Slimbridge Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League Division One South

Monday August 29th 2022
V Bristol Manor Farm



joma-sport.com

Slimbridge
Football Club

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Wisloe Road
Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF

Website: www.slimbridgeafc.co.uk
Email: info@slimbridgeafc.co.uk
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Slimbridge Football Club is a Members Club which is run by Volunteers.

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

Tea, Coffee, Soup	£1.00
Bovril, Hot Chocolate	£1.50
Chips	£2.00
Cheesy Chips	£2.50
Bacon Roll	£2.50
Burger, Hotdog	£3.00
Cheese Burger	£3.50
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SPECIALS

Bacon Cheese Burger	£3.50
Bacon Cheese Burger and Chips	£5.00

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

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

Slimbridge v Bristol Manor Farm

Todays Team Lineups

Lewis Adams	1	Ben John
Jacob Geddes	2	Shay Allen
Toby Lawrence	3	Mason Winter
Myron Turner	4	Josh Ford
Nathan Dennis	5	Aron Robbins
Levi Francis	6	Steve Kingdon
Edji Mbunga	7	Jake Gosling
Ben McLean	8	Jayden Nielsen
Will Hawes (C)	9	Mike Bryant
Ethan Dunbar	10	Owen Howe
Marley Thomas	11	Lloyd Mills
Mike Ford	12	Theo Llewellyn
Dylan Lewis	14	Regan Lashenko
Brad Bevan	15	Marcus Day
Ben Prictor	16	Will Gallagher
Brandon Barnes	17	Evander Grubb
Joe Shutt	18	Harry Lucas

Referee Harley Hetherington

Assistants Paul Sparrow
Liam Brace

This Weeks
Fixtures



Monday 29 August 2022

15:00 Wimborne Town v Lymington Town

15:00 Willand Rovers v Exmouth Town

15:00 Slimbridge v Bristol Manor Farm

15:00 Paulton Rovers v Cinderford Town

15:00 Melksham Town v Westbury United

15:00 Bideford v Tavistock

15:00 Evesham United v Bishops Cleeve

15:00 Bashley v Hamworthy United

15:00 AFC Totton v Sholing

15:00 Larkhall Athletic v Frome Town







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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		
Mon Aug 29	3:00pm	H	Bristol Manor Farm	League		
Sat Sep 3	3:00pm	H	Sholing	FA Cup 1Q		
Sat Sep 10	3:00pm	A	A.F.C. Totton	FA Trophy Pr		
Sat Sep 17	3:00pm	A	Bashley	League		
Sat Oct 1	3:00pm	H	Exmouth Town	League		
Sat Oct 8	3:00pm	A	Paulton Rovers	League		
Wed Oct 12	7:45pm	H	Evesham United	League		
Sat Oct 15	3:00pm	A	A.F.C. Totton	League		
Sat Oct 22	3:00pm	H	Tavistock AFC	League		
Wed Oct 26	7:45pm	A	Willand Rovers	League		
Sat Oct 29	3:00pm	A	Wimborne Town	League		
Sat Nov 5	3:00pm	H	Lymington Town	League		
Sat Nov 12	3:00pm	H	Bideford AFC	League		
Sat Nov 19	3:00pm	A	Frome Town	League		
Wed Nov 23	7:45pm	H	Cinderford Town	League		
Sat Nov 26	3:00pm	H	Westbury United	League		
Sat Dec 3	3:00pm	A	Sholing	League		
Sat Dec 10	3:00pm	A	Larkhall Athletic	League		
Sat Dec 17	3:00pm	H	Melksham Town	League		
Mon Dec 26	3:00pm	H	Bishops Cleeve	League		
Mon Jan 2	3:00pm	A	Bristol Manor Farm	League		
Sat Jan 7	3:00pm	H	Hamworthy United	League		
Sat Jan 14	3:00pm	A	Westbury United	League		
Sat Jan 21	3:00pm	H	Bashley	League		
Sat Jan 28	3:00pm	A	Bideford AFC	League		
Sat Feb 4	3:00pm	H	Paulton Rovers	League		
Sat Feb 11	3:00pm	A	Exmouth Town	League		
Sat Feb 18	3:00pm	H	Larkhall Athletic	League		
Sat Feb 25	3:00pm	A	Melksham Town	League		
Sat Mar 4	3:00pm	A	Evesham United	League		
Sat Mar 18	3:00pm	H	A.F.C. Totton	League		
Sat Mar 25	3:00pm	A	Tavistock AFC	League		
Sat Apr 1	3:00pm	H	Willand Rovers	League		
Sat Apr 8	3:00pm	H	Frome Town H	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	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6
2	Exmouth Town	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
3	Hamworthy United	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
4	Bashley	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
5	Tavistock AFC	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	6
6	Frome Town	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
7	Paulton Rovers	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
8	Bishops Cleeve	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
9	Wimborne Town	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
10	Evesham United	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
11	AFC Totton	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
12	Cinderford Town	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
13	Willand Rovers	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
14	Bideford AFC	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
15	Bristol Manor Farm	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
16	Westbury United	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1
17	Larkhall Athletic	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
18	Slimbridge	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
19	Lymington Town	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
20	Melksham Town	2	0	0	2	2	8	-6	0

