***A BRIEF HISTORY OF KINGSWOOD AFC FOOTBALL CLUB***

1894- The first recorded mention of Kingswood Football Club appeared in the Wotton Gazette, it reported a game involving Kingswood Crown vs. Sinwell Star in 1894. Also at the time there was a club named Wotton & Kingswood Utd who were very successful in the Mid Glos League, playing Cheltenham Town, Gloucester City, Stroud, Forest Green and Sharpness among others. With the Crown tag gone Kingswood enjoyed varying fortunes up to the First World War. 1906/07- Kingswood Champions of Dursley League Division ll. 1914/18- The First World War. 1919- Just after the First World War, the team finished joint top of the Dursley League Division ll along with Dursley Discharged Soldiers. A play off at Thornbury saw the Soldiers win 3-0 against all predictions in front of a crowd of 1000 people. 1922/23- Kingswood becomes a founded member of the newly formed Gloucestershire Northern Senior League along with Cheltenham Town, Forest Green, Stonehouse, Sharpness, Dursley, Wotton and others. 1923/24- Kingswood reserve team enters the newly formed Thornbury League. 1939/1945- The Second World War. 1947- Kingswood Football Club reforms following a break for the war, a little later than many others. Club enters Division 2 of the Dursley & Wotton League once again. 1966/67- Kingswood promoted from Stroud League Division 3 and the following year finished champions of Division 2, but dropped out of Division 1 soon after. 1973/74- Kingswood win the Stroud Charity Intermediate Cup, ad the newly reformed Kingswood reserve team win the Stroud League, Division 6. 1994- On 6th October a match against an ex Bristol Rovers team, under the newly erected floodlights took place. 1996/97- New changing rooms had been built onto the village hall during the previous two years and were used for the first time in February. The driving force behind the project was Vice-Chairman Rob Bateman. 1997/98- Champions of Stroud League after a 70 year gap, and the Stroud Charity Cup B Section trophy as well. 1998/99- Was even better when by September the team had won the Northern Senior League Cup. Kingswood ended up as Champions of Division 2, and at the end of the season won Section A of the Stroud Charity Cup. 2000/01- This season saw the introduction of a youth team into the Stroud Youth League at under 13 year’s level. A team had been formed the previous season at the under 12 age level with manager Adrian Beale and his assistant Mark Crossfield doing a good job of getting it off the ground playing friendly matches. 2002/03- Daren Ford and Martin Bleaken take over the first team. The introduction of Martin Bleaken proves to be a renaissance within the club. 2004/05- With Dave Birt stepping down as Chairman after 20 years in the post and being made president, Rob Bateman stepped up from Vice-Chairman and Dean Saunders took the Vice-Chairman post. On the field was a great season for the team when they gained promotion from Division 2 of the Senior League with a win in the last game to secure third place. The emergence of Ian Evans as reserve team manager would also prove to be good for the future of the club. At the end of May a group of players and officials went on tour to Balbriggan just north of Dublin. The first game was lost to Globe North and by the time the second was played against Balbriggan; most players were suffering due to excess Guinness and lack of sleep! 2005/06- First team claim all time highest finish for the club finishing 8th in Senior League 1. Second team also wins Stroud League 5. 2006/07- First team finish 6th and the Second team win Stroud League 4 but lose in the final of County Cup. 2007/08- First team win Reg Davis Cup 5-0 beating Longlevens in the final. This was followed up by the team finishing 5th in Senior 1. The Second team wins Stroud 3 by goal difference after having to win last game by 7 clear goals. Three weeks earlier they had won the County Cup Intermediate at Slimbridge against Whaddon Utd Reserves 4-3 AET. This was the first time in the club’s 114 years that any section of a Gloucestershire County Cup competition had been won. 2008/09- First team gain County League football for first time in the club’s history after finishing 3rd in Gloucestershire Northern Senior One. The Second team finish 4th in Stroud League two. After a promising start, a blip in form in the New Year resulted in missing out on a 4th successive promotion. 2009/10- First team record highest ever finish in senior football, with a 10th place finish in their first season in Gloucestershire County League. Reserve team finishes in 6th place after disappointing results throughout March. 