Slimbridge Football Club



The Pitching In Southern Football League Division One South

Saturday October 22nd 2022
v Tavistock AFC



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Slimbridge
Football Club

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Head of Youth Development	Kevin Russell
Ground Staff	Paul Chappell Malcolm Carter Barry Gay

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.

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Slimbridge v Tavistock AFC

Todays Team Lineups

Lewis Adams	1	Josh Oak
Joe Shutt	2	Ben Cross
Ben Prictor	3	Josh Robins
Ben Hands	4	Dan Evans
Jacob Geddes	5	Taylor Scarff
Toby Lawrence	6	Warren Daw
Edji Mbunga	7	Tallan Burns
Levi Francis	8	Joe O'connor
Ethan Dunbar	9	Liam Prynn
Jack Holmes	10	Ed Harrison
Marley Thomas	11	Teigan Rosenquest
James Sunley	12	Ben Fowles
Harvey Skurek	14	Callum Watson
Austin Parker	15	Adam Macpherson
Nathan Dennis	16	Alex Battle
	17	Aamir Stanford Daniels
	18	Josh Grant
	19	Josh Parry

Referee Harley Hetherington

Assistants Paul Sparrow
James Alliband

This Weeks
Fixtures

PITCHING IN PARTNERS WITH SOUTHERN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saturday 22 October 2022

15:00 Bashley v Evesham United

15:00 Bideford v Sholing

15:00 Bristol Manor Farm v Lymington Town

15:00 Exmouth Town v Bishops Cleeve

15:00 Frome Town v Westbury United

15:00 Hamworthy United v Cinderford Town

15:00 Larkhall Athletic v AFC Totton

15:00 Melksham Town v Willand Rovers

15:00 Slimbridge v Tavistock

15:00 Wimborne Town v Paulton 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**		
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	9	8	0	1	25	9	16	24
2	Exmouth Town	9	7	1	1	18	4	14	22
3	Willand Rovers	10	4	5	1	12	7	5	17
4	Evesham United	9	5	1	3	15	13	2	16
5	Frome Town	9	4	3	2	16	9	7	15
6	Hamworthy United	9	4	3	2	15	11	4	15
7	Paulton Rovers	8	4	1	3	17	14	3	13
8	Melksham Town	9	4	1	4	17	20	-3	13
9	Westbury United	9	3	3	3	12	13	-1	12
10	Bashley	8	3	2	3	7	5	2	11
11	**Tavistock AFC**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**10**	**10**	**0**	**11**
12	Cinderford Town	9	3	2	4	15	20	-5	11
13	AFC Totton	6	3	1	2	7	4	3	10
14	Wimborne Town	8	3	0	5	12	13	-1	9
15	Bishops Cleeve	9	3	0	6	11	18	-7	9
16	**Slimbridge**	**10**	**2**	**3**	**5**	**11**	**19**	**-8**	**9**
17	Bideford AFC	7	1	4	2	7	9	-2	7
18	Bristol Manor Farm	9	1	4	4	12	15	-3	7
19	Larkhall Athletic	9	1	3	5	10	20	-10	6
20	Lymington Town	9	0	1	8	7	23	-16	1

Swans On The Road

Up Next

Saturday 29th October 2022 3:00pm

Southern League Division One South



Wimborne Town

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Tavistock AFC
Club History

Adhoc football, a cross between rugby union and football - and perhaps a few other games to boot - took place between Plymouth and Tavistock sides from the mid 1870s, but it took a letter in the Tavistock Gazette from scribes under the pseudonym of “Wei/wisher” and “Halfback” to attract the attentions of two local businessmen.

The club was thus founded on September 8, 1888, the foundation year of the Devon County FA, when sportsman and businessman Herbert Spencer summoned interested persons to assemble at the Guildhall, where a committee was elected under the chairmanship of his brother, Wilfred, with Herbert as his deputy and another brother, Kingsley, on the committee with Tom Owen Esq as secretary.

The old Tavistock Grammar School playing field in Russell Street hosted the newly formed club and the first match, against the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry, resulted in a 1–0 victory. The first AGM held at the old Temperance Hotel, now the Ordulph Arms, proudly recorded a first season playing record of Won 13, Lost 3 Drawn 1.

