



**TUFFLEY ROVERS v
KIDLINGTON**

Saturday 3rd August 2024

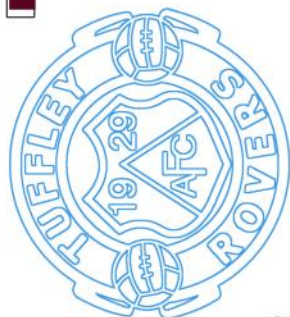
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THE EMIRATES FA CUP,

EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND

TUFFLEY ROVERS

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2024/25



01



MATCH SPONSOR:





FROM THE EDITOR



So, here we are – the 2024/25 season is underway and we have a first home fixture.

Welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this afternoon for the visit of Kidlington FC. I would like to welcome all their players, supporters and officials to our home and although I hope they enjoy the visit, I certainly hope that we're still in the FA Cup come the end of the afternoon, so I don't want them to enjoy it too much!!

It seems like the last season ended five minutes ago but we're back at it again and looking forward to the season, full of hopes and dreams; all tempered by the knowledge that there will be some challenges along the way!

We started our Hellenic League season with a really disappointing defeat at Sporting Club Inkberrow on Wednesday evening. We just didn't seem to get going and if it hadn't been for an excellent performance from Merch, the scoreline could have been more one-sided.

Today we will have an opportunity to show our quality, albeit against a team from a higher league. Perhaps I should correct myself and we will need to show our quality.

I remember our last game against Kidlington very, very well, as it was something of a unique occasion! We went to their place on a Saturday afternoon, to see them officially crowned Champions of the UHlsport Hellenic League for the 2015/16 season. We had played a fixture at Oxford City Nomads the previous evening, so had only 17 ½ hours between games, but somehow managed to secure a 3-3 draw against the league winners. It was all the more impressive because we stayed overnight in Oxford and the party between the games was long and memorable!

Maybe today we could end the day with a party for very different reasons. I'm certainly hoping to be in the FA Cup draw by the time this game ends today. Hope can be a wonderful thing!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this and support our humble football programme. I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home.

- Neil

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

(a selection of Emirates FA Cup ties involving local teams and Hellenic League teams)

Emirates FA Cup – Extra Preliminary Round

Fairford Town v Cirencester Town

Hartpury University v Risborough Rangers

Highworth Town v Bishops Cleeve

Longlevens v Winslow United

Lydney Town v Thornbury Town

Malmesbury Victoria v Slimbridge

Virginia Water v Brimscombe & Thrupp



FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Glevum Park. It is my pleasure to welcome the committee, management team, players and supporters of Kidlington for this FA Cup tie. An extended welcome also goes out to today's officials and of course our loyal fanbase who turn out come rain or shine.

We have had what feels like quite a short "off-season" for most, but thank you to the rest of the committee and staff that have worked tirelessly over the last few months to ensure the club continues to operate outside of the football season. We hosted the annual Tuffley Rovers Youth Tournament, with clubs coming from all over Gloucestershire and further afield, to take part in the weekend. One thing that is always commented on is just how well the tournament is run over the two days and the enjoyment that all attendees get from the weekend. We also hosted a couple of fundraising games – one with fathers and son from Rovers and they were very enjoyable days and for some the first opportunity to play with their son/father.

Much work has continued on our extension at our Tuffley Lane site which, despite delays, should be ready to host private events from October this year. This is one project the Executive Committee have worked on for the last few years, and we certainly hope that not only will it become a fantastic community asset, but also help raise funds that we can reinvest into the club, including here at Glevum Park.

During the off-season we made the decision to reduce our Saturday teams from five to four. There were many reasons for this, so that it is not as negative as might first appear. We believe by making our teams in the Stroud League stronger (by not spreading the pool of players so thinly), they will in fact then have the platform for both our 3rds and 4ths teams to push for promotion in their respective leagues.

Unfortunately, Dave Cornock who has been the manager of our Development team had to step down from his role, which was a great disappointment given what Dave brought to the team and the club as a whole, but we completely respect his decision and we have been working hard to bring a new manager in.

At the end of last season our U18s management team of Adrian Viner and Jim Hart informed us of their decision(s) to pass the reins on to a new management team and it was great that Matt Clow, who was supporting both Adrian and Jim in a coaching capacity, informed us of his intent to stay on and is joined by Ritchie Warden who most of the Tuffley support will remember during his time with the first team as Assistant Manager. With the young crop coming through this season and more game time on a Saturday across our teams, this looks like on the face of it, going to be a very good season for our U18s.

