

Slimbridge Football Club



Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Tuesday March 4th 2025
v Cirencester Town

Who will you be today?



Show some Respect



Thousands of referees drop out of the game every season due to abuse.

The uhl sport *Hellenic League operate a ZEROTOLERANCE policy toward Inappropriate Language & Behaviour

TheFA.com/Respect

Respect



Slimbridge

Football Club



Chairman Barry Gay
Vice Chairman Rob Peck
President John Mack

Management Committee Barry Gay
Alena Wrixon
Rob Peck
Will Hawes

General Committee Tim Blake
Ian Blount
Malcolm Carter
Lewis Hall
Natalie Jennings
Brenda Martin
Tony Woodward

Commercial Manager Will Hawes
Treasurer & Secretary Alena Wrixon
Safety Officer Barry Gay
Welfare Officer Will Hawes

Fixture Secretary Ian Blount
Press Officer Tim Blake
Programme Editor Rob Peck
Web Site Manager Rob Peck
Social Media Oli Neale

Supporters Club Chairman Colin Gay

First Team Manager Tom Deakin

Assistant Will Hawes

Coach Sam Prior

Sports Therapists Tony Woodward
Nathan Hartfield

Kitman Dave Bees

U18 Manager Kieran Brice-Ingles

Assistants Ben Jagers
Tom Read

Ground Staff Barry Gay
Malcolm Lineaker

Wisloe Road
Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF

Website: www.slimbridgeafc.co.uk
Email: info@slimbridgeafc.co.uk
Twitter: @slimbridgeafc



Slimbridge v Cirencester Town



Today's Team Lineups

Callum Dark
Charlie Hitchings
Hadyn Evans
Henri Parry-Williams
James Tainton
Joe Hunt
Joe Shutt
Joel Jagger
Jonty Welch
Josh Barclay
Kieran Bennett
Kieran Winstone (GK)
Liam Harper
Nathan Dennis
Rhys Sarson
Sergio Mills
Theo Clayson
Toby Soule
Travis Wood (GK)
Will Hawes
Will Tainton
William Djaha-Nsangou

Aidan Bennett
Andy Lewis
Bonsa Teshome
Dave Bampton
Ed Scott
Ethan Rose
Harrison Reeves
Jack Freeman
Jack Freeman
Jack Horrell
Jordan Morris
Kyle Pitts
Ogaga Edward
Ronnie Newbery
Ross Gabriel

Referee

TBC

Assistants

Robert Green
Conor Mcquillan

Slimbridge

Our Sponsors



Slimbridge would like to acknowledge their gratitude to the following organisations and people for thier generous support.

Cellar Supplies
Furniture Factory Outlets
Rose & Andy Carter
VMR Autos

Bateman Sports
Coles Electrical
Customade Group
Generate Sports Supliments
Iron & Earth Equipment Ltd
Kordy's Carpets
Mackway Transport
Nailsworth Computers
P & M Financial Ltd
Renishaw PLC
Toolstation

Season 2024-25

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 01 Mar 25	15:00	League	H	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Tue 04 Mar 25	19:45	League	H	Cirencester Town
Tue 11 Mar 25	19:45	League	A	Corsham Town **
Sat 15 Mar 25	15:00	League	A	Hartpury University
Tue 18 Mar 25	19:45	League	A	Malmesbury Victoria
Sat 22 Mar 25	15:00	GFA Trophy S/F	H	Fairford Town

