

Slimbridge

Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League
Division One South

Slimbridge AFC v Bristol Manor Farm

Wednesday 30th September 2020 7:45pm





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SLIMBRIDGE AFC



V



BRISTOL MANOR FARM

**Pitching In Southern League
Division One South**

Wednesday 30th September 2020
KICK OFF 7.45PM



Today's Teams

Slimbridge AFC

Lewis Adams	1	Ben John
Ben Deakin	2	Stuart Tovey
Nick Humphreys	3	Mason Winter
Myron Turner	4	Lloyd Mills
Owen Giles	5	Steve Kingdon
Joel White	6	Lewis Leigh-Gilchrist
Jay Malshanskyj	7	Aron Robbins
Dean Turner (c)	8	Jamie Adams
Jamie Martin	9	Mike Bryant
Danny King	10	Tyler Ashmead
Edjija Mbunga	11	Dan Spencer

Bristol Manor Farm

Mike Ford	12	Nyall Gray
Joe Stokes	14	Jamie Bird
Johan Flo	15	Lucas Vowles
Jack Twyman	16	Jamie Turner
Korey Pring	17	Evander Grubb
Christien Turner	18	Lewis Bamford

Managers & Coaches:

Lee Driver-Dickerson

Tom Speers

Tom Deakin

Lee Lashenko

Tony Beecham

Physios:

Tony Woodward

Ellie McCardle

Stephen Carter

Referee:

Daniel Stokes

Assistants:

Ian Butler

Daniel Forrester

This Week's Fixtures

Saturday 26 September 2020

- 3pm AFC Totton v Bideford
- 3pm Bristol Manor Farm v Highworth Town
- 3pm Sholing v Slimbridge
- 3.30pm Willand Rovers v Larkhall Athletic

Tuesday 29 September 2020

- 7.45pm Barnstaple Town v Cinderford Town
- 7.45pm Cirencester Town v Thatcham Town
- 7.45pm Frome Town v Evesham United
- 7.45pm Moneyfields v Melksham Town
- 7.45pm Sholing v Highworth Town
- 7.45pm Winchester City v Mangotsfield United

Wednesday 30 September 2020

- 7.45pm Larkhall Athletic v Basingstoke Town
- 7.30pm Paulton Rovers v Bideford
- 7.45pm Slimbridge v Bristol Manor Farm
- 7.30pm Willand Rovers v AFC Totton

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Our Visitors Today

Bristol Manor Farm Football Club was formed for the 1960/61 season before disbanding and reforming for the start of the 1962/63 campaign.

Our ground here at 'The Creek' used to be the site of the Port of Bristol Authority Sports & Social Club. In 1965 when the authority moved to new premises, Manor Farm took it over, making it our permanent home.

Having a base of our own enabled the club to apply successfully to join the Somerset Senior League where we made good progress through the divisions. In 1977 the club decided to step up to the Western League, joining the First Division for the start of the 1977/78 season.

The Club were crowned Division 1 Champions for 1982/83 and since that promotion to the Premier Division of the Western League Bristol Manor Farm have played most of our football at that level.

The last decade at the club has certainly been the most ambitious period of our history.

An exciting run during the 2010/11 FA Cup competition saw us win a penalty shoot-out against Almondsbury Town and hold Basingstoke Town to a draw before being pipped by a single goal in the replay.

2011/12 was the most successful season in the history of the club to that date. We won the GFA Challenge Trophy after beating Shortwood United 5-0 in a thrilling final and this was followed three days later with another cup triumph when we beat Willand Rovers in extra time to finally lift the Les Phillips Cup.

We lost the GFA Trophy Final to Bristol Academy in 2012/13 however and finished third from bottom of the Premier Division. After good service to the club, Manager John Black decided it was time to stand down.

Our Visitors Today

The start of the 2013/14 season saw the beginning of a new era at Bristol Manor Farm FC when current boss Lee Lashenko took over the Manager's job. Fresh from winning the title with Bishop Sutton, Lashenko quickly made an impact with Manor Farm.

