

Slimbridge

Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League
Division One South

Slimbridge AFC v Barnstaple Town

Saturday 10th October 2020 3:00pm





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Match Day

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SLIMBRIDGE AFC



V



BARNSTAPLE TOWN

**Pitching In Southern League
Division One South**

**Saturday 10th October 2020
KICK OFF 3.00PM**



Today's Teams

Slimbridge AFC

Lewis Adams	1
Ben Deakin	2
Ben Prictor	3
Myron Turner	4
Christien Turner (c)	5
Joel White	6
Jay Malshanskyj	7
Joe Stokes	8
Will Hawes	9
Johan Flo	10
Edjija Mbunga	11

Dean Turner	12
	13
Nick Humphreys	14
Mike Ford	15
Jack Twyman	16
Danny King	17
Alex Hainault	18

Barnstaple Town

Adam Seedhouse Evans
Lewis Toop
Brian Levien
Daniel Neild
Oliver Tomlinson
Mikkel Fosu
Nathan Cooper
Billy Hopcroft
Saddam Bello
Theophilus Ofori
Tony Radford

Robbie Sloan
Edward Ndi
Kevin Darch
Ross Jones
Christopher Roberts

Managers:

Lee Driver-Dickerson
Tom Speers

Dean Edwards
Kevin Darch

Physios:

Eleanor McArdle

Referee:

Thomas Staten

Assistants:

Alan Overthrow
Shane Dash

This Week's Fixtures

Saturday 10 October 2020

- 15:00 Winchester City v Evesham United
- 15:00 Slimbridge v Barnstaple Town
- 15:00 Moneyfields v Paulton Rovers
- 15:00 Melksham Town v Highworth Town
- 15:00 Willand Rovers v Frome Town
- 15:00 Cirencester Town v Sholing
- 15:00 Cinderford Town v Basingstoke Town
- 15:00 Bideford v Thatcham Town
- 15:00 Larkhall Athletic v Mangotsfield United
- 15:00 AFC Totton v Bristol Manor Farm

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Our Visitors Today

Founded in 1904 as Pilton Yeo Vale, the club entered the North Devon league. They were founder members along with Ilfracombe, South Molton, Pilton Social Barnstaple Y.M.C.A, Braunton and Bideford. Their first ever league match was on 1st October 1904 when they played Ilfracombe at Pilton Park and were defeated 4-2.

The club changed its name to Barnstaple Town at the end of the season and continued in the North Devon League, Devon & Exeter League and then the South Western League.

When the Western League was reformed after the Second World War, Barnstaple Town entered two teams, one in division 2 and a reserve side in division 3.

The early 1950's were one of the club's most successful times under the management of Arthur Coles. In 1953, Barnstaple won the Western league First Division Championship but only after a nail biting climax to the season with everything depending on the results of matches being played on the final day of the League Season. On that day, Barnstaple Town beat Dorchester Town 6-1 and their challengers for the title, Street won 2-1 at Wells City. That left the sides level on points and when the goal average was calculated Street had 2.07 and incredibly Barnstaple had 2.08. The club also beat Plymouth Argyle in the final of the Devon Pro' Cup at Home Park that season, but sadly Coles moved on to Weymouth and the club never had quite the same success again. Cameron Buchanan, the former Wolves and Bournemouth player, local lads Fred Smale and Ray Smith, Bill Johnson formerly of Grimsby Town, Noel Peyton, the ex Leeds United and Eire International, John Hancock formerly with Exeter City and ex Barnsley and Doncaster Rovers player Lol Chappell all tried to revive Barnstaple's fortunes from the manager's seat but with no great success.

Our Visitors Today

Player Manager Charlie Sells, who had been with Exeter City, built up the club in the 1970's followed by the former Andover keeper Trevor Morris and then Brian Perks. Perks left Mill Road for Bideford during the season of 1979/80 and under the guidance of joint managers Brian Hill and Dave Baglow, Barum went on to win the Western League Championship for the second time, winning by one point from AFC Bournemouth Reserves. That title went virtually unnoticed as there was a printer's strike at the time and no newspapers were printed.

Richard Gray took over the following season and brought some success to the club although they never won the title. A couple of seasons later he left after a disagreement with the club, and after a succession of managers Town lost their Premier status in 1989/90. Brian Hill was again appointed manager to put Town back in the Premier Division and after 3 seasons in the wilderness won the First Division Championship in 1993/94 in fine style scoring more goals and recording more points than ever before.

Jeff Evans was appointed manager in 2002 and along with his assistant Peter Buckingham guided the club to the final of The Devon Bowl where they were narrowly beaten by Tiverton Town. The following season Peter Buckingham took over as sole manager and Barum finished in seventh place in the league, their highest finish for many a season. During the 2008/09 season Owen Pickard took over the manager's seat for his first taste of management and was able to save the club from what looked like certain relegation at the Christmas period of the season.

Barnstaple remained in the Premier League until the end of the 2012/13 season when they were relegated to Western League Division One – the first time in their history that they had finished at the bottom of their division.