** Game being played at Thornhill Park

Season 2024-25

Results



Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 30 Jul 24	League	H	Pershore Town	3-3	196
Sat 03 Aug 24	FA Cup Extra Prelim	H	Malmesbury Victoria	3-1	136
Tue 06 Aug 24	League	A	Tuffley Rovers	0-3	210
Sat 10 Aug 24	League	H	Hartpury University	1-0	90
Tue 13 Aug 24	League	A	Westfields	2-1	179
Sat 17 Aug 24	FA Cup Prelim	A	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	0-3	140
Tue 20 Aug 24	League	H	Sporting Club Inkberrow	2-4	142
Mon 26 Aug 24	League	H	Lydney Town	10-1	153
Mon 02 Sept 24	League	A	Hereford Pegasus	1-4	207
Sat 07 Sept 24	League	H	Mangotsfield United	1-3	131
Sat 14 Sept 24	League	H	Roman Glass	2-4	114
Wed 18 Sept 24	League	A	Longlevens	3-1	197
Sat 21 Sept 24	FA Vase 2Q	A	Devizes Town	1-2	89
Tue 24 Sept 24	League	H	Worcester Raiders	3-3	127
Sat 28 Sept 24	League	A	Thornbury Town	3-2	130
Sat 05 Oct 24	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	3-6	102
Sat 12 Oct 24	League	A	Fairford Town	1-1	80
Sat 19 Oct 24	League	H	Malmesbury Victoria	3-1	95
Sat 26 Oct 24	League	A	Highworth Town	0-5	147
Sat 02 Nov 24	League	A	Cirencester Town	2-0	154
Sat 09 Nov 24	League	H	Corsham Town	5-2	141
Tue 12 Nov 24	GFA Trophy	H	Lydney Town	4-0	85
Sat 16 Nov 24	League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp	2-2	121
Sat 23 Nov 24	League	A	Mangotsfield United	0-2	367
Sat 30 Nov 24	League	A	Roman Glass	1-5	110
Fri 06 Dec 24	League	H	Longlevens	2-3	109
Tue 10 Dec 24	GFA Trophy	H	Longlevens	5-1	95
Sat 14 Dec 24	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	2-2	111
Sat 21 Dec 24	League	H	Fairford Town	0-3	89
Thu 26 Dec 24	League	A	Lydney Town	0-4	167
Sat 18 Jan 25	League	H	Westfields	1-0	102
Tue 21 Jan 25	Wiseman Cup	H	Corsham Town	2-3	84
Sat 25 Jan 25	League	A	Sporting Club Inkberrow	1-3	158
Tue 28 Jan 25	Marsh Cup	A	Ludlow Town	2-2*	
Sat 01 Feb 25	League	H	Hereford Pegasus	1-1	96
Sat 08 Feb 25	League	A	Pershore Town	1-3	98
Tue 11 Feb 25	League	H	Thornbury Town	0-2	97
Tue 18 Feb 25	GFA Trophy	A	Shortwood United	1-0	87
Sat 22 Feb 25	League	A	Worcester Raiders	0-3	
Tue 25 Feb 25	League	H	Highworth Town	0-3	82

*Lost 3-5 Penalties

UHSport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table



Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Hartpury University	31	22	7	2	74	18	56	73
2	Mangotsfield United	35	20	10	5	66	24	42	70
3	Roman Glass St George	31	20	5	6	82	45	37	65
4	Sporting Club Inkberrow	32	18	9	5	59	30	29	63
5	Highworth Town	33	18	6	9	64	42	22	60
6	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	34	17	6	11	71	52	19	57
7	Worcester Raiders	35	14	13	8	62	39	23	55
8	Pershore Town	33	16	5	12	74	51	23	53
9	Fairford Town	32	14	9	9	55	43	12	51
10	Tuffley Rovers	35	13	8	14	48	51	-3	47
11	Corsham Town	32	13	5	14	51	62	-11	44
12	Westfields	32	11	8	13	61	42	19	41
13	Hereford Pegasus	35	10	9	16	52	58	-6	39
14	Slimbridge	33	10	6	17	58	81	-23	36
15	Cirencester Town	33	10	5	18	47	63	-16	35
16	Thornbury Town	31	10	3	18	46	59	-13	33
17	Longlevens AFC	32	6	6	20	33	68	-35	24
18	Lydney Town	28	6	4	18	38	81	-43	22
19	Brimscombe & Thrupp	35	4	6	25	31	119	-88	18
20	Malmesbury Victoria	24	4	4	16	30	74	-44	16



GREAT PRODUCTS. GREAT PRICES. UNBELIEVABLE SERVICE.

