

Slimbridge

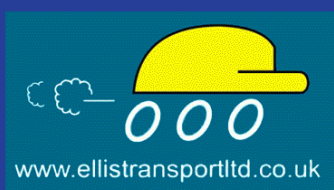
Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League
Division One South

Slimbridge AFC v Melksham Town

Saturday 2nd October 2021 3:00pm





A L L F O R S P O R T

www.joma-sport.com

Match Day

Slimbridge AFC would like to welcome everyone connected with Melksham Town to Thornhill Park

SLIMBRIDGE AFC



V



MELKSHAM TOWN

**Pitching In Southern League
Division One South**

Saturday 2nd October 2021

KICK OFF 3.00PM



Today's Teams

Slimbridge AFC

Melksham Town

Lewis Adams	1	Connor Johns
Ben Deakin	2	Matt Hall
Ben Pictor	3	Sam Jepson
Ben McLean	4	Sayed Ibrahim
Nathan Dennis	5	Will Christopher
Ben Hands	6	Harry Ruttly
Edjija Mbunga	7	Greg Tindle
Michael Ford	8	Ryan Morgan
Will Hawes	9	Ollie Webb
Adam Price	10	Aaron Parsons
Marley Thomas	11	Aiden Chainey
Toby Lawrence	12	Ralph Graham
	13	
Johan Flo	14	Jay Malshanskj
Myron Turner	15	Albie Hopkins
Jamie Martin	16	Sam Hendy
Toumani Sidibe	17	Jake Mawford
Liam Harper	18	Phil Ormrod

Managers:

Lee Driver-Dickerson
Tom Speers

Richard Fey
Nathan Rudge

Physios:

Eleanor McArdle

Referee:

Andrew Sheppard

Assistants:

Mark Loughlin
Adam McAnoy

Club Chat

With Rob Peck

Good afternoon, and welcome to Thornhill Park.

It's been a hectic couple of weeks with two long trips to Hampshire however two wins out of three on the road has given the whole club a big lift.

The win at AFC Totton was a memorable one, with the hosts top of the league and unbeaten at the time. The lads showed good character to produce the performance of the season and bring home the points.

Another highlight last weekend at Sholing saw Liam Harper make his league debut for the first team from the bench and also score our only goal of the game. Liam started in the Under 18s team progressing to the Reserves where he is the captain and now making the step up to Southern League football.

The development pathway the club put in place for young players only a few short years ago is continuing to thrive and give real opportunities of progression throughout the club. With many of the Under 18 side also playing in our Hellenic League reserve team, the future of football here at Slimbridge looks very bright.

Take care, and please stay safe
Rob

This Week's Fixtures

Saturday 2 October 2021

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

Tuesday 5 October 2021

League Cup

- 19:45 Bristol Manor Farm v Paulton Rovers
- 19:45 Lymington Town v Dorchester Town
- 19:45 Mangotsfield United v Melksham Town
- 19:45 Sholing v AFC Totton
- 19:45 Weston Super Mare v Frome Town
- 19:45 Winchester City v Hartley Wintey

Wednesday 6 October 2021

League Cup

- 19:45 Slimbridge v Cinderford Town

Our Sponsors

Slimbridge would like to acknowledge their gratitude to the following organisations and people for their generous support during this and past seasons.

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The Tudor Arms	www.thetudorarms.co.uk
Toolstation	www.toolstation.com
UHL Sport	www.uhlsport.com/en

If you would like to become a sponsor or would like further information on how you may be able to help the club please see Barry Gay or Alena Wrixon for details. Every little bit really does help.

Our Visitors Today

The club was established as Melksham Football Club in 1876. In 1894 we were founder members of the Wiltshire League. We were Division One champions in 1903–04 and won the Wiltshire Senior Cup the following season. In 1920 the club was renamed Melksham & Avon United as a result of their new ground being owned by Avon Rubber, before reverting to our original name in the 1926–27 season. They were runners-up in the league in 1924–25, 1929–30 and 1936–37. In 1951 the club adopted our current name and went on to finish as runners-up in Division One in 1959–60 and 1971–72, also winning the Wiltshire Senior Cup again in 1969–70.

We moved up to the Western League in 1974. After finishing third-from bottom of the league in 1975–76, we were demoted to the new Division One as the league expanded to two divisions. We won the Wiltshire Senior Cup again in 1977–78 and were Division One champions in 1979–80, earning promotion to the Premier Division. Their first season in the Premier Division saw us win the Wiltshire Premier Shield, a trophy they retained the following season and won again in 1984–85 and 1985–86. However, we were relegated to Division One again at the end of the 1987–88 season.

