

#### **UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE 1**













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# **A View From The Touchline**

## lan Soule

Firstly I would just like to thank everybody for the good wishes since my appointment as First Team Manager. Shortwood is a very welcoming club and fortunate to have a very committed volunteer committee to make things run smoothly behind the scenes. Its a challenge both myself and my assistant Lewis Fogg are really looking forward to

In my first few weeks at the club, we have had three very tough games and a some good training sessions to put across a few points we want to concentrate on for the rest of the season. I have been delighted by the response of the players who have worked incredibly hard during that period

It has been pleasing to pick up four points from the last two league games which were both played in very difficult and trying conditions, and I was delighted with how the team took on board game management instructions when faced with gale force winds ! On the downside we have picked up a few injuries which has left the squad rather stretched which is very frustrating, it's all part and parcel of a long season unfortunately. but this has allowed some members of the reserve team to step up and they should be complimented for some very impressive performances

Today we face a team fighting for points , so it will be a massive test for us to judge ourselves against Abingdon United

Enjoy the game and we look forward to seeing you all again in a few days for another home game when Malmesbury visit

Yours in football Ian



Up The Wood!!!

#### THE TEAMS TODAY

#### SHORTWOOD UNITED

**Abingdon United** 

MANAGER: lan Soule ASSISTANT MANAGER: Lewis Fogg PHYSIO: Lowri Cross

Λ

**MANAGER: Mark Massingham** 

**COLOURS: RED & WHITE** 

COLOURS: YELLOW & BLUE

	From	
Rob Sims(GK)	1	<b>Cameron Midwinter</b>
Max Harper Emerson	2	Nadeem Shah
Alex Barrett	3	Connor McGrath
Fin Byrnes	4	Gareth Thomas
Jacob Nowell	5	Bradley Chalmers
Lewis Peyton	6	David Inyang
Charlie Hobbs	7	Daryl Louise
Lewis Fogg	8	James East
Luke Soule	9	Rhys King
Lee Bowles	10	Connor Ferguson
Ben Tunnicliff	11	Isiah Stallone
Freddie Porter	12	Mitchell Larman
	13	
Freddie Porter	14	Justin Davis
Nathan Payne	15	Matthew Bustin
Joey Wilton	16	Ethan Barresi
Joe Tryner	17	
Kyle Gibbs	18	
Alex Freeman	19	
Jake Parsisson	20	

Referee: Luke Hinchliffe Assistants: Kevin Barnett & Terry Deakin







# MatchHellenic League Devision OneReportWood go Down at StudleyStudley 2 Shortwood 0

It was easy to see why Studley are top of the league on this performance. They are strong at the back, extremely busy and mixed up their style of play. Up front they had Odine Barnes who caused problems all afternoon and their midfield gave no time to settle on the ball. They played a mixture of long ball and fluid passing and were worthy winners.

There were positives for Wood who stuck to their task well and fought for every ball. They refused to give an inch and showed terrific commitment to the cause. When Studley did get through they found Rob Sims in good form.

Wood were pinned back for long periods in the first half in the teeth of a strong wind and Sims made a good diving save from Brain before Bunn clipped the top of the bar with a 25 yard shot. Byrne showed excellent control and running before releasing Lewis but he was soon blocked off and then Barrett had a shot blocked. Brain saw a long chip drift wide before Studley scored their first after 32 minutes. . A mistake from Jo Tryner is rarer than hen's teeth but he was caught in possession by the irrepressible Barnes who ran on to shoot low past Sims. Lewis fired high over for Wood but Studley had the best of the rest of the opening period.

Wood were lively in the second half and Payne fired just over and Wood pressed more with the wind behind them. Byrnes stung keeper Bunn's hands from 20 vards and twice Lennon Lewis headed wide. The game was still in the balance but Wood had a let off after 75 minutes when Brain hit a drive against the inside of the post and the ball rebounded straight into Sims arms. The reprieve did not last long though as just a minute later Westwood went through and calmly chipped the ball over Sims as he came out.

Wood may have lost but they showed great resilience and can take a lot from this performance



Brands provide orientation. Strong brands stand for trust. KÖMMERLING has launched a campaign that sympathetically addresses two major topics of our time, namely sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

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So we now want to emphasize our corporate social responsibility in a next step of our communication.

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## Match Hellenic League Devision One Report Unlucky Wood get point Milton United 1 Shortwood 1

This was a terrific performance from Shortwood who stuck to the game plans throughout much to the delight of Manager Ian Soule who was full of praise for his side. Wood can consider themselves a tad unlucky not to have gained all three points from this game which was played in an excellent spirit.

