LONGLEVENS AFC

MATCH DAY PROGRAMME

Marcliff Gloucestershire County League

21st Nov 2026 | 14:00



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LONGLEVENS RESERVES

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WELCOME

We welcome Stoke Gifford United back to the Cornell & Company Stadium (Saw Mills) again this season - this time for the quarter-final of the Les James League Cup.

In our last encounter in the league against today's opponents, Leven's won 7-0 but that will not mean much going into today's game. The earlier fixture away at their place was a lot closer and tougher encounter so expect today to probably be the same.

Our form in the league has been impressive of late. Recent victories against Totterdown United and AFC Mangotsfield Rocks have propelled us into 2nd place albeit some teams below us have games in hand!

A reminder for everyone that if today's game finishes level at the end of 90 minutes, the tie will be decided by penalty kicks - there is no extra time.

Next Saturday our 1st team host their biggest game of the season where they entertain Devizes Town in the last 64 of the FA Vase. It is a 15:00 kick-off at Saw Mills and all support is welcome!

A warm welcome also to today's match official Lee Sheridan.

Enjoy the game!

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OUR 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 uhlsport Hellenic League, the Marcliff Gloucestershire County League and the Stroud and District League. Our ladies team operate in the Gloucestershire County Women's 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 as 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.

In recent years the Club has expanded massively, and we now run five male adult sides, a Ladies side and a Veterans team. Our youth section gives us continuous cover from U8s through to Veterans. Two seasons ago, we introduced a girls' team and this section continues to expand.

We are recognised as a Two Star FA Accredited Club, the system that has replaced the previously used Charter Standard 'banner'. A special mention here to Dennis Barnsley who has done so much work in respect of the Youth Section, to our Chairman Mark Cornell and Treasurer Chris Trout for putting in so much work to make the expansion of the Junior/Youth Sections 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 County League in 2013-14 and once again we were indebted to E. G. Carter and Company Limited for helping us upgrade Saw Mills to the required standard.

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 Hellenic Premier Division and have consolidated our position in that Division, which is no mean feat given that the majority of sides we play have a history and an infrastructure that is superior to ours.

Meanwhile, in the 2014-15 season, our reserve team won the Stroud & District Football League Division 1 title which ensured promotion to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League. A third-place finish in the GNSL Division 2 in the 2016-17 season resulted in promotion to GNSL Division 1.

In the 2021-22 season, we had our best ever experience in the FA Cup that culminated in us playing Gloucester City – a dream day out for the Club which will live long in the memory – but the past two seasons we were brought back to earth with exits from the FA Cup in the extra preliminary round. The 2023-24 season saw a 16th place finish for our 1st team however the club did have the best FA Vase run reaching the second round after victories against Keynsham Town, Shortwood United and then a 430 mile round trip to Helston Athletic.

For our reserves in 2023-24, they took the GNSL Division 1 season down to the wire where the last game of the season, Chalford vs. Tredworth Tigers, resulted in a three-way title decider. A win for either of them secured the title whereas a draw would hand it to Longlevens Reserves. Despite being 1-1 going into the 90th minute, Chalford would go on to snatch a winner handing them the GNSL Division 1 title. Chalford were finally promoted to Gloucestershire County League having won the title the year before only to be denied by the controversial play-off system, meanwhile Longlevens Reserves had to settle for 2nd.

After 4 seasons at the helm, both Michael Palmer and Craig "Spider" Martin stepped down as co-managers of the 1st Team. having secured our Hellenic League Premier Division status on the last day of the 2024-25 season. Buster Davies and Pete Boyle were appointed as new managers for the 2025-26 season.

The reserve team finally went on to secure the GNSL Division 1 title having spent 4 seasons prior never finishing outside the top four. The season evolved into what became a four-way contest between Longlevens Reserves, Whaddon United, English Bicknor and Dursley Town. Longlevens Reserves would ultimately make it over the line beating English Bicknor 2-1 in their penultimate game. In the County Cup, the reserves reached the final playing the 2025-26 Gloucestershire County League champions Sharpness. They were narrowly defeated 4-3 with Sharpness scoring in the last minute to win the game.

Promotion to the Gloucestershire County League was not without controversy, however. Despite winning the league, the reserves had to face Bristol & Suburban League champions Wessex Wanderers in a farcical play-off competition to gain promotion where they won 2-0. It did end up taking the FA to confirm the result in a hearing weeks after the game where Longlevens Reserves were finally confirmed to be promoted to Step 7.

In September 2026, Longlevens AFC made history by becoming the first football club to win £1 million on the National Lottery with the winning ticket bought by club president Bill Davis – the winning numbers were 1, 9, 15, 21, 32 and 51.

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Player Profiles

LONGLEVENS RESERVES

Jack Sargeant - Young GK entering his 3rd season with the club following youth team football. Growing in confidence and stature year by year. More than plays his part when required.

