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UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION



TUFFLEY ROVERS

V. LONGLEVENS



MONDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2021, 1pm



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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Welcome to today's game against Longlevens, who we welcome to Glevum Park for only the sixth time in six Hellenic League Premier Division seasons, which doesn't sound particularly odd until you realise that one of those fixtures was a cup tie. In fact, we haven't hosted Longlevens in a league game since 2018.

I'd also like to say a big thank you to the match officials and every single person attending Glevum Park for this fixture.

I'll address one thing before commenting on anything else. I am personally very sad to have accepted the resignation of Rich Cox last week, but it was the right thing for the club in light of the horrendous run of form we had been on. Coxy has a lot of qualities – integrity, honesty, decency and a clear commitment to the club – which is not true of every coach we've had at the club in recent years. I know it was hurting him to see what was unfolding before him and I also know that he was putting every ounce of energy into trying to change the pattern. Sometimes it isn't meant to be and he knew time was up if we are to have the best possible opportunity to turn things around.

Time has been against us, in terms of finding an immediate replacement, and we want to make the right appointment, so today's squad will be superintended by Ritchie Warden and Craig Darkin, who I know care passionately about trying to get some results for the club. To what extent they can change the formation, tactics or personnel to address our alarming slump will probably only be known once ninety minutes have been completed, but they are two great guys and I know they'll give it their all.

The good news is that Neil Mustoe is now confirmed as our manager, at least until the end of the season, and that is an appointment I could only have dreamed off. Neil's career as a professional is there for all to see and when Ken Blackburn confirmed he had negotiated for him to come on-board, I thought Christmas had come early! Neil will be involved today but officially takes charge from 3 January (although who knows what the situation might be by the time this is published!?!).

The way the Hellenic League operates means we are already well over half-way through our fixtures, so time is of the essence if we want to make sure fingernails aren't taken down to an unpalatable level! I have every confidence that Neil can take us on to better things.

Today's game is a chance to start on a different path and to try and lift everyone's spirits after a challenging couple of months. It is our final game of 2021, so it would be good to end on a high, but we know that Longlevens will want the same outcome that we do. Three points and the bragging rights over your local rivals is always good, whatever is happening in any other game during the season.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the fixture this afternoon. I wish you a safe journey home.

- NEIL #uptherovers

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CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Good afternoon and welcome to Glevum Park. First of all I hope everyone is managing to enjoy the festive season, despite all that is going on at the moment.

I hope we can offer a warm welcome to the committee, management team, players and supporters of Longlevens AFC for the second meeting of the clubs this season.

As most, if not everyone is aware Richard Cox departed his role as First Team Manager last Sunday and I would like to extend my thanks to Coxy for all the work that he did for Tuffley over the last four years. He will be missed and his passion for the club cannot be questioned. However, results were poor and we now need a quick turnaround in our results and performances as we now find ourselves in a relegation battle when, only looking back to mid-October, it seemed more likely we could move into the top 10 and push on.

You may well be aware we announced on Tuesday evening that Neil Mustoe has accepted the interim manager role up until the end of the season. This is great news not just for the squad, but also the wider club. I couldn't have imagined us, especially given the position we are in currently, to be able to attract someone with Muzzy's pedigree. Ritchie Warden will be staying on at the club and alongside Muzzy, who can hopefully develop and attract players that can turn our season around.

I am hoping (at time of writing) that all visitors today can make the most of the hospitality on offer at Glevum Park without having to manage anything along the lines of the Rule of 6, only able to serve alcohol outside and any other restrictions that may also be thrown our way with very little notice.

Stay safe and have a great afternoon.

Cheers,

- Dan

Dan Boon
Football Chairman
[#uptherovers](#)

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 MARSH



MANAGER'S COMMENT

Hello and welcome all to this afternoon's Hellenic League fixture against Longlevens. First of all, I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and want to offer a warm welcome to all supporters, visiting players and staff to Glevum Park today.

The last week has been very challenging due to the resignation of Rich Cox. I would like to thank Coxy on a personal note for the support he has offered me and for the opportunity he gave me at Tuffley Rovers. Not only is he a great football coach but a great friend who will always be there for support.

In the meantime, the club has moved quickly to appoint Neil Mustoe as manager until the end of the season. This is a fantastic appointment, getting someone of great playing and managing experience, at a high level, and also a well-respected person both locally and at the football club.

I am looking forward to working with Neil and to provide him as much support I can to ensure we can improve on the current form and into 2022.

We welcome local rivals Longlevens to Glevum Park today, which is going to be a very difficult fixture. Despite the run of results we have been on, we all know that in these games form goes out of the window and I'm sure the players will be right up for this one. We need to ensure we can give a good account of ourselves to get that result we are all craving.

I hope you all have a good day. Thanks for your support.

#UTR

RITCHIE

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Tuffley Rovers • Club History



The late Donald E Hall founded Tuffley Rovers FC in 1929. The Club's Headquarters were in a former railway carriage, which served as Mr Hall's Boot and Shoe repair shop on the Stroud Road at Tuffley in the City Of Gloucester. The Club started its playing life in the North Gloucestershire League. Senior XI Championship honours include that of the North Gloucestershire League and Stroud and District League (4 times) and in 1987/1988 the Club were Champions of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and gained promotion to the Gloucestershire County League.

