Slimbridge Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League Division One South

PITCHING IN PARTNERS WITH SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saturday March 18th 2023
v AFC Totton



joma-sport.com

Slimbridge
Football Club

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Ground Staff	Paul Chappell Malcolm Carter Barry Gay

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Website: www.slimbridgeafc.co.uk
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'The best Bacon Burgers in Gloucestershire'
(BBC Radio Gloucester)

Slimbridge v AFC Totton

Todays Team Lineups

Lewis Adams	1	Lewis Noice
Joe Shutt	2	Benny Read
Ben Prictor	3	Jack Masterton
Myron Turner (C)	4	Adam Tomasso
Jacob Geddes	5	Charlie Kennedy (C)
Nathan Dennis	6	Luke Hallett
Edji Mbunga	7	Charlie Davis
Levi Frances	8	Josh Carmichael
Ethan Dunbar	9	Scott Rendell
James Sunley	10	Ethan Taylor
Rudi McKinnon	11	Tommy Wright
Theo Clayson	12	Michael Carter
Dale Evans	14	Matt Burrows
Ben Deakin	15	Freddie Read
Toby Lawrence	16	Marcus Day
Jack Smith	17	Jake Adams
	18	Silvano Obeng

Referee Cain Collins

Assistants Gareth Mcmahon
Damian Pelka

This Weeks
Fixtures



Saturday 18 March 2023

15:00 Bashley v Tavistock
15:00 Bideford v Bishops Cleeve
15:00 Bristol Manor Farm v Cinderford Town
15:00 Exmouth Town v Lymington Town
15:00 Frome Town v Sholing
15:00 Hamworthy United v Westbury United
15:00 Larkhall Athletic v Paulton Rovers
15:00 Melksham Town v Evesham United
15:00 Slimbridge v AFC Totton
15:00 Wimborne Town v Willand Rovers







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Season 2022-23

Fixtures & Results



			Opposition	Competition	Result	Att
Sat Aug 6	3:00pm	A	Tuffley Rovers	FA Cup Extra Pr	2-1	186
Sat Aug 13	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Sholing**	**League**	**1-3**	**88**
Tue Aug 16	7:45pm	A	Cinderford Town	League	1-2	108
Sat Aug 20	3:00pm	A	Flackwell Heath	FA Cup Pr	1-0	232
Sat Aug 27	3:00pm	A	Hamworthy United	League	1-1	152
Mon Aug 29	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Bristol Manor Farm**	**League**	**1-1**	**219**
Sat Sep 3	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Sholing**	**FA Cup 1Q**	**0-0**	**96**
Tue Sep 6	7:45pm	A	Sholing	FA Cup 1QR	2-5 AET	176
Sat Sep 10	3:00pm	A	A.F.C. Totton	FA Trophy Pr	1-1 6-7pens	110
Sat Sep 17	3:00pm	A	Bashley	League	1-0	312
Sat Sep 24	3:00pm	A	Willand Rovers	League	2-0	**122**
Sat Oct 1	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Exmouth Town**	**League**	**0-4**	**118**
Tue Oct 4	7:45pm	A	Yate Town	GFA Trophy	0-3	89
Sat Oct 8	3:00pm	A	Paulton Rovers	League	2-3	139
Tue Oct 11	**7:45pm**	**H**	**Evesham United**	**League**	2-2	187
Sat Oct 15	3:00pm	A	A.F.C. Totton	League	0-3	793
Sat Oct 22	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Tavistock AFC**	**League**	**2-4**	**89**
Sat Oct 29	3:00pm	A	Wimborne Town	League	3-3	389
Sat Nov 5	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Lymington Town**	**League**	1-0	86
Sat Nov 12	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Bideford AFC**	**League**	2-3	77
Sat Nov 19	3:00pm	A	Frome Town	League	1-4	376
Sat Nov 26	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Westbury United**	**League**	0-1	97
Sat Dec 3	3:00pm	A	Sholing	League	0-1	176
Mon Dec 26	**1:00pm**	**H**	**Bishops Cleeve**	**League**	1-3	216
Mon Jan 2	3:00pm	A	Bristol Manor Farm	League	3-0	247
Sat Jan 28	3:00pm	A	Bideford AFC	League	2-2	196
Sat Feb 4	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Paulton Rovers**	**League**	**1-1**	**86**
Wed Feb 8	**7:45pm**	**H**	**Melksham Town**	**League**	**1-2**	**136**
Sat Feb 11	3:00pm	A	Exmouth Town	League	2-2	290
Sat Feb 18	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Larkhall Athletic**	**League**	**0-1**	**101**
Wed Feb 22	7:45pm	A	Larkhall Athletic	League	1-3	109
Sat Feb 25	3:00pm	A	Melksham Town	League	2-3	351
Tue Feb 28	7:45pm	A	Westbury United	League	0-3	114
Sat Mar 4	3:00pm	A	Evesham United	League	0-1	263
Tue Mar 7	**7:45pm**	**H**	**Cinderford Town**	**League**	**2-3**	**151**
Sat Mar 18	**3:00pm**	**H**	**A.F.C. Totton**	**League**		
Wed Mar 22	7:45pm	H	Hamworthy United	League		
Sat Mar 25	3:00pm	A	Tavistock AFC	League		
Tue Mar 28	**7:45pm**	**H**	**Bashley**	**League**		
Sat Apr 1	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Willand Rovers**	**League**		
Fri Apr 7	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Frome Town**	**League**		
Mon Apr 10	3:00pm	A	Bishops Cleeve	League		
Sat Apr 15	**3:00pm**	**H**	**Wimborne Town**	**League**		
Sat Apr 22	3:00pm	A	Lymington Town	League		