An FA Cup run that saw us put nine goals past Oldland Abbotonians and then seven past Lymington Town quickly brought us to the attention of the national press. The tabloid photographers had a field day down at The Creek – photographing the team with the FA Cup and a variety of 'army' accessories and costumes – it was a brilliant and fun day that everyone here will never forget. The First Round Qualifying Round tie against Corsham Town then ended in a 4-4 draw with Manor Farm winning the hard fought replay 1-0. We then also held Bridgwater Town to a 4-4 draw in the next round before narrowly going out 2-1 in the replay.

The club continued to fight for top spot in the league and also applied for promotion to the Southern League. We finished the league season as Runners-up but were unsuccessful in our promotion bid when Larkhall Athletic were accepted ahead of us. It was the highest-placed finish in the club's league history, however, breaking club records for goals scored and fewest goals conceded.

In 2014-2015 Bristol Manor Farm missed out on promotion to the Southern League by 3 points, allowing Slimbridge to go up instead. We did win the GFA County Challenge Trophy however with a 2-0 win over local neighbours Shirehampton.

During an epic 2015/2016 season a heroic run in the FA Vase took us to within sniffing distance of Wembley with a notable comeback win in the fifth round, overcoming Sunderland RCA 3-2 and a long return trip to the North-East for a Quarter Final showdown with Morpeth Town. On a heavy pitch The Portwaymen were unlucky to go out with Morpeth scoring a breakaway goal in the dying seconds after Farm had laid virtual siege to The Highwaymen's goal throughout the second half. Morpeth went on to beat Hereford FC 4-1 in the showpiece Wembley final.

Our Visitors Today

We finished third in the Western Premier League – just missing out once again on promotion but won the GFA County Challenge Trophy for the second season in succession with a record 9-2 win over Lydney Town in the final. On a happy night at Ashton Gate our former Exeter City and Truro City striker Dean Stamp also won the Bristol Post 'Footballer of the Year' award for his astonishing tally of 59 goals in all competitions.

The many highlights of Manor Farm's triumphant 2016/17 season will be forever woven into the fabric of the club's history as we finally secured that elusive promotion to the Southern League in emphatic style, amassing 102 points and scoring over 100 goals on the way to being crowned as Western League Champions.

We also unluckily missed out on a second FA Vase Quarter Final in succession with another narrow 2-1 defeat in a fifth round tie in front of 1,500 partisan fans at Bromsgrove Sporting FC.

An extraordinary unbeaten league run of 21 games between September and March (19 wins and 2 draws) went a long way to securing the coveted league title for Manor Farm however, which was eventually clinched with three games to spare following a 2-0 win at local club Hallen on Good Friday.

Lee Lashenko and his squad of title winners were warmly acknowledged later in the year on another great night for the club at Ashton Gate - walking off with 'Coach of the Year' and 'Team of the Year' respectively at the Bristol Post Sports Awards.

Manor Farm hit the ground running during our dramatic, first Southern League campaign ('17/18) – briefly leading in the pack in September and never out of the top six until the final agonising fortnight of the season. Despite the obvious disappointment of an eventual 9th placed finish the club was left to reflect on an exciting debut that proved our players were more than capable of competing at the higher levels we desire as a club.

Our Visitors Today

“Our second season felt more like a first season” remarked Lee Lashenko at the end of year awards for the 2018/19 campaign. Beset by a plague of injuries and a rash of suspensions, The Farm failed to find the league consistency of our debut season but the club’s national profile was given another further boost by an extended run in the Emirates FA Cup – the best ever in the club’s history. We were literally inches and a game away from entering the First Round proper, finally falling to National League side Slough Town in a Third Qualifying Round replay after a valiant 2-2 draw in the original tie at their Arbour Park ground and a 5-2 thumping of Basingstoke Town at home in the previous round.

The club has now established itself in the Southern League. In 19/20 we were plagued with injuries but we will see the benefit of last season with this seasons progression. Last season was memorable for another successful FA Cup run. With a great home fixture against Wealdstone which we drew 0-0 so resulted in us visiting them in the replay which we lost. In the previous round we visited Tiverton Town and came away with a 4-2 win.

Our Visitors Today

Ben John. Goalkeeper

Ben has played many seasons at a higher level. Ben is a lively character and adds plenty of passion to his team mates in front of him.

Stuart Tovey. Defender

Stuart is a seasoned Southern League player who has also played at Paulton Rovers, Chippenham Town & Larkhall Athletic, he has strength in depth as a defender and can play in midfield too.