After two seasons of consolidation the Club won the County League Title in 1990/1991, their application to join the Hellenic League was successful and they were accepted into Hellenic Division One. Progress continued as in the 1992/1993 season Rovers were Champions of Division One and also Division One League Cup Winners and after promotion competed in the Premier Division of the Hellenic League from 1993/1994, regularly finishing in the top half of the table. The 1998/1999 season saw Tuffley win the Norman Matthew's Floodlit Cup defeating Carterton Town in the final. Whilst the Club enjoyed this success, the 2nd XI and 3rd XI also gained promotion and championship honours. The 1998/1999 season saw the 2nd XI win the Northern Senior League and reach the finals of both the County Cup and League Cup, unfortunately losing out on both occasions. Promotion, however, was not possible as reserve teams were not allowed at that point to enter the Gloucestershire County League and progress further up the pyramid system.

The Club continued to thrive in the Hellenic League and managed to win the Floodlit Cup again in the 2002/2003 season defeating Brackley Town over two legs in the final. However, the ever changing ground grading requirements, if the club was to remain in the Hellenic League, and the financial strain these improvements imposed on the Club forced Tuffley Rovers to make the decision to withdraw from the Hellenic League in 2005 and settle for local football in Gloucestershire.

After a difficult start Rovers were crowned champions of Division 2 of the Northern Senior League in the 2005/2006 season and were promoted to Division 1. After a slow start the team put together a consistent run and managed to claim the Division 1 Title as well as win the GFA Senior Amateur Cup and reach the final of the Reg Davis Memorial League Cup.

A return to the Gloucestershire County League followed and the club finished a very creditable 4th place (2007/8) but the summer of 2008 saw a number of senior players retire. The next season, a much younger side finished a slightly disappointing 11th but with a year's experience gained the Rovers challenged again at the top of the table for most of the next season before finishing 3rd.

The 2010/11 season saw some variable performances in the league, with a final finishing position of 6th, followed by a third place finish in 2011/12. The 2012/13 Season marked an improvement for the club. After challenging for league championship honours all season, the club couldn't quite maintain the form to secure the title, finishing second. However, this was enough to gain promotion to the Hellenic League Division One (West) for the 2013/14 season.

On their return to the Hellenic League, The Rovers saw a season that witnessed some turmoil – including the departure of manager, Doug Foxwell – to record a decent sixth place finish and some good cup results.

This was followed up with the Runners'-up spot in 2014/15 and promotion back to the Hellenic Premier Division, exactly ten years after they had withdrawn from the League.

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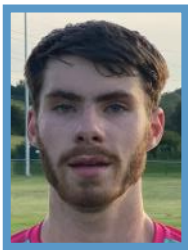
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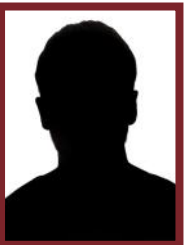
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RICH COX



RITCHIE WARDEN



DAVE STRAIN



ASHLEIGH WATSON

Steve Geddes

LONGLEVENS CLUB HISTORY

The Club, in its current format, was founded in 1954. We initially played in the North Gloucestershire League, but currently we operate in the UHL Sport Hellenic League, the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and the Stroud and District League.



In 2011/12, Gloucester City Council created a new football facility and we were fortunate enough to be offered the tenancy, which enabled us to make the step-up to the Gloucestershire County League – our facilities at our Club HQ could not be converted to 'make the grade'. At this point, we must give great credit to E. G. Carter and Company Limited, our major sponsors, because, without them, we could not have got Saw Mills up to the required standard and I am happy to say that they are still the major force for the improvements that we have subsequently made – so "Thank You" Carters, as they are locally referred to!

We now run six male adult sides, a Ladies side and a Veterans team and this season we are expanding our Youth Section to include sides from U8's to U11's and this will bring us to a total of 32 sides in all and we are recognised as a Charter Standard Development Club. Special mention here to Dennis Barnsley who has done so much work in respect of the Youth Section and the Charter Standard and to our Chairman, Mark Cornell and Treasurer Chris Trout for putting in so much work to make the expansion of the Youth Section happen.

We had spent more than forty years trying to reach the Gloucestershire County League, but amazingly, within three years we had passed through it and gained promotion to the UHLSPORT Hellenic League, having won the League in 2013-14 and once again we were indebted to Carters for helping us to upgrade Saw Mills to the required standard.

So, in 2014/15 we started another new phase for the Club, in Division One West of the UHLSPORT Hellenic League and what a start! We won the Division at the first attempt, so after three consecutive titles and two consecutive promotions, we found ourselves in the Premier Division and in 2017-18 recorded our highest League position, but we recognise the difficulties of facing sides that have a history and an infrastructure that is vastly superior to ours – but, after a hard-fought battle, we secured our place for season 2019-20 over the Easter weekend fixtures.

Mark Moore took over Management duties in 2017-18, after long-serving manager James French stood down, but unfortunately, only a few months into the 2018-19 campaign, Mark suffered a recurrence of the heart condition that had seen him forced into premature retirement, as a player, a couple of years previously. Mark's health has improved significantly and we wish him well and hope to see him back at the Club in the near future and we are pleased to say that James still 'chips-in' albeit more in the background these days.

