

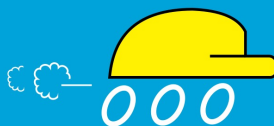
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HEREFORD FC

**EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE SOUTH & WEST
SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2017
KICK OFF 3.00PM**

TODAY'S TEAMS

SLIMBRIDGE AFC		HEREFORD FC (From)
Adam Kowalski	1	Martin Horsell
Sam Turl	2	Ryan Green
Nick Grimes	3	Clayton Fortune
Ryan Thwaite	4	Mark Preece
Rich Thwaite	5	Jimmy Oates
Jack Twyman	6	Joel Edwards
Dean Turner	7	Rob Purdie
Joe Stokes	8	Rory Huntbach
Sean Lawson	9	Mike McGrath
Lee Smith ©	10	Tristan Plummer
Adam Mace	11	Jake Sinclair
Marley Thomas	12	Alex Harris
Archie Haskayne	14	Max Harris
Jack Sklenar	15	John Mills
Freddy Ward	16	Pablo Haysham
Johnny cant	17	Mike Symons
James Harding	18	Jamie Cuss
Sonnie Low	19	Jamie Molyneux
Freddy Ward	Manager	Peter Beadle
Johnny Cant	Asst Mgr	Steve Jenkins
Tony Woodward	Physio	Jonny Evans
Referee	Benjamin Williamson	
Assistants	George Enever, Samuel Fudge	

Club Chat with Tim Blake

Good afternoon, and welcome to Thornhill Park. I'd like to offer a warm welcome to players, official and fans from our visitors Hereford FC. We hope you enjoy your afternoon with us, and have a safe journey back home later on.

The hospitality we experienced when we went to Edgar Street earlier in the season was absolutely superb, and although we cannot hope to match the physical environment, we hope to be able to replicate the warmth of our welcome to all our visitors this afternoon.

I think it's fair to say these are notes I didn't think I'd ever write about our club, but, after an FA Cup weekend that saw Lincoln, Sutton United and (very nearly) Wycombe Wanderers doing lower league teams proud, it seems somehow apt that we are hosting the child of a side involved in one of the great cup upsets of all time at Thornhill Park.

Only people who are directly involved in football clubs fully appreciate how much planning goes into games like this, and Colin has paid tribute to many people elsewhere, but the amount of planning that has gone into today from our side is astonishing.

This is first (maybe only) all ticket game in the history of the club, and we know already we will be dealing with a record club attendance for our ground. We have tried to think of everything, and I pay tribute to all who have worked tirelessly to try and make this event run smoothly.

February was always going to be a testing month for Freddy and the lads, but with the next five games against teams in the top seven, it will be a good test for everyone.

We hope you enjoy your afternoon with us, enjoy the game!

Tim

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John Ashplant for your ticket

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** MINUTES**



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Raymond McEnhill Stadium, Partridge Way, Old Sarum,
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Take the M4 then A350 to Western Way/A365 in Melksham. Continue on the A365. Take bell Hill, High Street and A360 to Partridge Way on Old Sarum



Behind the scenes with Club Secretary Colin Gay

Hi everyone and welcome to Thornhill Park for this prestigious game against Hereford.

As Secretary of Slimbridge Football Club I don't very often get a chance to give our supporters an insight into how clubs like ours are run at this level of football so I thought I would use this magnificent occasion to give you an insight as to what goes on in a typical week here at Thornhill Park.

The first thing I would like to make you all aware of is that things do not happen automatically and that teams do not just turn up here, play the game and go home!

Every month our match Secretary Ian Blount, who, by the way is also our turnstile operator, will contact all of our opponents by email to confirm match details, i.e. Date, kick off time, what colours each team will be wearing to avoid a clash, and ensure that they have good directions to Thornhill Park.

Ian also has to enquire as to how many club officers will be attending so that we can offer them hospitality, this includes tea/Coffee and biscuits on arrival, the same at half time along with maybe cake and sandwiches and then after the game we serve hot food to them, along with a complimentary drink from the bar. This is a league recommendation and all clubs are given ten passes at the start of the season to issue to their committee/ club officers. Ian also contacts the three match officials who are treated exactly the same.