Once again Wood included Max Brent and Rupert Beecham as they were without the injured Joe Wilton and Kyle Gibbs and the unavailable Louis Peyton and both featured well and Beecham was Wood's star man. In truth all played their part in a display that possibly deserved more. With the wind again blowing end to end Wood had to play to two definite game plans and both were executed perfectly. Wood played a containing game in the first half and were far more open in the second period.

Sims did well to save a deflected Kennedy shot after 12 minutes and Lewis shot wide after a strong run. Payne came close with one shot and keeper Alder saved well from a Lewis free kick. Just before the break Sims turned away a shot from Nadin to send the sides in level. The second half was more open and Wood were much more attacking and this paid off after 52 minutes. A Wood attack was well defended but the ball broke to Alex Barrett who slammed the ball into the bottom corner from 25 yards. The lead lasted barely 3 minutes when Milton broke and a long ball found Gallagher who appeared to be offside. His ball across the area was put home by Nadine.

Undaunted Wood continued to push forward and on the hour Brent ran through and his excellent chip over Alder came back off the bar. Byrnes shot narrowly wide before Wood lost Barrett who left the field feeling unwell. With 71 minutes gone Payne fired through a ruck of players before being cleared with the Wood players adamant the ball had gone well over the line. Alder then made a great save to deny Dunn who shot from the edge of the area.

It was far from one way traffic, however, and Milton too created chances and Sims had to be alert to deny Highmoor.

This was a good point for the Wood, however, and with a little luck they could have recorded a fine win.

Shortwood:

Sims, Harper – Emerson, Barrett (Dunn 69), Nowell (Montague 78), Tryner, Byrnes, Payne, Beecham, Lewis, Tunnicliff, Brent



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## Match GFA Challenge Trophy 3rd RD Report Depleted Wood go out: Shortwood 0 Wick 2

Shortwood will be without Luke Soule for the rest of the season following confirmation of his tear in his hamstring. Lee Bowles has also agreed to join Brimscombe and the club wishes Lee all the very best for his future and thanks him for his great service over the past seasons.

It was a much changed side that took on County League side Wick at Meadowbank on Wednesday with players carrying knocks and unavailable through work. The players who came in contributed fully to an entertaining game and did themselves no harm at all with confident displays.

Wick are going for the County League title and their experience showed and looked confidence showed as they brought the game to Wood and looked dangerous coming forward but Wood came close early as Lewis curled a free kick just wide.

Wood's man of the match was undoubtedly keeper Rob Sims who produced two astonishing first half saves - one from a header and was virtually behind him when he clawed it away. He was unable to do anything about a low shot from Weaver that found the corner just before the break and Wick deserved their lead.

For all that Wood played with the high intensity they displayed Saturday and defended well.

Wood were much brighter going forward in the second period and twice Max Brent forced keeper Wintle inso excellent saves and Lewis hit the bar before Wintle denied him with his feet. Clarke hit Sims' post before Wick scored their second with 10 minutes to go. A corner from Edwards drifted straight in at the far post.

Wood can take a lot of heart from this performance and manager Soule will be pleased with the fight and commitment his side displayed – especially given the changes forced upon him.

Match report Jim Cunneen

Sims, Harper – Emerson, Barrett, Nowell (Montague 45), Tunnicliff, Byrnes, Brent, Peyton, Wilton (Bayley Evanson 45), Will Dunn (Rupert Beecham 80), Lewis,



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#### THE HISTORY OF SHORTWOOD UNITED

Shortwood United Football Club was formed in 1900 and since then have played at 4 different grounds, Nailsworth Playing Field, Table Land, Wallow Green and finally at our current ground, Meadowbank.

The club has been at Meadowbank since 1972, and includes an all weather training area opened by the late Ted Croker. Gradual improvements over the years culminated in a major enhancement in 2009 to meet ground grading criteria for any future promotions.

League football was commenced in the Stroud League where following continued success during the 1970s promotion was gained to the Northern Senior and then the Gloucestershire County League Promotion to the Hellenic league was achieved in 1981 only to be relegated in our first season but finishing runners up the following year ensured promotion straight back. In 1983 we won the Hellenic Division One Cup and GFA Trophy and in the following year won the Hellenic League. It was a further six years until success was realised again when the treble of League winners, GFA Trophy and Stroud Charity Cup was completed.

**2007/08** season started a resurgence in Shortwood's fortunes in finishing 5th in the league and winning the supplementary cup, defeating Ardley 4-2 in the final. The subsequent season pushed our success even further when following a good run in the FA Cup and semi finalists in the League Cup, we pressed the eventual Champions Hungerford to the final day of the season where we lost out on goal difference after amassing 99 pts and scoring 99 goals. Shortwood's fine form continued into the next season when they again finished second in the league to Almondsbury, and runners up in the GFA Trophy again to Almondsbury, had good FA Cup and Vase runs and reached the final of the Floodlit cup. Having lost the away leg 3-0 to Reading Town they produced one of the most exciting comebacks and entertaining matches ever seen at Meadowbank where the score remained at 0-0 till the 67th minute when the deadlock was broken and Shortwood ran out 5-0 winners (AET).