In 1992–93, we finished bottom of Division One and were relegated to the Premier Division of the Wiltshire Football League. We won the Premier Division and the Senior Knock-Out Cup the following season, and were promoted back to the Western League at the first attempt. In 1996–97 we were Division One champions and were promoted to the Premier Division. Winning the Wiltshire Premier Shield the following season, and again in 1999–2000, before winning the Wiltshire Senior Cup in 2002–03 and 2007–08. Although we were relegated to Division One in 2009–10, we were Division One runners-up in 2010–11, earning promotion back to the Premier Division.

We won the Wiltshire Senior Cup in 2012–13 and 2013–14, before winning the Western League Premier Division title in 2014–15. However, delays to making ground improvements meant that we were denied promotion. The following season saw us win the Senior Cup again.

Our Visitors Today

The club were runners-up in the Premier Division in 2017–18, earning promotion to Division One West of the Southern League.

Our stadium

We played at Challymead Common until moving to the Old Bear Field in 1883. Relocating to the Conigre in 1920; the ground was part of the Melksham House estate, centrally sited in the town, which had been purchased in the same year by Avon Rubber, with the house turned into a social club. A wooden stand was erected on one side of the pitch and wooden fencing installed around the ground. During the 1960s covered stands were built behind the Rugby Club End and on the other side of the pitch and floodlights were installed in 1986. The wooden stand was demolished in the early 1990s and replaced by a modern metal stand in 1994.

In 2017, in preparation for redevelopment at the Melksham House site, the club moved to Oakfields, a new £7.3 million facility shared with Melksham Rugby Club on the eastern edge of the town. The first match at the new ground was played on 14 January 2017 against Bristol Manor Farm in the FA Vase, with the visitors winning 5–3 in front of a crowd of 1,215.

Our Visitors Today

Playing Squad

Aidan Chainey

Aiden re-signed for Melksham in 2019/20 after a successful first season at the club, proving himself to be a tireless, hardworking midfielder who always puts in 100% on the pitch. Formerly of Yeovil, Gillingham, Weymouth and Street, Aiden has settled well into the Melksham squad, turning into a key player for the side.

Will Christopher

Will joined the club from Cirencester in October 2019, however the young full back has also spent time with Swindon Town and Bath City. Since his arrival, Will has proved himself to be ahead of his years in terms of maturity and experience in defence, but also has the pace and energy paired with a quality delivery when attacking to cause the opposition back line all kinds of issues.

Harvey Flippance

Harvey, who has also had spells with the academies of Chippenham Town and Swindon Town, had to find his route to the Melksham first team through the reserve team. After

Sam Hendy

A new signing for the 2021/2022 season, Sam offers a new dimension to the Melksham midfield. The former Forest Green Rovers man was designated set piece taker in preseason and has the ability to play in a deep or advanced position when occupying midfield. Sam will be looking to make an instant impact in his first season for the club, so will be one to watch over the course of the campaign.

Albie Hopkins

Since joining the club in 2019, Albie has made a name for himself as a scorer of important goals. Quick and versatile, Albie can be utilised on either side of the pitch to make full use of his pace and skill. Formerly of Oxford United, Albie has football league pedigree to his career and the Melksham fans get to see this anytime he has the ball at his feet.

Our Visitors Today

Matthew Hurley

A real gladiator in the middle of the park, Matt has earned himself a reputation as being a composed, calming midfielder, but does have the odd magic moment such as his 'wonder goals' that he provides. Signed in 2019, Matt offered a seriously impressive season – something manager Richard Fey would be accustomed to having worked with the midfielder at Street.

Sayeed Ibrahim

10 years on from his debut for the club in 2011, Sayeed has asserted himself as a Melksham legend. A local lad who has shown incredible loyalty and admirable dependability, as well as being a role model for younger players in the club, and this has cemented himself as a fan favourite within the black and yellow family. Pacey, ever-present and a long throw that causes defences all kinds of issues, Sayeed is a real asset to the squad.

Jay Malshanskyj

Jay is another new signing for the season, and another one who has had an impressive preseason too. Quick and creative, Jay finds himself finding space all over the pitch, whilst also not being afraid of taking a man on with skill and pace. The former Forest Green Rovers man will surely excite the Town faithful over the course of the season.