Here at Slimbridge, as at all other clubs, we have a hospitality room, some clubs call it a Boardroom. This is where we entertain our visitors and referees and they are very well looked after by Malcolm Hubbard who is on our committee, Malcolm's wife Christine makes homemade cakes and supplies all the sandwiches and biscuits at their own cost for which we are extremely grateful, thank you both.

Alena, in our kitchen is always the first to arrive on a matchday, I usually arrive around midday on a Saturday and I can always smell the onions!

Behind the scenes with Club Secretary Colin Gay

Alena works tirelessly for this football club, she also prepares all the hot food for both teams, referees and visiting officials, thank you Alena, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

This programme that you are reading right now is edited and prepared by Tim Blake who is also our press officer. Tim also runs our Social Media Twitter Account and keeps our website updated. Tim, I know the amount of work that your role entails and I take my hat off to you, many thanks mate!

A big thank you is also due to Rob Peck who is our website genius and I know Rob spends a lot of time ensuring that it runs smoothly.

No matter what the weather, we have to have gatemen and car parking stewards. This is usually controlled by a team of three, Keith Scott, Malcolm Carter and Carlton Cullimore. This is probably the least glamorous job at the club, especially when it's teeming down with rain, thanks boys, you do a tremendous job.

If you fancy a pint then you will always see Jackie behind the bar, Jackie is a great servant to this club, not only on match days but she is also here for any function, whether it be a Saturday night disco or a all day Sunday Christening, cheers Jack.

A great source of income is our match day raffle, I'm sure you have all come across our Brenda and Ange who do a terrific job in squeezing a extra quid off you all, thanks ladies and keep up the good work

I would like to think that you all have a flutter on our weekly 'predict the score' competition. This brings in valuable income on a weekly basis but it also involves a lot of work so our grateful thanks to John Ashplant who has run this competition right from the start, cheers John.

I would also like to thank Linda Morgan and Slimbridge Youth Club for all their help in organising today. We are starting to form a great relationship with the Youth set up which can only benefit both parties. Stefan and his 'Ball Boy' team also do a great job on matchdays, well done lads!.

Behind the scenes with Club Secretary Colin Gay

Three guys I must mention because without them we cannot operate - Barry Gay, Ian Wrixon and John Mack, these are the three people that in my mind are the spearhead of our football club, from keeping the accounts in order to ensuring the pitch is playable, washing the kit, ordering the beer, keeping the mini bus going, and all the maintenance that this club and may require is all overseen by these three magnificent people, thanks guys.

Finally, my job as Club Secretary is to ensure that we keep to within the rules! I deal with all correspondence from the Southern League and the FA and have to attend meetings etc. On a Matchday I make sure that the team sheets are with the referee 45 mins before kick off and then produce copies for supporters, visiting officials and press.

After the match I go to see the referee and ensure that there have been no problems that I need to be made aware of and also pay them their fees.

Tim emails the result into the league which has to be with them no later than 15 mins after the final whistle along with the scorers and match attendance. Tim will then also prepare a match report for the Non League newspaper which you read on a Sunday morning! He then also does a phone report for the Sunday Independent, and then a full report for the website and local media. Three match reports for a single game!

Within 3 days of the match finishing I have to email the team sheets to the league.

I also have to complete an online form to the FA regarding the referees performance and award a Mark out of 100. When we play away I also have to mark our opponents for their hospitality and for the playing surface of the pitch, both out of 100. Teams visiting us do likewise.

Behind the scenes with Club Secretary Colin Gay

I also have to keep on top of any players cautions and sending offs which is all done online to the FA and inform players of any fines and suspensions etc.

So lots of team effort is required as you can see.

Finally I would just like you all to know that we have been planning this day ever since the fixtures came out last July! This is the first ever all-ticket game that Slimbridge FC have been involved in, so thanks to everyone contributing to an unique occasion for our club.

We have been bolstered in our matchday staff today by many additional people who have graciously donated their time and efforts, including our Stewards and others who have come along to help facilitate us managing the largest crowd in the history of our club, and to all of them on behalf of us all, we say a sincere 'Thank you'

I, for one, am very proud of this tiny football club and what we have achieved between us all.