Swans On The Road

Up Next

Saturday 10th September 2022 3:00pm

FA Trophy Qualifying Round



AFC Totton

The Snows Stadium

Salisbury Road, Totton

Southampton

SO40 2RW

Saturday 17th September 2022 3:00pm

Southern League Division One South



Bashley

GlenMex Stadium

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Bashley

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Bristol Manor Farm

Club History

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

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

The club joined the Somerset Senior League and over time made good progress through the divisions. In 1977 the club made the step-up to the Western League and five years later were promoted to the Premier Division as Division One Champions in 1982/83.

The club would remain at this level for the next three decades but ambitious seeds were sown for the club's future in 1998 when Geoffrey Sellek, a founding player during those early 60's 'homeless' years, took over the helm of the club as Chairman.

In a life of total dedication to the football club and its social club activities, Geoff began the long, arduous task of steering the club towards promotion to the Southern League and beyond.

Bristol Manor Farm's decent FA Cup pedigree is rooted in an exciting run during the 2010/11 competition which saw us win a penalty shoot-out against Almondsbury Town and hold Basingstoke Town to a draw before being pipped by a single goal in the replay.

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

The modern era of Bristol Manor Farm truly began at the start of the 2013/14 with the appointment of our current, long-serving and most successful Manager, Lee Lashenko.

Fresh from winning the Premier League title with Bishop Sutton, Lashenko quickly made an impact with Manor Farm. The team made a good push for the league title but finished as runners-up to Larkhall Athletic – breaking club records for league position, goals scored and fewest goals conceded along the way.

Our FA Cup run saw us put 9 goals past Oldland Abbotonians and 7 past Lymington Town, bringing us national media attention. The 1st Round Qualifying tie against Corsham Town ended in a 4-4 draw with Manor Farm winning the hard fought replay 1-0. We then also held Bridgwater Town to a 4-4 draw in the next round before narrowly going out 2-1 in the replay.

Again, in 2014-2015, Bristol Manor Farm just missed out on promotion by 3 points. We did win the GFA County Challenge Trophy however with a 2-0 win over local neighbours Shirehampton.

2015/2016 saw an epic run in the FA Vase that took us to within sniffing distance of Wembley. A notable 3-2 comeback win in the 5th Round at Sunderland RCA, meant another long return trip to the north-east for a Quarter Final showdown with Morpeth Town. On a heavy pitch we heroically went down fighting 2-0 with Morpeth going on to beat Hereford FC 4-1 in the showpiece Wembley final.

We finished third in the League – narrowly missing out on promotion once again but won the GFA County Challenge Trophy for the second season in succession with a record 9-2 win over Lydney Town.

On a happy night at Ashton Gate our former Exeter City and Truro City striker Dean Stamp also won the Bristol Post 'Footballer of the Year' award for his astonishing tally of 59 goals in all competitions.

