

Slimbridge Football Club



Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Monday August 26th 2024
V Lydney Town

Who will you be today?



Show some Respect



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

The Football Federation Hellenic League operate a ZERO TOLERANCE 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 Managers Tom Deakin
Adam Coyle

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 Lydney Town



Today's Team Lineups

Ben Hands
Ben Prictor
Bogdan Mara
Charlie Hitchings
Devon Morgan
Edji Mbunga
Ellis Parker (GK)
Evan Coomb (GK)
George Neill
Harrison Reeves
Jack Smith
James Holder (GK)
Kieran Bennett
Marley Thomas
Myron Turner
Nathan Dennis
Rudi McKinnon
Sam Blackie
Shiyak Sutherland
Theo Clayson
Will Hawes
Will Tainton

Adam Corcoran
Alan Griffin
Alfie Presley
Bailey Gallagher
Ben Dodd
Chris Taylor
Connor Waldon
David Bampton
Flynn Walters
Harry Walters
Jack Hobson McVeigh
Josh Timbrell
Jowan Partridge
Kai Robinson
Louis Spalding
Luke Softley
Robert Brown
Sam Packer
Scott Chilcott
Spencer Bowen
Tommy Ouldrige

Referee

Nathan Charles

Assistants

Luis Gough
Clive Chattell

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
Renishaw PLC
Toolstation

Season 2024-25

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Mon 26 Aug 24	15:00	League	H	Lydney Town
Mon 02 Sep 24	19:45	League	A	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 07 Sep 24	15:00	League	H	Mangotsfield United
Sat 14 Sep 24	15:00	League	H	Roman Glass St George
Wed 18 Sep 24	19:45	League	A	Longlevens AFC
Sat 21 Sep 24	15:00	FA Vase 2Q	A	Devizes Town
Tue 24 Sep 24	19:45	League	H	Worcester Raiders
Sat 28 Sep 24	15:00	League	A	Thornbury Town
Tue 01 Oct 24	19:45	League	H	Tuffley Rovers
Sat 05 Oct 24	15:00	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Tue 08 Oct 24	19:45	League	A	Hartpury University
Sat 12 Oct 24	15:00	League	A	Fairford Town
Sat 19 Oct 24	15:00	League	H	Malmesbury Victoria
Sat 26 Oct 24	15:00	League	A	Highworth Town
Sat 02 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Cirencester Town
Sat 09 Nov 24	15:00	League	H	Corsham Town
Sat 16 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Sat 23 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Mangotsfield United
Sat 30 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Roman Glass St George
Sat 07 Dec 24	15:00	League	H	Thornbury Town
Sat 14 Dec 24	15:00	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Sat 21 Dec 24	15:00	League	H	Fairford Town
Thu 26 Dec 24	15:00	League	A	Lydney Town
Sat 28 Dec 24	15:00	League	A	Malmesbury Victoria
Wed 01 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 04 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Cirencester Town
Sat 11 Jan 25	15:00	League	A	Corsham Town
Sat 18 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Westfields
Sat 25 Jan 25	15:00	League	A	Sporting Club Inkberrow
Sat 01 Feb 25	15:00	League	H	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 08 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Pershore Town
Sat 15 Feb 25	15:00	League	H	Longlevens AFC
Sat 22 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 01 Mar 25	15:00	League	H	Brimscombe & Thrupp

Season 2024-25

Results



Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 30 Jul 2024	League	H	Pershire	3-3	196
Sat 03 Aug 2024	FA Cup Extra Prelim	H	Malmesbury Victoria	3-1	136
Tue 06 Aug 2024	League	A	Tuffley Rovers	0-3	210
Sat 10 Aug 2024	League	H	Hartpury University	1-0	90
Tue 13 Aug 2024	League	A	Westfields	2-1	179
Sat 17 Aug 2024	FA Cup Prelim	A	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	0-3	140
Tue 20 Aug 24	League	H	Sporting Club Inkberrow	2-4	142