Jake Mawford

Jake originally joined the club on loan from Weston Super Mare, and it didn't take long to see what he could offer the squad; versatile, creative, popular amongst the fans and squad alike, Melksham are delighted to have Jake on a permanent basis. Jake offers creative freedom in attack, as well as utilising his height in defence when require

Our Visitors Today

Ryan Morgan

Ryan joined the club in the summer of 2021 and has impressed in the many minutes he played in preseason. Physical, direct, and hard-working, Ryan has established himself as one of the top defenders in the club – with the ability to play anywhere across the back line. Not afraid to get forward, the former Highworth man has a left foot which can provide quality delivery into the box as well as a powerful strike from distance.

Philip Ormrod

Formerly of Gillingham, Dorchester and Street, Phil has proven that he can score goals wherever he is. Mobile, powerful, and direct, Phil impressed last season with not only his goalscoring but his play making as well, providing many assists. Since signing in 2019, Phil is now a settled member on the Melksham squad and looking to add to his impressive beginnings with the club.

Harry Rutty

Local lad Harry was another who's impressive loan spell earned himself a permanent move to Melksham, having originally signed on a short-term deal from Chippenham. Harry is young, reliable, athletic, and throughout preseason he has already established a solid partnership with Greg Tindle at the heart of the defence.

Greg Tindle

The signing of Greg earlier in May this year would have caught the attention from all clubs in the Southern League. Greg is experienced, committed and a real leader to the young Melksham squad. The former Chippenham and Weston Super Mare captain is a general at the back, barking orders to his teammates but also not afraid to put his body on the line when required. Greg has had a superb preseason and will be ready for the fight when the league campaign begins.

Our Visitors Today

Oliver Webb

Oli has been at the club since 2017 and is a local lad who always gives 100% when he pulls on the shirt. Versatile, Oli can play in both midfield and defence, making him a valuable player for the squad, covering wherever needs covering. His aerial presence is also a key part of his game, giving Melksham another dynamic to their game plan.

Richard Fey (Manager)

The Melksham squad find themselves in the more than capable hands of experienced manager Richard Fey. Richard, who has had managed at Bridgwater, Bitton, Paulton Rovers and Street (guiding Street to winning the Premier Division of the Western League), took charge over Melksham in 2019 and his fantastic work with the club so far meant that the Town faithful were delighted when he committed his future to Melksham in 2021.

Nathan Rudge (Assistant Manager)

Previously assisted Richard Fey at Street. He is a former manager of local rivals, Chippenham Town, after a long playing' career that began at Norwich City and covered several local clubs.

Nick Evans (Goalkeeping Coach)

Veteran goalkeeper Nick Evans is in charge of the current crop of 'keepers within the Melksham squad. Nick is a very popular man amongst the Town family, and someone for aspiring goalkeepers to look up to.

PITCHING IN

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Fixtures 2021-22

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

14/08/2021	15:00	League	A	Larkhall Athletic	L	1-3
18/08/2021	19:45	League	H	Winchester City		A-A
21/08/2021	15:00	FA Cup	A	Marlow	L	0-3
28/08/2021	15:00	League	A	Frome Town	L	0-2
30/08/2021	15:00	League	H	Cinderford Town	D	3-3
04/09/2021	15:00	League	H	Winchester City	L	0-4
11/09/2021	15:00	League	H	Willand Rovers	L	2-3
13/09/2021	19:45	League	A	Evesham United	W	2-1
18/11/2021	15:00	League	A	AFC Totton	W	3-0
25/09/2021	15:00	League	A	Sholing	L	1-2
29/09/2021	19:45	League	H	Barnstaple Town		P-P
02/10/2021	15:00	League	H	Melksham Town		
06/10/2021	19:45	Lge Cup	H	Cinderford Town		
09/10/2021	15:00	FA Trophy	A	Larkhall Athletic		
16/10/2021	15:00	League	A	Cirencester Town		
23/10/2021	15:00	League	H	Lymington Town		
30/10/2021	15:00	League	A	Paulton Rovers		
16/11/2021	19:45	League	A	Winchester City		
20/11/2021	15:00	League	H	Larkhall Athletic		
27/11/2021	15:00	League	H	Bideford		
04/12/2021	15:00	League	A	Bristol Manor Farm		
11/12/2021	15:00	League	H	Highworth Town		
18/12/2021	15:00	League	A	Plymouth Parkway		
27/12/2021	15:00	League	A	Cinderford Town		

