

Slimbridge

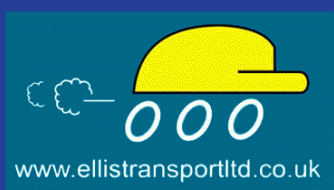
Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League
Division One South

Slimbridge AFC v Winchester City

Saturday 4th September 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 Winchester City to Thornhill Park

SLIMBRIDGE AFC



V



WINCHESTER CITY

**Pitching In Southern League
Division One South**

Saturday 4th September 2021
KICK OFF 3.00PM



Today's Teams

Slimbridge AFC

Lewis Adams	1
Ben Deakin	2
Nathan D ennis	3
Ben McLean	4
Ben Hands	5
Toby Lawrence	6
Jamie Martin	7
Michael Ford	8
Will Hawes (c)	9
Myron Turner	10
Marley Thomas	11

Winchester City

Charlie Philpott	
Josh McCormick	
Danny King	
Dan Bradshaw	
Rob Flooks	
Kieran Douglas	
Max Smith	
Jamie Barron (c)	
Olly Balmer	
Greg Peel	
Simba Mlambo	

Ben Prictor	12	Reece Rusher
	13	
Edjija Mbunga	14	Oli Bailey
Jordan Annear	15	Ryan Pryce
Adam Price	16	Brad Snelling
Isaac Thurston	17	Connall Bark
	18	Alex Haynes

Managers:

Lee Driver-Dickerson
Tom Speers

Craig Davis
Jo Brocksom

Physios:

Eleanor McArdle

Referee:

Stuart Kane

Assistants:

Gareth McMahon
Ian Butler

Club Chat

With Rob Peck

Good afternoon, and welcome to Thornhill Park.

We welcome back Winchester City back today in a rearranged fixture after our recent encounter was abandoned due to a floodlight panel fire. The game up to the point it was stopped was really hotting up and both sides were playing some good football, let's hope that today's game is something similar (without the fire).

Last Monday's game was a thriller, a game where we made far too many mistakes and should really have won. It was good to see Myron return from injury and pop up and get the last minute equaliser.

On Tuesday the Under 18's played in the FA Youth Cup and despite a good performance, they were very unlucky to exit the competition on penalties. This year they return to the Gloucestershire floodlit league and will be playing under the lights here at Thornhill Park, please come along and support them when you can as they are the future of our club.

The reserve side has started well winning their first game of the season, and I look forward to seeing them progress this year with a number of home games coming in the next month. With no football for months it looks like we are in for a busy few weeks ... enjoy it while we can.

Take care, and please stay safe
Rob

This Week's Fixtures

Saturday 4 September 2021

15:00 Bristol Manor Farm v AFC Totton

15:00 Paulton Rovers v Evesham United

15:00 Slimbridge v Winchester City

Saturday 11 September 2021

15:00 Paulton Rovers v Highworth Town

15:00 Winchester City v Barnstaple Town

15:00 Slimbridge v Willand Rovers

15:00 Mangotsfield United v Larkhall Athletic

15:00 Lymington Town v Evesham United

15:00 Cirencester Town v Frome Town

15:00 Cinderford Town v AFC Totton

15:00 Bristol Manor Farm v Melksham Town

15:00 Bideford v Sholing

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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Toolstation	www.toolstation.com
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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 Winchester Football Club was founded in 1884 as a result of the endeavours of two residents of the city – Oxford graduate and former England Rugby cap Charles Sylvester Wooldridge and Huntingdon-born all-round sportsman (and, incidentally, inventor of ice hockey!) Arnold Tebbutt. The football club, which had strong links with Winchester College, made quite an impact in the early years of association football in Hampshire, reaching the final of the inaugural Hampshire Senior Cup competition in 1888 and providing a number of players to represent Hampshire in county-based competitions. However financial difficulties, combined with the indifference of Winchester residents, led to the 1884 club folding in 1893.

