

Kidlington FC • Club History



Kidlington FC was founded in 1909 and played local village 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 in both league and cup. By 1951 the Oxfordshire Senior League was entered, where stronger competition was provided by the likes of Witney Town; Morris Motors; Pressed Steel & Thame United. In 1953 The Hellenic League was formed and the Oxon Senior League immediately lost some of its stronger clubs to the new league. Kidlington won the Senior League title that next season, joining the new league in 1954. Early days in the Hellenic League showed quite clearly the difference in standard. Kidlington maintained a Premier Division place for a time, but spent most of the 60's in Division One. The 70's started with winning the County Intermediate Cup Final, along with two further County final places in that decade (both epic battles against a very talented peppered side, who won on both occasions). A squad of good young players produced Kidlington's best ever run in an FA competition, when in 1976-77. Having played every round but one away from home, Kidlington reached the last 16 in the FA Vase, bowing out to Gosport Borough. The nucleus of this side eventually gained promotion back to the Premier Division in 1979-80. The 80's saw Kidlington return to Division One of the Hellenic. The early 90's were steady. Season 94-95 brought silverware at last, Martin Bakers' Reserves side did the League/Cup double. An upturn in the first team fortunes occurred when Karl Grossmann assembled a formidable tough tackling side, finishing in the top 6 of Division One in four successive seasons.

The new millennium brought with it a major overhaul to the committee and a new Chairman in Geoff Talboys. In 2004-05, under the guidance of Kevin Walton the first team finish in third place and with it promotion back into the Hellenic Premier Division. With promotion came a struggle with the considerable difference in the standard of football compared to Division One, losing the first twelve games. The season petered out in frustration as the team finished in a relegation position ... however a national non-league restructure saved us from the dreaded drop. In 2007 - 2008, first team silverware arrived at Yarnton Road for the 1st time in over 30 years, winning the Hellenic Floodlit Trophy under the guidance of manager Paul Lee. With additional honours that year from the Reserves, who won Reserve Division One for a second consecutive season, The Youth winning the Oxfordshire U18 Youth Cup. To cap a fine season Kidlington Vet's retained their Veteran League crown. Season 2008-09 was again a good one for all our teams. Our 1st Team finished in a very respectable 9th position in the league and had some good cup runs, the Reserves finished 3rd in their league but unfortunately yet again were runners up in the Oxfordshire Intermediate Cup final. In 2009-10 came a new Chairman, Lloyd Wray and with him a new management team, ex-player Gordon Geary was recruited to look after 1st team affairs and Barry Hiles to run the Reserve team. 2010-11 saw the club under the same management structure achieve its most successful season ever; finishing 7th in the Premier League, a superb effort by all saw us play a very strong Oxford United team at the Kassam Stadium, but unfortunately losing the final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup. However we did win some silverware beating Purton 3-0 in the final of the Supplementary Cup. In December 2011, Gordon and his backroom staff of Keith Appleton, Paul Harwood and Barry Hiles decided they had taken the club as far as they could and stepped back from managing the Club. Players Danny Leggett and Christian Perkins stepped forward to guide the club through till the end of the season. This season was very frustrating but owing to some decent early league results the club maintained its Premier Division status. In 2012/13 a new first team manager in Ex-Oxford United striker Paul Berry was installed. However he resigned after only three matches to pursue alternative opportunities. Gordon Geary and his previous backroom staff were persuaded to come out of retirement and were re-appointed during the second week of the season. Geary and his team managed to assemble a squad with the ability to avoid the dreaded drop, finishing in 13th place. Having taken over in the crisis, Geary and his management team again resigned having "got the job done" of avoiding relegation.

During the summer break the club installed Martin Wilkinson as 1st team manager for season 2013-14 and Kidlington finished 6th in the league, making club history, also reaching the Senior Cup Final again after beating Oxford United FC in the semis. Unfortunately we lost again, this time to Ardley United. Season 2014-15 saw Martin Wilkinson again at the helm assisted by Paul Harwood. The team finished in their highest ever league position of 4th place. For the first time the club also ran a Ladies team who entered into the Thames Valley Ladies League. Season 2015-16 was a dream come true for everyone at KFC with Wilkinson and his team of Paul Harwood, Julian McCalm- on and Jermaine McSparran leading the team to the Hellenic League Premier Division Championship. We also had our best ever runs in both the FA Vase where we reached the last 8 before bowing out to Bowers & Pitsea after a replay and also had a very healthy run in the FA Cup, losing eventually to conference side Gloucester City. Truly our best ever season my some margin. For this season 2016-17 Wilkinson lead the side as we embark on our 1st season at level 4 of the football pyramid in the Evo-Stik League Division One Central, but due to work commitments Wilky resigned shortly into the season. Jermaine McSparran took over as caretaker manager until the club were pleased to announce the appointment of Julian McCalm- on as the new 1st team manager with Jermaine and Paul Harwood as his assistants. Our reserves retain the services of Nick East as Manager as they embark on another season in the Hellenic league.