

THE ROBIN

Official Matchday Programme of Clanfield 85 FC



CLANFIELD 85
v
CIRENCESTER TOWN

SATURDAY 1ST
MARCH 2025
3:00pm KO



UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE
CHALLENGE CUP



Clanfield 85 FC
Radcot Road
Clanfield
Oxfordshire
OX18 2ST
01993 840941

CLUB DIRECTORY

Hon Life Presidents John Osborne & Geoff Collett

Hon Vice Presidents Dave Hunt & Sally Hunt

Chairman Pete Osborne

Secretary Pete Osborne

Treasurer Geoff Mills

Welfare Officer Konrad Howlett

Club Safety Officer Position Vacant

Groundsman John Hornsby

First Team Manager Jamie Butt

First Team Assistant Craig Connor

First Team Coach Jamie Zoldan

First Team Coach Ryan Pratley

Reserve Team Manager Adam Major

Club Physio Ben Nicholls

Under 15 Manager John Mclaughlin

Under 15 Assistant Duncan Fitzgerald

Under 15 Robins Manager James Minion

Under 15 Robins Assistant Konrad Howlett

Under 14 Manager Danny MacDonogh

Under 14 Assistant Jamie Butt

Under 13 Girls Manager John Mclaughlin

Under 12 Manager Neil Barrett

Under 11 Manager Lee Thornett

Under 11 Assistant Kevin Lewis

Matchday Catering Angie Fisher

Welcome to Radcot Road



Good afternoon and welcome to Radcot Road for our Challenge Cup clash with Cirencester Town.

We come into today on the back of 3 league wins after the disappointing league defeat at Chipping Sodbury - the response since then has been excellent picking up a 5-0 win at Newent followed by a 4-0 win at home to Tytherington and we followed that up with an impressive 3-1 win at playoff rivals Stratford. Saturdays result was excellent and keeps us in the mix for a playoff spot. With Southam pulling out (with only 9 games to go!) the league table has been affected - we have lost 6 points and 9 goals while others have definitely benefited. As normal we are going to have to do things the hard way!

Today gives us a break from the league as we take on Premier division Cirencester for a place in the quarter finals. While our priorities probably lie elsewhere we will still be doing all we can to progress - momentum is key for our run-in. Injuries, suspensions and cup-tied players mean we will need to shuffle the pack a little but that's exactly what we have a squad for. Cirencester are a very good side in good form who we know will want to progress themselves so we will need to be at our best to progress.

Enjoy today's game.



The FA Respect Code of Conduct

SPECTATORS

We all bear a collective responsibility to set a good example and help provide a positive environment in which children can learn and enjoy the game. Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators at all times.

I WILL:

- Remember that Under 18's and vulnerable adults maybe at the game
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Respect the Referee's decisions even when you don't agree with them
- Appreciate good play from whatever team it comes from
- Remain behind the touchline and within the Designated Spectators' Area
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Support positively and offer players encouragement not criticism
- Never engage in, or tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken:

I MAY BE:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents.

IN ADDITION:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.



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Club History

Clanfield Football Club was founded in 1890 and for many years played in the Witney & District League. Two years were spent in the North Berks League in the 1960's and for 1967-68 season the club joined the Hellenic League.

Clanfield's first game in the Hellenic League was on the 19th August 1967 against Hungerford Town in front of an attendance of 146. In 1969-70 the club won the Hellenic Division One Championship and were promoted to the Premier Division for the first time.

In 1971-72 they missed out on the Runners-Up position only on goal average but went on to secure the Runner-Up spot for the next two seasons also winning the Premier Division Challenge Cup in 1973-74. In 1974-75 the Club reached the Final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup. The first game ended in a draw after extra time, but Pressed Steel won the replay. 1975-76 saw a repeat of the Cup run to the Final but again Clanfield ended up losing Finalists. After a great period through the 60s and 70s they were relegated to Division One at the end of the 1979-80 Season. However, the Club soon bounced back finishing in second place the following season. At the end of the 1984-85 Season they were once again relegated to Division One where they have remained ever since.

The Club re-entered the FA Vase in 2006 when Buckingham Athletic were visitors to Radcot Road, in a game Clanfield won 1-0. The club won the Jim Newman Memorial Cup in 1978 & 2018 and have been finalists in recent staging of the same event and won the Faringdon Memorial Cup in 1996-97 and 2016-17. Season 2010-11 saw the club finish in fourth place in Division One West and narrowly miss out on promotion to the Premier Division.