Club stalwart and Mark's assistant Craig 'Spider' Martin stepped into the breach, as we thought temporarily, but, as it became obvious that Mark's condition wouldn't allow him to return, Craig was officially recognised. Realising that he would need help, he asked Tim Hall to reconsider his decision to 'step-away' from the Club at the end of 2017-18, which he did, and this season we are glad to welcome Mike Palmer to the Club this season. Mike has had a varied experience before joining us – he has coached at Gloucester City, had two years with Green Bay in The States and has also coached at Cheltenham Town, Forest Green Rovers and Tuffley Rovers (U18's and Development) and he already holds the UEFA B certificate and is now working towards his UEFA A – so he brings a wealth of knowledge to the Club and we look forward to a positive mutual experience. Mike joins Kacey Johnstone and Luke Kavanagh in the dugout, two players who have recently hung up their boots (at least for now).

UPDATE FROM OUR HEAD OF FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT



Welcome to officials and players from Longlevens AFC and all spectators and supporters.

I don't normally report in the programme but it has been a very busy week for the club and I thought it a good time to just update everyone on recent events.

Following the recent run of bad results, our manager Rich Cox resigned last Sunday, which the club had to accept under the circumstances. A run of bad results will always put pressure on the manager, so it probably became inevitable that Rich would leave but I thank him for his efforts during his time at the club.

Unfortunately, morale at the club was at a low and a much needed lift was so important, especially if the existing players are to start getting better results and climb the table. With all that in mind, I advised the club to appoint Neil Mustoe along with existing first team coach Ritchie Warden as our interim management team until the end of the season, at the very least. I am pleased that they have agreed to take on responsibility and wish them both the very best of luck.

I personally have a long association with 'Muzzy', during my 19 years at Gloucester City and not least our last four successful years together as Under 18s manager and coach. Neil has a wealth of experience as a player and coach, so hopefully this will prove to be significant in improving results going forward.



I'm asking existing coaches within the club to keep working hard which I am sure will help develop players at all levels within the club, and bring through existing younger players and keep them with us. You only have to look at ex-players in the opposition squad today to realise it's not just good enough to develop young players; you have to give them opportunities at right time to keep them at the club and show we care about their development.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you can stay safe in these trying times.

Please do have a safe journey home.

Ken

Ken Blackburn

Head of Football Development

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION
TUFFLEY ROVERS 0-3 CORSHAM TOWN
SATURDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2021

As one of several clubs moved into the Hellenic League from other Leagues in the summer (Corsham finished top of the Western League's First Division in its truncated 2020-21 season), Town could be satisfied with their start to life in a different division having taken 42 points from 22 matches as the second half of the season moved forward into the busy Christmas & New Year programme. A last-minute defeat at League-leaders Bishop's Cleeve a week before returning to Gloucestershire to play Tuffley has been their only away defeat to date in the League, a run which has included commendable wins at Lydney and former-leaders Cribbs.

So the Quarrymen would arrive at Glevum Park in a confident mood, having already defeated Rovers 2-0 at their own Southbank ground in Wiltshire in the middle of August. But for the hosts it was a different situation altogether. Somehow a horrendous run of eight consecutive league defeats had to be ended or their season was in danger of collapsing into the most awful meltdown. Five of those defeats had come in home games in which their only goal had been put into his own net by an opponent. Only bottom-of-the-table Hallen had taken less home points than Rovers. Just six goals from eight home matches clearly told where Tuffley's main deficiency lay as they prepared for this crucial fixture on the final Saturday before Christmas.

As it was, Corsham completed a League double over Tuffley and in so doing extended the Gloucester club's alarming losing run into double figures. In truth Town's victory was as comfortable as those achieved by most recent visitors to Glevum Park in the Hellenic League's top division.

The Wiltshire club had conceded a very late goal to Bishops Cleeve seven days earlier. This time it was their turn to score a very early goal, as early as the second minute in fact. Rovers' Dominik Kent lost possession of the ball a few yards outside his own penalty-area and Baldwin IgbinoBaro capitalised on the error to move into the box and place a neat left-footed shot out of Jack Copland's reach.

Losing the ball after gaining possession of it by Tuffley players was an unfortunate feature of the first half for the hosts. The normally reliable Jacob Geddes was the next to do this but without his error leading to a goal.

With six minutes gone a foul by Will Ramsey saw a free-kick being chipped into a dangerous area and a header thumped against Copland's crossbar before being cleared. At this point Rovers had not made any incursions into the final third of the pitch. When Lewis Bainbridge was fouled on the left after ten minutes, the ensuing free-kick from Joe Shutt saw the first time that the ball had been inside Corsham's penalty-area; although Tom Spencer reached the cross, he could only head the ball a couple of feet wide of visiting goalkeeper Rob Brown's left-hand post.

A free-kick was awarded against Liam Wright for a push on Nathan Davis. Wright protested a bit too vociferously and received a stern talking-to from referee Craig Davenport, but Rovers' left-back wasn't so fortunate a few minutes later when he received a yellow card after fouling Brandon Mundy. Between those two incidents Town's Sean Keet was sent to the sin-bin for dissent and Corsham were denied a second goal when Chris Allen's free-kick from wide on the left went straight into the far corner but the assistant's flag was up to indicate offside against one of the visiting forwards.

As the half-hour mark approached Shutt was fouled in a central position, and this resulted in

Tuffley's first serious shot at goal but Aaron Basford's effort was high, wide and not very handsome. The scorer of the opening goal then went down near the right corner-flag with what seemed to be an early case of cramp on a cold and cloudy afternoon.