Uhsport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table



Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Roman Glass St George	5	4	1	0	16	5	11	13
2	Hereford Pegasus	6	4	1	1	13	8	5	13
3	Corsham Town	4	4	0	0	15	6	9	12
4	Sporting Club Inkberrow	5	3	2	0	11	5	6	11
5	Highworth Town	5	3	1	1	13	6	7	10
6	Fairford Town	4	2	2	0	8	4	4	8
7	Mangotsfield United	5	2	2	1	7	4	3	8
8	Hartpury University	4	2	1	1	9	1	8	7
9	Worcester Raiders	4	2	1	1	4	3	1	7
10	Tuffley Rovers	6	2	1	3	7	9	-2	7
11	Slimbridge	5	2	1	2	8	11	-3	7
12	Malmesbury Victoria	5	2	0	3	12	11	1	6
13	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	5	2	0	3	7	7	0	6
14	Westfields	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	4
15	Longlevens AFC	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
16	Thornbury Town	5	1	0	4	6	12	-6	3
17	Brimscombe & Thrupp	5	1	0	4	4	20	-16	3
18	Pershore Town	5	0	2	3	6	10	-4	2
19	Lydney Town	4	0	2	2	3	11	-8	2
20	Cirencester Town	5	0	0	5	5	18	-13	0



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



Lydney Town

Club History



Although Lydney is one of the main towns of the Forest area the Severnsiders have always led a very nomadic existence. With the town very much a Rugby stronghold the football club has always found it difficult to exist and although the club can trace its roots back to 1911 it never has had a sound base. The club competed in the local leagues until 1952 when they were elected to the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League. Unfortunately in 1969 the club folded due to lack of committee. 1971 saw the soccer lovers of the town pulled together and the club re-formed and in 1974 the appointment of Harold Elliott as player/coach saw many players from Lydney Juniors introduced with the resulting effect of promotion to Senior League Division One in 1976. During this period the club switched from Bathurst Park onto the Recreation Ground using the changing facilities at the neighbouring Cricket Club.

In 1979-80 after twice finishing Runners-Up they finally lifted the Senior League Division One Championship. Applications to the County League were unfruitful so the club turned to the Hellenic League, where the club held its own, but after 4 seasons the huge financial burden of the League forced the club to return to the Senior League. A dispute with the Cricket Club saw the club move back onto Bathurst Park and following this Secretary Roger Sansom, who had been elected in 1975 and who is still secretary to this day, investigated the possibility of building a clubhouse on the Recreation Ground. Unfortunately on the pitch the downward spiral continued and the club found itself back in the NGL. The players thankfully stayed together and they bounced back into the Senior League the following season. The ambitious plans to have our own clubhouse were still in the pipeline and a clubhouse was opened on Lydney Recreation Trust in 1990. In 1995 the club did the double by winning Division Two and the Forest Green Supporters Trophy, a feat they repeated in 1996-97.

In 2003-04 Manager Peter Elliott, who along with Roger Sansom are the longest serving members of the club with 50 plus years service, guided the club to the Final of the League Cup and the Senior Amateur Cup but in 2004 due to work commitments Peter decided to step down. The club turned to Stuart Liddington to take the helm and with Peter being persuaded to assist him they forged a very successful partnership. The addition of Pete Macklin from Cinderford Town, Danny Clarke ex-Oxford United, Matthew Timmins from Whitecroft and the return of Mark Saunders from Australia gave the club a real boost. Pete, Danny and 'Matty' provided the missing link in the goal scoring department scoring over 70 goals between them, Danny leading the way with 32 goals. The Senior League title was secured with 4 games to go and they did the double by lifting the Senior Amateur

Cup. The season was complete with the news of acceptance into the County League a prize denied to them some 25 years ago. The clubs County League campaign started in unconvincing fashion with only 4 points from 3 home games but a 20 game unbeaten run saw the club take over as league leaders at the start of 2006, a position they held for the remainder of the season. Scoring goals was very much the key to winning as 87 goals proved, 'Matty' Timmins finishing the leagues leading goal scorer with 28 goals. This success was beyond the clubs wildest dreams and gave the club the opportunity of a return to the Hellenic League after 22 years. A steady start saw the club 12 points behind the leaders in October but a 6 game winning streak at the end of the year saw the club take over as leaders at the start of January. The critical game came in mid-April with fellow title contenders Trowbridge Town visiting 'The Rec'. In front of a crowd of 305 goals from Danny Clarke and Mark Crabbe secured victory and a 5 point cushion . With 3 games to go the Title was won at Malmesbury when Danny Bishop came off the subs bench to score 2 late goals and give the club an unprecedented 3rd title in as many seasons. The squad had certainly exceeded all expectations and can quite easily be classed as the best in the clubs history. Ambitious plans for the required improvements to gain promotion were put forward and accepted by the League allowing the club to play at the highest level in its history.

A steady start was overshadowed by events off the pitch when despite gaining planning permission for erection of floodlights the club became embroiled in a sea of red tape with their landlords. To continue playing in the Premier Division an agreement was reached to use Cinderford Town and Harrow Hill for home games. Despite these off the pitch issues an unbeaten league run of 11 games placed them in the top half of the table. Despite finishing in 10th position the club were unable to satisfy the April deadline imposed by the league and were forced to be relegated back into Division One (West).