Fixtures 2021-22

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

01/01/2022	15:00	League	H	Mangotsfield United
08/01/2022	15:00	League	H	Evesham United
15/01/2022	15:00	League	A	Willand Rovers
22/01/2022	15:00	League	H	Sholing
29/01/2022	15:00	League	A	Barnstaple Town
05/02/2022	15:00	League	A	Melksham Town
12/02/2022	15:00	League	H	Cirencester Town
19/02/2022	15:00	League	A	Lymington Town
26/02/2022	15:00	League	H	Paulton Rovers
05/03/2022	15:00	League	H	Bristol Manor Farm
19/03/2022	15:00	League	A	Bideford
26/03/2022	15:00	League	H	Plymouth Parkway
02/04/2022	15:00	League	A	Highworth Town
16/04/2022	15:00	League	H	Frome Town
18/04/2022	15:00	League	A	Mangotsfield United
23/04/2022	15:00	League	H	AFC Totton

Fixtures 2021-22

Hellenic League Division 2 West

20/08/2021	19:45	League	A	Newent Town Res.	W	5-2
03/09/2021	19:45	League	H	Longlevens Dev.	W	5-1
11/09/2021	15:00	League	A	Cheltenham Saracens Dev.	W	1-0
18/09/2021	15:00	League	H	Bourton Rovers Res.	W	3-0
25/09/2021	15:00	League	H	New Dales Vale	D	3-3
09/10/2021	15:00	League	H	S. C. Inkberrow		
16/10/2021	15:00	League	H	Morton Rangers Dev.		

Fixtures 2021-22

Cheltenham Youth Football League

31/08/2021	19:30	FAY Cup	A	Odd Down U18	L	1-1
23/09/2021	19:30	League	A	Bishops Cleeve U18	(pens)	
30/09/2021	19:30	League	A	Longlevens U18	W	7-0
05/10/2021	19:30	League	A	Tuffley Rovers U18		
12/10/2021	19:30	League	H	Shortwood Utd U18		
19/10/2021	19:30	League	A	Hereford Pegusus U18		
26/10/2021	19:30	League	H	Lydney Town U18		

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'The best Bacon Burgers in Gloucestershire' (BBC Radio Gloucester)

Swans on the Road!

Saturday 9 October 2021, 3.00pm
Larkhall Athletic v Slimbridge (FA Trophy)

Plain Ham, Charlcombe Lane, Bath, Bath and North East
Somerset, BA1 8DJ



Match Reports

Slimbridge 2-3 Willand Rovers **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 11th September 2021

Swans penalty giveaway proves costly as Rovers score late winner

A hatrick from the visitors Alfie Mouldon including two penalties proved costly for the home side who twice lead the game after the visitors were delayed in traffic.

Willand arrived at Thornhill Park just before 3pm due to traffic delays on the M5 however due to the visitor's kit clashing with the home side it was Slimbridge who were forced into a late kit change by the referee to play in their away strip of green before finally kicking off just after 3:30pm.

From the outset it was the Swans that looked the more dominant side, Nathan Dennis had a shot blocked from an early corner, starting his first game for the home side Toumani Sidibe looked impressive down the right wing causing the visitors difficulties with his mazy runs.

Slimbridge took the lead on 17 minutes, Marley Thomas cut in from the left wing beating two defenders delivering a pass into the feet of Will Hawes to riffle into the net past former Swans keeper George Burton.

The visitors picked up their game with Mani Skett's shot falling into the arms of home stopper Lewis Adams. A free kick by the visitors was initially cleared by the home defence before William Richards long range shot just cleared the bar.

Willand were awarded a penalty on 32 minutes, Thomas was adjudged to have fouled Scot Piper and Alfie Mouldon duly sent Adams the wrong way to level the scores.

Match Reports

Three minutes later the home side restored their lead, Sidibe scoring a great individual effort picking up the ball on the right wing and tucking the ball past Burton at his near post under the pressure of two defenders.

It was Willand that came out in the second half looking dangerous right from the kick off. A free kick on the left was headed clear by Dennis for a corner from which Ben Deakin headed off the line.

The Swans has a short spell of pressure on 50 minutes, Dennis heading a free kick directly at Burton. Burton then pushed Hawes shot round the post with Mike Ford heading wide from the resulting corner.

Willand pulled the game level on 61 minutes, Adams conceding a penalty and Mouldon stepping up to score his second of the afternoon.

A neat move by the Swans on 65 minutes almost saw them take the lead again, Sidibe's cross field ball found Thomas on the left to head into the box where Hawes was deemed to have fouled Burton as Hawes got his head to the ball at the same time Burton claimed the ball in the air.