We also welcome Lee Hitchman as Ladies' team manager, taking over from Gemma Paine, who came in at a very difficult time last season and not only stabilised the team on the pitch, but also attracted new players to the club and has provided a strong platform for the upcoming season.

Our Thirds and Fourths will once again be led by Chris Giddy and Luke Whittam, and Darren Ellis and Key Schmitz, respectively, for a second consecutive season and our hope is that both squads can push for promotion this season. They are also tasked with not only pushing for promotion, but supporting the development of our U18s into men's football.

On to our first team and we have been able to welcome some fantastic new signing this season, whilst retaining the majority of the squad that we ended last season with. We have only lost a few players due to relocation or stepping up to play in the league above. We thank them for their time at Tuffley and wish them well in their future endeavours. Neil Mustoe (Muzzy) continues to lead the management team with Liam, Tim, Alex and newly appointed Sports Therapist Mike, who replaces Sam Tandy who has moved on to the league above. I believe Mike is a fantastic addition to the first team and the wider club in helping keep our players fit, but also provide them with a comprehensive rehabilitation plan and get them on the field of play as soon as possible.

I hope everyone enjoys the game and hospitality here today and have a safe journey home.

- Dan Boon

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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. Over the next few seasons, an evolving squad finished 11th, 3rd, 6th and 3rd in the County League, before 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.

The first season saw a struggle against relegation, ultimately resulting in the resignation of Warren Evans as manager, before the club retained their status due to a vacancy in the league, after finishing 17th. Mark Pritchett was then appointed as Player/Manager and took the side to consecutive 10th placed finishes, before a 15th place finish in 2018/19. Two pandemic affected seasons then passed, with Pritchett leaving the club part-way through. Rich Cox took over as Manager for a single season, but resigned midway through 2021/22 after a disastrous run of results. Former Manchester United player Neil Mustoe then took over, steering the club away from danger (finishing in 17th place).

Mustoe achieved an 18th place finish at the end of the 2022/23 season, his first full campaign, before achieving a healthy 14th place in 2023/24, with a much improved squad.



FROM THE MANAGER



Good afternoon and welcome to Glevum Park to all players, management, officials and supporters from Kidlington FC.

After what seems a very short break we are up and running again for a new season. All post-season breaks seem to come with their own challenges and this one has been no different.

We have lost a good Manager/Coach from our Development Squad for personal reasons and this led to us losing majority of what was a very competitive squad due to a disrupted pre-season schedule for them. Players we were monitoring to bring through more this season have chosen other options over being patient and waiting for their opportunity with us, which is disappointing.

On the flip side, the U18 trials have resulted in some good recruitment and the coaches brought in have done really well and I'm looking forward to seeing them perform this season, not only in the midweek Floodlit League, but potentially on a Saturday in our Development Squad, or even the first team set-up.

We also have had a few departures through the summer and whilst I am happy with our recruitment and a reasonable pre-season schedule, we were looking forward to the start of our league campaign this week. I am writing this after the midweek game, and we can safely say it wasn't the result or performance we were expecting. One thing we have been over the last year or so is hard to beat, even when not at our best, and this wasn't the case on Wednesday.

We have put it to bed straight away and our focus is now firmly on today's FA Cup game, where we are clear underdogs against a team from a higher division who finished last season strong and have had a reasonable pre-season.

I have yet to experience a cup run in my time here so I'm hoping we can perform to our best and give ourselves a fighting chance. Like any club, we will benefit not only on the football side but the financial aspects as well if we can win today.

The road to Wembley starts here and I hope you enjoy the game.

Enjoy the game and afternoon.