The decline of the city's most high-profile club left a void that was subsequently to be filled by the Winchester Swallows FC. Formed in 1891, the Swallows were less socially exclusive than the 1884 club and had a membership more reflective of that of Winchester as a whole. The club changed its name to Winchester FC at the start of the start of the 1894/95 season, and again in 1907 when it became Winchester City FC. Like the 1884 club, the Swallows appeared in a dark blue and white strip and played their home games at Bar End, before moving in 1896 to a field adjoining the Old Red Deer pub in Stockbridge Road, and relocating again to the Roebuck Inn in 1902. The club first played in a league-based competition in 1896/97 when it entered the newly-formed South Hampshire League. Winchester FC won the title in this first season, and repeated that feat in each of the following three years. The club joined the Hampshire League in 1898/99 where, after struggling during their first few seasons, they remained unbeaten throughout the 1904/05 season and won the League's Northern Section. The club also enrolled to the Southampton and District League in 1908/09, but with no notable success.

Like a number of other football clubs, Winchester City FC effectively disbanded at the start of the First World War in 1914, and didn't reappear until 1920.

The rebirth of the club signalled two significant changes. Firstly, the club had moved again, this time playing its home fixtures at the Fair

Our Visitors Today

Field at Bar End (now the site of the Bar End Industrial Estate), a site where it was to stay until the Second World War. Secondly, it adopted a new strip, discarding its navy-blue colours in favour of red and white stripes.

The late 20s and early 30s proved to be a purple patch in City's fortunes. The 1929/30 season saw the side again win the Northern Section of the Hampshire League, and achieve its most successful FA Cup run to date. That year saw City reach the fourth qualifying round of the tournament where a 3-0 defeat by Thames FC at the 120,000 capacity West Ham Stadium deprived them of an away trip to Fulham in the First-Round proper. Any disappointment at this would have been forgotten two years later in 1931 when City lifted the Hampshire Senior Cup for the first time after defeating Andover at The Dell.

One of the key members of the team in that era was the teenage Ted Drake. A local gas meter-reader at the time of joining City, Drake went on to enjoy a successful career with Southampton before joining Arsenal and also collecting five England caps. The highlight of his subsequent managerial career saw him steer Chelsea to their first (and, until 2005, their only) league title in 1955.

Play was again interrupted by war in 1939, although the club did continue to play and took advantage of the presence of a number of enlisted players that passed through the city. The end of hostilities saw City move yet again, this time taking up a lease of the Army's playing field at Airlie Road, Stanmore.

The 1950s saw a second notable period of success at Winchester City. The side were runners up in the Hampshire League in 1949/50 and, in the same season, won their first Southampton Senior Cup final, an achievement which was repeated in 1951/52. The Russell Cotes Cup was also won for the first time in 1954/55. Success on the field was mirrored off the pitch as the club enjoyed some of its largest gates with crowds that regularly topped 1,000 filing into the Airlie Road stands.

Our Visitors Today

It was during this period that the young Terry Paine ran out for his hometown club. His prodigious talent led to his being signed in 1956 by Southampton with whom he made a record number of appearances (713 over 17 seasons). Paine also made 19 appearances for England, the last of which was against Mexico in the 1966 World Cup finals for which he (belatedly) received a winner's medal in 2009.

Prior to the 1970s City had played virtually all of its competitive football, with the exceptions of the Amateur and FA Cups, within the confines of the Hampshire county border. However, after the club's Russell Cotes Cup victory and a creditable second spot in the Hampshire League in 1970/71 the club's Board decided to make the step up and enter the Southern League for the first time. City survived for just two seasons at that higher level, achieving disappointing final positions of 12th out of 16 (1971/72) and 21st out of 22 (1972/73), before electing to return to the Hampshire League.

For the remainder of the 1970s City yoyo'd between the top two divisions of the Hampshire League before a potentially fatal blow hit the club in 1981. In that year the lease agreement with the Army for Airlie Road expired and was not renewed. Briefly homeless, the club eventually moved to its current ground, a pitch leased from the City Council at Hillier Way. The ground needed a considerable amount of work to get it up to scratch, as did the team which had tumbled into the Hampshire League's third division by 1982/83. The ignominy of this decline was made all the greater by the success of local rivals Winchester Castle in the first division – City could no longer claim to be Winchester's premier club.