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

An extraordinary unbeaten league run of 21 games between September and March (19 wins and 2 draws) all but secured the title, which was eventually clinched with three games to spare following a 2-0 win at local club Hallen on Good Friday.

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

Manor Farm hit the ground running during our dramatic, debut Southern League campaign ('17/18) – briefly leading the pack in September and never out of the top six until the final agonising fortnight of the season.

The 2018/19 campaign was beset by second season syndrome - a plague of injuries, a rash of suspensions and inconsistent league form. Manor Farm's national profile was given a further boost however by another extended run in the FA Cup. We finally fell to National League side Slough Town in a Third Qualifying Round replay after a valiant 2-2 draw in the original tie at their Arbour Park ground and a 5-2 thumping of Basingstoke Town at home in the previous round – both games played amid torrential rainfall.

During the Covid-19-interrupted League seasons of '19/20 and '20/21 we enjoyed two further FA Cup runs. A smash and grab 4-2 victory at Tiverton Town set us up with a tasty home tie with National League side Wealdstone. Manor Farm defended heroically in a goalless draw in

front of a sell-out capacity crowd at The Creek but bowed out bravely in the replay.

The following year saw dramatic penalty shoot-outs – away at Kidlington (which we won) and at home to the National League's Cray Wanderers, which we lost, after a thrilling 3-3 'comeback' at The Creek. We also won the inaugural Steve Hillier Memorial Cup, named in honour of our long serving Secretary.

Last season ('21/22) – the first to be completed post-Covid – was the most epic in the club's history for all kinds of reasons. A rocky first half to the season was swept away on a tide of pure emotion after Christmas with a breath-taking push for promotion in which Manor Farm were defeated just once - winning 12 from 16 with 32 goals scored and just 8 conceded. On the final day of the season, at a delirious, jam-packed Creek, Owen Howe scored an 84th minute equaliser against Winchester City to finally secure us that coveted play-off spot.

The team, fans and wider community were undoubtedly spurred on throughout the second half of last season by the tragic news the club had received in January that Geoff Sellek had become terminally ill.

Alas, Geoff was not well enough to witness Manor Farm's greatest ever night – a well-deserved 3-1 semi-final victory over Frome Town at their Badgers Hill home. After going one-nil down Kye Simpson responded with an immediate equaliser and the tide duly turned. Owen Howe sealed a famous and historic victory with a superb second-half brace to the obvious delight of the travelling Farmy Army.

The season was to end on the saddest of notes however with Winchester City winning 4-1 in a traumatic final over-shadowed by Geoffrey Sellek's tragic passing just three days earlier.



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Bristol Manor Farm

Player Profiles

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

Shay Allen. Goalkeeper – Shay proved excellent promise as he won the Western County Floodlight league with the U18s last season and has since impressed in pre-season with the first team.

Mason Winter. Defender – Mason signed for the Farm in 2019, he was with the Bristol Rovers academy until he was 17yrs. He has since played for Melksham Town, Cribbs and Larkhall Athletic.

Josh Ford. Defender - Ford began his career at Queens Park Rangers and has played for a number of clubs. He captained the Yate Town side who won promotion in 2019. Josh has also featured for Paulton Rovers, Frome Town, and Melksham Town.

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

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

Aron Robbins. Defender **–** Aron has already played in the Southern League for Clevedon Town before joining the Farm five seasons ago, he is a seasoned left back that likes to get forward and score goals.

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

Jake Gosling. Jake signed from Sporting Khalsa in 2021. A dynamic winger who can play anywhere across the forward line, finding spaces where he can showcase the intelligence and trickery he learnt from playing for Exeter City, Bristol Rovers and Newport County.

Mike Bryant. Midfielder. Mike signed from Yate Town in 2020. The experienced midfielder has been a constant feature in both the Farm's midfield and attack, including scoring against Lymington and Paulton last season during the club's remarkable play-off run.

Theo Llewelyn. Midfielder - A defensive midfielder by trade. Theo started his career with Championship side Bristol City FC. After leaving Ashton Gate in 2018, Theo went on to play for Gloucester City, Alvechurch, and Redditch United.

