with a whimper.



The defeat by the Oxfordshire village side was the fourth consecutive defeat of Rovers' competitive season and they have now failed to score since their exit from the FA Cup on 1 September, and on this occasion they failed to test the hosts' keeper through the course of the 90 minutes.

During the early stages both sides shared possession, although Clanfield had the first chance to shoot on goal, although Alfie Saunders' effort, from distance, went well wide of Luke Merchant's goal.

Ollie Hunt, who was making a first start for Rovers, had the first effort on the Clanfield goal, but his header from Jack Beardsell's corner went well over the bar.

Rovers then had a free-kick on the edge of the Clanfield penalty area, but Antoine Thompson's effort was poorly struck and it became the catalyst for a swift counter-attacking move that ended with Isaac Oliver crossing just beyond the reach of Jozef Fullerton, who otherwise had the Rovers net at his mercy.

Thompson then had a shot blocked, as Rovers tried to apply pressure, before Cameron Pirie might have scored for the hosts, only to head Craig Connor's cross wide of the Merchant's goal.

Fullerton then saw his shot blocked, at the end of another Clanfield move, as Rovers found a way to keep their hosts out. The hosts were using Oliver as their main outlet and he was causing a number of problems to Rovers on the right-hand side, with another excellent cross presenting Connor Tinsley with a golden

chance to open the scoring, but he somehow contrived to turn the ball wide when under no pressure. That proved to be the last chance of the half that had started well for Rich Cox's side but ended with them lucky to be on level terms.

Beardsell managed to have a shot on goal, Rovers' first on target, but it was a tame effort as Josh Gibbens got a block in, before Dom Kent had an effort from distance that went wide of the Clanfield goal.

That was to prove the last moment of positivity for Cox's side, as some woeful defending, on 55 minutes, gave Tinsley to finish past Merchant, having been given the chance by Connor's pass, and the lack of a response prompted Cox to make a first change of the afternoon, as Joe Shutt was introduced in place of Jacob Geddes.



Shutt's first contribution of note was to set a good pass back into the path of Jake Rhodes, only for the Rovers midfielder to skew his shot horribly wide of the Clanfield goal, but Rovers slipped back into a familiar rut shortly after and they were fortunate that Saunders wasted a gilt-edged opportunity a few minutes later.

That was to prove a temporary reprieve and with 18 minutes remaining Saunders didn't waste a second chance, as he made the most of time and space 25 yards out, to drive a low shot into the bottom corner, to make it 2-0.

A series of substitutions followed but Rovers looked spent and their hosts seemed the more likely side to score, as they saw out the game, booking a home tie against Fleet Spurs in the process, as Rovers were left to reflect on another soulless performance that has brought a premature end to their FA competition interest for yet another season.

# UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

**Up to and including 26 September 2020**

POS		HOME					AWAY					OVERALL					GD	PTS	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F			A
1	Fladwell Heath	3	3	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	2	3	9
2	Reading City	4	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	6	3	2	2	0	7	4	3	8
3	Brimscombe & Thrupp	3	2	1	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	11	3	8	7
4	Binfield	3	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	5	1	2	1	0	7	1	6	7
5	Holmer Green	3	2	0	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
6	Bishops Cleeve	4	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	4	5	2	0	2	6	6	0	6
7	Virginia Water	4	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	2	4	4	0	6
8	Longlevens	3	1	2	0	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	7	4	3	5
9	Fairford Town	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	5	1	4	4
10	Easington Sports	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
11	Windsor	3	1	0	1	4	4	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
12	Westfields	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
13	Ardley United	3	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	6	-4	3
14	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	5	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2
15	Lydney Town	4	0	0	2	2	5	0	2	0	3	3	0	2	2	5	8	-3	2
16	Burnham	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
17	Tuffley Rovers	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	9	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0
18	Shrivenham	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	10	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0

## **Tonight's games:**

Binfield v Flackwell Heath

Fairford Town v Easington Sports

Holmer Green v Reading City

Lydney Town v Westfields

Royal Wootton Bassett Town v Longlevens

Shrivenham v Bishops Cleeve

Windsor v Virginia Water



## Tuffley Rovers



**Luke Merchant**

**Goal Keeper**

Firmly established as the club's first choice keeper, Returned after a spell in the USA, has played an important role in the team's developments. Step 4 experience with Cirencester Town. Big, vocal and a great shot stopper.



**Macaulay Herbert**

**Defence**

Team captain, 'Macca' was the first player to come through from the new youth set-up and hold down a place in the first team squad. Solid and dependable; an excellent defender who is getting better with every season that passes.



**Toby Lawrence**

**Defence**

Signed for 20/21 on a Work Experience arrangement from Cheltenham Town. Confident, ball-playing centre-back. Good in the air and in the tackle, but equally strong on the ball and capable of playing the ball out from the back.