As the game approached 90 minutes Adams was called into action to stop Mouldons shot, which he spilled and the rebound from Mouldon was blocked by Deakin.

However the visitors struck on the stroke of full time Mouldon firing in from the edge of the box to seeing them leave with all three points and Mouldon claiming the match ball.

The Swans now have a run of three away games, starting on Monday at Evesham and then to leaders AFC Toton next weekend and Sholing the following Saturday. The reserve side in return have a run of Saturday home games playing Bourton Rovers reserves and New Dale Vale both are 3pm kick offs.

Match Reports

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin, B Prictor, B McLean, N Dennis, B Hands, T Sidibe, M Turner, W Hawes, M Ford, M Thomas

Subs Used: J Martin, E Mbunga, J Flo

Attendance: 80

Supporters player of the match: Marley Thomas

Match Reports

Evesham United 1-2 Slimbridge **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Monday 13th September 2021

Swans gain first win of the season

After a poor start to the season result wise, Slimbridge came away from Evesham with a deserved 3 points after a physical game played at a high tempo throughout.

The visitors got off to a flying start earning an early corner, a few moments later Will Hawes almost got hold of Marley Thomas's cross from the left that had been spilt by home keeper Lewis Clayton.

Clayton however was beaten on 6 minutes through another delightful individual run by Toumani Sidibe down the right blasting his shot into the bottom left corner to give the visitors the lead.

The lead did not last long, Thomas Chamberlain firing an equaliser on 13 minutes from a free kick 30 yards outside the Slimbridge box. A couple of minutes later the Swans were forced into a change when the energetic Sidibe suffered a hamstring injury and was replaced by Edji Mbunga.

Myron Turner and Thomas linked up down the left and Thomas cross found Johan Flo but his header fell just wide. Mbunga then had a shot blocked having collected a pin points cross from Ben Pricor.

On 24 minutes Lewis Adams in the visitors goal pulled off a stunning save from a long free kick flicked on from close range, however the off side flag was raised.

Adams then claimed a cross from the right wing at the feet of a home striker in a crowded box. At the other end Mbunga hit a shot but only to find Turner blocking its path to goal.

Match Reports

On the stroke of half time Chambalain tried his luck from long range but his shot ended up over the stand into the car park.

Ben Hayes flashed a cross come shot wide at the start of the second half from a long ball forward from the back. Hawes found space five minutes later on the left but his shot hit the side netting with Clayton covering his near post.

A let off for the Swans on 54 minutes, an Evesham break saw three players forward with only Ben Deakin in defence. Deakin was able to put in a block just inside the box.

The home side continued to put pressure on the Swans with a header from Ryan Paddock sailing wide and then Hayes shot under the challenge of Mike Ford was smothered by Adams. Chamberlains effort from a 35 yard free kick was struck over the bar.

As both sides surged back and forth it was Slimbridge that took the lead for a second time. Adams launched a long goal kick forward that was flicked on from the head of substitute Jamie Martin into the path of Hawes. Hawes turned and beating off the challenge of a home defender tucked the ball past Clayton to the delight of the visiting supporters with 15 minutes of the game remaining.

It was however a nervy last 15 minutes as the visitors held strong at the back with shots from Hayes and former Swan Adam Mace going off target and Flo blocking a header from a home corner.

Match Reports

The win will give the Swans confidence ahead of two tough away games, traveling to leaders AFC Toton this weekend and second place Sholing the following Saturday. A coach will be running to both these games at a cost of £10ea, bookings taken through Colin Gay.

The reserve side in return have a run of Saturday home games playing Bourton Rovers reserves and New Dale Vale both are 3pm kick offs.

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin, B Prictor, M Ford, N Dennis, B Hands, T Sidibe, M Turner, W Hawes, J Flo, M Thomas

Subs Used: J Martin, E Mbunga, B McLean

Attendance: 199

Supporters player of the match: Myron Turner

Match Reports

AFC Toton 0-3 Slimbridge **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 18th September 2021

Swans upset leaders with surprise win on the road

Slimbridge returned from Hampshire with three points having pulled off a fantastic defensive effort to beat league leaders AFC Toton. Despite conceding an early penalty, the Swans held firm and kept a clean sheet for the first time this season, while handing the unbeaten Hampshire side their first defeat of the season.

Having lost Toumani Sidibe to injury during the victory at Evesham and with Jamie Martin and Mike Ford unavailable the Swans gave reserves captain Liam Harper a spot on the bench with Edjidja Mbunga taking Sidibes spot in the starting line-up.