- Muzz

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HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 31 July 2024

Pos	Team	Home											Away											Overall		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1	Malmesbury Victoria	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	8	3		
2	Roman Glass St George	1	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	6	1	5	3		
3	Fairford Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	3		
4	Highworth Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3		
5	Sporting Club Inkberrow	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3		
6	Corsham Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3		
7	Hereford Pegasus	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3		
8	Pershore Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	1		
9	Slimbridge	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	1		
10	Hartoury University	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
11	Westfields	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
12	Longlevens AFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
13	Worcester Raiders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
14	Lydney Town	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0		
15	Mangotsfield United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0		
16	Thornbury Town	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0		
17	Tuffley Rovers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0		
18	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0		
19	Cirencester Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0		
20	Brimscombe & Thrupp	1	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	-8	0		

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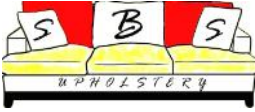


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A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR FA CUP

If I told you that we had a wonderful time at Glastonbury in 1995, you might assume that that summer's music festival (played out in baking heat, I might add – I was there!) was particularly good. It was, but Tuffley Rovers' trip to Glastonbury FC in August 1995 ended with a 5-1 victory in our first ever FA Cup tie (a Preliminary Round fixture). An opportunity to host Cinderford Town followed and our campaign ended swiftly, off the back of 4-0 reverse at Glevum Park.



There were plenty of goals when we met Taunton Town in August 1996, but our campaign ended immediately, courtesy of a 5-2 defeat and twelve months later we made progress, with a good win at home to Cirencester Town (we narrowly claimed a 4-3 victory in another home tie) but when Paulton Rovers came in the First Qualifying Round a 3-1 defeat spelt that end of that year's road to Wembley.

An immediate exit to Minehead Town in 1998 was another disappointment, but in 1999 the record book shows a victory over one of the now foremost non-league clubs, as we beat Eastleigh 2-1 in the First Qualifying Round. A record breaking appearance in the Second Qualifying Round almost saw us progress further, but a 1-1 draw took us to a replay at home against Lymington & New Milton, only to see us eliminated courtesy of a 5-0 thrashing!

Revenge came against Taunton Town in 2000, as we won 4-1 in the Preliminary Round, but we once again failed to progress further, as a single goal victory went in favour of our opponents Chippenham Town in the next round.

Four consecutive defeats saw our cup hopes perish at the first hurdle in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 but we had another opportunity to progress in 2005/06 as our Hellenic League side hosted Elmore. A 0-0 draw took us to only our second replay ever, but we succumbed to a late goal in a 1-0 defeat in the second meeting. That was to be our last FA Cup tie for 10 years, as the club's withdrawal from the Hellenic League just a few weeks later saw us drop to a lower level of football, rendering us unable to enter the world's most famous cup competition.

Our return, ten years later in 2015, saw a wonderful win at Ardley United (4-1), followed up with a terrific 1-0 win at home to Southern League neighbours Bishops Cleeve, before we put in a brave display against Taunton Town, before losing 3-0.



Ardley gained revenge 12 months later, but our return in 2017 saw a narrow win with ten-men away at Woodley United, then a momentous day at Leighton Town, when we made an astonishing comeback from 2-0 down, with just eight minutes remaining, to win 3-2 in the dying moments of the game. Swindon Supermarine demolished a Rovers team playing most of the game with ten-men, in the next round, to end another attempt to march on the Wembley arch.

Five seasons ago, despite leading 1-0 at half-time thanks to Warren Mann's penalty, we were comprehensively beaten 4-1 by Colney Heath, and exited the competition at the first stage. Then three years ago, against North Greenford United, we produced two fairly lacklustre performances (in our 26th and 27th FA Cup matches) and went out of the competition with a whimper.

In the 2020/21 season we succumbed to another heavy defeat at this stage, as Harefield United left Glevum Park with a 5-2 victory and their star striker, Richard Pacquette (a former QPR player), with the match-ball.



In our 29th FA Cup tie, at this stage against Windsor two years ago, we produced another stunning comeback, winning 3-2 after being two goals behind and almost repeated the feat as we came back from two goals down again, in a home tie against Flackwell Heath that was played at Brimscombe & Thrupp, but this time it ended 2-2 and we went to a replay. The trip to Flackwell Heath was a disaster, as we lost our two centre-halves before we'd reach ten minutes of action and succumbed to a 6-0 thrashing.

Two seasons ago we took a lead against Southern League side Slimbridge but two late, late goals saw us beaten 2-1 in an enthralling game. Last season we drew 2-2 with Aylesbury Vale Dynamos but were awarded the tie after they were found to have played an ineligible player, setting up a tie against Evesham United, where a brave display ended in a 2-0 defeat.

Today is our 35th FA Cup tie and we go in pursuit of a tenth victory (a win in 90 mins) that would offer an opportunity of a tie against a trip to face Southern League side Yate Town or Combined Counties League side Holyport.

