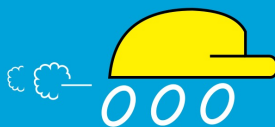


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Season 2017-18 - The Evo-Stik League South, West

Slimbridge AFC v North Leigh
Saturday, September 16th, 3.00pm

Matchday programme £1.50



Match Day

Slimbridge AFC would like to welcome
everyone connected with North Leigh to
Thornhill Park

SLIMBRIDGE AFC

V

NORTH LEIGH

EVO-STIK LEAGUE SOUTH, WEST

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2017
KICK OFF 3.00PM

Today's Teams

Slimbridge AFC (From)

North Leigh

Ollie Hall	1	Conor Thompson
Sam Turl	2	Elliott Keightley
Adam Mace	3	Matthew Grabe
Rich Thwaite	4	Ryan Paddock
Alex Hoyle ©	5	Will Wellon
Kory Pring	6	Diego Petriaggi
Henry Birkett	7	Michael Hopkins
Jack Twyman	8	Dan James
Nathan Payne	9	Sean Wood
Marley Thomas	10	Eddie Stevens
Max Harper-Emerson	11	Sam Mattock
Joe Stokes	12	Sam Mendes
Dean Turner	14	Liam Carroll
Luke Payne	15	Josh Thomas
Joe Wilton	16	Connor Waldon
Kieran Squires	17	George Seacole

Managers:

Freddy Ward
Lee Driver-Dickerson

John Brough
Dave Strain

Physios:

Tony Woodward

John McDonough

Referee:

Sarah Garratt

Assistants:

Jonathan Price
Jamie Evans

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 and good friends at North Leigh. We hope you enjoy your afternoon with us, and have a safe journey back home later on.

The draw at Larkhall last weekend was a great achievement, considering we had only ever taken a point off them previously in competitive action, and Marley's two goals brought us a deserved point which were marred by the loss of Hoyley to a nasty looking injury that in the end turned out to be ligaments rather than an ankle break, as we had initially feared.

As always in this situation, people stepped up to the plate, and Minibus Driver Chappie took Hoyley back to Stroud, while Freddy took on the task of driving us all back – what a manager!

Best wishes to Hoyley for a quick recovery, but well played to the lads who stepped in at a very dangerous point in the game and saw us back home with a point..

We are back here Saturday, when Bristol Manor Farm, who only arrived in the league this year and are currently top of the table, arrive at Thornhill Park. That should be an absolute cracker, we've had some great games with Manor Farm over the years, looking forward to that one immensely...

Our next home game after that is in the FA Trophy against Hartley Wintney, and I think it's fair to say that will be something quite special. Keep looking out for announcements....

Enjoy the game this afternoon

Tim

A dynamic action shot of two soccer players in mid-air, competing for a ball. The player on the left is wearing a white jersey and blue shorts, while the player on the right is wearing a yellow jersey and green shorts. The background is a dark, gradient sky.

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Swans on the Road!