 **PLAYING AND TRAINING KIT**

 **TRAINING EQUIPMENT**

 **WIDE RANGE OF BRANDS**

 **CLUB WEBSTORE SET-UP**

www.batemanssports.co.uk kevin@batemanssports.co.uk
01453 764320

PROUD PARTNERS WITH
uhlsport® Hellenic League



Cirencester Town Club History



CIRENCESTER TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

Cirencester Town FC was formed in 1889 and played amateur football in the Cirencester & District League, Cheltenham League and eventually the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League.

In the late '60s Cirencester joined the Gloucester County League, moving from there up to the Hellenic League in 1969. During that time, they had their first national cup run, reaching the 2nd round proper of the FA Amateur Cup. They won their first major piece of silverware, taking the Hellenic First Division Championship in 1973-74 to reach the Premier Division. Following a subsequent relegation, the modern phase of development was slowly established, with their Smithfield ground being improved.

Season 1995-96 was the start of the new era. In partnership with Cirencester College, the club began the groundbreaking Football Academy programme. Developing rapidly, first under Dave Hockaday and when he moved as Youth Team Manager to Watford FC, followed by Steve Lowndes, the Academy have been National College Champions in '97 and in '98, five times winners of the English Schools FA U19 Colleges Cup since 1998, and British Colleges Trophy Champions 4 times since '97. The youngsters have regularly reached the latter stages of the FA Youth Cup as the last remaining non-league club in that competition and in 2008-09 reached the third round proper before losing to Sunderland at the Stadium of Light. The success of the Academy has had the knock-on effect of providing CTFC with new blood and developing talent.

Off field, a long planning process led to the development of the Community Club phase led by Chairman Steve Abbley and implemented over 3 years by Business Manager Anna Kocherhan. In summer 2002 Brian Hughes succeeded Ray Baverstock as manager. At the same time the club, having invested the proceeds of the sale of Smithsfield in the Corinium Stadium at Kingshill, moved into their new facility and renamed as "The Centurions". This development was followed in November 2004 by the opening of The Arena, a state-of-the-art full size indoor training facility. We have now been awarded the FA's "Charter Standard Community Club" status and this summer we received the 2006 Gloucestershire FA Award for "Charter Standard Community Club of the Year", which was presented to Steve Abbley by Sir Geoff Hurst.

In May 2006, after four highly successful years and having raised expectations at the club, Brian Hughes resigned as First Team Manager to be replaced by Neil Hards. Neil had taken a year out of football after his achievements at Winchester City where they gained "back-to-back" promotions and won the FA Vase in 2004. Unfortunately, despite some good

early performances, the team lacked the necessary consistency, and a disastrous run of results after Christmas meant they finished in the relegation places. However, the club was later reprieved from relegation after a number of changes were made to club allocations in the non-league structure due to club mergers and other decisions.

Manager Adi Viveash left the Centurions to take up his role as Chelsea and Brian Hughes was again called upon to take up the hot seat as First Team manager. The 2009 – 10 seasons proved to be a very successful one with the Development squad winning the league in their first season and the first team gaining promotion via the play offs after 2 very good away wins both with late goals.

Manager Brian Hughes managed the clubs first season back in the Premier Division in 2010-2011 and the club finished 13th. Unfortunately, 2011-12 saw the heartbreak of relegation and our first year back in the South & West division saw us finish 10th in the table.

2013-2014 saw the club have its most successful season ever gaining automatic promotion back to the Southern League Premier by clinching the title on the last day of the season to beat Merthyr Town to the championship. Brian Hughes worked with a small squad which managed to overturn a 9-point deficit and clinched the title last term by winning the last 7 games of the season whilst everyone else dropped points on the way.