Shortwood's league campaign in 2011 was a disappointment by their own high standards, but more silverware was added in the shape of the GFA Trophy after a 1-0 win over Tuffley Rovers in the final.

**2011-12** season, however, was pivotal in the Club's history! Not only did they reach the quarter final of the FA Vase, they also reached the final of the Hellenic League Floodlit Cup and the GFA Trophy Final.Most important was their league position where they finished 2nd by 1 point behind Oxford City Nomads. With Nomad's not applying for promotion, and with Shortwood filling all the relevant criteria, they were promoted to the Southern League for the first time in their history!

**2012-13** season was again a successful one. Following a disappointing early exit from the FA cup the club had a good run in the FA Trophy including a magnificent away victory at premier league side Weymouth on the way. In their first season in the Southern League they finished a creditable eighth position. The league season was also highly successful with a sixth placed finish, one point outside the play-off positions.

**2013-14** season saw Shortwood progress further in the FA Cup than ever before! Early wins over Egham and Aylesbury put them up against Conference South outfit Dorchester and a 1-0 away win, and a further 1-0 win at Didcot put them into uncharted waters of the fourth qualifying round where they drew Conference side Aldershot at Meadowbank. A late, but deserved, equaliser gave them a replay and a heroic 2-1 win sparked wild celebrations. A home draw pitted Shortwood against League 1 side Port Vale in front of a record crowd of 1,247 plus a live television audience courtesy of **BT Sport**. Shortwood bowed out – but with the plaudits their cup run earned ringing in their ears.

**2014-15** failed to reach the heights of the previous season with many players moving on to higher things but for most of the season a play-off place looked possible until a decline in form towards the end of the season resulted in an 11th place finish.

**2015-16** continued Shortwood's continued stability in the Southern League as they finished the season 7th in the table with 78 points and the end of the season saw the end of an era as joint Manager John Evans retired after 20 seasons involvement with Shortwood – and the club moved forward with Alex Sykes now in sole charge.

**2016-17** Was a strange season with the Wood exiting the FA Cup and the FA Trophy at the first hurdle and showing inconsistent league form but despite that they managed to finish a more than respectable 9th.

Paul 'Des' Meredith took over the management reins at the start of season 2017-18.

**2017-18** The club had an excellent run in the FA Trophy and produced some excellent results in the league interspersed with some heavy defeats but this was only to be expected with a very young side – but throughout the year they strived to play football the Shortwood way. After Christmas Shortwood faced a difficult dilemma. The ever increasing demands of the FA around ground gradings and the loss of their major sponsor left the club with no choice but to resign from the Southern League and they applied to the FA to be placed in the Toolstation Western League and they were successful in that application. Des Meredith did not feel that he could carry on with a complete rebuild of the side and departed and the club moved on with Jason Scrivens and Joey Tustain taking the helm. They did a tremendous job getting a squad together in next to no time in almost impossible circumstances. Shortwood finished bottom of the Toolstation Premier in 2018-19 and we were relegated and moved to the Hellenic Div 1 West, but the future is more optimistic than for a very long time. Shortwood's two youth sides enjoyed an incredibly successful season and with the reintroduction of a Development side for season

**2019 / 20** the club is rebuilding and giving young local players a complete chance to progress. Mat Blythe was added as joint manager with Jason Scrivens, and Simon Blythe was added as 1st team Coach. While Chris Hicks and Shane Mathews took the reins of the Development side. The COVID pandemic saw the cancellation of the season 2019 20 in March 2020 with the first team lying in a healthy 4th place in the league and the development team beginning to show some late form. During the enforced break Mat Blythe became sole first team manager, while Jason Scrivens took the reins of the now Shortwood Reserves side with Will Dunn coming as Coach.

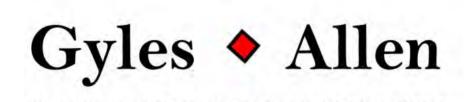
**20-21** was also curtailed and hardly ever got going. Shortwood have retained most of last season's squad and have added a few exciting additions. They have also strengthened the Management team with Neil Long coming in as number two and Josh Loveridge as 1st Team Coach. Rich Cullimore has taken the reins as Reserve team manager. With the club also starting an Under 18 side in the floodlit league this season Jason Scrivens moves up as Director of Football overseeing the whole club. In these turbulent times the club moves on with hope for an exciting season for both its senior sides and the flourishing youth set up.