Courtesy of the Football Club History Database:

F.A. CUP				
1995-96	PRE	GLASTONBURY	A	5-1
	1Q	CINDERFORD TOWN	H	0-4
1996-97	PRE	TAUNTON TOWN	H	2-5
1997-98	PRE	CIRENCESTER TOWN	A	4-3
	1Q	PAULTON ROVERS	H	1-3
1998-99	1Q	MINEHEAD TOWN	H	0-3
1999-00	1Q	EASTLEIGH	H	2-1
	2Q	LYMINGTON & NEW MILTON	A	1-1
	2Qr	LYMINGTON & NEW MILTON	H	0-5
2000-01	PRE	TAUNTON TOWN	H	4-1
	1Q	CHIPPENHAM TOWN	H	0-1
2001-02	PRE	WIMBORNE TOWN	H	2-5
2002-03	PRE	ST BLAZEY	H	0-1
2003-04	EP	FROME TOWN	A	0-1
2004-05	EP	BARNSTAPLE TOWN	H	0-3
2005-06	EP	ELMORE	H	0-0
	EPr	ELMORE	A	0-1
2015-16	EP	ARDLEY UNITED	A	4-1
	PRE	BISHOPS CLEEVE	H	1-0
	1Q	TAUNTON TOWN	A	0-3
2016-17	EP	ARDLEY UNITED	A	2-3
2017-18	EP	WOODLEY UNITED	A	2-1
	PRE	LEIGHTON TOWN	A	3-2
	1Q	SWINDON SUPERMARINE	H	0-5
2018-19	EP	COLNEY HEATH	H	1-4
2019-20	EP	NORTH GREENFORD UNITED	H	1-1
	EPr	NORTH GREENFORD UNITED	A	1-2
2020-21	EP	HAREFIELD UNITED	H	2-5
2021-22	EP	WINDSOR	H	3-2
	PRE	FLACKWELL HEATH	H	2-2
	PREr	FLACKWELL HEATH	A	0-6
2022-23	EP	SLIMBRIDGE	H	1-2
2023-24	EP	AYLESBURY VALE DYNAMOS	H	2-2 (tie awarded)
	PRE	EVESHAM UNITED	A	0-2



STATISTICS

Statistics 2024/25

Competition

UHSport Hellenic Premier Division, unless stated

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

MSCC = Marsh Sports Challenge Cup;

WLFC = Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup; SC = Supplementary Cup

				Att		Scorers		Merchant, Luke	McGuirk, Callum	Clifford, Ellis	Simpson, Elijah	Stevens, Josh
2023												
31/Jul	7:45pm	Sporting Club Inkberrow	A	0-2	190	-		1	2	3	4	5
03/Aug	3pm	Kidlington FC	FAC	H								
06/Aug	7:45pm	Stimbridge	H									
10/Aug	3pm	Lydney Town	A									
13/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester Raiders	A									
20/Aug	7:45pm	Hartpury University	H									
26/Aug	3pm	Longlevens	A									
03/Sep	7:45pm	Westfields	A									
07/Sep	3pm	Thornbury Town	A									
14/Sep	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	H									
16/Sep	7:45pm	Hereford Pegasus	A									
24/Sep	7:45pm	Pershore Town	H									
28/Sep	3pm	Fairford Town	A									
01/Oct	7:45pm	Stimbridge	A									
05/Oct	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria	H									
08/Oct	7:45pm	Lydney Town	H									
12/Oct	3pm	Highworth Town	A									
19/Oct	3pm	Cirencester Town	H									
26/Oct	3pm	Corsham Town	A									
02/Nov	3pm	Brimscombe & Thrupp	A									
09/Nov	3pm	Mangotsfield United	H									
16/Nov	3pm	Roman Glass St George	A									
23/Nov	3pm	Thornbury Town	H									
30/Nov	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	A									
07/Dec	3pm	Fairford Town	H									
14/Dec	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria	A									
21/Dec	3pm	Highworth Town	H									
26/Dec	3pm	Longlevens	H									
28/Dec	3pm	Cirencester Town	A									
2024												
01/Jan	3pm	Corsham Town	H									
04/Jan	3pm	Brimscombe & Thrupp	H									
11/Jan	3pm	Mangotsfield United	A									
18/Jan	3pm	Worcester Raiders	H									
25/Jan	3pm	Hartpury University	A									
01/Feb	3pm	Westfields	H									
08/Feb	3pm	Sporting Club Inkberrow	H									
15/Feb	3pm	Hereford Pegasus	A									
22/Feb	3pm	Pershore Town	H									
01/Mar	3pm	Roman Glass St George	A									
TOTAL APPEARANCES								1	1	1	1	1
STARTS								1	1	1	1	1
SUBSTITUTE								0	0	0	0	0
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE								0	0	0	0	0

Goalscorers

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TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

Luke Merchant

Goalkeeper

Club captain who returned to the club in the 2022/23 season, after a Hellenic League Premier Division title winning season at Bishops Cleeve. A great shot stopper, commanding presence and accomplished keeper. Holds the club record for Hellenic League appearances as a keeper.