The Club have recently adopted a positive youth policy. The Under 18 Team have won the Allied Counties Youth League Central Division and last season their County Cup Competition. The previous season, 2016-17 the Under 17 Team won the Oxfordshire Invitation Youth League Division B whilst the Under 16 Team won their County Cup Competition.


For the 2020-21 season former player Jamie Butt alongside Chris Blakley and Martin Staddon continued as the first team management, with Gary Brown joining them. The season was looking very positive but again was curtailed by the Corona Virus Pandemic.

There was a management restructure for the 2021-22 season with Andy Lyne joining the club as the first Director of Football. Chris Blakely and Martin Staddon stood down from their First Team commitment and the club thanks them both for all their effort over their time with Jamie. Following a nasty injury whilst playing elsewhere, Jordi Mulvany returned to the club as First Team Coach. The season was a success for the club as Clanfield finished third in Division One, losing out in the semi final to Hereford Pegasus who went on to secure promotion in the final against Worcester Raiders. They were also losing semi-finalists in the Challenge Cup as they went out 1-0 to the eventual winners Cribbs FC.

For the 2022-23 season Craig Connor stepped into the First Team Assistant role after deciding to step away from the rigours of playing. The club enjoyed success in the pre-season retaining the Jim Newman Trophy and winning it for the third time in recent years beating Cropredy 8-1 in the final. Clanfield finished the season in fourth place, securing a Play-Off berth for the second season running this time against Milton United. This time the Robins lost out on penalties, with Milton going on to secure promotion on penalties over Hartpury University.

The coming season sees Shaun Morgan joining the coaching staff as Jamie and Craig continue at the helm. Pre-season has been promising with the club winning the Jim Newman Trophy for the third year running. The club wishes the players and managers all the best for the season.



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MEET THE PLAYERS



Luke Haley
Goalkeeper

Joined the club as a 16 year old, part of the clubs FA YOUTH CUP side that got to the first round. Excellent shot stopper. A Clanfield lad



Reuben Pratley
Goalkeeper

Young goalkeeper, product of Clanfield U16's side. Great technique



Kian Burrows
Defender

New signing from Cheltenham Saracens. Exciting attacking fullback or wingback. Previous club Moreton Rangers.



Jordan Cavender
Defender

New signing from Long Crendon. Aggressive, forward thinking fullback or wingback. Caught the eye when playing against us last season.



Ben Weller
Defender

Can play anywhere along the back four, most consistent player at the club. Came through the youth team, captain this season.



Liam Hares
Defender

New signing from Faringdon Town, having made the switch over the bridges. Strong centre half who will chip in with a few goals.



Charlie Trinder-Sage
Defender

New signing from Shrivenham, comfortable on the ball and bags a page. Has impressed in pre-season.



Theo Tyson
Defender

First season of men's football, has impressed in pre season. Played for the Under 16's side last season.



Dylan Kay
Midfield

Rolls-Royce of a player, neat and tidy on the ball. Has great energy, third season with the club.



Tom Taylor
Midfield

Heartbeat of the midfield with his relentless work rate. Chips in with a few goals, fashion icon of the club.



MEET THE PLAYERS



Young player returning to the club. Bags of energy, looking to break into the side.

Jay Cant
Midfield



New signing from Long Crendon, has a great passing range in midfield.

Zac Rice
Midfield



Versatile midfield player, always has kind words for the opposition. His season gets going once cricket has finished.

Connor Tinsley
Midfield



Returning to the club this season after a season away at uni. Can play anywhere across the back line and midfield.

Jack Fletcher
Midfield



Tough, tackling midfielder with a good eye for a pass. Second season with the club.

Rhys King
Midfield



The Radcot Road's faithful, favourite player. Skill, pace, has the lot - big season ahead.

Reuban Harry
Forward



Brilliant first season at the club, top goalscorer. Creates goals and links up the play.

Tyger Hall
Forward



Has a left foot like Roy Race of Melchester Rovers. On his day unplayable, could play any position on the pitch.

Nathan Kimber
Forward



Out and out goal scorer, has scored goals at all his previous clubs - Carterton, North Leigh and Evesham.