To everyone from Hereford FC, thanks for the hospitality you displayed towards us when we visited Edgar Street earlier in the season.

We hope you soon get back to the level of football that your facilities and crowds deserve, and we hope you all enjoy your day with us and I hope that you will return to see us again soon.

Colin

North Leigh 3-1 Slimbridge

28th January 2017

Slimbridge made the best of starts and, with less than a minute on the clock, they were ahead - Joe Stokes and Swans Man of the Match Jack Twyman worked the ball across the North Leigh goal from the left flank, and Lee Smith drilled it past Keeper Connor Thompson. The visitors had a great opportunity to double the score on eight minutes, but firstly Stokes, and then James Harding with the follow up, saw Thompson pull off two good saves to deny them.

Nick Grimes was next to go close for the Swans, heading Marley Thomas' corner over, before North Leigh got back on terms in bizarre circumstances. Brad Gray's scuffed cross was rolling harmlessly to be collected by Adrian Kowalski, but the Swans' stopper took his eye off the ball as he went to collect, and could only watch in horror as it went through his hands and into the net to even things up.

North Leigh began to create their own chances, and Jamie Cook and Gray again were both off target as the home side pressed, but the teams went in even at the break.

Now playing down the slope, North Leigh nearly took the lead in the first minute of the second half, but Michael Hopkins' free kick struck the bar and went over. All the pressure was now coming from the hosts, and on the hour mark, they took the lead - Hopkins' header saw Kowalski made an acrobatic stop, but the ball ran loose to Cook who made no mistake with the rebound.

Four minutes later, North Leigh scored again, when a break down the left saw Hopkins score with a shot across Kowalski into the far corner. In the final minute, Leigh's Jon Else saw red for a late challenge on Rich Thwaite, but the dismissal was too late in the day to affect the rest of the game, and the Swans' pointless streak now stretches to four games, ahead of the visit of runaway leaders Hereford FC to Thornhill Park next Saturday.

Team: Kowalski, Turl, Ry Thwaite, Grimes, Rich Thwaite, Turner (Mace 70), Twyman, Stokes, Harding (Sklenar 67), Smith (Cant 75), Thomas

Supporters Man of the Match; Jack Twyman

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Dean Turner	John & Ange Ashplant	
Jack Twyman	Brenda Martin	
Freddy Ward	Barry Gay	