Robin Hoffland

Goalkeeper

Now a long-serving player, despite his age, who acts as a capable back-up to Luke Merchant in goal, whenever needed. Has played for the club's 1sts, 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths, as well as the U18s and always gives his all. Reliable, in a word.

Macaulay Herbert

Defence

Begins this season as our longest-serving member of the squad. 'Macca' came through our U18s and is solid and dependable; an excellent defender who has been getting better with every season that passed. Has made over 290 first team appearances, despite several injuries punctuating each season. On course to reach 300 appearances this season.

Josh Stevens

Defence

Development Squad player of the season in 2023/24; broke into the first team squad during pre-season, putting in some excellent performances in central defence. Tall, strong in the air, solid in the tackle and capable in possession, this could be the season when he steps up into first team football.

Dan Lander

Defence

Debut in 2022/23 after returning to the club following a spell at Quedgeley Wanderers. A good club man, who gives his all in every game. Offers height, strength and determination at centre-half. A real competitor.

Elijah Simpson

Defence

Player under Neil Mustoe at Gloucester City U18s and recently signed from Brimscombe & Thrupp and a great addition to the squad. Comfortable on the ball when in possession, shows a turn of pace, and good defensively. A key signing for this season.

Ellis Clifford

Defence

Came through the U18s squad, after joining from Gloucester City's youth set-up. Made a breakthrough last season and amassed 14 appearances at left-back. Very promising youngster who will be looking to be a regular in 2024/25.

2024/25 PLAYER PROFILES

Mark Pritchett

Defence

Tasted Hellenic League title winning success at Bishops Cleeve. Previously at Rovers as Player/Manager before stepping away from the role in 2021/22. Offers a no nonsense, uncompromising, good old-fashioned performance in every game, and a threat in the opposition box.

Sammie Hicks

Defence/Midfield

Now in his fourth season at the club, after spells at Gloucester City and Cinderford Town. Injuries have hampered his progress but he remains a reliable and very versatile member of the squad, capable of filling in at full-back, in midfield or in the No.10 role.

Harley Mustoe

Defence/Midfield

A member of this season's U18s squad after joining the squad late in 2023/24, Harley has gained experience playing County League football for Harwicke. Most comfortable in midfield but has played at full-back and looked very accomplished.

Callum McGuirk

Defence/Midfield

Signed from Longlevens in 2022, where he'd largely been used at full-back, he is a hard-working midfielder, who looks comfortable on the ball. Played academy football during his earlier years, including a spell at Bristol City. Was originally with the Rovers, where he featured in our U18s squad.

Liam Smith

Midfield

Has Southern League experience. Calm in possession and possesses a good passing range, whilst also physically strong, will be looking to hold down a regular place in the side, after three injury hit campaigns. Offers experience and capable of dropping into the back four when needed.

Cole Clinton

Midfield

New signing from Hartpury University. A diminutive figure, who is deceptively strong and has looked to be a good signing based on pre-season performances. Good on the ball and hard working, has the quality to improve our midfield.

Dean Turner

Midfield

Another new signing and a great addition to the Rovers fold. Southern League experience with Slimbridge and then spent several seasons at Brimscombe & Thrupp. Combative, communicative, hard-working, great positionally and a leader. Just what we needed to add to our midfield!

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

2024/25 PLAYER PROFILES

Kieran Alder

Midfield/Forward

Returned to the club in 2022/23, after spells with Cinderford, Bishops Cleeve and Worcester City; and overcame injuries to return to his best. Gifted No.10, whose work rate is as noticeable as his work on the ball - a creative player. Previously with Neil Mustoe's U18s at Gloucester City reunited at Rovers.