Having scored eight goals past Cinderford last weekend the signs looked ominous for the visitors with two minutes on the clock Sam Griffin got in behind the defence and forced Ben Deakin into a block at the near post, Griffin then lobbed the ball goal ward with Nathan Dennis well positioned to hook the ball off the line and Deakin clearing the ball out of the box.

On five minutes the lively Hisham Kasimu broke through the Swans defence and raced in on goal, Lewis Adams attempt to claim the ball failed bringing down Kasimu in the process with the home side gifted a penalty. Luckily for the Swans Adams guessed correctly saving Jack Hoey spot kick down to his left.

After Will Hawes had given the ball away in midfield, Dennis conceded a dangerous free kick on the edge of the Swans box, Kasimu hitting the side netting from a well worked move. The home side continued to put pressure on the visitors with Kasimu in particular firing shots from the edge of the box with Adams well placed to save on a number of occasions.

Match Reports

Slimbridge having spent much of the first 25 minutes soaking up the pressure from the hosts, found space through Hawes on the left his cross found Johan Flo but his shot was blocked and out for a corner, Ben McLean floating the corner onto the roof of the net.

On the half hour mark, Kasimu broke through the defence under pressure from Ben Hands fired his shot for Adams to save once again. Two minutes later the Swans took advantage from a free kick on the left corner of the box. Marley Thomas chipping the ball into the box where Hawes was lurking to tuck the ball past Lewis Noice from close range and give the visitors an unexpected lead.

The goal gave the Swans a lift, Ben Pricor's cross being tipped over the bar by Noice, then Noice punching the resulting corner clear under pressure in the box. Another free kick on the left for the Swans with just over 5 minutes of the half remaining saw Noice saving point blank with his feet from Hawes overhead kick, Myron Turner saw his follow up blocked under appeals of a Swans penalty. Hawes suffered a knock when landing from his overhead kick but was able to continue after treatment.

As half time approached Adams did well to claim the ball at the feet of Ethan Taylor as the hosts looked to get a goal back on the break. In injury time the Swans gained a corner at the other end. The corner was played short to Hawes who turned and pushed the ball into the box allowing Dennis to stab home his first goal for the club and in doing so giving Slimbridge a two goal lead at the break.

Jordan Annear replaced Hawes at half time with Hawes suffering from the effects of a knock late on in the first half. Five minutes after the break Kasimu's effort was blocked by Dennis and Adams then saving Griffins follow up with the off side flag up.

Two minutes later the Swans were again forced into some heroic defending, Jordan Ngalo's long range shot being deflected over the bar by Adams and from the resulting corner a header struck the bar as the home side looked to get back into the game.

Match Reports

Thomas forced a point blank save out of Noice a few moments later after a great run down the left from Mbunga. Adams yet again was called into action saving from Kasimu with Dennis clearing for a corner.

As the home side continued to pressure the Slimbridge defence Kasimu was stopped by a Ben Hands last ditch tackle. A raft of corners just past the hour mark saw the Swans hold firm at the back to the frustration of the home team.

Toton did manage to put the ball in the net on 71 minutes through Kasimu but the assistant referee's flag was up for offside. Myron Turner then came off after suffering a slight niggle.

With the home side continuing to throw the proverbial kitchen sink at the visitors defence, deep into injury time Annear robbed the ball just inside the Toton half and raced through on goal tucking the ball past Noice for his first Slimbridge goal to send the visiting supporters wild.

There was still one last effort from the home side to gain a consolation with Adams making a point blank save on the final whistle.

The win moves the Swans up the table and the confidence going into next week's trip back down to Hampshire to face second place Sholing. The Swans reserves remain unbeaten with a win at home and with another home match next Saturday with New Dales Vale the visitors.

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin, B Pricor, B McLean, N Dennis, B Hands, E Mbunga, M Turner, W Hawes, J Flo, M Thomas

Subs Used: J Annear, A Price, T Lawrence

Attendance: 270

Supporters player of the match: Lewis Adams

Match Reports

Sholing 2-1 Slimbridge **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 25th September 2021

Slimbridge return to Hampshire was not as successful as the previous week, despite playing well an early second half spell from the home side put the game just out of reach of the Swans.

However the biggest highlight of the game was a league debut and goal for Liam Harper, who has successfully progressed through the clubs youth development pathway from the U18s to the reserves and now the first team.