Date	Opponent			Res	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	Lge Pos
06/08/16	Winchester City	H	League	5-3	Merchant	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne 1	Twyman	Lawson 2*	Mace	Payne 1	Oldham	Major	Martin 1	5
09/08/16	Bishops Cleeve	A	League	0-0	Davies	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne	Oldham	Lawson*	Major	Payne	Mace	Martin	Twyman	4
13/08/16	Yate Town	A	League	2-1	Kowalski	Turl	Mace*	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Twyman	Haskayne	Oldham	Lawson	Major 1	Payne	Martin	Ward	Orchard 1	3
17/08/16	Swindon S'marine	H	League	1-1	Kowalski*	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite 1	Ward	Twyman	Oldham	Lawson	Cant	Major	Orchard	Martin	Haskayne	5
20/08/16	Bedfont Sports	H	FAC PR	3-0	Merchant	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Ry Thwaite	Twyman 2*	Haskayne	Oldham	Lawson 1	Cant	Major	Martin	Orchard	Ward	-
27/08/16	Wantage Town	H	League	2-2	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Ry Thwaite	Ward	Haskayne	Twyman	Lawson*	Cant 1	Orchard 1	Major	Oldham	Payne	7
03/09/16	Fleet Town	A	FAC 1Q	1-1	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Ry Thwaite	Twyman*	Turner	Oldham	Lawson	Cant	Major	Thomas	Orchard 1	Haskayne	-
07/09/16	Fleet Town	H	FAC 1QR	1-0	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle*	Rich Thwaite 1	Turner	Twyman	Orchard	Lawson	Cant	Major	Thomas	Haskayne	Mace	-
10/09/16	Wimborne Town	H	League	1-1	Kowalski	Turl*	Mace	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman 1	Haskayne	Major	Orchard	Thomas	Oldham	Ry Thwaite	Turner	10
17/09/16	Taunton Town	A	FAC 2Q	0-2	Merchant	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne	Twyman*	Major	Cant	Thomas	Mace	Ward	Orchard	-
20/09/16	Bridgwater Town	A	League	0-0	Merchant	Turl	Ry Thwaite*	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman	Haskayne	Martin	Mace	Orchard	Turner	Major	Thomas	11
24/09/16	North Leigh	H	League	0-2	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite*	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Martin	Mace	Thomas	Ward	Major		12
27/09/16	Hereford	A	League	0-3	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Turner	Twyman*	Martin	Major	Thomas	Haskayne	Cant	Green	13
01/10/16	Larkhall Athletic	A	League	0-2	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite*	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne	Twyman	Major	Cant	Thomas	Martin			14
04/10/16	Bishops Cleeve	A	SFLCC 1R	0-1	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite*	Twyman	Green	Haskayne	Martin	Cant	Thomas	Turner	Major	Ward	-
08/10/16	Swindon S'Marine	H	FAT PR	1-3	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Oliver	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne*	Smith	Martin	Cant	Lawson 1	Thomas	Ward	14
11/10/16	Mangotsfield United	A	League	0-3	Kowalski	Ry Thwaite	Mace	Oliver*	Rich Thwaite	Twyman	Thomas	Haskayne	Lawson	Smith	Cant	Turner	Martin	Green	14
15/10/16	Salisbury	H	League	2-1	Kowalski	Ward	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite*	Turner	Twyman 1	Haskayne	Smith 1	Sklenar	Cant	Thomas	Martin	Mason	13
22/10/16	AFC Totton	A	League	1-3	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Grimes	Rich Thwaite*	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Sklenar	Thomas 1	Smith	Martin	Cant	Ward	14
26/10/16	Evesham Utd	H	League	1-5	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Ward	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne*	Smith 1	Cant	Thomas	J Martin	B Martin		17
01/11/16	Taunton Town	A	League	0-0	Kowalski*	Grimes	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Smith	B Martin	Thomas	B Martin	Stokes		16
05/11/16	Didcot Town	H	League	2-3	Kowalski	Low	Turl	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Stokes	Haskayne	Smith 1	Mace 1	Thomas*	Harding	Ward			16
12/11/16	Paulton Rovers	A	League	3-1	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman*	Stokes	Smith 1	Mace 1	Thomas	Lawson 1	Mason	Martin	13
19/11/16	Yate Town	H	League	3-1	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes*	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman	Stokes	Smith 1	Lawson	Mace 1	Martin	Haskayne 1	Harding	13
06/12/16	Bristol Rovers	A	GFA 1R	2-5	Kowalski	Grimes	Mace 1	Ry Thwaite*	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Stokes 1	Smith	Harding	Lawson	Haskayne	Martin	Matondo	-
10/12/16	Barnstaple Town	H	League	0-1	Kowalski*	Ward	Ry Thwaite	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Haskayne	Twyman	Stokes	Smith	Matondo	Lawson	Turner	Harding	Mace	15
14/12/16	Bishops Cleeve	H	League	0-1	Kowalski	Ward	Mace*	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Smith	Harding	Stokes	Thomas	Martin		16
17/12/16	Tiverton Town	A	League	1-2	Davies	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Stokes*	Twyman	Smith	Thomas	Mace 1	Lawson	Ward	Cant	16
21/12/16	Winchester City	A	League	0-7	Reed	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne*	Smith	Lawson	Thomas	Stokes	Ward		16
27/12/16	Bridgwater Town	H	League	1-2	Reed	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Twyman	Stokes	Haskayne*	Smith	Cant	Thomas 1	Turner	Ward		16
02/01/17	Shortwood United	A	League	4-4	Thomas	Turl	Mace 1	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Smith	Twyman	B Martin 1	Thomas 1	Cant	Stokes 1	Grimes	J Martin	16
07/01/17	Mangotsfield United	H	League	0-3	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Mace	Twyman*	Smith	Cant	Thomas	Stokes	Matundo		17
10/01/17	Swindon S'Marine	A	League	0-2	Thomas	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes*	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Smith	Twyman	Mace	B Martin	Thomas	Stokes	Matundo	Sklenar	18
14/01/17	Bideford	A	League	0-1	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes*	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Smith	Twyman	Mace	Martin	Thomas	Stokes	Cant		19
28/01/17	North Leigh	A	League	1-3	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman*	Stokes	Harding	Smith	Thomas	Sklenar	Mace	Cant	19
04/02/17	Hereford	H	League																
11/02/17	Salisbury	A	League																
18/02/17	Taunton Town	H	League																
25/02/17	Evesham United	A	League																
01/03/17	Tiverton Town	H	League																
04/03/17	AFC Totton	H	League																
11/03/17	Didcot Town	A	League																
18/03/17	Paulton Rovers	H	League																
25/03/17	Larkhall Athletic	H	League																
01/04/17	Barnstaple Town	A	League																
08/04/17	Bideford	H	League																
15/04/17	Wantage Town	H	League																
17/04/17	Shortwood United	H	League																
22/04/17	Wimborne Town	A	League																