Corey Warrington

Midfield

Signed during pre-season after excelling at Northern Senior League side Tredworth Tigers during 2023/24. A highly energetic midfielder who likes to get on the ball; he's ambitious and could be an excellent addition to the squad for 2024/25, although an injury in pre-season could limit his immediate progress.

Matt Lee

Midfield

A new signing for 2024/25 who will play in midfield or an attacking role and looks to be a good addition to the squad. Hard-working and comfortable on the ball, has previous Hellenic League experience with Cinderford Town and Lydney Town.

Tyrel Roberts

Forward

Another player to come through from the U18s and then through the Development Squad, Ty is an old-fashioned centre-forward who never gives the opposing defence a break and has been a regular scorer in his time in the club's junior sides. Another player for whom this could prove to be their breakthrough season.

Karnell Chambers

Forward

Experienced at a higher level, this is a player who Neil Mustoe was delighted to sign in November 2023. Has previously been at Gloucester City, Hungerford Town, North Leigh, as well as a spell overseas, and is a goalscorer equally at home wide or in the middle. Finished 2023/24 as top goalscorer for the first team and added the sort of threat that Rovers have needed.

Yeshaya Lomotey

Forward

Powerful striker who joined in 2021/22 spells at other local clubs, including Slimbridge and Cinderford Town. Offers quality on the ball and packs a powerful shot that is a potent weapon. Will be hoping to contribute more goals to secure a regular place in the side.

Brad Bevan

Forward

Signed from Fairford Town last season. Incredibly hardworking, tenacious, a real team player. Runs all day and although not a prolific goalscorer has been a good signing. Can play wide or down the centre.

Connor Walters

Forward

Wide player who joined from Gala Wilton in 2023/24. Strong and full of trickery, he had a fantastic start to his first season and contributed goals, as well as being a threat to opposition defences. Works hard for the team.

Riley Bourne

Forward

Under 18s player who graduated from our U16s last season. Quick, skilful, with an eye for goal, age is no impediment for this confident lad.

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Appointed as Manager in January 2022, took the club away from relegation fears in 2021/22, before successfully battling against relegation in 2022/23. Spent many years as a professional at Manchester United, Wigan Athletic, Cambridge United, Stevenage and Yeovil Town, before over 350 appearances for Gloucester City. Previous coaching experience with City before a spell away from the game until his appointment with The Rovers.

Liam O'Neill

Assistant Manager

Appointed as Assistant Manager in 2023, after a spell as Manager at Frampton United. Still in the formative stage of his coaching journey but offers great support to Muzzy and is an important presence in the first team set-up.

Mike De-Bear

Physio

New for 2024/25 and a great signing off the pitch. Has experience working at EFL clubs and is already making a great impression.

Alex Butler

Coach

Joined in 2023/24 after previous experience in local football. Mr Reliable and a really positive influence in the dressing room on match-days.

Tim Hall

Coach

Previously been at Longlevens. Knew Muzzy and Ken Blackburn from his time with Gloucester City and is a great character. A keen cyclist, who also has an interest in classic cars.



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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 look at some great facts about this wonderful competition...

1. Easy start. Who are the current holders of the Emirates FA Cup?

2. If you look at the picture here, you'll see a headed goal winning the 2013 FA Cup Final in the closing moments. Three points available: (i) Which team became the first in history to win the FA Cup and be relegated in the same season; (ii) Which player scored the winning goal; and (iii) Who was the manager of the winning team?



3. When torrential rain led to the abandonment of an FA Cup tie after 69 minutes due to torrential rain in 1961 which Scottish international had scored six times for Manchester City, only to see his side lose 3-1 to Luton Town when the game was replayed?

4. Which year saw the last FA Cup Final to go to a replay?

5. Can you name the three players pictured who all scored the winning goal in an FA Cup Final?



Quiz Answers: (1) Manchester United; (2) Ben Watson scored the goal against Manchester City, to win relegated Wigan Athletic their first ever FA Cup Final and Roberto Martinez became an FA Cup winning manager; (3) Denis Law; (4) 1993, when Arsenal defeated Sheffield Wednesday; (5) Alan Taylor, West Ham United, 1975; Alan Sunderland, Arsenal, 1979; Nwankwo Kanu, Portsmouth, 2008.

Appearance information

Up to and including Wednesday, 31 July 2024
(includes selected list of former players)



We saw six players make their first competitive appearance for our First XI on Wednesday evening at Sporting Club Inkberrow, with two of the players – Harley Mustoe and Riley Bourne – members of the U18s squad this season.

