

Slimbridge Football Club



Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Saturday January 18th 2025
v Westfields

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Assistants Ben Jagers
Tom Read

Ground Staff Barry Gay
Malcolm Lineaker

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Slimbridge v Westfields



Today's Team Lineups

Ben Hands
Callum Dark
Charlie Hitchings
Gavin Jones (GK)
Hadyn Evans
Jacob Rogers
Joe Hunt
Joel Jagger
Jonty Welch
Josh Barclay
Henri Parry-Williams
Liam Harper
Luca Kapadia
Nathan Dennis
Rhys Sarson
Sergio Mills
Theo Clayson
Toby Soule
Joe Shutt
Travis Wood (GK)
Will Hawes
William Djaha-Nsangou

Details not provided

Referee

Samuel Lomas

Assistants

Graham Pugh
Dennis Young

Slimbridge

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Season 2024-25

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 18 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Westfields
Tue 21 Jan 25	19:45	Wiseman Cup	A	Corsham Town
Sat 25 Jan 25	15:00	League	A	Sporting Club Inkberrow
Tue 28 Jan 25	19:45	Marsh Cup	A	Ludlow Town
Sat 01 Feb 25	15:00	League	H	Hereford Pegasus
Tue 04 Feb 25	19:45	League	A	Corsham Town
Sat 08 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Pershore Town
Tue 11 Feb 25	19:45	League	H	Thornbury Town
Tue 18 Feb 25	19:45	County Cup	A	Shortwood United
Sat 22 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Worcester Raiders
Tue 25 Feb 25	19:45	League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 01 Mar 25	15:00	League	H	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Tue 04 Mar 25	19:45	League	H	Cirencester Town
Sat 15 Mar 25	15:00	League	A	Hartpury University
Tue 18 Mar 25	19:45	League	A	Malmesbury Victoria

Season 2024-25

Results



Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 30 Jul 24	League	H	Pershore	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 2024	League	A	Highworth Town	0-5	147
Sat 02 Nov 2024	League	A	Cirencester Town	2-0	154
Sat 09 Nov 2024	League	H	Corsham Town	5-2	141
Tue 12 Nov 2024	GFA Trophy	H	Lydney Town	4-0	85
Sat 16 Nov 2024	League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp	2-2	121
Sat 23 Nov 2024	League	A	Mangotsfield United	0-2	367
Sat 30 Nov 2024	League	A	Roman Glass	1-5	110
Fri 06 Dec 2024	League	H	Longlevens	2-3	109
Tue 10 Dec 2024	GFA Trophy	H	Longlevens	5-1	95
Sat 14 Dec 2024	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	2-2	111
Sat 21 Dec 2024	League	H	Fairford Town	0-3	89
Thu 26 Dec 2024	League	A	Lydney Town	0-4	167

UHSport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table



Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Hartpury University	26	19	5	2	61	13	48	62
2	Mangotsfield United	28	16	8	4	50	17	33	56
3	Sporting Club Inkberrow	27	15	8	4	49	24	25	53
4	Roman Glass St George	25	15	5	5	66	38	28	50
5	Fairford Town	27	14	7	6	51	35	16	49
6	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	28	14	5	9	61	41	20	47
7	Highworth Town	26	14	4	8	47	35	12	46
8	Worcester Raiders	29	11	12	6	51	33	18	45
9	Pershore Town	26	12	4	10	61	39	22	40
10	Tuffley Rovers	28	11	5	12	38	41	-3	38
11	Westfields	26	10	7	9	51	32	19	37
12	Corsham Town	26	11	4	11	43	48	-5	37
13	Hereford Pegasus	30	9	6	15	45	50	-5	33
14	Slimbridge	26	9	5	12	54	66	-12	32
15	Thornbury Town	25	7	3	15	36	49	-13	24
16	Longlevens AFC	27	6	5	16	29	54	-25	23
17	Cirencester Town	27	6	5	16	29	57	-28	23
18	Lydney Town	23	5	3	15	31	68	-37	18
19	Brimscombe & Thrupp	28	3	5	20	27	97	-70	14
20	Malmesbury Victoria	18	2	2	14	19	62	-43	8



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Slimbridge

Player Profiles



Travis Wood

Goalkeeper

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

Gavin Jones

Goalkeeper

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 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.

Jonny 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

Promising young midfielder from the Under 18 squad looking to break through into senior football.

Sergio Mills

Midfield

Will Hawes

Striker / Assistant Manager

Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skilful 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 and Commercial 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.

Luca Kapadia

Striker

Joined from Bristol University, having previously played at Luton Town Academy.

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

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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