With relegation came the inevitable loss of players who wished to play at a higher level of football and the club decided to pin its future hopes on the youth of the town. Mark Lee, who had joined the club from County League side Ellwood, took on the role of Player/Manager. In 2014-15 they finished runners up to Tytherington Rocks but despite finishing in a promotion position ground development had not been completed by the March 31st deadline and a further season in Division One followed. Determined that such a situation would not happen again further development work followed to ensure the necessary G grading but disappointingly after all the clubs efforts the club finished in third spot which would not necessarily ensure promotion. As luck would have it circumstances led to the club being offered a place in the Premier Division which they readily accepted but this again meant further development was needed to obtain an F Grading and this was attained in 2016 with the installation of a 2nd stand. In 2016-17 silverware came the clubs way via the Floodlit Trophy beating Flackwell Heath on penalties after the game finished 3-3. In 2019 Manager Mark Lee decided to step down after 8 years in charge and the clubs search for a new manager started.

The club turned to ex-Town forward Richard Kear. Lydney born Richard had been at Cheltenham Town as a youth player but on his release he played on the Non League circuit before rejoining the club from Westfields in 2013. Family commitments saw Richard step down at the end of season 2020-21.

To replace Richard the club regained the services of previous manager Stuart Liddington but a set of indifferent results saw the club turn to Reserve Team Manager James Morse who instilled a new found confidence in the players and staved off any relegation fears. Despite languishing near the bottom of the table last season relegation was avoided with the club finishing 16th. Despite league struggles the club enjoyed 2 tremendous cup runs reaching the GFA Challenge Trophy Final losing out to 2 late goals against Roman Glass St. George. The club also reached the Bluefin Hellenic League Final but again missed out after coming up against a strong Pershore Town who had also lifted the Division One title. With the club unable to compete financially with the top teams in the league the club has turned to the Youth in the town with several promising youngsters coming through the club. 2023-24 saw an indifferent season finishing in 19th place but were saved from relegation by the knowledge that the FA were restructuring the NLS and that only 1 club was to be relegated. After 3 seasons of struggles James Morse stepped down and the search began for a new Manager.

After several interviews with candidates the club decided to go, for the first time for 40 plus years, to go outside the local area by appointing Danny Elliott as Manager for the 2024-25 season. Danny comes to the club having played for Newport County and on retirement joined the coaching staff and is a UEFA A licence qualified coach with their Academy. On the Management front he was Manager at Abergavenny Town last season and this is his first venture into the English NLS structure. By strange coincidence it was another Elliott back some 50 years ago, actually no relation, who took over running the club after managing at Abergavenny Town so we hope that this is the start of another successful period in the clubs history.

uhlsport® Official Match Ball Supplier
to the Hellenic League



www.uhlsport.com

Slimbridge

Player Profiles



Olly Phillips

Goalkeeper

Olly joined Slimbridge this summer after completing his scholarship with Bristol Rovers. He becomes the next young GK to walk through the doors at Thornhill Park

James Holder

Goalkeeper

James is entering his first full season with Slimbridge , having spent the last half of the season at the swans. His previous clubs include Brimscombe and Thrupp, Frampton and Sharpness

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.

Craig Mills

Defender

Craig rejoined Slimbridge after previously playing when were in the Western Legaue. Last season he had to bide his time before making an impact in our end of season push. Former clubs Frampton Brimscombe & Thrupp. Shortwood.

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.

Myron Turner

Midfield

As captain and Mr Dependable out on the field, Myron has played all outfield positions in recent seasons. Brings a calmness and solid feel to the squad, and very popular among the supporters here at Thornhill Park. Now in his eighth season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens, Gala Wilton and Frampton.

Jack Smith

Midfield

Jack is entering his second season with the first team having been captain of the u18s. He has previously played for Thornbury Town and Bristol Rovers.

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 Brimscome 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

Will Hawes

Striker

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

Shiyak Sutherland

Striker

Shiyak joined the club in February from Longlevens last season and made an instant impact. Quickly becoming a fans favourite he is quick and has an eye for goal.

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

Will Tainton

Striker

Will has been a part of our youth team for the last 3 years. Breaking a league goal scoring record last season. He has played men's football with Sharpness and broke into the first team squad at the end of last season.

Slimbridge

Staff Profiles



Tom Deakin

Joint 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.

Adam Coyle

Joint Manager

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.

Sam Prior

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.



 **wiseman**LIGHTING

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