The continuing existence of Winchester City FC throughout the 1980s owed much to the work of Geoff Cox who at various times acted as Chairman, Manager, Coach and Groundsman at the club. Under his guidance the club was eventually to return to the Hampshire League's top division in 1993/94.

Our Visitors Today

The new millennium ushered in a period of unprecedented success for Winchester City. Prompted in part by the arrival of new and ambitious members to the Board, the club merged with Winchester Castle and began a rapid rise through the local league structure. Promotion to the Hampshire Premier League was achieved in 2000/01, and followed two years later by promotion to the Wessex League. The Wessex League title was secured at the first attempt.

That same season witnessed the club's greatest ever triumph. May 2004 saw City face Suffolk side AFC Sudbury in the final of FA Vase at Birmingham City's St Andrew's ground. Few that were there will forget the spine-jangling moment when club captain Danny Smith lifted the trophy after the 2-0 victory.

Further successes were recorded in the seasons that followed – 2004/05 saw City win the Hampshire Senior Cup for the second time, beating Aldershot 2-1 at Bournemouth's Dean Court ground, whilst 2005/06 witnessed the club regain the Wessex League championship and win promotion to the Southern League for a second spell.

City's return to the Southern League lasted three seasons. Financial problems, followed by a final day points deduction saw City return to the Wessex League for the 2009/10 campaign. Despite a concerted push to gain promotion back to the Southern League which ultimately proved successful in 2011/12, the resources required to sustain the club's position at that level proved elusive. Winchester City FC finished the 2012/13 season at the foot of the Southern league and facing an uncertain future. The late spring of 2013 saw a takeover at the club and, with a new Committee structure and financial backers in place, the 2013/14 season heralds the start of a new chapter in the history of Winchester City FC.

2013-2014 saw a season of re-organisation and team building, with City retaining a place in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

Our Visitors Today

2015-2016 – City made a valiant attempt to take the Wessex title but just fell short to a very successful Peters field Town side who were rightly promoted to the Southern League. City under the Managership of Paul Masters then set about strengthening the squad to win the title next season when out of the blue they were offered a place in the Southern League due to a withdrawal. The Club were given 24 hours to pay their fees and attend the AGM in Torquay. A frantic drive by Director of Football Dave Malone saw him arrive just in time with the relevant papers and bank draft! As a result, our neighbours, Peters field Town, were moved out of Division 1 South and West to accommodate City and placed in the Central Division! City's first season back in the Southern League was a success with them reaching the play-offs final losing to Banbury United in the quarter finals, who were promoted and coming within minutes of winning the Hampshire Senior Cup losing on penalties to Havant and Waterlooville. City's preparation for this season were disrupted by the unexpected resignation of Manager Paul Masters in the middle of pre-season friendlies. The Club quickly filled the vacancy by appointing Petersfield Town's Manager Ian Saunders to the post.

The club started the season brightly and made it to the fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, beating US Portsmouth, Street and Truro City before finally succumbing to Harrow Borough. The club also had a successful run in the FA Trophy, thanks to wins against Petersfield Town, Fleet Town and Phoenix Sports before getting knocked out narrowly by Dulwich Hamlet. Craig Feeney and Howard Neighbour forced a strong strike partnership, added to that the midfield flair of Captain Stuart Green and winger, Andy Jenkinson, City recovered from a difficult spell before Christmas to mount a play-off push in the early stages of the New Year. Manager, Ian Saunders, went away with the military, and during this time, Mick Catlin stepped in to take over the running of the First-Team. When Saunders returned, form deteriorated and Saunders subsequently left the club and was replaced by Interim Manager, Craig Davis, who joined the club from Fleet Town. Davis took control of the club until the end of the season, when it was announced that he would officially be becoming Permanent First Team Manager.