Next First Team Game at Thornhill Park – Saturday 18th February v Taunton Town (3.00pm)

Slimbridge AFC

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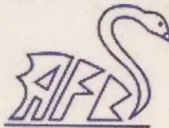
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Hereford FC 3-0 Slimbridge

28th September 2016

These are days of occasional uncharted territories for Slimbridge at the moment, and they will not be the first or last side this season to be daunted by a crowd of nearly 2,500 and a very high high tempo start from Division One South & West leaders Hereford when they stepped out at the impressive Edgar Street Stadium last night.

After twenty minutes or so, the Swans' settled into their surroundings, and gave a good account of themselves in front of the biggest crowd in the club's history. Unfortunately, by then, they were two goals behind, and were always facing an uphill battle to regain any initiative as Hereford gave an impressive display of quality football.

John Mills' brace put the Bulls in control of the match, and a third by Hereford livewire Tristan Plummer, admirably demonstrating why he has successfully played at Conference level, 15 minutes from time completed the scoring.

The Swans', reorganising late in the day following Skipper Alex Hoyle's decision on the day of the game to join Taunton Town, battled hard, and can feel very proud of how they represented their football club on a memorable evening for everyone involved at Thornhill Park.

Hereford immediately set about their task, and, with the packed Meadow End in front of them, hit the ground running - Mike Symons played a great ball into Plummer with five minutes gone, and it took a great tackle by Rich Thwaite to prevent an early opener for the hosts.

Slimbridge were still finding their feet, but Marley Thomas, and then Sam Turl had efforts blocked as they made a good break at the other end.

Hereford were still bossing it though, and Plummer's cross, which saw Symons' effort drift across the goal for a corner was another close call for the Swans' back line. From the resulting corner, Chris Parry saw his effort blocked as the pressure built up.

On 13 minutes, the deadlock was broken when Rob Purdie's cross was met perfectly by the head of Mills.

Hereford FC 3-0 Slimbridge

28th September 2016

Three minutes later, it was two - when Kowlaski made a sharp stop to his left, but saw the ball rebound straight to Mills, who made no mistake notch his second, and put the Bulls in control of the game.

The rest of the first half was all Hereford - Mills was denied his hat trick by a magnificent Ed Major tackle, Rich Thwaite cleared an effort from Plummer off the line, and Mills again shot wide as the break approached.

The second half was a far different affair, as Slimbridge matched their hosts for long period of the second half - Jamie Martin shot wide early on, Adam Mace had a free kick saved by Bulls' Keeper Alex Harris, and Thomas and again Martin all tested Harris in the first ten minutes of the second half. With Captain Jack Twyman leading by example, it was an impressive display by the Swans' midfield in very difficult circumstances.

Slimbridge came closest to scoring on 55 minutes, when Martin's lob brought an acrobatic save from Harris, when his effort looked to be drifting in, but Jack Twyman was unable to connect with the follow up.