Our Visitors Today

The gloom surrounding Mill Road was to be short lived as in the December of 2013 the club appointed the joint management team of Barry Yeo and Karl Baggaley. Building a squad where, on occasions, all eleven players on the field were born in Barnstaple – surely a record that not many teams at any level of football would be able to equal - the managers turned the 2013/14 season around and finished a creditable 3rd. In their first full season in charge, 2014/15, the club returned to the Western League Premier Division by winning the First Division title. for the 3rd time in its history. Their total of 100 points, 128 goals scored and a goal difference of 101 were among 15 club records set during the year, in addition to reaching the final of the Les Phillips Cup for the second time.

2015/16 was to be equally successful. After an average start the team went on two long unbeaten runs which saw them finish as runners up in the Premier Division, missing out on back to back titles by just 3 points, but securing the coveted prize of promotion to the Southern League Division One South & West. This would see them playing at the highest level in the club's history – the biggest step the club had taken since joining the Western League in 1948. At the end of 2016/17, having secured Southern League football for a second season with a 17th place finish, the management duo stood down and as is often the case in these situations, most of the players also left for challenges elsewhere.

Since then, the club has found life hard in the Southern League. Only a combination of other club's misfortunes and a global pandemic have saved the club from relegation on three occasions. However, with Dean Edwards at the helm and a strategy of fielding a team with talented players drawn from a wider catchment, the club's supporters believe that better times lie ahead.

Our Visitors Today

Squad info

Adam Seedhouse-Evans

Goalkeeper who made his debut in the last match played in the 19/20 season, pulling off a man of the match performance in a 0-0 home draw against Sholing FC. Joined from local side Cullompton Rangers, Adam spent time at the Torquay United Academy, the Devon Under-18s representative side and FC United of Manchester Under-21s.

Brian Levien

Joined the club last season from Torridgeside. Began as a progressive midfielder but more recently has been seen in a right wing back role. Club captain. A tenacious player who always gives his all.

Harry Clarke

Harry made his competitive debut in the 2-0 FA Cup defeat of Helston Athletic in September 2020, His previous club was Bodmin Town. The exciting left wing back had impressed supporters in pre-season, starring in a 6-2 demolition at Bovey Tracey in late August.

Tony Radford

Popular midfielder who re-joined the club for a third time just before the 19/20 season was suspended. Tony first joined Town in the 2017/18 season and made 35 appearances including a memorable occasion at Slimbridge where he took over as goalkeeper following a sending off and saved a penalty, ensuring Barum returned home with a crucial point. He returned at the start of the 2018/19 season and made 7 appearances before joining Buckland Athletic.

Oliver Tomlinson

Ollie joined the club on an initial one-month loan deal from Plymouth Argyle, extended to three further months, making his debut in the 2-0 FA Cup defeat of Helston Athletic. Ollie is a powerful central defender who has been on Argyle's books since the age of 13. He made his Argyle debut on 8th September 2020 in the 2-3 home defeat to Norwich City Under-21s in the EFL Trophy.

Our Visitors Today

Jordan Foster

Towering central defender who also made his debut in the 2-0 FA Cup defeat of Helston Athletic. Has recently spent several years playing college football in the USA.

Dan Neild

Dan has recently joined the club on a loan deal from Yeovil Town and is a product of that club's Academy. Made his Barum debut in the 2-2 home draw against Basingstoke Town in October 2020.

Nathan Cooper

Midfielder and team captain who returned to Barum for the present season. Played in the 17/18 season, making 32 appearances and scoring 5 goals. In between, played for Exmouth Town and Buckland Athletic, both under previous Town boss, Richard Pears.

Saddam 'Tornado' Bello

Now in his third season, Tornado has topped the goalscoring charts for two seasons in a row. Scored nine goals in season 2019/20. His previous clubs include St Blazey, St Austell, Newquay and Porthleven AFC. The fan favourite has also represented Nigeria at Under-17 level.

Richard Acheampong

Another new arrival, Richard is a strong and powerful wide attacker. His previous clubs include Northwood, London Colney, Amersham Town and Brimsdown Rovers.

Theo Ofori

Theo is a talented, young attacking midfield player. The Ghanaian has previously been a part of the West Ham United Foundation, playing with the Under-18 side, the English Colleges FA, Hendon Under-18's, and most recently Edgware Town Football Club. At just 18 years old he has a very bright future ahead of him.

Our Visitors Today

Yohan Rutty-Smith

Yohan was one of manager Dean Edwards' earliest signings, arriving in November 2019. He made his debut in the defeat at Thatcham Town in that month, going on to make 12 appearances in total before the premature close of the season. He is an ex-Notts County youth team player.

Vincent Wight-Harper Innis

Vince was another early Dean Edwards signing, making his debut at Winchester City in October 2019. He made 14 appearances in total in that season, scoring his only goal so far at Moneyfields.

Eddie Ndi

A 23-year old forward who joined in pre-season after a spell in Swedish football. He has previously played youth team football for Barnet.

Dominic Larter

Young back-up 'keeper who has progressed from Barnstaple Youth to the Town's first team squad.

Rudy N'Lundulu

French centre back and brother of Southampton's Dan. Joined mid-September 2020.

Robbie Sloan

Recent addition to the squad. Relocated to the area over the summer and made an impression as a substitute in a trial match at Mill Road.