Our Visitors Today

‘Davo’ finished 11th with City in his first full season in charge, a season that saw a successful run, resulting in a Hampshire Senior Cup Semi-Final where City eventually lost to Blackfield & Langley. The Citizens also hosted Southampton FC in the Southampton Senior Cup and achieved memorable league victories against Didcot Town, Evesham United, Swindon Supermarine and Wimborne Town as well as impressive away draws at both Swindon Supermarine and Salisbury, the latter seeing City come from 2-0 down to salvage a point at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

In the 2018-19, City had an impressive pre-season including victories over Dorchester Town and Eastleigh. City started strongly in the league too. This went hand-in-hand with a cup run that saw the Citizens make it through to the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, following victories against Bournemouth Poppies, Frome Town, Merthyr Town and Cirencester Town before eventually losing 4- 1 away at Torquay United. City’s league form dipped slightly during this period but a strong finish to the season meant that City missed out on the play-offs on the last day of the season. City needed three points away at Cinderford Town, but the game finished 0-0 meaning it was in fact Cinderford that finished in the final play-off berth.

Tyrell Mitford, Joe Cook and Josh Harfield left the club during the 2019-20 pre-season and into the club have come Kieran Douglas, Keith Emmerson, Olly Balmer and Dan Williamson has returned to City. City performed well during the 2019-20 campaign and were 4th in the league with a play-off berth looking likely when the season was curtailed due to Covid-19. City made the First Qualifying Round of the FA Cup before losing to Taunton Town but impressive cup runs in the local competitions took place once again. City were also League Cup semi-finalists, securing £1000 prize money for doing so.

A belated pre-season campaign took place in August 2020 with away wins at Bedfont Sports, Hartley Wintney and Marlow FC. Tyrell Mitford has returned to the club along with Josh McCormick and new faces Graeme Purdy, Jack Wilson, Felix Davies, Charlie Philpott, Josh Davies and Kel Akpobire have all joined the club.

Our Visitors Today

Playing Squad

RYAN PRYCE

Ex-AFC Bournemouth Goalkeeper that also lists Salisbury City, Gosport Borough and Fleet Town amongst his former clubs. Pryce made five senior appearances for the Cherries, making his debut against Southend United. A fans favourite that has made the number one berth his own.

DANNY KING

Left sided defender, the clubs longest-serving player currently and a real fans favourite. A teacher by trade, he has played for Chelsea and Southampton in his youth. Danny reached his testimonial year last season and had his testimonial at the end of the 2017-18 campaign. 'Kinger' also skips the side in the absence of Jamie Barron.

JOE HAYWARD

Defender who joined us having previously been with Eastleigh FC, unfortunately broke his leg early in his City career but returned quickly and showed what great potential he has. Joe scored a memorable goal, City's spot kick, in the Fourth Qualifying Round of the FA Cup away to Torquay United in the 2018-19 campaign.

JAMIE BARRON

Re-signed from Gosport Borough Jamie has played for Salisbury, Andover, Sholing and Folland Sports. A winner of a Schools National Cup medal. Appointed Captain for another season and a really important player for us. 'Baz' has remained loyal to City despite interest from elsewhere.

SIMBA MLAMBO

Also signed from Davis' former club, Fleet Town. Mlambo has spent some time in North Hampshire and was an Alton Town player before this. Can play wide or up front and a player with immense speed and power in the air. Another playing starting his fifth season with City. Simba works tirelessly for the cause and scores important goals as well.

Our Visitors Today

ROB FLOOKS

'Flooksy' is another former City man that has returned to the club. He left to join Southern Premier League side, Gosport Borough, but after a spell at Privett Park, has returned to the City Ground.

MAX SMITH

Max has previous experience at Moneyfields and most recently and, Alton Town, before joining City ahead of the 2019-20 season. He started his career at the Portsmouth FC academy. A dynamic Midfielder that we have high hopes for in the season ahead.

KIERAN DOUGLAS

Young Defender signed from the Wessex leagues' Christchurch FC, where he had been Captain for two successful seasons. A tall, strong and composed player who has settled in very well at the club already and we only see good things for the future. Kieran re-joined Christchurch on dual-registered forms for their FA Vase run in the 2020-21 season but he is now back at City once again.

OLLY BALMER

21-year-old Forward who has signed from Poole Town, having played for them at the Conference South level. Olly is technically skilled with an eye for the goal, so we are looking forward to him flourishing with the Citizens this year. Balmer has turned in many influential displays for City, including scoring a memorable last-minute free-kick at Cirencester Town which made him a fans favourite.