Demilade Yussuf was the next Tuffley player to inexplicably lose possession of the ball and his carelessness resulted in a corner on the left for the visitors which Copland palmed over his own crossbar for another corner on the other side.

As the interval neared Shutt tried a very ambitious shot from way out on the right and immediately turned screaming with pain and clutching his left shoulder. After being treated on the pitch, it was clear that he would be unable to continue and he was immediately replaced by Lucas Price who became the first substitute of the afternoon.

In the final minute of the first half Tuffley's afternoon went from bad to worse when Gary Higdon was bundled over by Geddes and Matt Morris blasted the spot-kick high past Copland's right-hand side.



Town replaced Matt Swann with Ryan Bath at the start of the second half. Shortly after the resumption Nathan Davis was fouled by Yussuf to give Town a free-kick in a promising position on the left. Up to this point all Corsham's free-kicks and corners had been taken by Chris Allen but Morris stepped up for this one and curled the ball narrowly over the crossbar with his right foot.

Mundy trotted off for the visitors and was replaced by Leigh Rogers. Jamie Cunning would later come on for early goalscorer IgbinoBaro. Davis went down with what looked to be another case of cramp but was able to continue after receiving some treatment.

Tuffley were struggling to put attacking moves together but Lewis Bainbridge was a willing runner down the left until he was replaced by debutant Jurek Marszalek. Before he left the pitch Bainbridge had cut inside from the left-hand side and driven a shot wide. The same fate befell both Liam Wright and Tuffley's final substitute, Jack Beardsell, but none of these efforts troubled Brown, who had a very quiet afternoon and did not have a direct save to make.

Leon Greenland became the second Corsham player to be sent to the sin-bin after showing dissent to the referee. His afternoon was therefore over as there were only three minutes left to play.

In the final minute Town were awarded a free-kick on the left. The ball was swung in by Chris Allen and seemed to be touched into his own net by a back-pedaling Copland. Whoever got the final touch was irrelevant really because it just put a bit of gloss on Town's victory and condemned Tuffley to a sixth successive home defeat in the League with Corsham being the fourth side to score three goals at Glevum Park during that period.

Next up for Rovers are home local derbies against Longlevens and Brimscombe. Only an eternal optimist could see Rovers taking much from those matches based on this performance today. By contrast, Corsham are now in 6th place and just one point behind Malvern Town, Westfields and Brimscombe (2nd, 3rd and 4th, respectively).

Zero points from the last twenty-seven available is not a statistic to inspire much confidence in this Rovers team as Christmas beckons but how or when things are going to change for the better for them is impossible to predict with any confidence, a quality a lot of the Tuffley players seem to be lacking as a miserable November has evolved into an even more miserable December.

Statistics 2021/22

Competition

Uhsport Hellenic Premier Division, unless stated

FAC = FA Cup; FAV = FA Vase; GFA = GFA Challenge Trophy;

BFCC = Bluefin Sports Challenge Cup;

BLFC = Banbury Litho Floodlit Cup; SC = Supplementary Cup

		Att	Scorers	Parrissson, Jake	Bainbridge, Lewis	Swales, Joshua	Geddes, Jacob	Herbert, Macaulay		
2021										
03/Aug	7:45pm	Thornbury Town	A L 1-2	134	J Lawrence	1	2	3	4	5
08/Aug	3pm	Windsor FC	FAC H W 3-2	193	J Swales, D Kent, A Basford	16	3	4	5	
14/Aug	3pm	Corsham Town	A L 0-2	60	-	2	3	4		
21/Aug	3pm	Flackwell Heath	FAC H D 2-2	78	M Herbert, L Price	3	15	4	5	
24/Aug	7:45pm	Flackwell Heath	FACr A L 0-6	139	-	2	9	U	5	
28/Aug	3pm	Shrivenham	A L 2-3	65	O.G., W Mann	3				
30/Aug	3pm	Longlevens	A D 2-2	67	D Ellis-Clark, A Basford				5	
04/Sep	3pm	Chipping Sodbury Town	A W 3-2	52	L Bainbridge, A Basford, B Denness-Barrett	3				
08/Sep	7:45pm	Calne Town	A W 2-1	92	L Bainbridge, B Denness-Barrett	3				
11/Sep	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria	FAV A W 4-2	83	H Morgan (2), L Price, L Bainbridge	2				
18/Sep	3pm	Brimcombe & Thrupp	A L 1-5	102	B Denness-Barrett	2				
25/Sep	3pm	Fleet Spurs	FAV H W 3-2	82	O.G., J Shutt, J Geddes	10	4			
02/Oct	3pm	Bradford Town	H W 1-0	71	J Shutt	11	4			
05/Oct	7:45pm	Malvern Town	A D 3-3	174	J Lawrence, J Shutt, A Woodall				4	
09/Oct	3pm	Hereford Lads Club	A L 1-9	106	B Denness-Barrett				4	
12/Oct	7:45pm	Calne Town	H D 1-1	87	J Lawrence	11	4			
16/Oct	3pm	Bishops Cleeve	A D 0-0	70	-	3	4			
19/Oct	7:45pm	Chipping Sodbury Town	H W 3-1	56	B Denness-Barrett (2), L Bainbridge	3	4			
23/Oct	3pm	Street FC	FAV H L 1-4	70	A Basford	11	4			
26/Oct	7:45pm	Westfields	A W 1-0	142	J Lawrence				4	
30/Oct	3pm	Westbury United	H L 0-3	79	-	12	4			
03/Nov	7:45pm	Roman Glass St. George	A L 1-4	40	J Shutt	11	4			
06/Nov	3pm	Thornbury Town	H L 1-3	55	O.G.	3				
09/Nov	7:45pm	Malvern Town	H L 0-3	133	-				4	
13/Nov	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	H L 0-1	66	-	4				
16/Nov	7:45pm	Cheltenham Saracens	GFA H L 2-5	66	D Kent, J Shutt	11	4			
20/Nov	3pm	Cribbs FC	A L 0-3	-	-				4	
30/Nov	7:45pm	Fairford Town	H L 0-1	73	-	4				
04/Dec	3pm	Lydney Town	A L 0-4	77	-				4	
18/Dec	3pm	Corsham Town	H L 0-3	81	-	11	4			
27/Dec	1pm	Longlevens	H							
2022										
02/Jan	3pm	Brimcombe & Thrupp	H							
08/Jan	3pm	Shrivenham	H							
11/Jan	7:45pm	Roman Glass St. George	H							
15/Jan	3pm	Bradford Town	A							
22/Jan	3pm	Bishops Cleeve	H							
29/Jan	3pm	Hereford Lads Club	H							
05/Feb	3pm	Hallen	H							
12/Feb	3pm	Westfields	H							
19/Feb	3pm	Westbury United	A							
26/Feb	3pm	Cribbs FC	H							
05/Mar	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	A							
12/Mar	3pm	Lydney Town	H							
19/Mar	3pm	Fairford Town	A							
26/Mar	3pm	Hallen	A							