Southern League
Division One South



		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Sholing	31	20	7	4	62	26	36	67
2	AFC Totton	27	20	4	3	65	22	43	64
3	Hamworthy United	29	16	8	5	56	31	25	56
4	Wimborne Town	30	14	7	9	50	49	1	49
5	Bashley	30	14	5	11	41	30	11	47
6	Tavistock AFC	30	15	2	13	58	51	7	47
7	Evesham United	30	14	4	12	41	34	7	46
8	Melksham Town	29	13	5	11	52	50	2	44
9	Westbury United	30	11	8	11	42	43	-1	41
10	Exmouth Town	31	11	7	13	43	42	1	40
11	Frome Town	28	11	6	11	46	39	7	39
12	Paulton Rovers	29	12	3	14	47	49	-2	39
13	Bishops Cleeve	31	12	3	16	54	64	-10	39
14	Larkhall Athletic	30	10	8	12	36	51	-15	38
15	Bideford AFC	28	9	7	12	31	44	-13	34
16	Lymington Town	31	9	6	16	42	59	-17	33
17	Willand Rovers	30	7	10	13	38	43	-5	31
18	Bristol Manor Farm	30	7	7	16	41	62	-21	28
19	Cinderford Town	31	6	10	15	36	68	-32	28
20	Slimbridge	29	4	7	18	35	59	-24	19



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AFC Totton

Club History

Totton Football Club formed in 1886 & became a founder member of the Hampshire FA & was a founder member of the New Forest League in 1904. After the 1914-18 War, Totton entered the Southampton Senior League, the New Forest League & in 1920/21 joined the Hampshire League West & later moved to Testwood Park.

In 1975 the club amalgamated with Totton Athletic to become AFC Totton. The Stags most successful season was in 1981-82 when we won the Hampshire League Division 1, Russell Côtes Cup, Hampshire Intermediate Cup, Southampton Senior Cup & Reg Mathieson Trophy. In the 1986/87 season, the Stags became a founder member of the newly formed Wessex League & finished third. In 1989/90 the Stags won the Wessex League Cup & in the 1990/91 season was runner-up to Southern League Bashley in the Russell Côtes Cup.

The 2002/03 season saw us enjoy a good FA Cup run before losing to Slough Town in a 1st Qualifying Round replay. The Stags gained some silverware beating League Champions Eastleigh 2-1 in the final of the Wessex Football League Cup. The 2005/06 season saw many changes with Stuart Ritchie now at the helm. The Stags achieved 4th place in the League, had a good FA Cup run & won the Wessex League Cup for a third time. 2006/07 was the most memorable in our history. Leading the table since October, we missed out on the title by one goal to Gosport. The highlight was reaching the FA Vase Final for the first time in our history. Played at the new Wembley Stadium in front of a record 36,232 crowd for a Vase Final, we had to settle for Runners-up spot after losing 3-1 to Truro City.