George Seacole
Forward



Exciting new signing, a great character. Can play across all the front positions.

Tete Brewster
Forward



Jamie Wyatt
Forward

Now in the twilight of his career, you wouldn't notice. Great pace and brilliant crosser of the ball.



MEET THE MANAGEMENT



Jamie has established himself as a strong manager who gives youth a chance when the time is right. He has built a strong squad and will be looking to build on last two seasons achievements.

Jamie Butt
Manager



Craig joined the management team from the playing squad. He brings a wealth of experience that will prove valuable to the management setup.

Craig Connor
Assistant



Ryan joins the management team this season. Experienced player at this level in his playing days and also played for the club

Ryan Pratley
Coach



Ben joins the management team as matchday physio. First season as a physio, good addition to the team.

Ben Nicholls
Physio



Former goalkeeper for Clanfield. Has returned to the club this season as a coach.

Jamie Zoldan
Coach

Who will you be today?



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Respect



Cirencester Town FC was formed in 1889 and played amateur football in the Cirencester & District League, Cheltenham League and eventually the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

In the late '60s Cirencester joined the Gloucester County League, moving from there up to the Hellenic League in 1969. During that time, they had their first national cup run, reaching the 2nd round proper of the FA Amateur Cup. They won their first major piece of silverware, taking the Hellenic First Division Championship in 1973-74 to reach the Premier Division. Following a subsequent relegation, the modern phase of development was slowly established, with their Smithfield ground being improved.

Season 1995-96 was the start of the new era. In partnership with Cirencester College, the club began the groundbreaking Football Academy programme. Developing rapidly, first under Dave Hockaday and when he moved as Youth Team Manager to Watford FC, followed by Steve Lowndes, the Academy have been National College Champions in '97 and in '98, five times winners of the English Schools FA U19 Colleges Cup since 1998, and British Colleges Trophy Champions 4 times since '97. The youngsters have regularly reached the latter stages of the FA Youth Cup as the last remaining non-league club in that competition and in 2008-09 reached the third round proper before losing to Sunderland at the Stadium of Light. The success of the Academy has had the knock-on effect of providing CTFC with new blood and developing talent.

Off field, a long planning process led to the development of the Community Club phase led by Chairman Steve Abbley and implemented over 3 years by Business Manager Anna Kocherhan. In summer 2002 Brian Hughes succeeded Ray Baverstock as manager. At the same time the club, having invested the proceeds of the sale of Smithfield in the Corinium Stadium at Kingshill, moved into their new facility and renamed as "The Centurions". This development was followed in November 2004 by the opening of The Arena, a state-of-the-art full size indoor training facility. We have now been awarded the FA's "Charter Standard Community Club" status and this summer we received the 2006 Gloucestershire FA Award for "Charter Standard Community Club of the Year", which was presented to Steve Abbley by Sir Geoff Hurst.

In May 2006, after four highly successful years and having raised expectations at the club, Brian Hughes resigned as First Team Manager to be replaced by Neil Hards. Neil had taken a year out of football after his achievements at Winchester City where they gained "back-to-back" promotions and won the FA Vase in 2004. Unfortunately, despite some good early performances, the team lacked the necessary consistency, and a disastrous run of results after Christmas meant they finished in the relegation places. However, the club was later reprieved from relegation after a number of changes were made to club allocations in the non-league structure due to club mergers and other decisions.

Manager Adi Viveash left the Centurions to take up his role as Chelsea and Brian Hughes was again called upon to take up the hot seat as First Team manager. The 2009 - 10 seasons proved to be a very successful one with the Development squad winning the league in their first season and the first team gaining promotion via the play offs after 2 very good away wins both with late goals.

Manager Brian Hughes managed the club's first season back in the Premier Division in 2010-2011 and the club finished 13th. Unfortunately, 2011-12 saw the heartbreak of relegation and our first year back in the South & West division saw us finish 10th in the table.

2013-2014 saw the club have its most successful season ever gaining automatic promotion back to the Southern League Premier by clinching the title on the last day of the season to beat Merthyr Town to the championship. Brian Hughes worked with a small squad which managed to overturn a 9-point deficit and clinched the title last term by winning the last 7 games of the season whilst everyone else dropped points on the way.