Wednesday 27th September at 7.45pm

Kidlington v Slimbridge

Kidlington Football Club, Yarnton Road, Kidlington
Oxon, OX5 1AT

Saturday 30th September at 3.00pm

Mangotsfield United v Slimbridge

The Curtis Drew Stadium, Cossham Street,
Mangotsfield, Bristol, BS16 9EN



Date	Opponent			Res	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	Lge Pos
12/08/17	Paulton Rovers	A	League	2-1	Hall	Turl	Mace	Thwaite	Hoyle	L Payne	Twyman	Reeves*	Stokes	N Payne	Wilton	Harper-Emerson	Thomas 2	Turner	7
16/08/17	Cirencester Town	H	League	1-3	Hall	Turl	Mace	Pring	Hoyle	L Payne	Twyman	Turner	Stokes	Harper – Emerson*	Thomas 1	N Payne	Wilton	Thwaite	11
19/08/17	Cinderford Town	H	FAC 1Q	1-2	Hall	Turl	Mace	Thwaite	Hoyle	L Payne	Twyman	Birkett*	Stokes 1	Harper – Emerson	Thomas	Turner	Wilton	N Payne	-
26/08/17	AFC Totton	A	League	2-1	Hall	Turl*	Mace	Thwaite	Hoyle	Twyman	Turner	Birkett	Stokes	N Payne	Thomas 2	Harper-Emerson	Reeves	L Payne	8
28/08/17	Shortwood United	H	League	1-3	Hall	Turl	Mace	Thwaite	Hoyle	L Payne	Twyman	Birkett*	Stokes	Harper-Emerson	Thomas 1	Turner	Wilton	Wilton	12
05/09/17	Shortwood United	A	GFA	1-2	Beauchamp	N Payne	Harper-Emerson	Thwaite	Squires	Pring	L Payne	Twyman	Lawson*	Birkett 1	Thomas	Stokes	L Payne	Turl	-
09/09/17	Larkhall Athletic	A	League	2-2	Beauchamp	Turl	Mace	Pring	Hoyle	Birkett	Twyman	Stokes	Lawson	Harper-Emerson	Thomas 2*	N Payne	Squires	Ward	14
16/09/17	North Leigh	H	League																
23/09/17	Bristol Manor Farm	H	League																
27/09/17	Kidlington	A	League																
30/09/17	Mangotsfield United	A	League																
07/10/17	Hartley Wintney	H	FAT 1																
14/10/17	Salisbury	H	League																
21/10/17	Barnstaple Town	A	League																
25/10/17	Taunton Town	H	League																
04/11/17	Bishops Cleeve	A	League																
11/11/17	Evesham United	H	League																
15/11/17	Yate Town	H	League																
18/11/17	Swindon S'Marine	A	League																
25/11/17	Wimborne Town	H	League																
28/11/17	Bideford	A	League																
02/12/17	Didcot Town	A	League																
09/12/17	Winchester City	H	League																
16/12/17	Cirencester Town	A	League																
23/12/17	Paulton Rovers	H	League																
26/12/17	Shortwood United	A	League																
01/01/18	Cinderford Town	H	League																
06/01/18	North Leigh	A	League																
13/01/18	AFC Totton	H	League																
20/01/18	Evesham United	A	League																
27/01/18	Bishops Cleeve	H	League																
03/02/18	Bristol Manor Farm	A	League																
10/02/18	Kidlington	H	League																
17/02/18	Salisbury	A	League																
24/02/17	Mangotsfield United	H	League																
03/03/18	Taunton Town	A	League																
10/03/18	Barnstaple Town	H	League																
17/03/18	Winchester City	A	League																
24/03/18	Didcot Town	H	League																
31/03/18	Larkhall Athletic	H	League																
02/04/18	Cinderford Town	A	League																
07/04/18	Swindon S'Marine	H	League																
14/04/18	Yate Town	A	League																
21/04/18	Bideford	H	League																
28/04/18	Wimborne Town	A	League																

Next First Team Game – vs Bristol Manor Farm, 23rdth September 2017, 3.00pm

**Slimbridge AFC wish to thank
StroudPrint for the production
of our programme this season**

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Our Visitors Today

North Leigh were formed in 1908, but it was only following the Second World War that the club started to make its mark in the Witney and District League.

The club won the Witney and District League Premier Division title seven times in the 1950s and also enjoyed success in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup. In the 1980s the club resumed its trophy winning habits with five successive Witney and District League titles earning it a place in the Hellenic League Division 1 for the season 1990/91.

The club enjoyed a good first season in the Hellenic League, finishing in 4th position and being the Division's highest goal scorers apart from Champions Cinderford Town. In the club's second season it again achieved 4th position, averaging two points per game, scoring 84 goals in the process.

In the third season, the club finished runners up to Tuffley Rovers in Division 1 and so took its place in the Hellenic League Premier Division along with the champions.

In 1997/98 the club reached the second round of the FA Vase for the third time before losing to Elmore. They finished the season in 4th place in the Hellenic League Premier Division, and capped their season off by reaching the final of the Oxfordshire Senior Cup where they were only narrowly beaten by their West Oxfordshire rivals Witney Town 1-0 after extra time.