Tyler Ashmead. Defender

Tyler's second season at the Farm after signing from Clevedon Town. Tyler has massive potential and will help strengthen our defence.

Steve Kingdon. Defender

Steve turned professional with Bristol Rovers where he was for 2 seasons, he has also played at Clevedon Town, Taunton Town and was captain of promotion winning Tiverton Town. Steve is a very solid centre back with a great vision and understanding of the game.

Lewis Leigh-Gilchrist. Striker

Lewis joined the Farm last season after being at Bristol Rovers and going out on loan at Yate Town and Hungerford. He is a very quick and intelligent player and will add extreme quality to the team as well as create and score goals.

Lloyd Mills. Defender/Midfield

Big Lloyd can play either as centre back or in central midfield, either way he gives 100% to the cause, he has proved to be a big asset to the team over the past seasons.

Jamie Adams. Defender/Midfield

Jamie joined the Farm in early December 2017 from Larkhall Athletic, he has also played for Cardiff University, Bridgwater Town and Clevedon Town so he has a massive amount of experience at this level.

Our Visitors Today

Mike Bryant. Midfield.

Mike's first season at Bristol Manor Farm after signing from Yate Town.

Mason Winter. Defender

Mason signed for the Farm last season, he was with the Bristol Rovers academy until he was 17yrs. He has since played for Melksham Town, Cribbs and Larkhall Athletic.

Aron Robbins. Defender

Aron has already played in the Southern League for Clevedon Town before joining the Farm four seasons ago, he is a seasoned left back that likes to get forward and scores goals.

Jamie Bird. Striker

Jamie has the quality and speed to deliver lots of goals and create assists for others. Previous clubs include Cardiff City, Weston Super Mare and Hereford.

Evander Grubb. Midfield

Evander was formerly with Bristol Rovers Youth and is one of the most exciting talents we have had at the Farm for a long time

Lewis Bamford – Striker

Lewis has rejoined the Farm after a short spell away. He has serious pace and is very strong with the quality to create and score goals

Lucas Vowles. Striker

Lucas first season with Bristol Manor Farm after signing from Clevedon Town

Jamie Turner. Defender

Jamie has become a great defender and continues to develop, he still full of potential and very energetic; he reads the game well and won't make it easy for strikers.

Our Visitors Today

Dan Spencer. Midfield

Dan's first season with Bristol Manor Farm after signing from Cardiff Met Uni.

Iain Harvey. Midfield

Iain was at Swindon Town many years ago before spending 10 years at Chippenham Town, he joined the Farm in 2017 as a player coach.

Lee Lashenko. Manager

Also known as Laz, this is his 8th season at the Farm where he led the team to 2nd place, 4th Place, 3rd place and then as champions of the Western League before being promoted into the Southern League in season 2017-2018.

Tony Beecham. Coach

Tony was appointed first team coach last season after stepping down from his position as first team manager at Cribbs FC

Steve Carter. Physio

This is Steve's third season at the Farm; he started his role with Yeovil Town youth and then moved onto Bath City, he also spent 10 years as the Physio at Yate Town.



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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		
Sat 03 Oct 20	15:00	Bideford	A	League		
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		
Sat 24 Oct 20	15:00	Mangotsfield United	A	League		
Wed 28 Oct 20	19:45	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		

TBA

Melksham (H)

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	
Sat 10 Oct 20	15:00	Shipston Excelsior	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		
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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Cheese Burger and Chips	£4.50

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Predict The Score

This week's 'Predict The Score' Jackpot is

'Starts in October'

For a pound stake, it's got to be worth a shot!

Tickets available at the bar

Swans on the Road!

Wednesday 7 October 2020, 3.00pm
Highworth Town v Slimbridge

The Elms, Highworth, Swindon, Wilts, SN6 7DD



Match Reports

Slimbridge 3-6 Basingstoke Town

Southern League Div. One South

Saturday 19th September 2020

Swans throw away three goal lead in second half collapse

A dominant first half performance saw the Swans head into half time with a three goal lead that should have given them their first points of the season. However the visitors had other ideas making two early second half substitutions that changed the game in their favour leading to a collapse in the home side's concentration and concede six goals.

Slimbridge started their first league game of the season on the front foot, Ben Deakin found space down the right to cross to the far post where Jamie Martin was waiting to head the ball over the Basingstoke keeper Julian Schwatzer with only 3 minutes on the clock.