OLLIE GRIGGS

Combative Midfielder who we are pleased to be signing permanently for the Citizens this season having played with the club on two occasions in the past whilst at Southern Premier club, Dorchester Town. Griggsey has played for both City and Dorchester in recent years and has now signed for City once again for the 2021-22 season.

Our Visitors Today

NICK HARVEY

Young Goalkeeper, Nick Harvey, has signed first-team forms for City this season. Harvey played for City's Under-23s last season whilst dual-registered with Ringwood Town. An agile young Goalkeeper, with a bright future ahead.

GREG PEEL

A former Carlisle United forward, Peel has signed for City from Bemerton Heath Harlequins. Peel lists Waterford FC, Larkhall Athletic, Mangotsfield United and National League South side, Bath City, amongst his former sides. Greg has a real presence up front and we are delighted to secure his signature.

LIAM CALLAGHAN

A tricky former AFC Totton winger that has signed forms a second consecutive season for City. Callaghan featured heavily for City's Under-23s at the end of last season once their title winning campaign restarted and was a constant threat.

TOM VINCENT

A tall, powerful young forward who was integral for City in their title-winning Under-23 side last season. Vincent impressed so much he has now signed first-team forms and featured in City's opening friendly away at Cowes Sports.

LEX VAUGHAN

Lex burst onto the scene by performing outstandingly in Jamie Ricketts' successful Under-16s side. Lex was promoted directly to the Under-23s where he impressed last season, so much so that he too has signed first-team forms for the 2021-22 season.

BRAD SNELLING

Brad has returned to City for another stint. Snelling has played in goal for City before and has since played for Blackfield and Langley and also AFC Portchester but he has now returned to the Simplyhealth City Ground.

Our Visitors Today

ADAM GRANGE

Adam is a new face at Winchester City, joining from Poole Town. Grange has also previously served Andover Town and was an England Schoolboy and is a great coup for City.

TYRELL MITFORD

City's FA Cup hero has re-signed for the club once again. Mitford will be hoping to emulate his recent goalscoring exploits. An excellent finisher who lists Ramsgate, Kings Langley, Beaconsfield and Team Solent amongst his former sides.

OLI BAILEY

A club legend that has moved back to the area and re-signed from Gresley Rovers. Bailey had several prolific seasons at the club before re-locating but he is now back in the area and back at City. A former Gosport Borough forward.

JOSH McCORMICK

'Macca' has signed first-team forms once again City. A former City youth team player that went on to play first team football elsewhere, including at Bognor Regis Town. Josh is now converted to a full-back and has been a regular in Davo's plans since returning to the club.

Our Visitors Today

Club Staff

CRAIG DAVIS

Player-Manager who came to City from Fleet Town after relinquishing his position as Manager. Took over as Interim Manager until the end of the 2016-17 season before taking over the reins permanently. His playing career started off as a pro at Cardiff City before spells at Bashley, Salisbury, Gosport Borough and AFC Totton. Has won both the Southern League South and West and Premier as a player. 'Davo' has had several opportunities to move on from City, including an opportunity at a higher level, but he has shown his commitment and loyalty to City and we are delighted to have him at the helm.

JO BROCKSOM

Jo is in her 6th season now at Winchester as Sports therapist, this is her 2nd season taking a leading role though, has been integral in keeping our players on the pitch and delighted to have her with the club again this season.

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		
11/09/2021	15:00	League	H	Willand Rovers		
13/09/2021	19:45	League	A	Evesham United		
18/09/2021	15:00	League	A	Sholing		
29/09/2021	19:45	League	H	Barnstaple Town		
02/10/2021	15:00	League	H	Melksham 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		
13/11/2021	15:00	League	A	AFC Totton		
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.		
11/09/2021	15:00	League	A	Cheltenham Saracens Dev.		
18/09/2021	15:00	League	H	Bourton Rovers Res.		
25/09/2021	15:00	League	H	New Dales Vale		
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
09/09/2021	19:30	League	A	Longlevens U18
14/09/2021	19:30	League	A	Cinderford Town U18
21/09/2021	19:30	League	H	Bishops Cleeve U18
28/09/2021	19:30	Cup	H	Longlevens U18