The other debutants were Development Squad graduate Josh Stevens, new signing Matt Lee, and our summer signings from Brimscombe & Thrupp, Eli Simpson (pictured) and Dean Turner. Welcome to all the new lads and we hope all those appearances are the first of many!



Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	126	37	Lander, Daniel	47	1
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Lee, Matt	1	0
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Lomotey, Yeshaya	58	8
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Bevan, Bradley	24	2	Mann, Warren	538	85
Birkett, Henry	127	10	McGuirk, Callum	81	0
Bourne, Riley	1	0	Merchant, Luke	116	0
Bradley, Shayne	260	117	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Chambers, Karnell	23	14	Mustoe, Harley	1	0
Clifford, Ellis	15	0	Mustoe, Neil	1	0
Cornwall, Leone	70	4	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Davies, Ashley	190	27	Pritchett, Mark	186	28
Dobbins, Ryan	87	18	Rhodes, Jake	75	25
Fallows, Dayton	5	0	Roberts, Tyrel	9	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Simpson, Elijah	1	0
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Smith, Liam	76	1
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Squires, Kieran	90	7
Haswell, Tristan	99	1	Stevens, Josh	1	0
Hoffland, Robin	9	0	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Herbert, Macaulay	290	10	Turner, Dean	1	0
Hicks, Sammie	56	2	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	130	9	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Brett	186	64	Walters, Connor	46	9
James, Richard	125	40	White, Joel	140	4
Kent, Dominik	175	21	Wright, Liam	124	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.

KIDLINGTON FC HISTORY



Kidlington FC was founded in 1909 and played local village football where rivalry was so keen that players had to prove they were residents of the village for whom they played. In 1945, Kidlington moved from village football to play in the Oxford City Junior League, with a good deal of success. By 1951 the Oxfordshire Senior League was entered, where stronger competition was provided by the likes of Witney Town, Morris Motors, Pressed Steel and Thame United.

In 1953 the Hellenic League was formed and the Oxon Senior League lost some of its stronger clubs to the new league. Kidlington won the Senior League that season and joined the new league in 1954. Early days in the Hellenic League showed quite clearly the difference in standard. Kidlington however, maintained a Premier Division place for a time, but spent most of the 60's in Division One. The 70's started with 'The Greens' winning the County Intermediate Cup. In 1976-77 a squad of good young players produced what was Kidlington's best ever run in an FA competition. The team played every round bar one away from home and reached the last 16 in the FA Vase, eventually bowing out to Gosport Borough. The nucleus of this side eventually gained promotion back to the Premier Division in 1979-80.

The 80's were pretty uneventful and saw Kidlington return to Division One of the Hellenic League. The early 90's were steady. In season 1994-95, Martin Bakers Reserve side did the League and Cup double bringing some long awaited silverware back to the club, and an upturn in the first team fortunes occurred after Karl Grossmann was appointed manager, achieving top 6 finishes in four successive seasons.

The new millennium saw a major overhaul of the committee and a new Chairman in Geoff Talboys. In 2004-05, under the guidance of ex-player Kevin Walton, the first team finished in third place and achieved promotion back into the Hellenic Premier Division. With promotion came a struggle with the considerable difference in the standard of football and the team finished in a relegation position. However a national non-league restructure saved us.

In 2007/08, First Team silverware arrived for the first time in over 30 years when we won the Floodlit Trophy under manager Paul Lee. There were additional honours that season with the Reserves winning Reserve Division One for a second consecutive season, the Youth team winning the Oxfordshire U18 Youth Cup, and Kidlington Veterans retaining their Veteran League crown.

In 2009-10 came a new Chairman, Lloyd Wray, and a new management team. Ex-player Gordon Geary was recruited to look after 1st team affairs and Barry Hiles to run the Reserve team.

Season 2010-11 saw the club achieve its most successful season ever, finishing seventh in the Premier Division, and a superb effort by all saw us play a very strong Oxford United team at the Kassam Stadium in the Final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, where unfortunately we lost. We did win some silverware though, beating Purton 3-0 in the final of the Supplementary Cup.

In December of season 2011-12 Gordon and Barry resigned and two senior players Danny Leggett and Christian Perkins stepped forward to guide the club through until the end of the season with the club just maintaining its Hellenic Premier Division status.

For season 2013-14 the club installed Martin Wilkinson as First Team manager and finished sixth in the league, making club history. They also reached the Senior Cup Final again, but lost to Ardley United.