Goalscorers

Denness-Barrett, Brennan	6
Bainbridge, Lewis	4
Basford, Aaron	4
Shutt, Joe	4
Lawrence, Jamal	4
O.G.	3
Morgan, Harry	2
Price, Lucas	2
Swales, Josh	1
Kent, Dominik	1
Herbert, Macaulay	1
Mann, Warren	1
Ellis-Clark, Dion	1
Geddes, Jacob	1
Woodall, Archie	1

STARTS

STARTS	1	18	6	22	4
SUBSTITUTE	0	2	1	0	0
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE	0	0	0	1	0

Previously against today's opposition at Glevum Park (Part 1)

Back on 26 December 2016, a young keeper made his debut for Rovers, a future/now former Rovers keeper was between the sticks for Longlevens, and an evergreen Rover scored the only goal of the game. Here's to a repeat of December 2016...

Match Report

TUFFLEY ROVERS 1-0 LONGLEVENS UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION

Tuffley Rovers took the spoils in the Boxing Day derby clash against Longlevens, as a Warren Mann goal proved sufficient to secure a league double over their closest rivals for the first time since 2011.

Rovers' Manager, Mark Pritchett, was forced into a number of changes due to injuries and unavailability, with keeper/captain Dave Evans and Gareth Jones away for the Christmas period, Will Wellon returning to Evesham United and Shayne Bradley joining Brett James on the long list of players confined to the treatment room.



The paucity of numbers resulted in a debut for 17-year-old Kane Winman, the club's reserve team goalkeeper, alongside fellow debutant, former Cinderford Town player Jake Burns. Ryan Dobbins was rewarded for his prolific season in the Reserves with a starting place, alongside Jamie Goodwin and Mann, in Pritchett's usual 4-3-3 formation.

Longlevens lined up with Forest Green Rovers' Luke Merchant in goal, whilst Antanas Bradzys and Johnny Lee started in two changes from the last outing against Flackwell Heath on 17 December.

Any concerns that the much changed Rovers line-up would struggle to compete in the pressurised environment of a local derby game, played in front of a crowd of 149, were quickly proved unfounded, as they launched a series of attacks on the Levens' goal.

After seven minutes, Mann cut in from the left-hand side, producing a shot that stung Merchant's palms and the young visitors' keeper was on form two minutes later, as he advanced from his goal to deny Goodwin space to shoot.

The front three of Dobbins, Mann and Goodwin were proving a handful for the Longlevens defensive line and continued to create chances on a regular basis. On 11 minutes, Dobbins spurned a terrific chance, as failed to connect effectively with Mann's through-ball and saw the ball drift comfortably towards Merchant, who made a straightforward save.

If the game had been almost one-way traffic, Rovers were reminded of the need to avoid complacency, as a free-kick from Jonty Welch was only half-cleared and almost presented Adam Phillips with a goal, only for Winman to produce a good stop, diving low to his right.

It appeared Phillips' chance acted as a suitable warning to Pritchett's side and two minutes later they took a deserved lead, with a moment of quality. Goodwin cut in from the right, evading Ed Smyllie's challenge and although he struggled to get the ball back under control, he managed to force the ball out to Mann, who was lurking centrally, almost 25 yards out. The diminutive forward took one touch into the space ahead of him and produced a finish that rocketed into the top corner of Merchant's goal, with the Longlevens keeper routed to the spot.

Spurred on by their lead, Rovers continued to press their visitors back, restricting them to unprofitable attempts to counter-attack, and only a combination of wayward finishing and excellent goalkeeping, from Merchant, prevented Rovers extending their lead.