2016-2017 saw changes at the helm after a poor start Brian Hughes was relieved of the manager's job and Charlie Griffin was installed as his replacement. The 2017-2018 saw a brand-new state of the art 3G pitch installed at The Corinium Stadium. After a slow start The Centurions missed out on a playoff spot on goal difference and disappointment was to follow last season after finishing runners up, promotion was denied via the play offs losing to Cinderford Town FC in the semi-final by 1 goal.

December 2019 saw another change with former North Leigh manager John Brough take the helm replacing Charlie Griffin after a disappointing start to the season. The change nearly had the desired effect as the Centurions climbed the table with a play off place in sight before the season was sadly cut short due to the current situation, we find ourselves in relating to COVID 19.

The COVID-19 pandemic put paid to two seasons before we returned fully in 2021-2022. After a great league campaign, heartbreak again for the Centurions as we missed out on possible promotion losing in the play offs again.

2020-2024 was a new era for Ciren with the appointment of John Brough. John's first season ended in heartbreak with a loss in the playoffs, season 2 was curtailed due to COVID when the Centurions were league leaders. The last 2 seasons were extremely difficult after we were placed in the Central division, missing out on the playoffs both seasons by 1 point.

2024 voluntary relegation to the Hellenic league was taken due to the levels of travel required in the Southern League, we ended our 28-year stay. Following the departure of John Brough, we appointed assistant manager and ex player James Mortimer-Jones.

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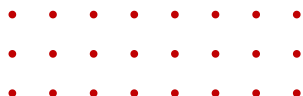


We welcome Cirencester to Clanfield for today's Supplementary Cup tie. Cirencester are currently 15th in the Hellenic League Premier Division with 10 wins, 5 draws and 18 losses from their 31 league games having dropped down to this level of football after 28 years as a Southern League club. 0 of them were spent in the Premier Division in three spells. Last season they in fact finished sixth in the Southern League Division 1 and narrowly missing out on a playoff place,

We last played the Cirencester first team in a league game in the 1996/97 season and league games between the clubs that I have record of shows 9 Clanfield wins, 7 draws and 6 Cirencester wins and Cirencester Academy as were Cirencester United formerly (The Herd) who were a club completely unrelated to this one.

I have been aware of the existence of Cirencester Town football club for many years and remember them in their Hellenic League days when they played at their old Tetbury Road ground. However I never visited this ground as the only occasion I set off for a match there I realised I had got on the wrong train when my train's first stop was Exeter rather than the intended destination of Swindon. However this was a long time ago and I believe I have learnt my lesson since then, although it was only when I arrived back at midnight from a show that I realised it was Cirencester not Redditch that we were playing.

I can recall seeing Clanfield playing the Cirencester Academy team, but at first team level the games I most remember seeing them play were against Winchester with a game at Cirencester seeing Cirencester drawing level at 3-3 in added on time, with Winchester scoring a memorable winner from a free kick with the last kick of the game. That game saw a Cirencester player hitting a hat trick, but still ending up on the losing side.





for a long time Cirencester were something of a bogey team to Winchester with Ben Whitehead being a prolific marksman as Les Wenban had been many years earlier.

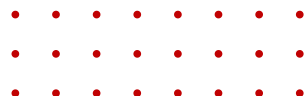
Although they took voluntary relegation last season they have done well to recover from a disastrous 1988/89 season when they finished bottom of Hellenic League Division 1, and gaining Southern League status eight years later, and as stated they remained a Southern League club for 28 years.

Other memories I have of Cirencester Town football club are them being one of the first clubs to run Winchester's promotion season of 2021/22 saw them beat Cirencester in the playoff semi final, but an academy team, the season of 1980/81 when they and ourselves were both challenging for promotion and before the days of mobile phones ringing Rayners Lane both at half time and full time to get news of their game with Cirencester, while we were also in action at Viking Sports and seeing a match played on their 4G pitch on a windy day when even when the ball was placed in stationary position for a goal kick the wind moving the ball a few feet.

One former captain of the Cirencester Academy team was Nick Farr whose father Ian played for Clanfield in the 1986/87 season in which he proved to be a prominent marksman as he did for other clubs he represented.

As this is the last cup competition we want to do well today and keep our interest in cup football going,

Malcolm



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To make sure you are appropriately covered, our club insurance policy can be built around your particular needs.

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