Hereford continued to play some lovely football, and Mills, Jamie Edge and Plummer all went close before Plummer's twisting run saw him beat Kowlaski at his far post on 74 minutes, and finally put the game to bed for the home side.

The Bulls could have increased their lead before the final whistle, with Plummer's effort bringing a good save from Kowlaski, Ryan Thwaite was responsible for another goal-line clearance as the game hit 90 minutes, and then Rob Staley blazed over in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

Team: Kowlaski, Turl, Mace, Ryan Thwaite, Rich Thwaite, Ward (Haskayne 65), Turner, Twyman, Martin, Major (Cant 80), Thomas (Green 67)

Supporters Man of the Match: Jack Twyman

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2016-2017 Season
Evo-Stik Southern League
Division One South & West

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Hereford	29	25	3	1	77	21	78
2	Evesham United	29	18	5	6	70	34	59
3	Tiverton Town	28	17	6	5	63	36	57
4	Swindon S'Marine	28	15	7	6	57	34	52
5	Salisbury	27	16	2	9	67	39	50
6	Mangotsfield United	26	16	2	8	48	40	50
7	Taunton Town*	24	16	4	4	68	24	49
8	Winchester City	26	14	1	11	50	45	43
9	North Leigh	24	12	6	6	49	38	42
10	Bideford	28	11	7	10	48	42	40
11	Didcot Town	27	9	10	8	51	48	37
12	Wimborne Town	27	11	4	12	44	45	37
13	Shortwood United	25	11	4	10	44	47	37
14	Bishops Cleeve	26	9	6	11	42	54	33
15	Larkhall Athletic	27	7	9	11	44	51	30
16	Paulton Rovers	27	7	4	16	38	48	25
17	Barnstaple Town	27	7	4	16	26	41	25
18	Slimbridge	28	5	7	16	30	58	22
19	Yate Town	27	6	4	17	27	55	22
20	AFC Totton	28	5	6	17	28	64	21
21	Wantage Town	27	1	7	19	21	74	10
22	Bridgwater Town	27	2	4	21	18	72	10

*Deducted 3 points. Table at January 29th 2017

Slimbridge AFC Club History

The Gloucestershire village of Slimbridge is world renowned for Peter Scott's Wildfowl Trust Bird Sanctuary, but in recent years much hard work has gone into making Slimbridge better known in football circles.

The Club's history can be traced back to the 1899/1900 season playing in local football at various venues in and around the village. A gap in the records suggests there may have been a couple of seasons when no games were played, and thus, officially, the Club's centenary was celebrated in 2002/03.

It was not until 1951 that the current ground at Wisloe Road was acquired, after a former player, Evi Thornhill, bequeathed it to the Club in his Will.

For the next forty-odd years the Club were predominantly members of the Stroud and District League with varying degrees of success and failure, except for a period between 1960 and 1968 when they were in the Gloucester Northern Senior League.

By 1988, a point of collapse approached, but fortunately, a handful of committee members led by Gordon King and Gordon Tudor kept the Club afloat. The following season local businessman Paul Chappell arrived. The Club was stabilised and construction of new changing facilities, to County League standard, were completed.

As playing standards improved, the building of a long awaited Social Club commenced in the 1998/99 season. The following year saw the introduction of John Mack, a successful local entrepreneur, as Chairman. In the summer of 2001, Doug Gray was appointed Manager.

After achieving the Runners-up spot in their first season in the Gloucester County League, the club were accepted into the Hellenic League. Hellenic Division One West was won by an eleven point margin in 2002/03 and with it, promotion to the Hellenic Premier Division, where a creditable fourth place finish was achieved in 2003/04. In a marvellous season the club also claimed the Hellenic 'Norman Matthews' Floodlit Cup and the G.F.A. Challenge Trophy.

Slimbridge AFC Club History

The summer of 2003 saw the floodlights installed. A pre-season visit from Conference side Forest Green Rovers on 22nd July, produced a then ground record attendance of 427 to witness the inaugural floodlit game at Wisloe Road.

A few weeks later on Sunday 24th August, that ground record was beaten at a Bank Holiday Hellenic Premier Division fixture that was part of the 2003/04 annual 'Ground Hop' weekend. Local rivals Shortwood United provided the opposition in front of a crowd of 525. That record will be broken at today's match.