In the closing moments of the half, debutant Burns headed Liam Wright's header towards goal, but Lee managed to head the ball away from under the crossbar and the sides entered the interval with the score still 1-0 to the hosts.

The second period started with Rovers still having the majority of the ball and pressing Longlevens back, although visiting manager, James French, appeared to have roused his troops a little and they earned some set-pieces that allowed them to put Pritchett's side under a little more pressure.

From one corner, Phillips and Rovers' defender Macaulay Herbert challenged for the ball and although the Rovers man did enough to put off his giant opponent, he landed awkwardly, which ended his participation in the game, and he was replaced by Ben Tunnicliff.

Rovers then went on another series of attacks and Tristan Haswell produced a curled effort that went close to Merchant's goal, before Dobbins had one final chance to score, before being replaced by Harry Walker, as he latched onto Mann's clever pass but was unable to slot the ball past the Levens' keeper from close range.

Whether inspired by Merchant's one-man show, which had kept them in the game up until this point, or something else, Longlevens found renewed impetus and started to work their way back into the game.

Brad Martin produced a curling shot that Sam Hill did well to head off the Rovers line and the visitors started to see an increasing share of the ball, particularly after the introduction of Shaun O'Connor from the bench.

If Rovers were starting to feel a sense of pressure, any frayed nerves were stretched further, as midfielder Wright, who had been cautioned in the first-half, saw a red card for a mistimed tackle in the centre of the field, which earned a second caution.

Pritchett juggled his resources, introducing Jack Overthrow for Goodwin, sacrificing an attacking option in the process, and his side battled hard to combat their opponents' one-man advantage.

The plan worked, although O'Connor thought he had scored when he finished off Brad Vanstone's pass, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside, and Pritchett's men were left with the reassurance that they will end 2016 in the top half of the UHlsport Hellenic League, Premier Division table.



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Appearance information

Up to and including Saturday, 18 December 2021

(includes selected list of former players)

Jurek Marszalek became the latest debutant, taking the number to 23 in the 2021/22 season, during last weekend's UHlsport Hellenic League, Premier Division game against Corsham Town.

We hope Warren Mann will return to the squad today, after missing that game, and add his considerable experience to our very young side.

The provisional squad for today's visitors included six players with 110 Tuffley Rovers competitive first team appearances between them, including Kane Winman who made his first team debut for Rovers on Boxing Day in 2016.



Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Name	Goals
Aldridge, Josh	15	0	Kent, Dominik	111	16
Bainbridge, Lewis	53	9	Lawrence, Isaac	24	1
Basford, Aaron	25	4	Lawrence, Jamal	7	4
Beardsell, Jack	42	8	Ledger, Dan	1	0
Bird, Ashley	50	5	Lomotey, Yeshaya	8	0
Bradley, Shayne	230	106	Mann, Warren	450	80
Brain, Callum	5	0	Marszalek, Jerzy	1	0
Butler, Matt	3	0	McKinnon, Rudi	22	1
Clark, Adam	13	0	McNally, Laurie	9	0
Copland, Jack	17	0	Mendes, Sam	20	0
Davies, Ashley	162	27	Morgan, Harry	24	3
Davis, Felix	0	0	Parsisson, Jake	1	0
Denness-Barrett, Brennan	15	6	Price, Lucas	21	2
Ellis-Clark, Dion	16	1	Pritchett, Mark	130	20
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Ramsey, Will	3	0
Geddes, Jacob	36	2	Rhodes, Jake	74	24
Greenhouse, Daniel	2	0	Romais, Billy	5	0
Hailwood, Ben	3	0	Shutt, Joe	58	13
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Shyamapant, Tomos	2	0
Haswell, Tristan	97	1	Smith, Liam	17	0
Herbert, Macaulay	218	8	Spencer, Tom	3	0
Hill, Sam	120	8	Swales, Josh	7	1
Hunt, Ollie	7	1	Thompson, Antoine	63	1
Idowu, Jerry	14	0	Walker, Harry	67	6
James, Brett	184	63	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Richard	125	40	White, Joel	95	4
John, Harri	32	0	Woodall, Archie	13	1
Jones, Xander	11	0	Wright, Liam	111	3
Jordan, Scott	1	0	Yussuf, Demilade	5	0

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.

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 today we focus on famous games and incidents over the Christmas period...

1. A pre-Christmas question to start with. Which player made his Manchester United debut as a half-time substitute against local rivals Manchester City in the derby game played on 6 December 1992?

2. Where did this half-time team talk take place on Boxing Day 2008?



3. In 1983/84, Arsenal secured a 4-2 win over local rivals Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane. The following day Arsenal drew for the first time that season, after a record number of games from the start of the season without a draw. That wasn't matched until (ironically) Tottenham surpassed it in the 2018/19 season. How many games had Arsenal played before their draw with Birmingham City on 27 December 1983?

4. Five points up for grabs! Look at this image from Sir Alex Ferguson's first visit to Anfield on Boxing Day in 1986, when United won 1-0. There are four players in the foreground. Who are they and who got the winner that day?