The Swans had an early chance, a corner was cleared by the hosts and from a throw in, Mike Fords cross was headed into home keeper Ryan Gosney's arms by Will Hawes.

The home side applied a spell of pressure on the visitors Claudio Herbert in particular making a number of lively runs from the midfield but failing to register a shot on target.

Around the half hour mark Ben Pricors teasing cross into the box was claimed by Gosney then Hawes fired a shot just inches over the bar. At the other end Lewis Adams saved Joe Adams effort and soon after Charlie Wagstaffe's fierce drive was deflected over the bar with Adams doing well to punch the resulting corner clear.

Sholing came out in the second half in a strong determined mood, and it was Herbert that put the home side ahead driving a shot from the right past Adams 4 minutes after the restart. From the kick off a long ball forward saw Herbert chip Adams but his effort fell wide.

Match Reports

A long range shot a minute later from Robin Nicholls found the back of the net leaving the Swans shell shocked and two goals down. Sholing continued to look for more goals through Herbert, Adams and Jake Cope all forcing saves from the visiting keeper Adams. Just before the hour mark Cope struck an effort against the post with Adams beaten.

On 61 minutes Swans reserve team captain Liam Harper was introduced as a substitute replacing Adam Price. Slimbridge failed to give up hope Edji Mbunga fired a free kick straight to Gosney and Jamie Martin fired just over.

As the visitors continued to press forward, an neat move from the back involving Toby Lawrence, Ben McLean and Ford saw Harper tuck the ball into the net from just inside the box.

In the final moments of the game Martin almost equalised when his goal bound shot was tipped over the bar by Gosney.

This week the Swans host three games at home, firstly Barnstaple Town on Wednesday evening and then Melksham Town on Saturday before Cinderford Town visit again the following Wednesday in the league cup.

Slimbridge: L Adams, B Deakin, B Prictor, B McLean, N Dennis, B Hands, E Mbunga, M Ford, W Hawes, A Price, M Thomas

Subs Used: L Harper, J Martin, T Lawrence

Attendance: 153

Supporters player of the match: Lewis Adams

League Table

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	+/-	Pts
1	Sholing	7	6	1	0	14	3	11	0	19
2	AFC Totton	8	5	2	1	21	9	12	0	17
3	Frome Town	6	4	2	0	11	3	8	0	14
4	Plymouth Parkway	6	4	1	1	21	5	16	0	13
5	Cirencester Town	6	3	3	0	12	5	7	0	12
6	Highworth Town	6	4	0	2	12	8	4	0	12
7	Bristol Manor Farm	8	3	3	2	15	13	2	0	12
8	Winchester City	6	3	2	1	17	7	10	0	11
9	Larkhall Athletic	6	2	4	0	12	7	5	0	10
10	Paulton Rovers	7	3	1	3	16	15	1	0	10
11	Melksham Town	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	0	7
12	Willand Rovers	7	2	1	4	12	15	-3	0	7
13	Slimbridge	8	2	1	5	12	18	-6	0	7
14	Evesham United	7	2	1	4	7	13	-6	0	7
15	Lymington Town	7	2	1	4	10	17	-7	0	7
16	Cinderford Town	7	1	3	3	20	23	-3	0	6
17	Bideford AFC	6	1	2	3	5	14	-9	0	5
18	Mangotsfield United	7	0	1	6	3	19	-16	0	1
19	Barnstaple Town	7	0	0	7	4	28	-24	0	0

League Table

Hellenic League Division Two West

#	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Kington Town	6	5	0	1	18	15
2	Slimbridge Res	5	4	1	0	11	13
3	Sporting Club Inkberrow	4	4	0	0	24	12
4	New Dales Vale	5	3	1	1	4	10
5	Shortwood United Res	4	1	2	1	-1	5
6	Malvern Town Dev	4	1	1	2	3	4
7	Newent Town Res	5	1	1	3	-11	4
8	Cheltenham Saracens Dev	5	1	0	4	-22	3
9	Bourton Rovers Res	3	0	2	1	-3	2
10	Evesham United Dev	3	0	1	2	-7	1
11	Longlevens Dev	4	0	1	3	-11	1
12	Moreton Rangers Dev	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Tuffley Rovers Dev	2	0	0	2	-5	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

Goalkeeper

Lewis progressed through our U/18s side and has become a very capable Southern League player. Good shot stopper who has a bright future ahead of him.

Billy Thomas

Goalkeeper

Young up and coming goalkeeper who will be pushing Lewis for a starting spot.

Ben Deakin

Defender

In his second season with the club having joined from Brimscombe & Thrupp.