2016-2017 saw changes at the helm after a poor start Brian Hughes was relieved of the manager's job and Charlie Griffin was installed as his replacement. The 2017-2018 saw a brand-new state of the art 3G pitch installed at The Corinium Stadium. After a slow start The Centurions missed out on a playoff spot on goal difference and disappointment was to follow last season after finishing runners up, promotion was denied via the play offs losing to Cinderford Town FC in the semi-final by 1 goal.

December 2019 saw another change with former North Leigh manager John Brough take the helm replacing Charlie Griffin after a disappointing start to the season. The change nearly had the desired effect as the Centurions climbed the table with a play off place in sight before the season was sadly cut short due to the current situation, we find ourselves in relating to COVID 19.

The COVID-19 pandemic put paid to two seasons before we returned fully in 2021-2022. After a great league campaign, heartbreak again for the Centurions as we missed out on possible promotion losing in the play offs again.

2020-2024 was a new era for Ciren with the appointment of John Brough. John's first season ended in heartbreak with a loss in the playoffs, season 2 was curtailed due to COVID when the Centurions were league leaders. The last 2 seasons were extremely difficult after we were placed in the Central division, missing out on the playoffs both seasons by 1 point.

2024 voluntary relegation to the Hellenic league was taken due to the levels of travel required in the Southern League, we ended our 28-year stay. Following the departure of John Brough, we appointed assistant manager and ex player James Mortimer-Jones.

Cirencester Town



CIRENCESTER TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

Player Profiles

Sam Ayres - Goalkeeper

Highly rated goalkeeper who made his Ciren first team debut in 2019 and earned the man of the match award that game. Spells at Malmesbury Victoria and xxxx before returning to the Talent Hire Stadium in the summer.

Ronnie Newbury - Goalkeeper

Highly rated young goalkeeper with a big career ahead of him in non-league football. Brilliant Shot Stopper and will be pushing Sam Ayres all the way for the number 1 jersey this term

Jonny Aitkenhead– Defender

Signed from Royal Wootton Bassett. Outstanding in the air and solid on the deck, he brings some much-needed steel to the heart of the Centurions defense. He is also a nuisance at set plays

Ed Scott– Defender

Signed from Bishops Cleeve and has impressed the Ciren Faithful with displays at the heart of the Centurions defence. Big, Strong, pacey and good on the ball. At only 17 years old, a big future in football is ahead of him.

Kyle Pitts– Defender

Recent signing from Malmesbury. The highly rated defender left the Talent Hire Stadium for Brimscombe & Thrupp in 2015 before a spell at the Vics. A brilliant signing for the club and great to have Kyle back in the red and black.

Dave Bampton – Defender

Signed on the eve of the new season. The former Swindon Town, Tamworth, Swindon Supermarine and more recently Royal Wootton Bassett player is a tough tackling defender who is equally composed on the ball and brings a wealth of experience to the team

Jordan Morris – Defender

Signed from Forest Green Rovers in 2018 and has been at The Talent Hire Stadium ever since. One of the best left foots in the league was sorely missed last season due to long term injury problems but back fit and raring to go

Lewis Thorne – Defender

Versatile defender signed from North Leigh. Comfortable on the ball and can play at either right back or the Centre of defense.

Ethan Rose– Midfielder

Joined from Bishops Cleeve in the Summer having picked up the players player of the year award. The talented midfielder has a great engine, an eye for goal and is a great addition to the squad having impressed in preseason.

Jack Freeman – Midfielder.

Another player returning to the Centurions after spells at Cinderford Town FC and Brimscombe & Thrupp. He is a quality ball carrier who loves to spray the passes and loves to get forward when the opportunity arises.

Jack Horrell – Midfielder

Returns to the Talent Hire Stadium, having previously played briefly under Charlie Griffin before work commitments took him away. Joins from Worcester Raiders. The talented midfielder has a good football brain and a great array of passing

Finley Bell – Midfielder

An instant hit with the Centurions fans with his clever feet, endless endeavor and precise passing. A versatile and committed player who has a great array of passing and can unlock any defense.