Our Visitors Today

The season 2001/02 was without doubt been the most successful in the club's history to date. After a superb season of consistently high performances and an epic struggle with both Gloucester United and Yate Town throughout the season to occupy top spot, the club eventually succeeded in winning for the very first time, the Premier Division title. The club also reached the final of both the Oxfordshire Senior Cup and the Hellenic League Challenge Cup.

In season 2002/03 the club went one better and with a smaller squad than the previous year and arguably stronger league opposition, retained the title with a winning margin of 10 points over Yate Town (the team pipped the previous year) and local rivals Carterton. Unfortunately the ground at that stage was not up to the required standard for the team to take promotion to the next level.

In season 2003/04 a disappointing eighth place in the league was offset by a tremendous run in the FA Vase where the club reached the last 32 and with reasonable luck would have progressed further.

In 2004/05 the club finished in seventh place in the league, but the highlight was a truly memorable run in the FA Cup as the last Hellenic team left in the competition defeating Deal Town, Walton Casuals and Edgware Town and only losing out to Conference South outfit Newport County in Wales after holding them to a draw at Eynsham Park.

Our Visitors Today

In season 2005/06 after an excellent start and leading the table during the early part of the season, the club narrowly missed out on promotion to the Southern League finishing in fourth place after a disappointing late run.

In season 2006/07 after a head to head contest with Slimbridge and narrowly finishing behind them after an epic struggle and a particularly strong finish to the season, including a double win home & away against them, the club were severely disappointed to learn of their withdrawal from promotion to the Southern League at a stage too late for them to be replaced even though North Leigh's home ground had by now received the necessary FA approval to play at the higher level.

In season 2007/08 in the club's centenary year it looked to be a mirror image of the previous year with the team vying for the top spot throughout the season and just losing out in the final push for promotion. However in a truly magnificent finish to the season the team overhauled the long term leaders of the division, Almondsbury Town in their very last league game, winning the league title and promotion on goal difference. In addition and a few weeks prior to winning the league title, the club had won the Oxfordshire Senior Cup for the first time in their history defeating an Oxford United team in the quarter final and Banbury United (Southern League Premier Division) in the final at the Kassam Stadium, Oxford.

Our Visitors Today

So the club climbed to its highest ever position in the non league pyramid by joining the Southern League South and West in August 2008 and during its membership over the past nine years has been a model of consistency finishing in a top ten position every season.

Major changes occurred in 2016 with the departure of long serving Manager Mark Gee and the appointment of John Brough who had just won the league with Cinderford Town. John had a successful first season steering the club to its best ever FA Cup and Trophy run, a third County Cup triumph and just missed out on a play off place in the league and so we look forward to the future with a play off place and promotion as our key objective.



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Match Reports

Larkhall Athletic 2-2 Slimbridge, 9th September 2017-09-13

Swans Manager Freddy Ward professed himself 'delighted' as his young side fought back from being two goals down within the first nine minutes, to picking up a point at Plain Ham with a much improved second half display. The comeback was even more notable as Slimbridge were forced into a reorganisation with twenty minutes remaining, losing Skipper Alex Hoyle to a suspected broken ankle.

'I told them a few home truths at Half Time,' Ward reflected after the game, 'and I was delighted the way they responded, and we could even have nicked it right at the end.'

It was a definite game of two halves - Larkhall bossed the first period as the Swans didn't settle into any rhythm and struggled to cope with the host's long ball attacks, and after six minutes, with their first real attack, Larkhall took the lead. A long ball forward found Matt Groves, who fed George King, and King gave Slimbridge Keeper Marcus Beauchamp no chance to open the scoring.

Three minutes later, it was two - Joe Tumelty went on a mazy run, and was allowed to create far too much space for himself, before drilling the ball home to double the advantage.

It was not until the 15th minute that Slimbridge managed to have an attempt at the other end - Joe Stokes' attempted lob beat Larks Keeper Shaun Semmens, but was just too high.