Jack Stokes - Veteran Keeper. Has been with the side for a number of years, always manages a hand full of games every season and a regular amongst the support staff.

Rylan Snelgrove - Combative fullback. A Big character at a young age. A great left foot with an eye for a good delivery in forward areas.

Ollie Morrissey - Mature beyond his years. Successive Managers player of the year now. Can play Midfield and fullback. Guaranteed 7/10 every week without fail.

Fin Kent - Another who can play in multiplePositions. Whippet like speed who always offers a threat from wide areas.

Toby Boakes - Ex Youth team captain. Taken to senior football like a duck to water. A really good 1-1 defender and doesn't often get beaten in the air.

Tom Spencer - Young defender who spent the majority of last season playing 1st team football and will be hoping to do the same again this season. Experienced head on young shoulders.

Luke Troke - Composed Full back/Centre Half. Always plays like he has loads of time on his hands. Bags of tricks with a good left foot.

Mike Thornton - Veteren Defender/Midfielder entering his 1st full season with the club. Another to hang your hat on when needed in important games. Experience at this level and above with previous clubs.

Luke Kavanagh - Entering his 14th season with the club. Last season's players player of the season. Natural leader. Won the County league 3x before. Twice with the first team.

James Barnett - Defender turned Striker. Always managed to score goals consistently at GNSL. Another one who is ever present on important games.

Harley Walsh - Up and coming young defender. Not looked out of place so far, when called upon. Will Only get better in playing more games at senior level.

Kaya Demirok- Another youth team graduate, can also play in multiple positions. Always gives 110% to everything he does on the pitch. Another left footed player.

Jack Cornell - Team Captain. Consistant player through midfield and in forward areas. Always offers a threat towards the oppositions goal.

Josh Gallifant - Returning back to the side after a few years out with injury. AnEloquent midfield player, who always plays on the half turn.

Phill Blackburn - Ever present midfielder. Forever young, who seems to have been around the club for centuries! Easily the fittest player on the side who always contributes when needed.

Fin Rankin - Full metal forward player who likes to take defenders on at will. Another one of the clubs emerging talents, always knocking on the door of the first team Squad.

Josh Bird - 1st season at the club and has impressed in pre-season. Neat and tidy winger, who rarely puts a foot wrong in his build up play.

Luke Twyning - Returning combative midfielder with bags of potential to fulfill. Looking forward to seeing him back at Levens this coming season.

Brad Martin - Reputation at the club for nothing but scoring goals. 250+ goals at first team level. Dropped down last season for family reasons. Massive addition to the side. Previous 2 x winner of the county league with the first team.

Leo Marsden-Green - Cultured forward player. Builds any attack nicely and always creates chances. Big season ahead for this player.

Theo Bevan - "Starboy" is how he is also known. An emerging talent at still such a young age. A big future to come at the club and beyond if he can keep his feet on the ground.

Craig Martin - "Mr Longlevens AFC". Not a role at the club he hasn't fulfilled both on and off the football pitch. Stepped down as first team manager before last season and won promotion with the 2nds in the first season under his management.

Ben Symons - Perfect right hand man. Black book as big as any manager. A plethora of experience in management across many years.

Mike Rinaldi - The joker of any pack. Consistent, ever reliant figure in the management side, another leader in nature and someone you can put ya mortgage on to have your back.

Dale Rawlins - Ex 2nd team manager returning to the fold as a support act. Another with bags of experience in management to offer support across all the players involved.

Nathan Brown - No side functions without a bloke like this. Turns up, never moans, does the job nobody else wants to do and supports the lads regardless.

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Club History: Stoke Gifford United Football Club

Stoke Gifford Football Club was founded back in 1947 by Mr J. Scott. In our first few seasons, between 1947-51, we played on the Downs in Clifton. At the beginning of the 1951 season our club stalwart Jim Sparrow joined the club as a wanting to play for his local team. Also in 1951 we moved to our current home at North Road, Stoke Gifford after having the old orchard levelled off to create our pitch. The old barn where cider used to be made was converted into our changing rooms. This is also where the club adopted the Barn Owl as our club symbol. This has been our club home ever since, although from the 2018/19 season the first team relocated to Stoke Gifford Stadium at SGS College, leaving our reserve and 'A' team to fulfill alternate Saturdays in the 'Village'.

Following the move to Stoke Gifford, the club colours were red shirts and white sleeves until 1964 when the club adopted our now well know blue and white trim. The club has used navy from time to time but we predominantly wear royal blue each season.

In 1982/83 season, Jim Sparrow took up the position as chairman with the aim to bring some much needed success to the club. This is a position Jim held within the club until 2020-21 when it was time for Jim to pass the position on and take up the roll of club president. Jim is a true hero to the club and without his passion and drive over the many years in the role, the club would not be in the position we are in today.