Our Visitors Today

Manager: Dean Edwards

Dean is a former professional footballer who played for Shrewsbury Town, Telford United, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Exeter City, Torquay United, Northampton Town, as well as spells in Finland, Hong Kong, and Malta. He was manager at near-neighbours Bideford in the Western League from 1996 to 1998, and more recently at Hednesford Town in the Northern Premier League. In 2015 Dean was appointed as the Director of Football at Torquay United after leading a consortium of local businesses in a takeover at the club.

Joined Barum as manager in October 2019 with the club rooted to the bottom of Southern League South. Dean has used his many contacts to attract players to Town to try to build a side that can compete at the highest possible level.

Assistant Manager: Kevin Darch

‘Darchie’ has a long association with his hometown club and was appointed Vice Chairman in February 2020. Previous to that he represented the club as a player and jointly managed the first team in 2017/18. Kevin was also a part of the Exeter City Youth set-up back in the early nineties and can still be seen swinging in corners at the occasional Barum Reserves team match.



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Fixtures 2020-21

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

Sat 12 Sep 20	15:00	Northwood	A	FAC Pr	L(pens)	1-1
Sat 19 Sep 20	15:00	Basingstoke Town	H	League	L	3-6
Sat 26 Sep 20	15:00	Sholing	A	League	W	2-0
Wed 30 Sep 20	19:45	Bristol Manor Farm	H	League	L	1-3
Sat 03 Oct 20	15:00	Bideford	A	League	D	2-2
Wed 07 Oct 20	19:45	Highworth Town	A	League		
Sat 10 Oct 20	15:00	Barnstaple Town	H	League		
Sat 17 Oct 20	15:00	Bideford	A	FAT 2Q		
Wed 21 Oct 20	19:30	Melksham Town	H	League		
Sat 24 Oct 20	15:00	Mangotsfield United	A	League		
Wed 28 Oct 20	19:30	Moneyfields	H	League		
Sat 31 Oct 20	15:00	Paulton Rovers	A	League		
Sat 07 Nov 20	15:00	FromeTown	H	League		
Sat 14 Nov 20	15:00	Winchester City	H	League		
Sat 21 Nov 20	15:00	Larkhall Athletic	A	League		
Sat 28 Nov 20	15:00	Sholing	H	League		
Sat 05 Dec 20	15:00	Willand Rovers	A	League		
Sat 12 Dec 20	15:00	Thatcham Town	H	League		
Sat 19 Dec 20	15:00	Cirencester Town	A	League		
Sat 26 Dec 20	15:00	Cinderford Town	H	League		

Fixtures 2020-21

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

Sat 02 Jan 21	15:00	Evesham United	A	League
Sat 09 Jan 21	15:00	Highworth Town	H	League
Sat 16 Jan 21	15:00	AFC Totton	A	League
Sat 23 Jan 21	15:00	Paulton Rovers	A	League
Sat 30 Jan 21	15:00	Moneyfields	A	League
Sat 06 Feb 21	15:00	Bideford	H	League
Sat 13 Feb 21	15:00	FromeTown	A	League
Sat 27 Feb 21	15:00	Larkhall Athletic	H	League
Sat 06 Mar 21	15:00	Winchester City	A	League
Sat 13 Mar 21	15:00	Willand Rovers	H	League
Sat 20 Mar 21	15:00	Mangotsfield United	H	League
Sat 27 Mar 21	15:00	Barnstaple Town	A	League
Sat 03 Apr 21	15:00	AFC Totton	H	League
Mon 05 Apr 21	15:00	Cinderford Town	A	League
Sat 10 Apr 21	15:00	Basingstoke Town	A	League
Sat 17 Apr 21	15:00	Melksham Town	A	League
Sat 24 Apr 21	15:00	Cirencester Town	H	League
Sat 01 May 21	15:00	Thatcham Town	H	League
Mon 03 May 21	15:00	Evesham United	H	League
Sat 08 May 21	15:00	Bristol Manor Farm	A	League

Fixtures 2020-21

Hellenic League Division 2 West

Sat 26 Sep 20	15:00	Shortwood Utd Res	H League	W 4-0
Sat 03 Oct 20	15:00	Morton Rangers Dev	A League	W 4-0
Sat 10 Oct 20	15:00	Shipston Excelsior	A League	
Sat 17 Oct 20	15:00	Hartpury University	A CCC	
Sat 24 Oct 20	15:00	SC Inkberrow	H League	
Mon 26 Oct 20	19:45	Evesham United Dev	A FC	
Sat 31 Oct 20	15:00	Hartpury University	A League	
Sat 07 Nov 20	15:00	Kington Town	A League	
Sat 14 Nov 20	15:00	Malvern Town Dev	A League	
Sat 21 Nov 20	15:00	Shipston Excelsior	H League	
Sat 28 Nov 20	15:00	Tuffley Rovers Dev	A League	