Season 2014-15 saw the team finish in our highest ever league position of fourth. Season 2015-16 was a dream come true for everyone at KFC, with Wilkinson and his team of Paul Harwood, Julian McCalmon and Jermaine McSporrان leading our 1st team to the Hellenic League Premier Division title and promotion to the Southern League. We also had our best ever run in the FA Vase where we reached the last eight and had a very healthy run in the FA Cup, losing eventually to Conference side Gloucester City.

Season 2016-17 was our first at Level 4 of the football pyramid in the Evo-Stik League Division One Central but, due to work commitments, Wilkinson resigned after a month. Jermaine McSporrان took over as Caretaker Manager until the club appointed Julian McCalmon as our new Manager, with McSporrان and Paul Harwood as his assistants. The new manager and the team had a good season at this higher level and eventually finished in mid-table. Our reserves with Nick East as Manager, had a great season winning the Reserve Challenge Cup and finishing as runners up in the Hellenic League Division 2 West.

Due to the geographical implications from promotion/relegation, for season 2017-18 we were transferred across to the South West Division. Our reserve team achieved senior status with promotion to UHlsport Hellenic Division One West and were also re-branded as the "Development Team".

For season 2018-19, McCalmon resigned and Ady Fuller was appointed as First Team Manager. He had to form a completely new squad ahead of the season, and due to another FA national restructure we transferred back to Division One Central. After a poor start the manager resigned in mid-October and we re-instated Julian McCalmon with Joe Davies & Elliot Osborne-Ricketts as his assistants. We avoided relegation on the last day of the season.

McCalmon resigned again in January 2020 and was replaced by Ben Sadler, assisted by Paul Braithwaite. The pair had led Wantage Town to promotion as Hellenic League Champions in 2019.

After two seasons severely disrupted by Covid-19, 2021/22 proved challenging. A horrific injury list meant we struggled to establish a settled squad and we spent much of the season with the threat of relegation hanging over us. It is great credit to the management and players that we survived, finally finishing in 17th position.

Season 2022-23, led by joint managers Ben Sadler and Paul Braithwaite and assisted by Mark Massingham, saw us achieve our highest ever league finish, finally ending up in 10th position after pressing for a playoff place for much of the campaign.

For season 2023/24, Braithwaite decided to manage elsewhere and Sadler moved to a community role within the club. The previous year's Assistant, Mark Massingham, stepped up to manage the team, assisted by Scott Reynolds. Disappointing league results led to a change of the management team in March. Sadler, our former manager was appointed until the end of the season, assisted by Mark Flanagan, and previous Academy coach Lloyd Owers. An improvement in performances and results saw us end the season in 13th position. We were also runners up in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, losing to Thame United in the final.

This season we are excited to have Craig McKay back at the club as Head Coach. He will be assisted by Lloyd Owers, Ben Lucas and Tony Collins.



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TEAM SHEET



TUFFLEY ROVERS

KIDLINGTON



Luke Merchant ©	1	Tom Carter
Callum McGuirk	2	Conor Taylor
Ellis Clifford	3	Sam Jenkins
Elijah Simpson	4	Jack Smith
Josh Stevens	5	Ben Richards
Dean Turner	6	Abe Davies-Small
Matt Lee	7	Zarius Edwards-Giraud
Kieran Alder	8	Dineen Meegan
Karnell Chambers	9	Charlie Bacon
Brad Bevan	10	Hamza Al-Jabari
Connor Walters	11	Felix Robertson
Liam Smith	12	Fraser Allen
Sammie Hicks	14	Cheyce Grant
Cole Clinton	15	Lewis Middleton
Warren Mann	16	John Dennis
Harley Mustoe	17	Alfie Clarke
Macaulay Herbert	18	Dec Shepperd
Mark Pritchett	19	
Riley Bourne	20	

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

Green & White shirts, Green shorts; Green socks (GK: Blue).

Neil Mustoe	MANAGER	Craig McKay
Liam O'Neill	ASST. MANAGER	Lloyd Owers
Mike De-Bear (Physio) Alex Butler (Coach) Tim Hall (Coach)	OTHER OCCUPANTS	Ben Lucas (Coach) Tony Collins (GK Coach) Mark Timbrell (Physio) Steve Kenny (Asst Physio)

OFFICIALS

Richard Wood

William Sims

Garry Collier