Jayden Stratford - Midfielder

Jayden rejoin Ciren following a stint at Brimscombe & Thrupp last term. Previously part of our Youth Set up. A great prospect who has a great engine on him. Box to box midfielder who will grab his fair share of goals this season.

Harley Arnold– Striker

Skillful and pacey striker who has come through our junior ranks and made his debut this season. An eye for goal and a big future in the game.

Jake Allan - Midfielder

Another player who has returned to Ciren played for our Development Team for 2 seasons banging 11 goals in only 33 appearances. Big strong striker who is dangerous in the box

Aidan Bennett – Striker

Aidan has been part of Cirencester Town since he was 6 years old and was one of only 2 players who remained at Ciren from last season following our voluntary relegation. Bags of pace, hardworking and unselfish. Comfortable on either foot with a powerful strike and scorer of some important goals over the years. Over 400 appearances for The Centurions and he is the club captain this season

Bonsa Teshome – Striker

Quick feet and the ability to deliver a telling cross. Likes to play out on the left and loves to be in the thick of the action.

Luca Robinson – Striker

Bundles of pace and oozes class with the ball at his feet. Likes to run at players and aim for the byline to deliver telling crosses. Currently on dual registration with Gloucester City after an impressive 2023-24 season at The Talent Hire Stadium

Ed Taylor - Striker

Part of our youth set up and the highly sought after striker is already attracting attention from National League clubs. A bright future ahead of him in the non-league game and more.

Management Team

James Mortimer-Jones- Manager

Jonah has taken over the reins following the departure of John Brough in the summer for his first managerial role. The former Ciren player is no stranger to the dugout having been the assistant manager for the last 6 seasons and the club legend is eager to impress in the number 1 role

Tom Speers – 1st Team Coach

Tom managed at Slimbridge briefly during the 2022-23 season and is one of the most sought-after coaches around with experience in the UK but also abroad having coached in Australia. A great addition to James Mortimer-Jones management team.

Kevin Sawyer – GK Coach

Big Kev needs no introduction having been one of non-league's best goalkeepers around in a playing career that saw him play for the likes of Salisbury City FC, Leamington FC, Gloucester City and of course, Cirencester town FC where he started out as a 17-year-old at our football Academy back in 1997.

**uhlsport® Official Match Ball Supplier
to the Hellenic League**



www.uhlsport.com

Slimbridge

Player Profiles



Travis Wood

Goalkeeper

Strong shot stopper, vocal leader at the back. Signed from Malmesbury Victoria.

Gavin Jones

Goalkeeper

Kieran Winstone

Goalkeeper

Under 18s goalkeeper who has recently broken into the first team. Brave young shot stopper who shows lots of potential.

Nathan Dennis

Defender

Big old school style defender who like to put himself about at both ends of the pitch. Now in his third season with the club.

Charlie Hitchings

Defender

Made a huge impact last year, has bags of experience at Southern and Western League levels. This season's vice-captain will again be leading the team from the heart of the defence.

Hadyn Evans

Defender

Hadyn is entering his debut season for the swans. He has impressed pre season with his tenacity. He has previously played for Dursley Town first team, and come up through the academy at Forest Green Rovers.

Jacob Rodgers

Defender

Played for Tredworth Tigers Jacob has come back to the club after a spell with Tredworth. He previously had 2 successful seasons with the Swans U18s

Joe Hunt

Defender

Former Cheltenham Town youth player who likes getting forward down the flanks signed from Malvern Town, also played for Evesham United and Worcester City.

Ben Deakin*Defender*

Solid full back who adds experience to the back line in his second spell with the club after many years at Brimscombe and Thrupp.

Joshua Barclay*Defender*

Strong young defender that has made his presence felt in the Under 18s team this season and looking to gain experience with the first team squad.

William Djaha-Nsangou*Defender*

One of a number of Under 18 players pushing to get into the first team. Emposing centre half with a promising future.