5. In which year were these the Boxing Day results?

DIVISION ONE RESULTS		
BLACKPOOL	1-5	CHELSEA
BURNLEY	6-1	MAN UTD
FULHAM	10-1	IPSWICH
LEICESTER	2-0	EVERTON
LIVERPOOL	6-1	STOKE
NOTT'M FOREST	3-3	SHEFF UTD
SHEFF WED	3-0	BOLTON
WEST BROM	4-4	TOTTENHAM
WEST HAM	2-8	BLACKBURN
WOLVES	3-3	ASTON VILLA


Quiz Answers: (1) Eric Cantona; (2) The Etihad Stadium, Manchester, as Man City beat Hull City 5-1; (3) 19; (4) (Left to Right) Kenny Dalglish, Ian Rush, Kevin Moran – grounded, Jesper Olsen are pictured, and Norman Whiteside got the only goal of the game; (5) 1963.

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Previously against today's opposition at Glevum Park (Part 2)

Last time we met today's opponents at Glevum Park in an Uhlsport Hellenic League match was on 14 August 2018, when a late, late goal decided the fixture....

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION

TUFFLEY ROVERS 1-2 LONGLEVENS

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2018

Both teams started the evening looking for their first league win of the season; and Rovers still are after a heart-breaking, last-minute defeat by their city neighbours.

Mark Pritchett made six changes to the team which had started for Tuffley against Colney Heath in the F.A. Cup three days earlier. In addition to the changes in personnel, Sam Hill moved from right-back to left-back, while Warren Mann wore No. 10 instead of No. 9 without it making much difference to the role he performs for his team. Visiting Longlevens also made changes from their cup team at the weekend and would be facing Tuffley for the first time in recent seasons without their prolific striker Brad Martin, who is now at Bishops Cleeve.

Rovers kicked off playing down the slope and soon won a corner, which was cleared but the home team continued its early pressure and a free-kick taken by Jake Rhodes on the left was deflected up in the air before it reached the visitors' penalty-area where it too was cleared. A minute later and Longlevens were ahead after a quick break down the left and a sumptuous cross by Adam Philp which was headed easily into the net by Rhys Lewis arriving at the far post. Shortly afterwards Philp nearly put James Campbell through on goal but the striker lost the opportunity and conceded a free-kick.

Just after the 20-minute mark Rovers equalised. When a ball was played into the right corner Jake Rhodes refused to give it up as a lost cause, won possession and made progress along the byline before being tripped by Ed Smylie. As clear a penalty as you could ever see. Warren Mann, who had struck a fierce penalty to the goalkeeper's right on Saturday, chose to hit this one slightly less firmly to the keeper's left but the end result was the same. One-all.



The first yellow card of the evening was shown to Longlevens' defender Kieran Squires, but Sam Hill's free-kick was deflected away for a corner. Shortly after, Essa Sabally cut in from the left but his shot was wayward and Tuffley pressure continued when a cross from Brett James on the right flew across goal without any of his team-mates managing to get a touch to steer it towards goal.

At the other end James Campbell thumped a shot over the bar and the former Evesham United man was a powerful and imposing figure all evening, holding the ball up well, winning plenty in the air and never afraid to have a shot at goal. With the scores at 1-1 the first half came to an end with another screamer from Campbell flying just over the Rovers bar, not long after Philp had taken a free-kick on the edge of the home penalty-area which rebounded to him from which he too had blazed over the bar.

Shortly after the resumption Dominik Kent burst into the Longlevens penalty-area on the right but when he pulled the ball back there was nobody there to profit from it. Kent then turned provider and sent Sabally away on the left but a brilliant covering tackle snuffed out the danger. Sabally was down injured not long after this and received treatment on the pitch before being almost immediately substituted by Ryan Dobbins.

Dobbins was immediately involved in a neat one-two with Brad Loveridge but the latter's cross was comfortably held by Ash Wintle. Longlevens made a change of their own with Shaun O'Connor coming on for Jay Kennedy. Campbell was heavily involved and went just wide with a fierce shot from twenty yards and then hit another long-range attempt over the bar.

Longlevens' long-serving Craig Martin came on for Philp while Tuffley brought on Kieran Alder for Kent, as both sides made use of their substitutes, and almost immediately a cross from Loveridge on the right was headed wide by Rhodes.

Johns for Campbell was the final change made by the visitors before Luke Merchant made a fine save low down from Martin's shot. Rovers then had a goal disallowed for offside as the game reached its tense closing minutes.

As Longlevens pressed forward Dave Rich's free-kick was punched clear by Merchant who was injured as he collided with other players. Both teams were going for the win and both won corners as added-time approached. Longlevens poured forward again and Logan Roach made a strong run down the left before exchanging passes with O'Connor and



firing the ball across the six-yard box where Martin was waiting at the far post to drive the ball into the roof of the net. 'Levens 'keeper Wintle was cautioned for racing the length of the pitch to celebrate, before launching the match-ball out of the playing area, and no sooner had the referee re-started the contest when he blew his whistle for the last time to end it.

This was a fiercely competitive match which you would expect from two teams in the same city located only a couple of miles apart. The lack of cards betrayed the competitiveness evident all evening, but was an honest refereeing assessment of a game that never turned nasty. The result was really cruel on Rovers, who deserved a point with a defensive solidity which was much better than their shocking second-half display three days earlier. Joel White was again a colossus at the heart of their defence, leading by example and winning a lot of his aerial duels even when Campbell was his direct opponent. But Longlevens deserve credit, too, for not settling for a point and continuing to push forward in numbers until the death, a policy which won them a tight game right at the death.

On (or around) this day in history...