Ben Prictor

Defender

Experienced Southern and Hellenic League defender in his second spell with the club, likes getting forward.

Ben Hands

Defender

Returns to the club from a spell at Cinderford after suffering a serious knee injury. A strong lad at the heart of the defence is also capable of chipping in a few goals.

Toby Lawrence

Defender

Former Cheltenham Town U18s player looking to make progress in the Southern League with the Swans this season.

Nathan Dennis

Defender

Signed from Frampton over the summer having impressed in preseason.

Swans Pen Pics

Isaac Thurston

Defender

Another young lad making the step up to Southern league football having previously played for Brimscombe & Thrupp and Leonard Stanley.

Myron Turner

Midfield

A popular member of the squad here at Thornhill Park, in his fifth season having previously played for Longlevens FC.

Micheal Ford

Midfield

Had a good season couple of seasons with the club, normally plays in midfield but can fill in at the back when needed. Recently had a spell playing and coaching in Iceland.

Ben McLean

Midfield

Local lad formally with Birmingham City as a youngster looking to bolster the Swans midfield this season.

Adam Price

Midfield

Signed from Yate Town in 2019, an excellent addition to the squad, Pricey brings a lot of experience with him, also formerly with Shortwood Utd.

Johan Flo

Midfield

Young player with bags of talent that can play wide or through the middle, in his second season with the Swans previously with Brimscombe & Thrupp.

Swans Pen Pics

Ethan Dunbar

Striker

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

Jamie Martin

Striker

Another popular figure here at Thornhill Park, a very loyal player who has improved with age and now in his 12th season with the club. Jamie is a regular goal scorer with 82 goals in his 338 appearances.

Will Hawes

Striker

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.

Edjija Mbunga

Striker

Rejoined the club from a spell at Highworth Town. Pacey striker who can be a real handful in and around the penalty area.

Toumani Sidibe

Striker

Pacey striker also plays on the wing with bags of Southern League experience. Previous clubs include Highworth Town, Redditch United, Cirencester Town and Evesham United.

Marley Thomas

Striker

Returning to the Swans for a third spell. The pacy winger is fans favourite and looking to rekindle his goal scoring touch after spells away at Evesham United and Cinderford Town.

Swans Pen Pics

Lee Driver-Dickerson

Manager

Lee is looking to maintain the Swans push up the Southern League as manager after previously being assistant to Freddy Ward in 2017/18. A good motivator who is dedicated to the cause Drive will be keen to build on the success of the previous two campaigns where the club had established itself in the top half of the league.

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 and well respected figure around the club.

Tom Deakin

Coach

Deaks joined Slimbridge at the start of last season as first team coach. He arrived from Forest Green Rovers after 2 years with the academy and 14 years in total having also coached at Brimscombe and Thrupp working with both the first team and development sides.

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.

Eleanor McArdle

Physio

Ellie is in her second season with the club, she is also a keen track and field athlete.



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*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
N	Dennis	9	0	1
L	Adams	9	0	0
B	McLean	8	1	0
Mar	Thomas	8	1	1
B	Prictor	8	0	0
B	Hands	8	0	0
W	Hawes	8	0	4
B	Deakin	7	0	0
M	Ford	6	1	0
E	Mbunga	5	4	0
J	Flo	5	2	0
T	Lawrence	5	2	0
M	Turner	5	1	1
A	Price	3	3	1
J	Martin	2	5	0
T	Sidibe	2	1	2
J	Annear	1	4	1
I	Thurston	0	1	0
L	Harper	0	1	1

Goal Scorers

		Started	Subs	Goals
W	Hawes	8	0	4
T	Sidibe	2	1	2
N	Dennis	9	0	1
Mar	Thomas	8	1	1
M	Turner	5	1	1
A	Price	3	3	1
J	Annear	1	4	1
L	Harper	0	1	1

Club Constitution

Slimbridge FC
Wisloe Road
Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF



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

Co-Chairman

Barry Gay

Colin Gay

Vice Chairman

Rob Peck

President

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 & Secretary

Alena Wrixon

Operations Manager

David Morgan

Fixture Secretary

Ian Blount

Press Officer

Tim Blake

Programme Editor

Rob Peck

Safety Officer

Barry Gay

Maintenance Officer

Ian Wrixon

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

U18 Manager

Josh Wring

Assistant

David Morgan

Ground Staff

David Morgan

Robbie the Robot



Robbie the Robot kindly on loan from Dursley Farm & Garden Machinery

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