**Jacob Geddes**

**Defence**

Joined in pre-season, after leaving Cheltenham Town. Fast-tracked to the first team squad, due to injuries, and hasn't looked back. He is still only sixteen. Courted by other clubs but decided to commit to The Rovers and looks a great signing.



**Jack Beardsell**

**Midfield**

Signed 2019 from Fairford Town Cheltenham Town's youth. Talented, calm on the ball, an excellent range of passing. Unleashes a powerful shot and delivering an excellent set-piece; with some great goals last term. Quality player!



**Harri John**

**Midfield**

Versatile, hugely energetic and a calm presence, joined in 2019, after returning from University, and has been a great addition, capable of playing at full-back or in a more central midfield role. His versatility continues to be an important asset.



**Henry Birkett**

**Midfield**

Third (fourth!) spell with us. Fairly nomadic life in Hellenic and Gloucestershire football. Could he now settle and become the key player that we all believe he can be? Great energy, good passing ability, adds goals. An important year for this lad.



**Joe Shutt**

**Forward**

Joined from Chipping Sodbury Town in 2019 now a firm favourite with the Rovers support. Quick, skilful, energetic and hard-working. Already contributed a goal every other game and it looks like there is more to come.



**Brett James**

**Forward**

Long serving player. A tremendous work rate with excellent dribbling skills and ability to bounce off tackles. After some injury issues, he is now looking fit again and will hope to make it to 200 appearances before the end of 2020/21.



**Warren Mann**

**Forward**

Eighteenth season in the squad! A Rovers legend, both on and off the field! Hugely committed, bringing energy, passion and excellent technique, constantly involved. Added more goals to his game over the past two seasons



**Miles Ferguson**

**Defence**

Initially on a dual registration from Slimbridge and although his season was curtailed by injury, he showed real promise in the appearances that he did make during 2019/20. Skilful, strong, commanding and a great addition for 2020/21.



**Mark Pritchett**

**Defence**

'Pritch' is tough in the tackle and a real leader amongst our youthful squad. Capable of playing at left-back or centre-half he has a terrific left foot, with nine goals in 19/20 testament to his goal threat.



**Isaac Lawrence**

**Defence**

Was on work experience arrangement from Cheltenham Town 19/20 season. Maturity beyond his years, real strength and enough versatility to play at centre-back when needed. Signed permanently during pre-season.



**Antoine Thompson**

**Defence**

Veteran of the squad, offering leadership to our young team, plus energy that betrays his years. Returned after being a regular during our final years in the Gloucestershire County League and has now passed fifty appearances for the club.



**Dominik Kent**

**Midfield**

Product of the Gloucester City U18 squad. Talented wide player, good on the ball, industrious and lightning fast. Has developed his game to become a key player and ended up as Players' Player and Manager's Player in 19/20



**Jake Rhodes**

**Midfield**

Joined 17/18 season, after a spell at Bishops Cleeve. An attacker who converted to a central midfield role in 2019/20 and now amongst our most important players; capable of dictating our play.



**Liam Wright**

**Midfield**

Originally a right-back, now seen as a key component in an energetic midfield group. A ball player but incredibly hard-working and other with a powerful shot from distance. Back from Bishops Cleeve and fast approaching 100 appearances.



**Lewis Bainbridge**

**Forward**

Joined 19/20 season, former Gloucester City youngster. Promising wide player, abundant energy and an eye for goal. He will be looking to make the breakthrough to become a regular starter in 2020/21.



**Adam Bloomfield**

**Forward**

Looks to have a promising future, a real penalty box predator. Starting to show the sort of promise that lead to Rovers securing him from Slimbridge when he was just 17 years old. Another for whom this could be a breakthrough year.



**Richard Cox**

**Manager**

A steadily developing influence on the first team set-up meant he was the obvious candidate to step into the vacancy created by Mark Pritchett's recent resignation and he will be holding the reins as we commence the 2020/21 season.



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# Respect



## Ardley United FC



**Sam Eeles**

Goal Keeper

Previously of Didcot Town Sam is an experienced and commanding keeper.



**Adam Rimmer**

Goal Keeper

Previously of Easington Sports Adam is a good All round GK.



**Caelan Isaac**

Goal Keeper

Former Didcot Town player, Caelan is an attacking full back who has pace and skill with a work rate second to none.



**Dan Middleton**

Defence

A former Brackley Town Saints player, Dan is 'Mr. Steady' and a superb defender in any position.



**Drew Boyd**

Defence

Team Captain Drew is a big commanding centre back who also likes to play when he can as well.



**Aleksander Novakovic**

Defence

The former Oxford City player is a modern defender who can play football but do the other stuff as well - a class act.



**Anton Mundy**

Defence

Anton is a no-nonsense defender who is solid in challenges in the air or in the ground.