The Swans continued to have much of the play although Basingstoke looked strong down the left flank on occasions. The home lead was extended on 18 minutes Jay Malshanskyj threading a pass through to Danny King who beat a defender and then tucked the ball into the bottom corner past Schwatzer.

A couple of chances for the visitors midway through the half, George Hallahan and Bradley Willson looking lively but failed to hit the target with their efforts. On the half hour mark, Owen Giles was booked for a trip 25 yards outside the Swans box, the resulting free kick was parried away to safety by Lewis Adams.

As Basingstoke came back into the game in the latter of the half, the home side increased the lead on the stroke of half time. An exchange of passes between Edji Mbunga and King saw Mbunga hit a sublime volley past Schwatzer.

The second half was a complete contrast to the first, two early substitutions for the visitors one tactical the other for an injury turn the game around. George Reid walking through the middle of the sleepy home defence slotted the ball past Adams to reduce the deficit on 55 minutes.

Match Reports

Ten minutes later Adams saved well at close range from Wilson as the visitors piled the pressure on the home side. A second goal for the visitors came on 67 minutes Reid turning provider skipping down the left flank and crossing for Hallahan to score.

Two minutes later the score was level, substitute Mckoy Palmer firing an effort past Adams from the edge of the box. Basingstoke took the lead on 73 minutes through Hallahan who skipped through the defence unopposed and beating Adams for his second.

The oppositions lead was extended three minutes later Palmer again firing from distance to put the game beyond the Swans who were barely able to string a pass together. Approaching the final whistle Kings chip into the box saw Martins header caught on the line.

A late corner in stoppage for the Swans was picked up by Ben Cook inside the box, his break down the right evaded the sluggish Swans backline to cross the ball into Dylan Ives path for an easy tap in at the far post and sum up a miserable second half for Slimbridge.

Next Saturday the Swans first team travel to Southampton to face Sholing, whilst the reserve team open their campaign at Thornhill Park entertaining neighbours Shortwood United Reserves. On Monday night the Development Under 18 side travel to Chippenham in the FA Youth Cup.

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin, N Humphreys, M Turner (75 J Stokes), O Giles, J White, J Malshanskyj (75 J Flo), D Turner, J Martin, D King, E Mbunga

Unused Subs: B Prictor, N Tilling, J Twyman

Goals: J Martin 3, D King 18, E Mbunga 44

Attendance: 148

Match Reports

Sholing 0-2 Slimbridge **Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 26th September 2020

Rampant Swans return to winning ways on the road

After last weeks disappointing defeat, Slimbridge travelled down to the South coast to face unbeaten Sholing. Lee Driver-Dickerson made four changes to last weeks starting line-up including three of the defensive line up. Alex Hainault joining the club on dual-registration from Gloucester City and Ben Prictor filled the full back roles, with Christien Turner making his first start of the season recovering from a pre-season injury. Mike Ford returning from Iceland started in midfield to replace Dean Turner who took a spot on the bench, Owen Giles joining up with the reserve team.

The visitors started the game well knocking the ball around confidently from the defence, with new boy Alex Hainaults higher level experience giving the back line a much needed vocal boost. The team appeared to have gained some fight and passion around the field chasing down loose balls and getting stuck in to win the ball in midfield against a strong Sholing side.

It was Sholing who had the first attempt on goal, Brad Targett firing into the arms of Lewis Adams who commanded his penalty area well. Jay Malshanskyj got his head to a Ben Prictor cross from the left but it just crept wide of the post.

The home side gained a corner on 14 minutes centre half Daniel Miller heading it wide. Christien Turner had to be alert blocking Daniel Masons shot inside the box as Sholing tried to take control of the game. On 20 minutes there was a break in the game when Hainault suffered a blow to the face and left the field temporarily for a blood injury. At the same time Swans striker Jamie Martin suffering from a hamstring problem was replaced by substitute Johan Flo.

Match Reports

While down to ten men the Swans defended well Adams pulling off a point blank save from Daniel Mason before Hainault returned to the field a few minutes later despite suffering from a broken nose.