Current records date back, fairly accurately, to the 2007/08 season and although there are a few gaps stopping us having a full set of data, it gives us the opportunity to include a new programme feature that allows us to reflect on days gone by and fixtures on, or around, today's date.

Since those records began, we've had a mixed set of results on/around Boxing Day, but it does include two victories over today's opposition...

27 December 2008

A woeful performance at home to Yate Town Reserves saw Tuffley Rovers crash to a 4-0 defeat in the Gloucestershire County League, for the second consecutive game. Rovers had a great chance to equalise, when it was 1-0, but Stu Griffith's penalty was weak and easily saved. The visitors then won with ten men, after their keeper was sent-off at 2-0, scoring twice as Rovers chased the game.

Squad: Adam Bennett; Robert Cook; Dan Gillespie; Ben Surman; Stuart Griffith; Richard Stevenson; Martin Middlecote; Mark Wallington; Christopher Lee; Patrick Boyd; Warren Mann. **Subs used:** Marcus Foxwell; Peter Thomas.

26 December 2013

Youngster Junior Mbika made a spectacular first start for Tuffley Rovers, scoring the winning goal in a Boxing Day victory away at Shortwood United Reserves in the UHlsport Hellenic League, Division One (West), after Shayne Bradley had gone the first in a 2-1 victory.

Squad: Chris Perks; Matt Minett; Lee Brinkworth; Mike Devlin; Richard Thwaite; Marcus Foxwell; Kieran Tracey; Shayne Bradley; Warren Mann; Jordan Fletcher; Junior Mbika. **Subs used:** Courtney Hamilton; Steve Bick.

27 December 2014

Goals from Ashley Davies and Jordan Dowdeswell secured a 2-1 win for Tuffley Rovers over local rivals Longlevens at Saw Mills, in a game played out in front of a crowd of 166.

Squad: Aaron Taylor; Marcus Foxwell; Kieran Squires; Macaulay Herbert; Glenn Gittins; Ashley Davies; Jordan Dowdeswell; Stuart Griffith; Jordan Fletcher; Mark Ford; Brett James. **Subs used:** Warren Mann; Courtney Hamilton; Steve Bick.

26 December 2016

Ten-man Tuffley Rovers secured a valuable three points, as a Warren Mann goal proved the difference as Tuffley Rovers secured a 1-0 Boxing Day win over Longlevens at Glevum Park, in front of a crowd of 149. Rovers handed debuts to Kane Winman in goal and Jake Burns in midfield, whilst their injury hit squad also featured a rare start for young striker Ryan Dobbins. Liam Wright's sending-off reduced Rovers numbers but they held out to win the game.

Squad: Kane Winman; Sam Hill; Tristan Haswell; Shayne Anson; Macaulay Herbert; Marcus Foxwell; Jamie Goodwin; Jake Burns; Ryan Dobbins; Liam Wright; Warren Mann. **Subs used:** Ben Tunnicliff; Harry Walker; Jack Overthrow.

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

(up to and including fixtures played on Sunday, 26 December 2021)

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Bishops Cleeve	25	17	6	2	32	57
2	Corsham Town	24	14	6	4	26	48
3	Malvern Town	23	13	7	3	29	46
4	Westfields	23	14	4	5	22	46
5	Cribbs	24	14	4	6	19	46
6	Brimscombe & Thrupp	24	14	4	6	17	46
7	Bradford Town	23	14	3	6	23	45
8	Westbury United	21	12	6	3	25	42
9	Longlevens AFC	23	12	3	8	15	39
10	Roman Glass St George	24	12	2	10	9	38
11	Fairford Town	25	10	4	11	5	34
12	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	23	9	4	10	-8	31
13	Shrivenham	24	8	5	11	-18	29
14	Hereford Lads Club	24	8	4	12	-2	28
15	Thornbury Town	25	4	8	13	-23	20
16	Tuffley Rovers	23	5	4	14	-33	19
17	Lydney Town	25	5	3	17	-27	18
18	Chipping Sodbury Town	25	5	3	17	-33	18
19	Calne Town	25	5	2	18	-38	17
20	Hallen	25	2	2	21	-40	8

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UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION

MONDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2021 — 1PM KICK OFF

TUFFLEY ROVERS

V

LONGLEVENS

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

Blue shirts; Blue shorts; Blue socks (GK:
Green).

Jack Copland

1

Ellis Parker

Warren Mann

2

Kane Winman

Liam Wright

3

Will Emery

Jacob Geddes ©

4

Joe Talbot

Scott Nicholls

5

Ed Smyllie

Dominik Kent

6

Ollie Long

Joe Shutt

7

James Barnett

Demilade Yussuf

8

Luke Troke

Jamal Lawrence

9

Shaun O'Connor ©

Lewis Bainbridge

10

Dave Merrick

Ashley Bird

11

Cam Williams

Jack Beardsell

12

Joe Westrip

Aaron Basford

13

Rudi McKinnon

Jurek Marszalek

14

Brad Martin

Lucas Price

15

Ethan Dunbar

Josh Aldridge

16

Joey Haswell

Matt Butler

17

Charlie Holliday

Brennan Denness-Barrett

18

Callum McGuirk

Ritchie Warden

Manager

Michael Palmer

Craig Darkin

Asst. Manager

Ashleigh Watson (Physio)

Other occupants

Kacey Johnstone (Coach)

Tim Hall (Physio)

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