Match Reports

On 26 minutes, Henry Birkett attempted to emulate his long range scoring effort against Shortwood on Tuesday night, but was just off target, and Larkhall went straight down the other end, and Mason Winter's effort drifted just the wrong side of the post.

Slimbridge's best opportunity of the half came on the half hour, when Marley Thomas saw his effort blocked, and then Birkett's effort from the rebound was saved by Semmens.

Larkhall had two good chances to increase their lead before the break, but Beauchamp was again alert to deny Tumelty, before Bater saw his effort rebound off the Slimbridge post and back into play, leaving the hosts two goals to the good at the half.

Slimbridge came out for the second half with a purpose, and immediately began to control the game far better than in the first period.

Five minutes in, Thomas brought a good save from Semmens, but a minute later, a Jack Twyman through ball was seized on by Thomas, who beat Semmens one on one to get the visitors back into the game.

After Twyman had forced Semmens into another good save, Thomas struck again in the 59th minute, latching onto Birkett's pass and beating Semmens for the second time one on one.

The momentum had definitely swung to the visitors, and Sean Lawson was just wide with an effort three minutes after the equaliser.

Match Reports

Slimbridge reacted well to the lengthy stoppage, although Larkhall were trying their luck with some robust challenges, including one that left Sam Turl on the deck just a couple of minutes after play restarted. But, to his credit, Referee Declan O'Shea handled the situation well, and defused the obvious high tensions that followed Hoyle's injury, which was later confirmed as ligament damage rather than a break, to the great relief of all at the club.

Thanks must be expressed to Larkhall Physio Kieran Moden for his assistance during what was obviously a difficult situation for our club.

In the second of ten stoppage time minutes, Matt Britton shaved the Swans' bar with a good effort, and there was plenty of time for Thomas to try and complete his Hat Trick, but his 95th minute effort was off target, and the sides shared the points.

Team: Beauchamp, Turl, Mace, Pring (Ward 70), Hoyle (Squires 70), Birkett, Twyman, Stokes, Lawson, Harper-Emerson (Nathan Payne 55), Thomas

Supporters Man of the Match: Marley Thomas

You can never look...

...as cool as Rob and Al, but you can try!



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League Table

EvoStick League South, West - 2017 / 2018

#	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Bristol Manor Farm	5	4	1	0	16	9	7	13
2	Taunton Town	5	4	1	0	11	4	7	13
3	Swindon Supermarine	5	3	2	0	8	3	5	11
4	Salisbury	5	3	1	1	18	4	14	10
5	Evesham United	5	3	1	1	9	7	2	10
6	AFC Totton	5	3	0	2	12	6	6	9
7	Winchester City	5	3	0	2	7	5	2	9
8	Bideford	5	3	0	2	5	5	0	9
9	Didcot Town	5	3	0	2	8	11	-3	9
10	Larkhall Athletic	6	2	2	2	12	9	3	8
11	Cinderford Town	5	2	1	2	12	6	6	7
12	North Leigh	5	2	1	2	12	10	2	7
13	Paulton Rovers	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7
14	Slimbridge	5	2	1	2	8	10	-2	7
15	Cirencester Town	5	2	0	3	6	7	-1	6
16	Wimborne Town	6	2	0	4	11	14	-3	6
17	Kidlington	5	1	2	2	7	8	-1	5
18	Mangotsfield United	5	1	1	3	4	11	-7	4
19	Shortwood United	5	1	1	3	9	18	-9	4
20	Barnstaple Town	5	1	0	4	5	14	-9	3
21	Yate Town	5	0	2	3	5	13	-8	2
22	Bishops Cleeve	5	0	0	5	2	14	-12	0

Programmes for the 2017-18 Season

The Evo-Stik Southern League has this season made the decision that programmes can either be made available by home clubs in the tradition printed format, or alternatively as an electronic download from the club website.

Therefore, we will not be selling printed programmes for all home games this season. Games where we feel there will be a low demand will only be available this season in their online version.

However, all programmes will be uploaded to our website (whether we physically print or not), and will be available 24 hours before the game from www.slimbridgeafc.co.uk