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> Pleased to be supporting Shortwood United Football Club



The club was formed in 1946 when a group of ex-service men decided that the town could support two football clubs. The first meeting to form the club was held in the local Anchor Public House on the bank of the River Thames. The new club joined Division 1 of the North Berks League for the 1946/47 season and whilst being relegated, they went onto win the leagues Charity Shield at their 1st attempt.

In 1953/54 season, the club became North Berks champions and cup finalists. However, the club had set its sights on higher things and five years later entered Division 1 of the Hellenic League.

Winning the Hellenic league Division 1 challenge cup during the 1965/66 season and were again present in the final the following season.

Following promotion to the Premier Division in the 1976/77, the club struggled and were relegated to Division One after four seasons. With a more ambitious approach, the club bounced straight back into the Premier League where it remained for 24 straight seasons, winning the Division One Cup in the same promotion year.

Senior status followed in 1985 allowing the club eligibility for entryinto the F.A. Vase, County Senior Cup and in 1989 the F.A. Cup

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the most successful season of the club to date was during the 1996/97 season, which saw AUFC win the Berks and Bucks Senior Trophy, Hellenic Floodlit Cup, and finishing Runners Up in the Hellenic Premier Division. Away for the pitch the club improved its catering facilities, added a function room, a covered stand and ground floodlighting to support its now capacity of 2,000 people

The following season saw success come to the Northcourt again, with United retaining the B&B Senior Trophy, winning Hellenic Reserve Championship and Allied Counties Youth League.

The 2006/07 season saw the club gain promotion to the Southern League, whilst again improving its facilities by adding new changing rooms, turnstiles, and a 150-seater stand.

The next 7 seasons saw Abingdon United FC compete in the Southern League, but with increasing financial pressures, the club volunteered to return to the Hellenic League Premier Division for the 2013/14 season.

The club currently play in Uhlsport Hellenic League Division One.

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FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

## First Team

Saturday 5th Mar 2022	Malmesbury	н	3:00pm	HD1
Wednesday 9th Mar 2022	Worcester Raiders	Α	7:45pm	HD1
Tuesday 15th Mar 2022	FC Stratford	н	7:45pm	HD1
Saturday 19th Mar 2022	Studley	н	3:00pm	HD1
Saturday 26th Mar 2022	Bradford Town	н	3:00pm	LC

## **Reserves Fixtures**

Saturday 5th Mar 2022	Tuffley Dev	Α	3:00pm	H2W
Saturday 12th Mar 2022	Evesham Devs	н	3:00pm	H2W

#### Keep In Touch



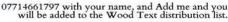
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League Table correct as of 27/02/2022

					Lougue l'able contectue et Livel lette		
Pos	Team	Р	w	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Studley	27	20	2	5	52	62
2	Worcester Raiders	27	19	2	6	48	59
3	Clanfield 85	30	18	4	8	37	58
4	Hereford Pegasus	25	14	5	6	32	47
5	Milton United	25	13	8	4	25	47
6	Cheltenham Saracens	25	14	5	6	16	47
7	Pershore Town	26	14	3	9	21	45
8	FC Stratford	27	13	5	9	18	44
9	Stonehouse Town	27	12	4	11	9	40
10	Littleton	28	12	0	16	-1	36
11	Shortwood United	26	10	6	10	-8	36
12	Malmesbury Vics	26	10	5	11	-6	35
13	Newent Town	27	7	4	16	-23	25
14	Cirencester Town Dev	26	7	2	17	-28	23
15	Moreton Rangers	29	6	3	20	-54	21
16	Abingdon United	27	5	3	19	-39	18
17	Bourton Rovers	28	3	1	24	-99	10

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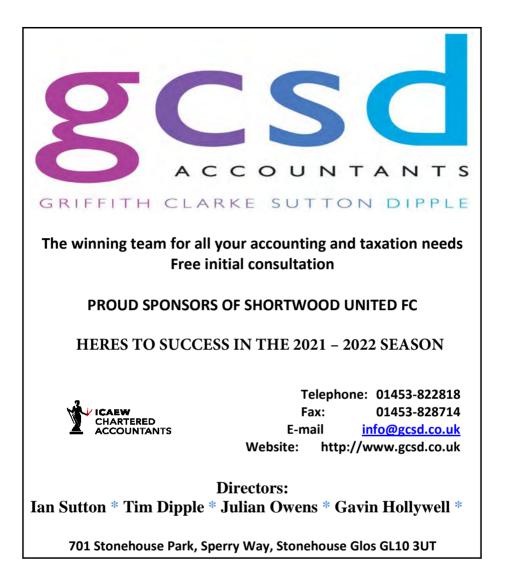
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