By 1890 the club adopted a strip of blue and old gold and formed a second team, moving two years later to Green Lane, Torlands, courtesy of the proprietor of the Bedford Hotel. Going from strength to strength, the team won the league and were cup runners-up in 1900-1901. On one day in 1903, at Torlands, on the edge of Dartmoor, a game had to be abandoned due to a sudden blizzard. In the same year, wild ducks invaded a flooded penalty area and set up home for a week in a makeshift pond, resulting in a postponed fixture. No wonder that, over the next few years, venues changed, from a return to the old grammar school pitch, to Green Hill and Sandy Park. It is believed that in 1913 the entire Tavistock team was selected to represent the County.

During the period of 1914-1918 structured football was abandoned.

Eventually there were at least three other clubs in the town, Tavistock Comrades, Bannawell Blues United and Tavistock West End. Amalgamation in 1939 produced the familiar colours of red and black - a welcome change to the salmon pink shirts with chocolate collars and cuffs of 1919.

The years 1920 to 1930 were successful times with excellent results in the league, Bedford Cup and Senior Devon Cup. Sadly, the next decade saw a decline in both results and attendance. Play ceased at the end of the 1931-32 season due to debt.

Jumble sales and whist drives were held to ease the financial situation and football resumed once more in 1937.

The onset of World War II put things on hold until 1945 when the Lambs joined the Plymouth Combination League First Division. In 1947, Club President Herbert Thomas Langsford purchased Langsford Park, giving it under trust to the club in 1949. A carved commemorative stone serves as a reminder of his benevolence.

In 1952, Tavistock joined the South Western League but were forced to withdraw in 1961 due to financial embarrassment until re-joining in 1968.

The club has been the birthplace of many players going on to enjoy professional pay-days in the Football League including Harold Redmond and Danny Sullivan to Crystal Palace for a fee of £100; Neil and Peter Langman to Plymouth Argyle and Mike Trebilcock, perhaps the most newsworthy footballer to have played for Tavistock. He scored two of the three goals in the 1966 FA Cup Final for Everton in their 3–2 win over Sheffield Wednesday. Robbie Pethick, Tavistock-born and ex-player of the club, signed professional forms for Portsmouth in October 1993, where he had five successful seasons before moving to Bristol Rovers.

The club won the Devon Premier Cup in season 2001-02 and repeated this success in season 2006-07, by beating Upton Athletic 6-0, creating a record winning margin in the final of this competition.

In season 2005-06, the club reached the last 32 in the FA Vase, going out to Pickering Town in a very close encounter. The club also entered the FA Cup for the first time since 1953-54.

Perhaps the saddest entry in this brief history of football in Tavistock is the fire of February 3, 2011, which all but saw the complete destruction of the changing rooms and the Red & Black clubhouse. Since then, a rebuilding programme under the guidance of manager Stuart Henderson, has seen the club rise from the ashes and achieve great things by becoming the SWPL East Divisions Champions in 2014/15 and then SWPL Premier Division Champions in 2016/17. Tavistock AFC also made SWPL history the following year by becoming the first club to win both the SWPL Charity Vase and Bowl.

Success has continued and after being runners-up to Plymouth Parkway in the SWPL Premier Division for the 2017-18 season, the Lambs won the league on the last day of the 2018/19 season, beating Plymouth Argyle reserves to gain promotion to the Toolstation Western League.

Our first two seasons in the Western League saw the club top of the table in 2019/20 when the season was curtailed due to Covid and then second when the 2020/21 season was also curtailed, missing out on promotion on a points-per-game basis over those two seasons. However, despite having a smaller budget compared to many of our rivals, the Lambs were crowned champions of the Western League in 2022 with a final day win over Ashton & Backwell seeing us pip Exmouth Town to the title.



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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 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 cominU/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.

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.

James Sunley
Midfield
Former Longlevens midfielder who joins from Hartpury University.

Jack Holmes
Midfield
Strong attacking midfielder on loan from Weston Super-Mare.

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.

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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