Season 2004/05 again saw a fourth place finish in the Hellenic Premier Division, along with a first entry into the F.A. Vase competition which resulted in a useful run to the third round proper before a 2-1 extra time defeat at 'Screwfix' Western League side Backwell United concluded an enjoyable campaign. Sadly, in the February, Gray stood down after nearly four seasons at the helm of the club.

The club started season 2005/06 under newly appointed Manager Doug Foxwell. A first entry into the F.A. cup saw a visit from Wessex League side Wimborne Town. A 1-0 defeat did not dampen the sense of occasion on the first day of the season. A second successful run in the F.A. Vase again came to an end in the Third Round Proper, with a 3-1 defeat at South Midland Premier, Welwyn Garden City. After a record-breaking 64 game season, the team managed a fifth place finish in the Hellenic Premier Division. The club also won the Hellenic 'Norman Matthews' Floodlit Cup and the GFA Challenge Trophy, both for the second time in three seasons.

After two successive third place finishes in the Stroud and District League First Division, season 2005/06 saw the Reserve side finally win the title and with it, promotion to the Gloucester Northern Senior League Division Two. This was the same League title that the first team won in season 1998/99 which proved the springboard for five successive first team promotions.

Slimbridge AFC Club History

Season 2006/07 proved the most successful in the Club's history to date, with both the First Team and Reserve side recording League and Cup doubles, with the added bonus of record-breaking F. A. Cup and Vase runs for the senior side as well.

In the F.A. Cup, a five match run from the Extra-Preliminary Round finished at Merthyr Tydfil in the Third Qualifying Round. Along the way there were memorable wins against two other Southern Premier sides, 2-1 at Yate Town and 3-1 at home to Chippenham Town.

It was six matches in the F.A. Vase before defeat was tasted, the run ending in the Fifth Round Proper at home to the eventual winners, Truro City.

In the Hellenic Premier Division, a solid start was established. Due to the Cup runs, and then bad weather, which led to a record number of postponements during the subsequently extended season, half a seasons fixtures had to be played in the final two months. A tremendous effort saw the Club bring the Championship Shield to Wisloe Road, the winning margin being three points over second placed North Leigh.

There was a rousing performance in the G.F.A. Trophy Final against Almondsbury Town. A 3-1 victory not only retained the Trophy, but recorded a third success in four seasons in that competition.

The Reserve side had an early success in the Gloucester Northern Senior League Cup with a 2-0 win against Division One Tuffley Rovers. This saw confidence rise and they went on to break a Gloucestershire Northern Senior League record in winning Division Two with a Played 30, Won 30 record.

Alongside the playing success, progress in the improvement of facilities allowed the First Team to be accepted into the BGB Southern League Division One Midlands for Season 2007/08.

Slimbridge AFC Club History

On July 10th 2007 the club decided not to take up the opportunity of playing in the BGB Southern League Division One Midlands for Season 2007/08, instead the club reverted back to the Gloucester Northern Senior League. This meant a big upheaval in the club both on and off the field with the manager Doug Foxwell and several senior players moving on the pastures new. However a loyal band of players stayed on, including James Cole taking over as player manager with assistance from long term club captain Leon Sterling.

Four promotions followed as the club regained their previous status. The reins were handed over to Leon Sterling, who moved into the Manager's role, joined by Assistant and long time Slimbridge stalwart Freddy Ward.

After three top six finishes in the Hellenic Premier League, The Swans applied for a transfer to the Toolstation Western Premier League, a move approved by the FA in the Summer of 2013. After a period of adjustment, a good second half of the season saw the side comfortably avoid the dogfight at the bottom half of the table.

The Swans' second season in the Western League saw the side build on the back end of the previous campaign, and ended up with the club clinching third spot. With neither of the two sides above them applying to go up, Slimbridge were promoted to the Southern League Division One South and West.

After a successful first season in the Southern League, the club now enter their second season competing at the highest level the club has ever achieved.

