



Shortwood United

125 Years of Heart and Heritage

In 2025, Shortwood United Football Club celebrated 125 years of footballing passion. From Nailsworth's early pitches to Meadowbank's electric atmosphere, the Wood's story is one of triumphs, challenges, and unwavering community spirit. Join us in honouring our legacy!

Foundations and Early Success

- 1900: Founded in Nailsworth, Shortwood began at Nailsworth Playing Field, later moving to Table Land and Wallow Green before finding a permanent home at Meadowbank in 1972.
- 1970s: Dominating the Stroud League, the club earned promotion to the Northern Senior League and then the Gloucestershire County League, showcasing early ambition.
- 1981–82: Entry into the Hellenic League brought a tough first-season relegation, but a runners-up finish in 1982 secured an immediate return.

1980s: A Golden Decade

- 1983: The Wood claimed the Hellenic Division One Cup and GFA Trophy, signaling their arrival as a force.
- 1984: Hellenic League champions, a pinnacle of early success.
- 1990: A historic treble—Hellenic League, GFA Trophy, and Stroud Charity Cup—cemented Shortwood's reputation.

Southern League and FA Cup Heroics

- 2007–10: A resurgence began with a 5th-place finish (2007/08) and a thrilling 2008/09 season, amassing 99 points and 99 goals, narrowly missing the title on goal difference to Hungerford.
- 2009/10, Shortwood finished runners-up again and reached the Floodlit Cup final.
- 2011/12: A landmark year—quarter-finals of the FA Vase, finals in the Hellenic Floodlit Cup and GFA Trophy, and a 2nd-place finish led to Southern League promotion.
- 2013/14:

The Wood's greatest FA Cup adventure saw them defeat Conference side Aldershot in a replay after a dramatic Meadowbank draw, before facing League 1's Port Vale before a record 1,247 fans and live TV audience. A 6th-place Southern League finish capped a dream season.

Challenges and Rebuilding

- 2015/16: Stability under Alex Sykes brought a 7th-place finish, but John Evans' retirement after 20 years marked the end of an era.
- 2017/18: Financial pressures and ground grading demands and the loss of their major sponsor left the club with no choice but to resign from the Southern League. Despite FA Trophy success, heavy defeats reflected a young squad's growing pains.
- 2018/19: Relegation and a move to Hellenic Division 1 West followed, but with Jason Scrivens and Joey Tustain taking the helm and the addition of two thriving youth teams there was reason for optimism.

Promise of light, Weight of Grief

- 2019/20: Under the guidance of the late Will Reay as Chairman, Jason and Matt Blythe took the team to 4th before COVID disrupted the season.
- 2020/21: COVID pretty much wiped this season out
- 2022/23: Ian Soule and Lewis Fogg took on the 1st team, finishing the season in 9th place. With failing health Will Reay stood down and was replaced by Simon Grant at Chairman.
- 2023/24: New management—Dan Gillespie, Matt Tunley, Andrew Moody, and Marcus Foxwell—retained captain Joe Tryner and introduced a Stroud League Reserves team.
- Will Reay sadly passed away in February 2024
- 2024/25: Marcus Foxwell and Andrew Moody led the first team to 7th in Hellenic Division 1, while Matt Fanstone's Reserves finished 6th, building a pathway for young talent.



2025/26: The Next Chapter

With a stable squad, fresh additions and a clear vision with Peter Beadle at the helm, Shortwood United is ready to climb higher. Here's to 125 years of grit, glory, and the Wood's enduring spirit—support us for the journey ahead!