Fixtures 2020-21

Bristol U18 Combination League Premier Division

Sun 20 Sep 20	14:00	Chippenham Town	A	FAY Cup	L	0-1
Sun 27 Sep 20	14:00	Rockleaze Rangers	H	League	W	2-1
Sun 04 Oct 20	14:00	St Nicholas	H	League		
Sun 11 Oct 20	14:00	Bristol Central	H	League		
Sun 18 Oct 20	14:00	Cutters Friday	A	League		
Sun 25 Oct 20	14:00	Cribbs	H	League		
Sun 01 Nov 20	14:00	Bradley Stoke	A	League		
Sun 08 Nov 20	14:00	Lawrence Weston Ath.	A	League		
Sun 22 Nov 20	14:00	St Nicholas	A	League		
Sun 06 Dec 20	14:00	Cutters Friday	H	League		
Sun 13 Dec 20	14:00	Cribbs	A	League		
Sun 10 Jan 21	14:00	Bradley Stoke	H	League		
Sun 24 Jan 21	14:00	Rockleaze Rangers	A	League		
Sun 21 Feb 21	14:00	Bristol Central	A	League		

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Tickets available at the bar

Swans on the Road!

Saturday 17 October 2020, 3.00pm

Bideford v Slimbridge

The Sports Ground, Kingsley Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2NG



Match Reports

Bideford 2-2 Slimbridge **Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 3rd October 2020

Swans gain a point on the road

After a long trip down to Devon, the Swans were met by high winds and heavy rain that had a big impact on the match most notably for both keepers kicking game. The visitors made a couple of changes from the midweek defeat to Bristol Manor Farm with Will Hawes replacing the injured Danny King and Joe Stokes replacing Mike Ford in the midfield.

An early scare for the visitors saw Joel White making a great tackle on Ryan Turner inside the box to deny the home side a goal scoring opportunity. Slimbridge countered and after some good interplay between Johan Flo and Edji Mbunga, Will Hawes struck from the edge of the box to beat home keeper Liam Kingston to give the visitors a 7th minute lead.

Four minutes later the Swans extended their lead Jay Malshanskyj picking the ball up on the left flank and with the wind behind him fired into the top left corner off the underside of the bar from 40 yards out. The visitors continued to play some good football on the deck with Bideford keeper Kingston struggling with his kicking into the strong wind and very often finding the touchline much to the amusement of the vocal traveling supporters.

George Nancekivell attempt from distance just cleared the bar on 17 minutes as the home side looked to come back into the game. A few minutes later Toby Down shot over from a corner. A Swans break half way through the first half saw Joe Stokes find Malshanskyj on the left, his cross into the box was cleared.

Match Reports

Malshanskyj again causing Bideford problems down the left ran into the box and managed to round Kingston but his cross was again cut out by the host defence. With just over ten minutes left of the first half, Nancekivell headed on a free kick for the home side this was chested down in the box by Nick Milton but Lewis Adams was quick off his line to claim the ball.

After a spell of pressure in the Bideford half, Stokes and Flo linked up on the left, Flo cross just evaded Hawes waiting at the far post. Just before half time the visitors got a goal back after some poor defending from the Swans, Adam Carter was left in space to score inside the six yard box.

Slimbridge started the second half well with Malshanskyj breaking away down field after a corner for Bideford was cleared. Unfortunately he ran out of steam as he reached the edge of the box and his weak shot was saved well by Kingston.

A few minutes later Adams bravely claimed the ball at the feet of Ryan Turner just inside the penalty area. Nancekivell sent in a fierce drive from outside the box and despite being on target it was deflected wide by one of his team mates.

With 57 minutes gone, Hawes cross from the right was cut out by Kingston at the far post with Flo and Mbunga waiting. A couple of minutes later Ben Deakin did well to head away Charlie Lawrences cross at the far post under pressure.

With twenty minutes left, Myron Turner put Malshanskyj through but Kingston was out quickly to claim the ball. Adams did well a few moments later to thwart Ryan Turner who had burst through the middle.

On 73 minutes Malshanskyj had a glorious chance to sew the game up latching onto Hawes through ball but failed to beat Kingston from close range. Three minutes later White headed off the line to preserve the visitors slender lead.

Match Reports

Bideford levelled the score on 80 minutes, Adams initially saving Lewis Wilsons 20 yard strike but the ball fell kindly to Carter who made no mistake from close range.

Slimbridge left feeling like they should have taken all three points but considering the tough conditions and this was the first time they had taken points from Bideford away from home they would have settled for this result prior to the game.

The Swans continue their league campaign with the first team travelling to Highworth Town on Wednesday and then return home on Saturday to face Barnstaple Town. The unbeaten reserves continue their travels to face Shipston Excelsior on Saturday and the Under 18s host Bristol Central on Sunday at the British Legion playing fields.

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin, B Prictor, M Turner, C Turner, J White, J Malshanskyj, J Stokes (D Turner 87), W Hawes (M Ford 77), J Flo, E Mbunga (N Humphreys 87)

Subs not used: N Tilling, O Giles

Attendance: 179

Supporters man of the match: Joel White

Match Reports

Highworth Town 2-2 Slimbridge
Southern League Div. One South
Wednesday 7th October 2020

Swans gain another point on the road

Slimbridge gained a well-deserved point on the road playing in heavy rain against a difficult Highworth team. A number of changes in the side saw Dean Turner and Ben Deakin return to the starting line-up and Alex Hainault taking a spot on the bench after being given the all clear to play after recently breaking his nose.