The 2007/08 season saw a good early run in the FA Cup & that momentum extended into a great run in the League. The team produced a stunning 27 points from 30 in March & April. This sealed our first Wessex League Championship & promotion to the Southern League South & West Division 1. The 2008/09 season saw the Stags finish 3rd in the league & secure a place in the play-offs. After beating Beaconsfield SYCOB in the semi-final, we lost the final in extra time to Didcot. 2009/10 saw the Stags win the Hampshire Senior Cup for the first time in our history. The Stags narrowly missed out on promotion for the second season in a row, finishing runners up in the league. We lost the play-off semi-final to Cirencester Town 2-3. In 2010/11 we retained the Hampshire Senior Cup after beating Sholing 3-1 at St. Mary's Stadium. This was eclipsed by the club being crowned Champions of the Southern League South and West Division 1. We were named club of the season & picked up the fair play award

along with the Merit Cup for the most goals scored. The Stags celebrated a golden boot award for crowd favourite Mike Gosney, who scored 36 goals.

Highlight of the 2011/12 season was reaching the 2nd round proper of the FA Cup for the first time in our history. The Stags were beaten by League 2 side Bristol Rovers with the game shown live on ITV. The Stags reached the Hampshire Senior Cup final for the 3rd season in succession but lost 2-0 to Eastleigh. The Club narrowly missed promotion to the Conference South after losing 4-2 to Oxford City in the play-off final after only one season at Southern Premier League level. The 2012/13 season saw AFC Totton consolidate their position in the Southern Premier League finishing 14th. The home results disappointingly did not match performances away from the Testwood Stadium. The Red Insure Cup saw an early exit to Sholing, but a better run in the Hampshire Senior Cup ended against a strong AFC Bournemouth side with the Stags losing a penalty shoot-out 4-2. The Stags reached the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup but lost 3-2 at home to Cambridge City. On the way they recorded a remarkable result in defeating the then Conference South side Truro City by the same score in Cornwall.

The 2013-14 season saw the Stags undergo major changes, caused by previous miss-management of the Club. Forced to field mainly inexperienced youngsters in the tough surroundings of the Southern Premier League, relegation was half expected. Although as the players matured performances improved, the dreaded drop could not be avoided. The Stags then spent the last few seasons rebuilding & in 2018/19 finished 10th in the Southern League Division One South.

When the 2019/20 season was abandoned in April 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, The Stags were 16th in the League. The extended break saw significant changes at AFC Totton. A new management team came in & there was a major overhaul to the playing squad for the start of the 2020/21 season. When the season was stopped in November 2020, The Stags were sitting 2nd in the Southern League Division One South.

The 2021/22 season ended with The Stags finishing just outside the play off places in 6th position. The team reached the 3rd Round of the FA Trophy for the first time in the club's history & the most notable result in that cup run was winning 5-0 away at Concord Rangers from the National League South. The Stags picked up some silverware by winning the Southampton Senior Cup with a 3-0 win in the Final played at St Mary's Stadium.

AFC Totton
Player Profiles

Lewis NOICE
Goalkeeper
Highly regarded keeper who won honours at AFC Portchester and Blackfield & Langley before joining Totton in 2021. After a spell on the side lines last season, he returned to action around New Year but missed the Southampton Senior Cup Final in May due to another injury. Lewis still did enough to earn the Manager's Player of the Year award.

Charlie SEARLE
Goalkeeper
Charlie has recently dual signed from National League South side Havant & Waterlooville. He came through the Hawks ranks & played for Salisbury before spending last season at Wessex Premier side Baffins Milton Rovers. Charlie returned to the Hawks in the summer & will be a good addition to our group of keepers.

Charlie KENNEDY
Defender
Central defender or midfielder who began his career in the Barnet Academy. After a loan with Hayes & Yeading, he moved to Basingstoke Town, where he played for three years & won the Hampshire Senior Cup in 2017. Charlie signed for Gosport Borough in 2019 then spent last season at Salisbury where he skippered the team.

Luke HALLETT
Defender
A hardworking and determined central defender, 19-year-old Luke has moved to AFC Totton to re-team with his former Forest Green Rovers boss, Jimmy Ball. Grew up in Netley and played youth football for Sholing and in the Saints Academy before moving to Forest Green, for whom he made his EFL League Two debut against Stevenage in March 2021. Spent last season on loan with Gosport Borough.

Benny READ
Defender
Benny is on loan from National League South side Havant & Waterlooville. He joined the Hawks after spending 3 seasons with Horndean in the Wessex League. Benny is the older brother of Stags midfielder Freddie & the brothers played in the same team for the first time in our win at Bristol Manor Farm in November.

Jack MASTERTON
Defender/Midfielder
Jack joined us from Eastleigh in 2017 & the former Southampton scholar has played over 100 games for the Stags. Originally a left-back, Jack can also play in midfield. He captained the team in 2019/20, but a combination of injuries & work commitments limited his game time last season. A set-piece specialist who poses a threat from free-kicks.