**Lewis Gabbidon**

Defence

Lewis is another former Brackley Town Saints player but has previous at Ardley before. The vice-captain is a real cool class act.



**Alex Wheeler**

Defence

Alex is an attacking left wing back or left back – a sweet left foot.



**Lewis Middleton**

Midfield

Former Brackley Saints player, Lewis has already equalled his goal tally for last season just in pre-season. He is a hardworking skilful winger who can unleash a bullet of a shot.



**James Nash**

Midfield

Nashy is an all action player who works hard and never stops.



**Pat Starret**

Midfield

Pat is always a 8/10, steady, tidy, works hard and has a goal in him.



**Ryan Barney**

Midfield

Barney is at times a magician with the ball, a wide range of passing and a class act.



**Bradley Walton**

Midfield

Former Didcot Town Development player. Brad is an exciting player to watch, bags of ability and skill who has an eye for goal and a good engine.



**Ty Hamilton**

Midfield

Former Didcot Town Development player, Ty has bags of tricks, ability and skill and a wand of a left foot who will score plenty of goals.



**Callum Convey**

Midfield

Callum is an experienced solid player who adds grit to our midfield



**Owen James**

Forward

In very good form pre-season scoring a few and he is really growing as a player to the player we wanted to unlock - good feet, lively and clinical in front of goal. He really Could be the best number 9 in the league this year.



**Daryl Harris**

Forward

Daryl has played at higher levels and is looking sharp - can be a match winner.



**Tyvon Stewart**

Forward

Tyvon is a real prospect who is full of ability and pace - he is definitely one to watch.



**Craig Robinson**

Forward

Craig is an old fashioned like number 9 and solid in the air. He works hard and makes defenders life's difficult and gets his fair share of goals. Can also fill in at centre back.



# Appearance information

**Up to and including 26 September 2020**  
**(includes selected list of former players)**

Name	Apps	Goals		Names	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	76	22		Hyett, Kane	0	0
Atwell, Liam	0	0		James, Brett	178	63
Bainbridge, Lewis	24	5		John, Harri	23	0
Beardsell, Jack	33	8		Kent, Dominik	71	14
Bird, Ashley	50	5		Lawrence, Isaac	19	1
Bird, Joshua	3	0		Lawrence, Toby	4	0
Birkett, Henry	29	5		Mann, Warren	421	78
Bloomfield, Adam	28	6		McKinnon, Rudi	5	0
Bradley, Shayne	230	106		McNally, Laurie	0	0
Earwaker, Declan	7	1		Merchant, Luke	50	0
Evans, Louis	0	0		Priday, Niall	10	1
Ferguson, Miles	8	0		Pritchett, Mark	130	20
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32		Rhodes, Jake	52	15
Geddes, Jacob	5	0		Shutt, Joe	13	5
Guinan, Zachery	0	0		Sunley, James	3	0
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6		Thompson, Antoine	58	0
Herbert, Macaulay	206	7		Watkins, Jayson	0	0
Hill, Sam	120	8		White, Joel	88	4
Hunt, Ollie	2	0		Wright, Liam	93	3

NB: The figures are correct for all league competitions from season 2007/08, when Tuffley Rovers returned to the County League (Step 7) and include all competitive games since the start of the 2013/14 season. There are some gaps in the information relating to cup games prior to the start of the 2013/14 campaign. This period is currently subject to a thorough review and there may be some variation to statistics in due course.



Congratulations to Jake Rhodes, who brought up his 50th first team appearance, albeit in a disappointing result at Brimscombe & Thrupp two weeks ago.

Luke Merchant will also completed 50 games for the first team at Tuffley Rovers when he appeared in the fixture at Flackwell Heath.



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## Half-time quiz: Break for five

Grab a cup of tea and something to eat, then spend the five minutes of your half-time break trying to answer these questions. As ever, there is a theme and this week we focus on poor starts to the season....!

1. When Frank de Boer was appointed manager of Crystal Palace in 2017/18, there were high hopes. How many games were played in the Premier League before he was dismissed?

2. Talking of bad starts, the player pictured joined Manchester United in 1980 and failed to score in his 25 appearances during his first season, despite playing as a striker. Who is he and which United manager signed him?



3. Who is this manager, who oversaw Tottenham Hotspur's dreadful start to a Premier League season in 2008/09 and quickly lost his job?



4. Which Gloucestershire side were on the wrong side of several double-figure scorelines in 2016/17 but did get some positive publicity when they signed and played former England international Stuart Pearce in a game against Wotton Rovers?

5. Which German club finished in fifth place in the Bundesliga in 2016/17 but then failed to register a win in their opening eighteen games of 2017/18 and were subsequently relegated?