Tea & Food Hut

**Visit Our Snack Hut by the Clubhouse for your
Hot food and drink today!**

Tea, Coffee, Soup	£1.00
Bovril, Hot Chocolate	£1.40

Chips	£2.00
Cheesy Chips	£2.50
Bacon Roll	£2.50
Burger, Hotdog	£2.50
Cheese Burger	£3.00

Sausage and Chips	£3.50
Bacon Roll and Chips	£3.50
Burger and Chips	£4.00
Hotdog and Chips	£4.00
Cheese Burger and Chips	£4.50

SPECIALS

Bacon Cheese Burger	£3.50
Bacon Cheese Burger and Chips	£4.50

Beer, Lager, Cider, Soft drinks, Crisps, Nuts and Chocolate available in the clubhouse

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

Swans on the Road!

Monday 13 September 2021, 7.45pm

Evesham United v Slimbridge

The Spiers & Hartwell Jubilee Stadium, Cheltenham Road,
Evesham, Worcs, WR11 2LS



Match Reports

Frome Town 2-0 Slimbridge **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Saturday 28th August 2021

Improved Swans lose to clinical Robins

There were two changes to the Swans line up with Jamie Martin and Johan Flo added to the starting line-up replacing Ben Deakin who had not recovered from an injury sustained at Marlow and Marley Thomas dropping to the bench.

The overall performance was much improved on last week's cup exit with the team playing at a higher tempo with a slicker passing game throughout. Had Ben McLean's shot crept inside the post rather than striking it just before half time the final score may have been very different.



Match Reports

Slimbridge started the game brightly and had much of the early possession, Ben Pricor striking a long range effort at keeper Seth Locke. A Frome attack saw Rex Mannings pass find James Ollis who's shot from the edge of the box flew wide of the visitor's goal.

The home side took the lead on 17 minutes full back Joseph O'Loughlin found space down the left and his pin point cross to the far post was tapped in by Mannings. Frome took control of the game with Mannings forcing a save from Adams a couple of minutes later.

A last ditch tackle by Ben Hands denied Ollis a goal scoring opportunity, the resulting corner was cleared by the under pressure Swans defence. The visitors however managed to carve out a few chances, Pricor's cross was cleared by the home defence and fell kindly to Martin but his long range shot was just wide.

Slimbridge's best chance of the game came 5 minutes before half time, some Edji Mbunga trickery on the left enabled him to lay the ball into the path of McLean who unleashed a 30 yard strike across goal that struck the post with Locke beaten.

In first half injury time Johan Flo and Mbunga both had strikes towards goal but failed to hit the target.

The first move of the second half from the home side saw Slimbridge fall further behind. Adams turned O'Loughlin fierce strike from the left around the near post. The resulting corner saw Ollis scramble the ball into the net extending Frome's lead.

Slimbridge failed to give up with Mbunga and Martin working hard down the wings carving out crosses into the box. At the other end Pricor was positioned well to head away Jonathan Davies effort with Adams stranded. On the hour Pricor delivered a cross from the left to the back post with Martins header just wide of the goal.

Match Reports

The visitors continued to play their passing game and despite spells of pressure they failed to get on the score sheet with the best chance falling to substitute Adam Price with his shot just inches wide past the post.

The Swans now face a run of three home games starting on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon welcoming local neighbours Cinderford Town to Thornhill Park. Next Saturday Winchester City return in a rearranged fixture that was originally abandoned due to floodlight failure.

The Under 18s start their season on Tuesday when they visit Odd Down (Bath) in the FA Youth Cup while the reserves play at home to the Longlevens development side on Friday evening at 7:45pm.

Slimbridge: L Adams, T Lawrence, B Prictor, B McLean, B Hands, N Dennis, J Martin, M Ford, W Hawes, J Flow, E Mbunga,

Subs Used: M Thomas, J Annear, A Price

Attendance: 262

Supporters player of the match: Nathan Dennis

Match Reports

Slimbridge 3-3 Cinderford Town **Pitching In Southern League Div. One South** Monday 30th August 2021

Swans snatch injury time leveller after first half lead

In a thrilling Bank Holiday game at Thornhill Park, the Swans were fortunate to snatch a late point after costly mistakes in defence almost gifted Cinderford Town their first win of the season.