Jordan RAGGUETTE
Defender/Midfielder
Jordan had spells at Gosport Borough, then Isthmian Premier League side Lewes before moving to AFC Totton during the 2021/22 season. Able to play anywhere on the left-hand side, his powerful running ability poses a constant attacking threat. He has three U21 Caps for St. Vincent and the Grenadines & has trained with the senior squad.

Mike CARTER
Midfielder
The summer signing brings a wealth of experience to the Stags squad. Mike won the FA Vase at Wembley with Sholing in 2014. He had success in the first of two spells at Gosport Borough then with Havant & Waterlooville, winning the Isthmian Premier League & the Conference South title in consecutive seasons.

Adam TOMASSO
Midfielder
The combative midfielder joined AFC Totton from Blackfield & Langley, having previously played for Winchester City. During the 2021/22 season, Adam had a short spell with AFC Portchester in the Wessex League. He returned to play & score in the 5-0 demolition of National League South side Concord Rangers in the FA Trophy in late November.

Freddie READ
Midfielder
Freddie spent the 2018/19 season with Portsmouth FC, making his debut in the EFL Trophy. He then had a short spell playing in the USA, before transferring his studies in Accountancy to the University of Portsmouth. Freddie is now in his third season with the Stags & scored the second goal in the 3-0 Southampton Senior Cup Final success against Folland Sports at St. Mary's Stadium in May 2022.

Jake ADAMS
Midfielder
Jake was only 7 years-old when he joined the Southampton FC Academy, where he stayed for five years before switching to AFC Bournemouth. A hardworking, skilful, dead-ball specialist, he was part of the Bournemouth U23 squad that won the Hampshire Senior Cup in 2021. Joined Wessex League Premier side Alresford Town before signing for AFC Totton at the end of January 2022. Blessed with the skill to unlock even the most stubborn defences.

Charlie DAVIS
Midfielder
Charlie progressed through AFC Bournemouth's Academy & was rewarded with a scholarship in 2011. After a brief period in Spain, he returned home & played for Poole Town, Dorchester & then spent 3 years at Weymouth. After a spell at Gosport, Charlie has spent the last 3 years at Salisbury scoring 10 goals from 69 appearances.

Ethan TAYLOR
Midfielder/Forward
The 21-year-old ended the 2021/22 season in style by producing a *Man of the Match* performance in the Southampton Senior Cup Final at St. Mary's Stadium. That capped off a fine campaign for the former Southampton Academy, Sholing and Team Solent player, who contributed 23 goals to finish as the team's second-highest goalscorer. Voted both *Player's Player of the Year* and *Supporters' Player of the Year*.

Josh CARMICHAEL
Midfielder
The former AFC Bournemouth Academy player made his senior debut for The Cherries against Exeter City as a 16-year-old scholar in the 2010/11 season. He made 4 league appearances for Bournemouth & spent time on loan with Gosport Borough, reaching the FA Trophy Final in 2014. He joined Gosport on a permanent deal then signed for Weymouth, playing 79 league games & scoring 4 goals for The Terras over 2 seasons winning the Southern League Premier Division South title in 2018/19. Josh then signed for Poole Town & recently transferred to the Stags from Salisbury FC, making his debut in our 1-0 home win over Bashley.

Scott RENDELL
Forward
The 35-year-old journeyman striker who includes Peterborough United, Wycombe Wanderers and Luton Town among the clubs he has represented over a 20-year career in which he has maintained a goals-to-games record of 1-in-3. Scored the goal for Luton Town, then of the Conference National, that knocked Premier League Norwich City out of the FA Cup in January 2013. Also works at the Snows Stadium running the PRO:DIRECT Academy.

Conor WHITELEY
Forward
Conor joined the Stags from local rivals Sholing & scored on his debut in the 5-3 win against Westbury Utd. He was an Academy player with Southampton & AFC Bournemouth before joining the Eastleigh Development Scheme on a 3 year scholarship. At 18 he joined Bashley & scored 35 goals in 86 Wessex League games before joining The Boatmen.

Silvano OBENG
Forward
Silvano rejoined the Stags in December 2022 following an earlier spell at the club between 2019-2021. Silvano left to join Brockenhurst in the Wessex League & helped them to 6th place & win the Russell-Cotes Cup, scoring 2 goals in the final. Silvano joined Winchester City in the summer before deciding to return to the Snows Stadium.