**Quiz Answers:** (1) Four; (2) Garry Birtles was signed by Dave Sexton; (3) Juande Ramos; (4) Longford; (5) FC Köln.



**UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION  
BRIMSCOMBE & THRUPP 6-0 TUFFLEY ROVERS  
TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020**



Tuffley Rovers slipped to their heaviest Hellenic League defeat since April 2018 and slipped to a third consecutive defeat to start the 2020/21 playing season, as Brimscombe & Thrupp scored three times in each half to leave Richard Cox's side bottom of the table, albeit with only two games played.

Rovers made two changes to their starting line-up from their defeat at Virginia Water four days previously, with talented youngster Rudi McKinnon replacing Warren Mann and, perhaps more notably, outfield player Liam Wright having to don the goalkeeping gloves due to Luke Merchant falling ill earlier in the day and various deputies being injured or otherwise unavailable at such short notice.

The game started fairly evenly, with both sides showing attacking intent, and with two close encounters still fresh in the mind from 2019/20 it was perhaps a poor indication of what might follow.

When Jacob Geddes made a strong tackle on Ollie Pitt, just outside the Rovers box, after 12 minutes, he was perhaps harshly judged to have made a foul and to then receive a caution, but it was less of a surprise that, from such a promising position, Jonty Welch stepped up to bend a low free-kick around the visitors' wall and beyond Wright, who was planted to the spot on his goal-line.

Just four minutes later, Rovers were properly set for a difficult evening, as Dylan



Morgan's run into the penalty area ended with what was ultimately a fairly soft penalty decision, but one that seemed inevitable as full-back Lewis Bainbridge made several attempts to end the foray, without ever getting close to the ball. The Rovers man was playing as an emergency full-back and his challenge was more akin to that of someone familiar with his usual striker's role.

Wright could do nothing to keep out Pitt's penalty, but did do well to deny Jack Smith, who looked set to make it 3-0 from yards out on 29 minutes.

That prove to be in vain, as did his next demonstration of his goalkeeping prowess, when kept out an effort from Smith, before full-back Antoine Thompson then blocked Pitt's effort, only to see the ball fall to David Woodfield, who smashed the ball home from close range, on 42 minutes.

Half-time might have given Cox the chance to rally his troops and inspire a fight-back, but a team who had failed to test the opposition goalkeeper at Virginia Water, and then followed suit in the opening 45 minutes, started the half in a manner that wasn't likely to see a drastic change in their fortunes, as the hosts cut them open from the kick-off and only a good stop from Wright, to deny Welch, prevented the deficit being extended.

Rovers did muster a chance, albeit one that didn't trouble Nick Jones in the Brimscombe goal, as Jack Beardsell created space for himself, but good only fire narrowly wide and into the side-netting.

Sam Prior's side continued to cause Rovers problems and they eventually extended their lead on 56 minutes, as Jack Smith took advantage of a failure to clear their lines, albeit with the benefit of a significant deflection off Thompson , before Cox made three substitutions in an effort to freshen up his side's rear-guard effort.

Beardsell then looked set to score, but Jones produced a block that forced the ball onto the frame of his goal and away from goal, before Toby Lawrence made two good interventions as Rovers showed an improved resolve to keep their hosts at bay.

With seven minutes remaining that resolve disappeared again, as Kyle Pitts found himself in acres of space to head home at the far post, to make it 5-0, before the rout was completed four minutes later, as Chalmers Phin found himself on the end of a good move, to make it six goals without reply and send Rovers to the bottom of the Hellenic League, Premier Division table.

Rovers may now welcome the distraction of an FA Vase tie at the weekend, although a defeat in that game will mean that their next league game, at home to Longlevens on 22 September, will have far more importance than many of the previous games between the two local rivals.



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# UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE

TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2020 — 7:45PM KICK OFF

## TUFFLEY ROVERS

V

## ARDLEY UNITED

Claret & Blue shirts; Claret & Blue shorts;  
Claret & Blue socks (GK: Orange).

Yellow shirts; Yellow shorts; Yellow socks  
(GK: Green)

Luke Merchant

1

Adam Rimmer

Miles Ferguson

2

Kyle Bestley

Antoine Thompson

3

Dan Middleton

Jake Rhodes

4

Ryan Barney

Macaulay Herbert ©

5

Drew Boyd

Jacob Geddes

6

Alex Novakovic

James Sunley

7

Bradley Singh

Dominik Kent

8

Liam Talboys

Warren Mann

9

Kynan Isaac

Henry Birkett

10

Bradley Walton

Rudi McKinnon

11

Calean Isaac

Joe Shutt

12

Jordan Godfrey

Luke Soule

14

Lewis Gabbidon

Toby Lawrence

15

Anton Mundy

Harri John

16

Ty Hamilton

Ollie Hunt

17

Ricardo Benjamin

Rich Cox

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David Michno

Ashleigh Watson  
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Other occupants

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Mark Coles (Physio)

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