On July 25th, the club renamed their Wisloe Road ground as 'Thornhill Park', an acknowledgement of the legacy bequeathed to the club by former player and Chairman Evi Thornhill in his will in February 1960. A crowd of over 400 saw Evi's son, Tony and his wife Margaret officially open Thornhill Park, and the team then went on to run National League side Forest Green Rovers very close, going down 3-2 in an entertaining encounter.

Leon Sterling stepped down as Manager in December 2016, and Assistant Freddy Ward stepped into the hot seat to guide the club through the rest of the 2016-17 Season.

Bideford 1-0 Slimbridge

14th January 2016

The Swans returned from one of their longer trips of the season pointless, and their bad run of form continues, but it could have been different had they had the rub of the green on a couple of occasions - Adam Mace's rare penalty miss could have put the visitors back in the frame after Billy Tucker's goal that ultimately proved decisive, and the Swans still could have nicked a point in stoppage time, when Rich Thwaite's effort went agonisingly wide, but it was not to be.

Nick Grimes went close in the first minute as the visitors pressed straight from the kick off, after good work by Marley Thomas, but his effort was wide, before Mace and Jack Twyman both had efforts off target.

What turned out to be the decisive goal came on 14 minutes, when Billy Tucker got on the end of Sean Downing's through ball to convert, and Kevin Squire should have doubled the advantage a couple of minutes later, but his shot was too high.

Eight minutes after the goal, the Swans were awarded a penalty when Jack Twyman's shot was blocked by a Bideford hand, but Mace's effort was saved by Keeper Joe Moore to maintain the home side's advantage.

The Swans continued to press after the break. and Marley Thomas was unlucky, slipping just as he was about to shoot, but Slimbridge struggled to create too many opportunities.

In the third minute of stoppage time, Dean Turner's cross saw Rich Thwaite somehow miss from close range, as the hosts hung on to record the victory.

Team: Kowalski, Turl, Ryan Thwaite, Grimes, Rich Thwaite, Turner, Smith, Twyman, Mace (Stokes 66), Martin, Thomas (Cant 72)

Supporters Man of the match; Nick Grimes

Today's Fixtures

Barnstaple Town v Mangotsfield
United

Didcot Town v Salisbury

Larkhall Athletic v Bideford

Paulton Rovers v Taunton Town

Shortwood United v North Leigh

Slimbridge v Hereford

Swindon Supermarine v Bishops
Cleeve

Tiverton Town v Bridgwater Town

Wimborne Town v AFC Totton

Winchester City v Wantage Town

Yate Town v Evesham United

Edgar Street, 28th September 2016



Edgar Street, 28th September 2016





HANDING over ceremony: In a ceremony at the White Lion Hotel, Cambridge on Wednesday the secretary of Slimbridge AFC (right) Mr. W. G. Prior, received the deeds of the playing field which was bequeathed to the club under the will of Mr. Evi Thornhill. Handing over the deeds is Mr. L. J. Hawkins of Messrs. Scott and Fowler, and also in the picture are members of the football club committee, and Mr. E. W. H. Thornhill, and Mr. A. Thornhill.

Handing Over Soccer Pitch

Slimbridge Bequest of Mr. E. Thornhill

Slimbridge Football Club, thanks to the generosity of its late president Mr. Evi Thornhill, now owns the playing field at The Cross Roads, Slimbridge.

Prior to his death Mr. Thornhill allowed the club to use the pitch, and bequeathed the ground to the club in 1957. Mr. Thornhill died on February 9, 1960, and the necessary legal work having been completed, the official "handing over" ceremony of the deeds took place at the club's headquarters, the White Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Wednesday evening.

Secretary of the club, Mr. W. G. Prior, received the deeds from Mr. L. J. Hawkins of Messrs Scott and Fowler (Gloucester), the solicitors handling the estate. Mr. E. W. H. Thornhill, joint-president, and Mr. A. Thornhill, vice-president, sons of the late Mr. Evi Thornhill were also present at the ceremony, together with Mr. B. A. Snow, Mr. C. Webb, Mr. G. Weaver, Mr. M. G. Tudor, Mr. E. Pearce of the football club.

To commemorate the gift the club have affixed a plaque to the changing rooms on the ground.