It was the Swans kicking up the slope that had a majority of the early play, patiently passing the ball around from the back. Joel Whites header from a free kick was caught by home keeper Max Schofield then Joe Stokes tried his luck but Schofield was able to make the save.

The visitors were nearly caught out when Leon Morrison headed wide from Liam Haines cross. Edji Mbunga was sent clear on 20 minutes from Stokes ball over the top again Schofield acted quickly heading the ball away to safety.

As the half wore on, the home side started to get more into the game and caused a scare on 25 minutes, a cross from Oliver Rejek on the right was cut out at the near post for a corner, the initial clearance was picked up by Morrison who fired over.

Four minutes later Lewis Adams saved Rejek shot, the ball came back to Rejek after failing to be cleared in the box and Adams did well to save again this time with his feet and the ball going for a corner kick. The corner was sent in and found Christopher Jackson in space to head the home side into the lead.

Match Reports

Both sides continued to play some neat passing football as the rain increased Schofield punching away a Slimbridge corner before Jordan Murray cased panic in the visitors box rounding Adams but his cross was cleared.

Slimbridge continued to work hard leading up to the half time whistle, and this payed off on 43 minutes, a free kick 40 yards out on the left was played short to Nick Humphreys he ran the ball down the flank and his cross was met by Jay Malshanskyj to poke home inside the box and bring the scores level

The second half was more open, Callum Mcghee-Pasons shot was saved by Adams at the near post early after the restart. A Stokes run forward saw him link up with Dean Turner who pushed the ball through to Mbunga but a good tackle from a home defender denied the Swans striker from getting his shot away.

The visitors took the lead on the hour mark; a long ball from Adams found Malshanskyj in space on the right his pass failed to find the initial target of Mbunga however Johan Flo was well placed to strike the ball into the net from the edge of the box.

The introduction of Alex Hainault a few minutes later gave the Swans a boost when his run from the back down the right flank saw a pin point cross delivered to the far post Malshanskyj just heading wide.

Highworth started to pile on the pressure in search of an equaliser and gained a free kick on the right edge of the box on 80 minutes. The kick was fired in to the far post where Morrison was waiting to head home and bring the scores level again.

There was still chances for both sides, Mathew Grabe skipping past two Swans defenders before forcing a save from Adams, then Stokes ball over the top to Malshanskyj was blocked by Schofield then on the final whistle Stokes shot was blocked for a corner.

Match Reports

A valuable point on the road for the Swans leaves them sitting in mid table. This weekend the first team face Barnstaple Town at home, the reserves travel to Shipston Excelsior while the Under 18s face Bristol Central at the Slimbridge playing fields.

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin (63 A Hainault), N Humphreys, M Ford, C Turner, J White, J Flo (77 M Turner), D Turner (85 J Twyman), J Malshanskyj, J Stokes, E Mbunga

Unused Subs: B Prictor, E Dunbar

Goals: J Malshanskyj 43, J Flow 60

Attendance: 135

Supporters player of the match: J Malshanskyj

League Table

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	+/-	Pts
1	Cirencester Town	4	4	0	0	12	0	12	0	12
2	Basingstoke Town	4	3	1	0	12	7	5	0	10
3	Winchester City	3	3	0	0	9	3	6	0	9
4	AFC Totton	4	2	1	1	10	3	7	0	7
5	Paulton Rovers	4	2	1	1	7	2	5	0	7
6	Frome Town	3	2	1	0	4	2	2	0	7
7	Bristol Manor Farm	4	2	1	1	8	7	1	0	7
8	Highworth Town	5	2	1	2	9	9	0	0	7
9	Willand Rovers	5	2	1	2	4	7	-3	0	7
10	Sholing	4	2	0	2	7	6	1	0	6
11	Cinderford Town	4	2	0	2	5	12	-7	0	6
12	Slimbridge	5	1	2	2	10	13	-3	0	5
13	Larkhall Athletic	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	0	4
14	Moneyfields	3	1	0	2	6	5	1	0	3
15	Bideford AFC	5	0	3	2	5	7	-2	0	3
16	Melksham Town	3	1	0	2	3	6	-3	0	3
17	Barnstaple Town	4	0	2	2	6	10	-4	0	2
18	Thatcham Town	4	0	2	2	1	7	-6	0	2
19	Evesham United	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	0	1
20	Mangotsfield United	3	0	0	3	2	8	-6	0	0

Our History

In The Beginning

The Gloucestershire village of Slimbridge is world renowned for its Bird Sanctuary, but 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, when the team were 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.

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. It was not until 1951 that the current ground at Wisloe Road (Now renamed as Thornhill Park) became the club's home, and it subsequently became the legal property of the club after former player, and ex-Chairman of the club, Evi Thornhill, bequeathed the land to the Club in his Will, with the Club becoming legal owners in 1960. It was to prove an incredibly valuable treasure in future years.

Point Of Collapse

By 1988, the club had fallen on hard times, 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. Paul Chappell was to remain a vital part of the club until his retirement from his duties in 2020.