In the 1988/89 we won the Bristol Suburban League Premier 1 title for the first time in our history. The team, managed by club legend John Black, were fired to the title by his younger brother and now club chairman, Martin Black, who finished top goal scorer allowing us to pip Totterdown United to the title.

Our home changing room and bar were located in the trust owned 'Poplar Rooms' until plans were drawn up in 2004 to build a new sports facility adjacent the pitch. The new clubhouse opened in the 2007/8 season and was constructed off the back of a number of former players most notably Rob Thorne and Ian Sweeten.

We won the title again in the 2014/15 season. This time managed by Martin Black and assisted by current gaffer Dan Dunt. The pair assembled a strong squad with the aim of winning the title. The season began well and Gifford were in a very strong position come March time. However, this is when disaster and heartbreak struck. Club talisman and top scorer, Ben Hiscox, suffered a fatal accident while playing after a collision with the club house wall. The club was broken at the time but the boys managed to rally together and finally got over the line in a tense final day away to AFC Mangotsfield. Needing a point to secure the title, the village went ahead when Geraint Williams converted from the spot, but an equaliser in the second half resulted in the most nervous of finishes. Emotional scenes followed the final whistle with Ben's dad, Clive the focal point of celebrations.

In 2018 the club began a dialogue with local college SGS, to build a relationship to give young players from the area a clear pathway into adults' football. This has been hugely successful to date, with the first team gaining back to back promotions after being crowned champions in both Bristol Suburban Premier 1&2 divisions. We have also helped develop some hugely exciting talent that have moved on to play a higher level of football.

The club currently have three team representing ‘The Village’, with the Reserves and A team competing in the Bristol Suburban League – Senior and Division 4 respectively.

Roll of Honours

First Team

1987/88 –	Runners up – Suburban League Prem 1
1988/89 –	Champions – Suburban League Prem 1
1994 –	GFA Senior Amateur Cup Finalists
2000 –	Runners up - Bristol Suburban League Prem 1
2005/6 Champions –	Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2006 –	GFA Senior Amateur Cup Finalists
2011/12 Champions –	Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2012 Champions –	Alf Bosley Cup
2014/15 –	Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 1
2016 Champions –	Alf Bosley Cup
2018/19 -	Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 2
2021/22 –	Champions – Bristol Suburban League Prem 1

Reserve Team

1993/94 –	Champions Suburban League Div 3
1994/95 –	Runners up – Suburban League Div 2
2015/16 –	Runners up – Suburban League Div 1
2019/20 –	Champions - Junior GFA Cup
2021/22 –	Champions - Les Philips Cup
2021/22 –	Champions – Bristol Suburban Div 1

MATCHDAY SAFETY NOTICE



THE DANGERS OF PYROTECHNICS AT FOOTBALL MATCHES

The potential injuries sustained as a result of someone using a pyrotechnic include:

- **Serious injuries,** such as loss of limb or fingers
- **Severe burns,** due to temperatures of up to 2,000°C
- **Breathing problems,** due to smoke inhalation
- **Loss of hearing or sight,** because of the explosive power

Action will be taken by the GFA if any club is reported to them by the Referee.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB. KEEP MATCHDAYS SAFE.

LINE UPS

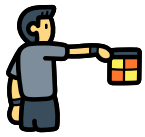
To be selected from....

1.	Jack Sargeant
2.	Theo Bevan
3.	Finleigh Brown
4.	Kaya Demirok
5.	Alfie Walker
6.	Leo Marsden-Green
7.	Oliver Morrissey
8.	Findlay Rankin
9.	Rylan Snelgrove
10.	Theo Bevan
11.	James Barnett
12.	Alfie Walker
13.	Luke Kavanagh
14.	Mike Thornton
15.	Adi Adichareh
16.	Gino Valenti

1.	Evan Healen
2.	Tauren Williams
3.	Harrison Murchdoch-McCormack
4.	Lawrence Mitchell
5.	Jared Ball
6.	Courtney Pinnock
7.	Rudy Hill
8.	Raymond Oppong
9.	Ben Chambers
10.	Harry Ford
11.	Daniel Twomey
12.	Sam Garrod
13.	Kyle Ford
14.	Joe Taylor
15.	Oscar Sealey
16.	Masood Garder
17.	Patryk Kosciolek
18.	Ben Courtier
19.	Stu Alexander

CO-MANAGER: **CRAIG MARTIN**
CO-MANAGER: **BEN SYMONS**
COACH: **DALE RAWLINS**

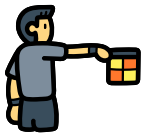
MANAGER: **MARCUS THATCHER**
ASSISTANT: **DAN WORTON**



Nathan Brown (Club)



Lee Sheridan



Club Official

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LONGLEVENS AFC LIMITED

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Directors: Mark Cornell, Craig Martin, Chris Trout, William Davis and Andrew Davis.

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