

# Slimbridge Football Club



## Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Tuesday August 20<sup>th</sup> 2024  
V Sporting Club Inkberrow

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# Slimbridge

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**Kitman** Dave Bees

**U18 Manager** Kieran Brice-Ingles

**Assistants** Ben Jagers  
Tom Read

**Ground Staff** Barry Gay  
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# Slimbridge v Sporting Club Inkberrow

## Todays Team Lineups



Ben Deakin  
Callum Dark  
Charlie Hitchings  
Craig Mills  
Hady Evans  
Jack Smith  
Jacob Rogers  
James Holder (GK)  
James Tainton  
Joe Hunt  
Jonty Welch  
Liam Harper  
Myron Turner  
Nathan Dennis  
Olly Phillips (GK)  
Sam Blackie  
Shiyak Sutherland  
Theo Clayson  
Toby Soule  
Will Hawes  
Will Tainton  
Joshua Barclay  
Archie Myatt

Luke Alcock  
Max Angelides  
Gabriel Bajrami  
Luke Bastable  
Aaron Brown  
Callum Cook  
Billy Coughlin  
Louis Crook  
Tom Emblem  
Harry Grant  
Alex Griffiths  
Gregor Guy  
Robbie Guy  
Jay Higgins-Pugsley  
Jude Hill  
Nigel Hinkulow  
Will Moore  
Alex Quaynor  
Will Skelton  
Oliver Smith  
Raheem Spencer  
Jack Tolley  
Jake Waterfield

**Referee**

Mark Pratten

**Assistants**

Alan Overthrow  
Jason James

# Slimbridge

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# Season 2024-25

## Fixtures



| Date          | Time  | Fixture    | H/A | Opponent                   |
|---------------|-------|------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Tue 20 Aug 24 | 19:45 | League     | H   | Sporting Club Inkberrow    |
| Sat 24 Aug 24 | 15:00 | FA Vase 1Q |     | Bye                        |
| Mon 26 Aug 24 | 15:00 | League     | H   | Lydney Town                |
| Sat 31 Aug 23 | 15:00 | FA Cup 1Q  |     |                            |
| 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   | Pershore                | 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 |

# Uhsport Hellenic League

## Premier Division - League Table



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



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# SC Inkberrow

## Club History



Inkberrow FC was established in its current form in 1978, providing an opportunity to play and watch football for local people, in both a friendly and competitive atmosphere. The club grew in strength due to the addition of its junior section in 2000 and were awarded "Chartered Standard" status by the FA in 2004.

The ambition of the club has been to provide a fun environment for local players and to encourage player development within the club. The rise of Sporting Club Inkberrow has been testament to this, with over 50% of the current playing squad graduating from the Inkberrow FC junior section.

SC Inkberrow itself was originally founded as "Inkberrow Reserves" in the summer of 2016 under the guidance of Neil Guy, Carl Stenton and Tom Harris, who remain in charge today. The team began life in the Stratford Alliance Division 2, quickly making progress by winning the Stratford Alliance Premier League in their second season and looking for further opportunities to push up the football pyramid.

The Midland Football League Division 4 appeared to be an ideal home, with Inkberrow FC first team already competing in the MFL Division 3. But for Inkberrow Reserves to secure entry into the league, the team were required to register under a new name to avoid potential complications with Inkberrow FC being in the league above. Therefore, the team took on the name SC Inkberrow, following the name of the wider sports club, and adopted the green and white kit originally used by the club in 1978.

The club continued to make good progression on the pitch with Inkberrow FC gaining promotion to the MFL Division 2 (Step 7), and SC Inkberrow were also invited to join the Hereford Premier League (Step 7). With two affiliated teams in Step 6 feeder leagues the club had high ambitions for the 22/23 season, but it was Sporting Club Inkberrow who were able to secure promotion to the Hellenic Division One, after fending off title challengers Ledbury Town in a dramatic end to the season.

The 23/24 season was the first time in the history of the club competing within the football pyramid, with progress being made on and off the pitch to support this fantastic achievement. An extremely positive season culminated with a 4<sup>th</sup> placed finish and a place in the play-offs to fight for promotion to the Hellenic Premier league.

SC Inkberrow travelled to Clanfield 85 FC for the semi-final, winning the game 0-3, and then made the journey to Malmesbury Victoria FC where the team lost a competitive game 2-1. But due to a league restructure, SC Inkberrow were offered promotion as losing Finalists, making the team one of only two in the country to complete back to back promotions into Step 6 then Step 5 of the football pyramid.

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# 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*



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# 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.



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