Our History

Start Of A New Reign

As playing standards improved, 2000 saw the completion of the building of a long awaited Social Club in an area of the ground that in it's old life had housed a cowshed. John Mack, a successful local entrepreneur, joined the club as Chairman, and he remains a committed supporter of the club to this day as Club President. In the summer of 2001, Doug Gray was appointed Manager, and the club began a period of upward momentum.

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

Arrival Of Floodlights

Floodlights arrived at the ground in the summer of 2003. 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 game under lights at Wisloe Road.

A few weeks later on Sunday 24th August, that ground attendance 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.

Season 2004/05 again saw a fourth place finish in the Hellenic Premier. The club also made their first appearance in the F.A. Vase, which resulted in a run to the third round proper before a 2-1 extra time defeat at Western League side Backwell United.

Our History

In February 2005, 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 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 achieved a fifth place finish in the Hellenic Premier, and the club also won the Hellenic 'Norman Matthews' Floodlit Cup and the GFA Challenge Trophy, both for the second time in three seasons.

Reserves Make Headway

The Club's Reserve side were also making progress - After two successive third place finishes in the Stroud and District League First Division, season 2005/06 saw them 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.

Rise To New Heights

Season 2006/07 proved to be 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.

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

Our History

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, bad weather, which led to a record number of postponements during the subsequently extended season, led to half a seasons fixtures being 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.

Promotion To The Southern League

As a result of winning the league after an inspiring final day victory, and the upgrade to the ground facilities at Wisloe Road, the club were promoted into the BGB Southern League Division One Midlands for Season 2007/08, however, there was a twist to come in the tale.

Our History

Return To A New Beginning

On July 10th 2007 the club decided not to take up the promotion, and effectively, the first team took over the position in the pyramid occupied by the reserve team, which was disbanded.

The First Team reverted back to the Gloucester Northern Senior League. This meant a severe 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, who over as player manager with assistance from long term club captain Leon Sterling to begin the next stage of the club's journey.

Climb Back Up The Ladder

Four promotions followed as the club regained their previous status. James Cole handed over to Leon Sterling, who moved into the Manager's role, with Leon joined as Assistant Manager by long time Slimbridge stalwart Freddy Ward. The two guided the side to three top six finishes in their first three seasons back in the Hellenic Premier.

Switching Leagues

After the completion of the 2012-13 season, the Swans applied for a transfer to the Toolstation Western Premier League in an effort to reduce prohibitive travelling costs, a move which was approved by the FA in the Summer of 2013.

Our History

Return To The Southern League

After two seasons in the Toolstation Western Premier League, a third place finish at the end of the 2014/15 season gave the Swans a second opportunity to return to the Southern Football League. This time the club accepted the offer and took their place in the South and West Division, finishing a credible 18th in their first season, the highest level the club had ever achieved at that time in their history. Prior to the commencement of that campaign, John Mack had stepped back from Chairman duties and his position was taken up by Barry Gay.

Welcome To Thornhill Park

At the start of the 2016-17 season, and prior to our pre-season friendly fixture with neighbours Forest Green Rovers, the football ground in Wisloe Road was formally renamed to Thornhill Park in recognition of the marvellous gift we received from Evil Thornhill 46 years earlier.

Evi's son, Tony and his late wife Margaret were on hand to cut the ceremonial ribbon, and Tony made a short heartfelt speech about how much the renaming meant to him and the entire Thornhill family, and how honoured they were that the football club had recognised their father in this way.

Onwards and Upwards

A difficult two seasons of struggle at a higher level saw the eventual departure of Leon Sterling as Manager, with Freddy Ward stepping up to the plate, assisted by local footballing legend Lee Driver-Dickerson. With Freddy then stepping aside to concentrate of his last few years of playing having steadied the Swans' ship, 'Drive' took over the reins as Manager of the first team.

Our History

The Club's previous ground attendance record was smashed on 4th February 2017, when 898 fans saw the side suffer a 3-0 defeat to Hereford FC, who were working their way back up the league pyramid following their reformation after the collapse of Hereford United

The last 2 years have seen an incredible expansion of the football club– the establishment of a thriving Youth setup at Under 18 level, and the resurrection of the Reserve side has seen Slimbridge AFC make great strides as a club.

Prior to the Covid suspension of football in March 2020, the Under 18s and the Reserves were top of their respective leagues, while the first team were sitting in 12th place in the Southern League Division One South, the highest placing in the history of the football club. Although the FA has made the season's results null and void, they have been officially added to club statistics and all appearances and goals will stand in our records as a permanent tribute to all who represented the club in a fantastic season in the strangest of all campaigns

The Club has gained a great local reputation both on and off the pitch for looking after players and developing them in their careers - Already some of those previously with the club in the last 2 seasons have moved to Conference South level to ply their trade.

It is a tribute to the committed and very talented team of coaches and managers in place at all levels of the club, that the future is very bright indeed for the Swans...

Swans Pen Pics

Lewis Adams

Lewis is in his third season with the club having progressed through our U/18s side. A very good goalkeeper who has a bright future ahead of him.

Joel White

Joel was recruited from Tuffley Rovers, a strong defender who will be looking to continue to impress at Thornhill Park in his second season.