Sam Blackie*Midfield*

In his second season with the Swans after a brief spell in 2015. . Sam is a skilful midfielder who is effective at both ends of the pitch with past experience at Hellenic and Southern League level having played at Bishops Cleeve, and local neighbours Brimscombe and Thrupp.

Toby Soule*Midfield*

Previously played for Bishops Cleeve & Hartpury FC. Toby is entering his first season with the club and is looking forward to a positive season with the Swans.

Jonty Welch*Midfield*

Joined this Summer after 5 seasons at Brimscombe and Thrupp. Prior to that, had 4 seasons at Longlevens.

Liam Harper*Midfield*

First season back, had two seasons with the U18s as captain and two years with the reserves and 1st team. Previous clubs: Frampton United and Brimscombe and Thrupp

Ben Hands*Midfield*

A strong lad at the heart of the defence also plays in a defensive midfield role and capable of chipping in a few goals returning for his third season with the Swans. Previous clubs include Longlevens and Cinderford Town.

Joel Jagger*Midfield*

Young midfielder from the Under 18 squad looking to gain experience in senior football.

Sergio Mills

Midfield

Will Hawes

Striker / Assistant Manager

Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skillful player in his sixth season at Thornhill Park and is destined to continue to score plenty more this season. Off the field Will is also the clubs Welfare Officer, Commercial Manager and Assistant first team manager.

Callum Dark

Striker

Callum joins Slimbridge for the 24/25 campaign having previously played for Lydney Town last season scoring against us 3 times. His other former clubs include Bristol Rovers, Chepstow Town and Pershore Town

Theo Clayson

Striker

Another product of the U18s team. Made really good progress in his first full season of senior football scoring some important goals for the club.

Rhys Sarson

Striker

Returns to the club from Roman Glass. Strong centre forward.

Kieran Bennett

Striker

Another one of the bright talents from the under 18s team that is looking to step into first team football.

Slimbridge

Staff Profiles



Tom Deakin

Manager

Deaks is entering his 5th year at the club having progressed from being a coach to now joint manager. The aim being to put smiles on faces at the club and bring Southern league football back to Thornhill Park. 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.

Sam Prior

Assitant Manager / Coach

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.

Nathan Hartfield

Physio

Nath is entering his 3rd season with the club and is great amongst the dressing room. He's destined to become a physio at Liverpool

Dave Bees

Kit Man



Sports club insurance

To make sure you are appropriately covered, our club insurance policy can be built around your particular needs.

📞 0345 872 5060

✉️ marshsport@marsh.com

🌐 www.marshsport.co.uk/myclub

This is a marketing communication. Marsh Sport is a trading name of Marsh Ltd. Marsh Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for General Insurance Distribution and Credit Broking (Firm Reference No.307511). Registered in England and Wales Number: 1507274. Copyright 2023, 23-174248.

A business of Marsh McLennan

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.



Order online (Click and collect available) from:

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

Slimbridge Club 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 on 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

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 2021-22 Season saw the departure of Driver-Dickerson, who decided to accept an opportunity to move to Evesham United, and the assistant team of former Swans' legend Tom Speers and Adam Coyle took over the reins, assisted by Tom Deakin and Tom Hitchens.

Return to the Hellenic League

The 2022-23 season was a very difficult one for the side resulting in the departure of Speers in February 2023 with the side having achieved only four victories at that point. Adam Coyle and Tom Deakin moved into the Management role, but the season resulted in relegation and a return to the Hellenic League for the 2023-24 Season.

On a brighter note, the Under 18s side had a historic Double winning season, winning the S.Tuier and Son Cup, beating Bishops Cleeve at Evesham United's ground, before clinching the Cheltenham Floodlit league title and the double on a memorable night a few days later at Tuffley Rovers.



 **wisemanLIGHTING**

**PROUD SPONSORS OF THE UHLSPORT
HELLENIC LEAGUE FLOODLIT CUP**