Matt BURROWS
Forward
Matt initially joined the Stags on loan before making the move permanent from National League South side Weymouth, where he spent time in the youth ranks playing for the U19 & U23 teams. Matt was an unused substitute in Weymouth's recent 1-1 draw with AFC Wimbledon in the 1st Round of the FA Cup. The young winger took just six minutes to score on his Stags debut in the 5-3 win against Westbury Utd.

Tommy WRIGHT
Forward
Tommy joined Sutton Utd in 2016 having previously played for Otterbourne in the Hampshire Premier League. He played for Salisbury in 2016/17 under dual registration & scored over 50 goals as they reached the Southern League play-offs. He transferred that form to the National League, scoring 19 goals, winning the young player of the year award & earning his first England C cap in Ireland in May 2018. He transferred to Havant & Waterlooville in July 2020 & joined the Stags this month for a loan spell.

Club Shop

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Swans 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.

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.

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 Southern Premier sides, 2-1 at Yate Town and 3-1 at home to Chippenham Town.

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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.

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.

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.

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…

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Slimbridge
Staff Profiles

Tom Deakin
Joint Manager / 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.

Adam Coyle
Joint Manager / Coach
Adam is a long term servant with the club joining from the county youth scene to set up and manage the successful Under 18's youth team and more recently managing the reserve side. Has bags of coaching experience and brings a new dimension to the first team.

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.

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Slimbridge
Player Profiles

Lewis Adams
Goalkeeper
Lewis progressed through our U/18s side and has become a very capable Southern League player. Good shot stopper who has made over 100 appearances in the number one jersey.

Dan Troke
Goalkeeper
Strong talented young up and coming U/18s goalkeeper pushing Lewis hard for a starting place this year.

Ben Hands
Defender
A strong lad at the heart of the defence also plays in a defensive midfield role and capable of chipping in a few goals. Previous clubs include Longlevens and Cinderford Town.

Nathan Dennis
Defender
Signed from County League Frampton 12 months ago and made a huge impact in the central defence. Big old school style defender that puts himself about at both ends of the pitch.

Toby Lawrence
Defender
Former Cheltenham Town U18s player in his second year with the Swans in the Southern League having had a good season in the heart of the defence.

Jacob Geddes
Defender
Former Tuffley Rovers player, is a no nonsense defender already showing his solidity and impressing amongst the rest of the squad

Ben Prictor
Defender
Experienced Southern and Hellenic League defender in his third spell with the club after a spell with Evesham last season, likes getting forward.

Harvey Skurek
Defender
Former Cheltenham Town Under 18s player looking to establish himself in senior football. Will bring much needed support on the left side of defence.

Austin Parker
Defender
Young defender signed from Cheltenham Saracens

Myron Turner
Midfield
A very popular member of the squad and among the supporters here a Thornhill Park. Returns for his sixth season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens.

Levi Francis
Midfield
Former Swindon Town academy captain joined the Swans ahead of the upcoming season. The midfielder has impressed with his attitude and technical ability.

Joe Shutt
Midfield
Joe is a highly energetic winger who has already fitted in really well with the rest of the boys having joined in preseason from Tuffley Rovers

Jack Smith
Midfield
Member of the current U18/s team who has impressed during preseason and has a good future ahead of him with the Swans.

Marley Thomas
Midfield
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.

Romaine Campbell
Midfield
Another former U18/s and reserve team player looking to break into the first team this season.

Liam Harper
Midfield
An attacking player who has progressed through the ranks at the club captaining both the U18/s and reserve sides.

James Sunley
Midfield
Former Longlevens midfielder who joins from Hartpury University. Represented Jersey at Under-21 international level.

Edjija Mbunga
Striker
Pacey striker who can be a real handful in and around the penalty area.

Kieran Bennet
Striker
Member of the Under 18s team making a big impression this season and looking to get a chance to step up to senior football.

Ethan Dunbar
Striker
Another young player who caught the manager's eye having progressed through our U/18s. Spent last year away at Longlevens and returns more hungry than ever to step up to Southern League level. Ethan has plenty of pace and will further strengthen our attack.

Rudi McKinnon
Striker
Talented young striker looking to make his mark in the Southern League. Previous clubs include Tuffley, Yate Town and Cribbs

Brandon Barnes
Striker
Experienced striker who has scored many goals for whoever he has played for. Started out with Swindon Town, Bristol City and Southampton academies. Played for Bitton and Chippenham Town then 5 successful years in New Zealand and Australia before returning to the UK with Weston Super-Mare.

Will Hawes
Striker
Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skilful player. He will be looking to form a strong partnership with young Ethan Dunbar up front and con�nue to score plenty more for the Swans this season.

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