Danny King

Danny is in his third season with us, a young player who can play in defence or attack, capable of scoring goals, has great potential. Former Gloucester City player.

Christien Turner

A strong lad with a good head, reads the game well, a popular figure here at Thornhill Park now in his third season with the club.

Myron Turner

A popular lad here at Thornhill Park, in his third full season having previously played for Longlevens FC.

Dean Turner

Club Captain who needs no introduction here at Thornhill Park, long time servant of the club in his eleventh season having played nearly 300 games for the club.

Ethan Dunbar

Another young player who caught the manager's eye in our U/18s, Ethan has plenty of pace and will further strengthen our attack.

Jamie Martin

Another popular figure here at Thornhill Park, a very loyal player who has improved with age, Jamie is a regular goal scorer and another long term servant of the club scoring 79 goals in his 330 appearances.

Swans Pen Pics

Leighton Tuodolo

Young striker who has impressed in pre-season, plenty of pace, looks an exciting prospect.

Owen Giles

Young defender who is a good prospect for the future after having a great season last year in the Under 18 development side and promoted to the first team this year.

Will Hawes

Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skilful player, he will be looking to notch plenty more for the Swans this season. Missed much of last season due to injury and a spell of traveling overseas.

Ben Deakin

Recently signed from Brimscombe & Thrupp after an impressive preseason.

Nick Humphreys

Experienced player who has signed from Yate Town, can play anywhere across the back but also comfortable in midfield.

Joe Stokes

Former Forest Green midfielder returns to Thornhill Park for a second spell, good passer of the ball and capable of scoring important goals.

Jack Twyman

Another player returning to Thornhill Park this season after two years away at Yate Town. Another player with over 200 appearances for the club, very popular lad who will bring an additional attacking presence to the midfield.

Johan Flo

Talented young lad with a good pedigree, looking to step up to the Southern League having previously played at Brimscombe & Thrupp.

Swans Pen Pics

Nick Tilling

Another new young recruit who showed great promise during preseason.

Ben Prictor

Defender with much experience at Southern and Hellenic League level, played a handful of games for Slimbridge in 2016-2017.

Jay Malshanskyj

Young striker with a good future previously played for Yate, Cirencester and Weston Supermare.

Edjija Mbunga

Rejoined the club from a spell at Highworth Town last season, pacey striker who is a handful in the penalty area.

Micheal Ford

Had a good season last year, can play in defence or midfield. Recently returned from a spell playing and coaching in Iceland.

Ellis Parker

Young reserve team keeper currently studying at Hartpury, previously with Chippenham Youth setup.

Swans Pen Pics

Lee Driver-Dickerson: Manager

Lee is in his second full season as manager after being assistant to Freddy Ward in 2017/18, a good motivator who is dedicated to the cause. Lee will be keen to improve the league position of the Swans this season after a couple of tough years.

Tom Speers: Assistant Manager

Tom has returned to the club in the assistant's role having previously played for the club between 2010 and 2013. Since retiring as a player in 2013 Tom has worked for the AC Milan Academy in Sydney before moving to Auckland where he worked firstly as assistant manager at top flight Eastern Suburbs then manager at North Shore. Currently a OFA B / UEFA B Licence holder and looking to take his A license in the near future. A very popular figure around the club.

Tony Woodward: Sports Therapist

Tony has been with us for very many years and is a popular figure in the dugout. Keeps threatening to retire but keeps turning up, Tony is also a qualified football referee

Physio: Eleanor McArdle

Recently joined the club



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Club Shop

A full range of club merchandise is available online through Bateman's Sports in Stroud.



This includes:

- Home & Away Shirts
- Polo shirts
- Training kit
- Base layers
- Winter jackets
- Scarfs*
- Beanie Hats*
- Baseball caps*



*Scarves, and hats are also available for purchase at home matches
See Barry Gay for details.

Order online (Click and collect available) from:

www.batemanssports.co.uk/clubs/afc-slimbridge/

Player Appearances

		Started	Subs	Goals
L	Adams	6	0	0
J	White	6	0	0
E	Mbunga	6	0	2
J	Malshanskyj	6	0	3
B	Deakin	5	0	0
M	Turner	5	1	0
D	King	4	0	2
C	Turner	4	0	0
N	Humphreys	3	1	0
D	Turner	3	3	0
B	Prictor	3	0	0
M	Ford	3	1	0
J	Flo	3	1	1
O	Giles	2	0	0
J	Martin	2	1	2
J	Stokes	2	3	0
R	Sarson	1	0	0
A	Hainault	1	1	0
W	Hawes	1	1	1
J	Flow	0	2	0
J	Twyman	0	1	0

Goal Scorers

		Started	Subs	Goals
J	Malshanskyj	6	0	3
E	Mbunga	6	0	2
D	King	4	0	2
J	Martin	2	1	2
J	Flo	3	1	1
W	Hawes	1	1	1

Club Constitution

Slimbridge FC

Wisloe Road
Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF



SECRETARY

Mr Colin Gay
21 Union Street
Dursley
Gloucestershire
GL11 4JT

Slimbridge Football Club is a Members Club which is run by Volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming more involved and would like to become part of this Very Friendly, Family Orientated Organisation then we are always on the lookout for more Volunteers.