Toby Lawrence continued at right back with Ben Deakin still carrying a knock. Marley Thomas returned to the side replacing Jamie Martin who suffered an injury at Frome and Adam Price starting his first game of the season with Mike Ford dropping to the bench.



The game started off at a pace, Lewis Adams tipping Cambden Duncan's shot over the bar in the first minute. At the other end, a cross from the left found Will Hawes in space his low shot deflected over keeper Max Harris and into the net to give the home side an early lead.

Match Reports

The Swans continued to pile pressure on the Cinderford defence, Edji Mbunga missing Ben Pricor's cross from the left. Moments later Johan Flo fed a pass through the middle to Adam Price, but his shot failed to hit the target.

On 22 minutes Zac Drew found space on the right and forced another save out of Adams tipping the ball over the bar. Ben McLean's attempted clearance from the corner struck the post and with the ball being scrambled clear.

Toby Lawrence in a rare foray forward played in Price whose fierce shot was tipped over by Harris, Nathan Dennis heading the resultant corner wide at the back post.

As the half came to an end Lawrence blocked a visitors shot from which Slimbridge broke through Mbunga. A through pass found Hawes and at the end of a 30 yard run hit his shot over the bar with just Harris to beat.

The home side continued to pile on the pressure early in the second half, Hawes having a shot blocked from Mbunga's cross and Marley Thomas crossing into Mbunga but his header fell wide.

On 51 minutes Drew intercepted Ben Hands back pass to Adams allowing him to round Adams and tuck the ball away to bring the scores level. Eight minutes later the visitors took advantage again when a long ball over the defence found Ben Brookes in space and with Adams off his line chipped the keeper to give the visitors the lead.

The Swans got back level a matter of minutes later, Thomas firing a pin point cross from the left for Price to head home off the inside of the far post. Moments later at the other end a Cinderford cross was headed off the line by Dennis.

Match Reports

Slimbridge now piling the pressure on the visitors with Lawrence down the right finding substitute Jordan Annear who fired across goal with Thomas firing wide at the far post.

On 75 minutes Thomas forced a save from Harris after collecting Mbunga's cross from the right. With four minutes left Duncan's 30 yard shot fell kindly for Adams. Flo then forced a save from Harris pushing his shot around the post.

Another costly mistake by the Swans defence on 88 minutes saw Drew round Adams and tuck the ball into an empty net for what appeared to be a winner for the visitors.

The home side had other idea's 3 minutes into injury time a Prictor cross found Annear who's point blank header was initially saved by Harris. Myron Turner however was in the right position to collect the rebound and raffle the ball into the net to give the home side a share of the points.

The Swans continue a run of home games with the return of Winchester City in a rearranged fixture that was originally abandoned due to floodlight failure. Friday night sees the reserves face Longlevens development side at home with a 7:45pm kick off.

Slimbridge: L Adams, T Lawrence, B Prictor, B McLean, B Hands, N Dennis, E Mbunga, A Price, W Hawes, J Flow, M Thomas

Subs Used: J Annear, M Turner, M Ford

Attendance: 181

Supporters player of the match: Ben McLean

League Table

Pitching In Southern League Division One South

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

League Table

Hellenic League Division Two West

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

Jordan Annear

Striker

Joining pre-season from Bideford, the experienced striker has a good track record for finding the net with Tavistock, Falmouth and Plymouth Parkway. Also had a spell with South Shields in the North East.

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.

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Player Appearances

		Started	Subs	Goals
N	Dennis	4	0	0
B	Hands	4	0	0
W	Hawes	4	0	1
B	McLean	4	0	0
T	Lawrence	4	0	0
L	Adams	4	0	0
M	Ford	3	1	0
E	Mbunga	3	1	0
Mar	Thomas	3	1	1
B	Prictor	3	0	0
J	Martin	2	1	0
J	Flo	2	1	0
B	Deakin	2	0	0
A	Price	1	2	1
M	Turner	1	1	1
J	Annear	0	3	0
I	Thurston	0	1	0

Goal Scorers

		Started	Subs	Goals
W	Hawes	4	0	1
Mar	Thomas	3	1	1
A	Price	1	2	1
M	Turner	1	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



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