Ben Bament. Forward - Ben returned in 2021 for his second spell at The Creek from Roman Glass St George. Since his last spell, Ben has featured for league rivals Paulton Rovers and Bitton.

Jayden Nielsen. Midfielder – Jayden signed from Brislington in 2020. An exciting player to watch with a lot of skill.

George Fowler. Midfielder – George signed in March 2022 from Paulton Rovers. George is a Bristol Rovers Academy graduate.

Owen Howe. Forward - The experienced frontman is back at The Creek after a short spell with Tiverton and Barnstaple. Previously he has also played for Taunton Town, Weston-Super-Mare and Salisbury.

Marcus Day. Forward – Marcus has become a player of great promise since progressing through Bristol City's ranks. He is back with the Farm after spending last season with Barry Town.

Evander Grubb. Midfielder – Record breaker Evander is back with the Farm for a second spell. He can play out wide or up front, terrorising opposition defences with his pace and trickery.

Harry Lucas. Midfielder - Harry is a new face to the senior side who has experience in a Farm shirt for our U18 squad.

Regan Lashenko. Forward – Regan has had spells at Cardiff City and Torquay and signed for the Farm in January 2022 at the age of 16. We look forward to seeing Regan develop this season.

Luco Ponsillo. Forward - Luco is a tricky forward who has a bright future, having made the step up into first-team football.

Kye Simpson. Forward – Kye signed from Mangotsfield in March 2022. A proven goal-scorer that will add extra quality to our attacking options.

Bristol Manor Farm

Staff Profiles

Lee Lashenko. Manager – also known as Laz, this is his 10th season at the Farm where he lead the team to 2nd place, 4th Place, 3rd place and then as champions of the Western League before being promoted into the Southern League in season 2017-2018.

Grantley Dicks. Assistant Manager – Grantley boasts a wealth of experience having played and coached at a number of clubs including Hengrove Athletic, Weston-Super-Mare, Gloucester City and Forest Green Rovers.

Bristol Manor Farm

Previous Fixtures

Home

Wednesday 26th December 2018
Evo Stik Southern League Div 1 South
Slimbridge 3-3 Bristol Manor Farm

Wednesday 30th September 2020
Southern League Division One South
Slimbridge 1-3 Bristol Manor Farm

Saturday 5th March 2022
Southern League Div One South
Slimbridge 1-1 Bristol Manor Farm

Away

Monday 27th August 2018
Evo Stik Southern League Div 1 South
Bristol Manor Farm 3-0 Slimbridge

Tuesday 19th November 2019
Betvictor Southern Division One South
Bristol Manor Farm 2-2 Slimbridge

Saturday 4th December 2021
Southern League Div One South
Bristol Manor Farm 0-0 Slimbridge

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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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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 Kevin Russell for details. Every little bit really does help.

Club Shop

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

This includes:

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





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







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

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.

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 Speers
Manager
Tom took over part way through last season stepping up from the assistant role. He has bags of experience as a player having previously played for the Swans 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, bringing a professional attitude to the dressing room.

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.

Adam Coyle
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.

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

Zac Mitchell
Defender
Signed on a dual registration from Chippenham Town. Zak is a strong centre-back who is calm and excellent with the ball at his feet

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.

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.

Michael Ford
Midfield
A very solid player who is able to play in defence or midfield. Had a spell playing and coaching in Iceland in 2020, but returns to the Swans for his fourth season.

Ben McLean
Midfield
Local lad formally with Birmingham City as a youngster looking to continue to bolster the Swans midfield this season. Very good passer of the ball and can strike from anywhere around the box.

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

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.

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 continue to score plenty more for the Swans this season.

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

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.

Dylan Lewis
Striker
Dylan has joined the Swans from Bristol City. The exciting forward has already impressed and will be a great addition to the squad

Brad Bevan
Striker
Former Gloucester City U/23s and Fairford Town player Brad Bevan joins us ahead of this season. The young attacker has impressed with his eye for goal and attitude and will be a welcome squad member

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

Brandon Barnes
Striker
Experienced striker who has scored many gaols 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.

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