The introduction of Flo gave the visitors a boost in pace and skill up front and his shot from the edge of the box just cleared the cross bar. On the half hour mark Sholing put two dangerous free kicks into the Slimbridge box, the first one Adams claimed the second one headed wide by Byron Mason.

The Swans took the lead on 35 minutes, Dan King finding space down the left flank and his cross was met by Edjidja Mbunga at the far post to slam the ball into the roof of the net. A couple of minutes later Stuart Green saw his shot from the edge of the box deflected wide as the hosts looked to get back into the game before half time.

The second half continued to be a fast flowing game of football with both sides looking to push forward in search of a goal. On 49 minutes, Pictor made an important block from Miller while Adams claimed a high ball into the box from a free kick a few moments later.

At the other end Flo went on a mazy run beating a number of players before unleashing a fierce strike that hit the base of the post and away for a goal kick as the Swans started to up the tempo.

On the hour mark of the game, Flo again on a run into the box on the left beat one defender before being taken down by home keeper Ryan Gosney and gaining a penalty for the visitors. King stepped up and hit the ball low to the keepers left, Gosney however guessed the right way and made a comfortable save.

Slimbridge continued to press forward and a well-deserved second goal came along after 75 minutes. Flo and Kings linked up on the left, Kings cross found Jay Malshanskyj running in at the far post to head through the hands of Gosney.

Match Reports

Two minutes later Kings shot from distance was tipped over the bar by Gosney followed by a series of corners as the visitors continued to pile pressure on the home side. A breakaway from the Swans box with just less than ten minutes remaining broke down with three Slimbridge players bearing down on goal.

Deep in injury time Adams punched a Sholing corner clear under pressure in a packed box to preserve the visitors lead and return home with three value league points.

At Thornhill Park the newly formed reserves started their season in fine style beating neighbours Shortwood United reserves 4-0, with two goals each from Aaron Goulty and Ethan Dunbar.

On Wednesday, The Swans first team face Bristol Manor Farm at home before travelling to Devon to face Bideford in a rearranged match while the reserves travel to Moreton Rangers.

Slimbridge: L Adams, A Hainault, B Pricor, M Turner, C Turner, J White, J Malshanskyj, M Ford (D Turner 90+1), J Martin (J Flo 20), D King (J Stokes 90_1), E Mbunga

Unused Subs: B Deakin, N Humphreys

Goals: E Mbunga 35, J Malshanskyj 75

Attendance: 220

Supporters player of the match: Ben Pricor

League Table

BetVictor Southern League Division One South 2020 - 2021

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

Form Guide

1	AFC Totton	DW
2	Basingstoke Town	W
3	Cirencester Town	W
4	Sholing	LW
5	Cinderford Town	W
6	Willand Rovers	WL
7	Winchester City	W
8	Frome Town	W
9	Highworth Town	LW
10	Slimbridge	WL
11	Bristol Manor Farm	WL
12	Bideford	DD
13	Paulton Rovers	D
14	Thatcham Town	D
15	Larkhall Athletic	LD
16	Melksham Town	L
17	Moneyfields	L
18	Mangotsfield United	L
19	Barnstaple Town	L
20	Evesham United	L

Results from last 6 league games.

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.

Korey Pring

Korey has been a long term injury casualty but has now returned and is looking as sharp as ever, a good header of the ball, important squad member.

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.

Swans Pen Pics

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.

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 pre-season.

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.

Swans Pen Pics

Johan Flo

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

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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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	3	0	0
M	Turner	3	0	0
J	White	3	0	0
E	Mbunga	3	0	2
D	King	3	0	1
J	Malshanskyj	3	0	1
B	Deakin	2	0	0
N	Humphreys	2	0	0
O	Giles	2	0	0
D	Turner	2	1	0
J	Martin	2	1	2
R	Sarson	1	0	0
A	Hainault	1	0	0
B	Prictor	1	0	0
C	Turner	1	0	0
M	Ford	1	0	0
J	Flow	0	2	0
J	Stokes	0	2	0
J	Flo	0	1	0

Goal Scorers

		Started	Subs	Goals
E	Mbunga	3	0	2
J	Martin	2	1	2
D	King	3	0	1
J	Malshanskyj	3	0	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

General Committee

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

Treasurer
Football Secretary
Fixture Secretary
Press Officer
Programme Editor
Safety Officer

Alena Wrixon
Colin Gay
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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