Why not become a member and have a say on how this Club is run?

Just Approach any Committee member on a Match day for more Information. You will be made Very Welcome

Club Officials

Chairman
Vice Chairman
President

Barry Gay
Rob Peck
John Mack

Management Committee

Barry Gay
Colin Gay
Alena Wrixon
Rob Peck
David Morgan

General Committee

Tim Blake
Ian Blount
Malcolm Carter
Peter Clark
Emily Knight
Brenda Martin
Linda Morgan
Allan Smith
Ollie Smith
Tony Woodward

Treasurer
Football Secretary
Operations Manager
Fixture Secretary
Press Officer
Programme Editor
Safety Officer

Alena Wrixon
Colin Gay
David Morgan
Ian Blount
Tim Blake
Rob Peck
Barry Gay

Web Site Manager

Rob Peck

Club Staff

Manager	Lee Driver-Dickerson
Assistant	Tom Spears
Player Coach	Tom Deakin
Sports Therapists	Tony Woodward Eleanor McArdle
Reserves Manager	Adam Coyle
Assistant	Shane Matthews
U18 Manager	Martin Worsfold
Assistant	David Morgan
Ground Staff	Ian Wrixon David Morgan Malcolm Carter

Covid Risk Assessment

RETURN TO FOOTBALL RISK ASSESSMENT SLIMBRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB

Slimbridge Football Club Return To Competitive Football

This document is for all Volunteers, Players, Officials and Spectators to prepare for the return of football at Thornhill Park.

As per FA Guidance on Friday, 17th July 2020 regarding grassroots football, the following applies to Thornhill Park.

All Clubs must appoint a COVID-19 Officer, this Officer must constantly check FA guidelines AND ENSURE that all updated information is COMMUNICATED to all Volunteers, Players, Officials and Spectators (when allowed).

Slimbridge Football Club have taken all these directives and risk assessed each one to provide a policy that meets the criteria as set out by the F.A. Most are mandatory and if not, are advisory to ensure complete safety of all persons concerned.

It is imperative that this document is read by anyone attending Thornhill Park and will encompass all of matchday football and events concordat.

Covid Risk Assessment

CODE OF CONDUCT

As we are all aware, COVID-19 is highly infectious. We can only return to football if we all play our part and ensure that we have a completely safe environment, as far as it is possible. We need to minimise infection and approach everything with the utmost caution and care.

We are all responsible for our own personal health and we at Thornhill Park will do our utmost to make sure everyone is as safe as we can. If you experience any symptoms, please stay at home and seek medical advice. This applies to everyone that attends, i.e. Volunteers, Players, Officials and Spectators.

Guidance is changing all the time, so please keep updated and also ensure you wash your hands regularly, before, during and after any game or event. There is plenty of hand wash and hand sanitiser at Thornhill Park.

Please also practise social distancing at all times as best as you possibly can. You will be requested to sign in and give your details so that if there was an outbreak of COVID19, we can contact everyone. These details will be destroyed after 21 days in line with Government Guidelines.

Be aware of other people at all times when using any of the club facilities.

Covid Risk Assessment

TRAVEL

Please follow best practice when travelling.

If you do have to travel with someone else, make sure you always travel with the same person. Open windows and don't face to face. If it's a home game, if you can, try and walk or cycle. Ensure car and minibus is cleaned before and after travel. Wear masks.

STADIUM

When you arrive at Thornhill Park, you will be requested to follow all our guidelines, one-way systems, follow and respect our guidelines, signage will be in place. Toilet facilities one-in, one-out and outside toilets can be used but please always follow good hygiene. On arrival wash hands and use hand sanitiser. Do the same on departure. Players, Match Officials and Coaches to arrive already changed and showered where possible. Changing Rooms will be available and as there will no hospitality at the present time, the boardroom may be used for changing.

When allowed, Spectators must respect good hygiene practice and social distancing. There is plenty of room when watching football at Thornhill Park to ensure this.

During matches, NO PRE-MATCH HANDSHAKES. Wash hands, sanitise before any match. No team talk huddles, only carry out team talks socially distanced, together with warm ups/cool downs. Do not spit. Do not shout in other Players faces.

Covid Risk Assessment

All Officials and Players must always social distance on touch lines, dug outs etc. Goal posts and balls should be wiped before, at half time and after all matches. No Goal celebration. No sharing of water bottles. Advisable to bring your own water bottles. No equipment to be shared.

Washing of kit must be carried out very carefully, please wash and sanitise hands regularly.

Thornhill Park Clubhouse has a strict one way system. All drinks purchased from the bar will be served in single use disposable glasses. Only one person at the bar at any one time and no drinking whatsoever at the bar. Card payments are preferred but cash will be accepted. We do have some masks for Volunteers if required.

Slimbridge Football Club is depending on you all to follow our guidelines and help us make the transition back to football as safely as we can. This is serious and we all have to play our part. We will keep this updated at all times.

Barry Gay
COVID-19 Officer
07789937343
Baz.city@hotmail.co.uk

24th July 2020

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