2010/11 – After a promising start to the season the First team never really got going after this. Injuries suspensions and a series of poor performances leave the team a very disappointing second bottom of the County League. The Reserves were guided to a 6th place finish in Stroud League Two by the new management team of the Shaw brothers Chris and Mike after a steady season. 2011-12 - After winning the open game of the season against newcomers Bristol Academy, the First team only gained another 10 points leading upto Christmas. A change in results in the New Year elevated the team to a respectable 11th place finish gaining 29 points from their remaining 16 fixtures. The Reserve team finish in their highest ever position of 4th place. Although playing catch up thoughout the season with fixtures promotion was still in sight with 3 games remaining but proved a step to far after results in key games weren’t achieved. 2012-13 - The season will live long in the memory for all involved with Kingswood AFC and many more, but for all the wrong reasons. First team get off to a cracking start winning 6 of their first 10 fixtures and only losing one to send them top of the Gloucestershire County League for the first time. A mid season blip in difficult circumstances lead to a creditable 11th place finish. Reserve team finish 7th in Stroud District League Two after an unimaginal season. On January 26th during a game with local neighbours Charfield, 10 minutes into the game player manager Michael Rodman without warning collapsed and died. Michael will be sorely missed by all who knew him both on and off the field. 2013-14 – First team finish in mid table, in a season which never really showed any consistancy. The season also sees the end of manager Ian Evans reign of the first team after 8 years in charge. Ian will be staying with the club and moving up stairs into the roll of Chairman. Reserve team have a similar season to the first team and never really get going til the last few games. This was not helped by the sometimes huge gaps in between fixtures. 2014-15 - First team finish in 11th place under the new management team of Clarke and Dibden. Dispite a promising start, a lack of consistantcy from the side saw them drop away. Reserves team enjoy a fruitful season in Stroud League 2 against some very challenging oppositon finsihing in a creditable 5th place. 2015-16 – A very diificult time for the club overall, and the worst in many years. The first team started the season under new management and drew the first game of the season. This was to prove the sides only point they would gain within the first 22 games played. This run of results saw the new manager leave and Steve Dibden was left in charge keeping the side going. The turn of the year saw a couple of players return and the new management team in place of James Cole who was assisted by Steve Dibden. From the sides last 10 games they somehow managed to escape from relegation by winning 8, drawing 1, and losing 1. Lifting themselves from the foot of the tablein 17th position they managed to finish a creditable 13th. The great escape complete! The Reserve side deserve a great deal of credit for compete throughout the season. With the difficulties that the first team were suffering the knock on effect put the Reserve side under severe pressure, at times unable to raise a side. A change in management saw Dan Blackwell take the reigns along with Paul Eldridge for the rest of the season and securing the sides Stroud League Two Status.

2016-17 – The clubs most successful season to date, some silverware and both teams gain their highest ever placed positions in their Leagues. The first Team managed their highest ever finish in the footballing pyramid with a 5th placed finish in the Gloucestershire County League. They also had a decent County Cup run, which saw them make it to the Quarter Final stage. Losing out to eventual winners Cadbury Heath 4-2. The Reserve side also have much changed fortunes from the previous year by winning the Stroud League Two title. Having lost the opening two games the side went on without losing any of the next 22 games. 2017-18 – This season saw the club go through some major changes, mainly in playing personel due to player retirements. It also saw the emergance of young first team manager Jack Richardson at the grand old age of 20. After a challenging season Jack and the team managed to keep their County League status with a good few games to spare. The Reserve side played at their highest level in Stroud One after gaining promotion the previous season. Also suffering from player loses, and the early loss of Manager Dan Blackwell due to a very serious injury. The Reserves managed to hold onto their League One Status by winning 5 out of their final 6 games including their final game of the season. This also meant the relegation of local rivals Wotton.