

Slimbridge Football Club



Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Saturday March 28th 2026
Cribbs

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Stuart Pearce

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Slimbridge v Cribbs



Todays Teams Squads

Alex Bell
Alex Hammond (GK)
Bogdan Mara
Charlie Hitchings
Charlie Mathews
Hady Evans
Jack Smith
Jack W Smith
Jacob Rodgers
Joe Shutt
Joe Stokes
Kian Kang
Ollie Barnes
Owen Giles
Ryan Ponting
Shiyak Sutherland
Stephen Sarkodie (GK)
Theo Browne
Toby Soule
Tristan Haswell
Will Hawes

Aaron Greatbanks
Louie Farrow
Archie Lock
Joel Smith
Matt Binding
Joe Davis
Oscar Sullivan
Anthony Essono
Arron Sweete
Aaron Coleman
Kyrán Iba
Matt Lee
Keiran Clayton
Greg Yarde
Luco Ponsillo
Corey Stock
Buster Reed
Michael Barry
Raymond Oppong
Trayvion Jackson
Josh Timbrell

Referee

John Mowatt

Assistants

Jason James
Nigel Rees

Slimbridge

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Season 2025-26

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 28 Mar 26	15:00	League	H	Cribbs FC
Tue 31 Mar 26	19:45	League	H	Droitwich Spa
Fri 04 Apr 25	15:00	League	A	Cirencester Town
Mon 06 Apr 26	15:00	League	A	Tuffley Rovers
Sat 11 Apr 26	15:00	League	A	Roman Glass St George
Sat 18 Apr 26	15:00	League	H	Longlevens AFC

Season 2025-26

Results



Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 29 Jul 25	League	H	Cirencester Town	3-2	203
Sat 02 Aug 25	FA Cup Extra Prelim	A	Corsham Town	1-0	125
Tue 05 Aug 25	League	A	Fairford Town	1-1	148
Sat 09 Aug 25	League	H	Hallen	2-1	142
Tue 12 Aug 25	League	H	Cinderford Town	2-0	178
Sat 16 Aug 25	FA Cup Prelim	A	Portishead Town	6-2	260
Tue 19 Aug 25	League	A	Droitwich Spa	6-0	267
Sat 23 Aug 25	League	A	Lydney Town	1-0	87
Sat 30 Aug 25	FA Cup 1Q	H	Dorchester Town	0-1	287
Sat 06 Sep 25	League	H	Pershore Town	5-0	105
Sat 13 Sep 25	League	A	Highworth Town	4-1	102
Sat 20 Sep 25	FAV 2Q	A	Longlevens	4-4*	120
Tue 23 Sep 25	League	H	Westfields	3-4	143
Sat 27 Sep 25	League	H	Roman Glass St George	2-2	114
Sat 04 Oct 25	League	A	Cribbs	3-2	65
Fri 10 Oct 25	League	H	Thornbury Town	1-0	266
Tue 14 Oct 25	League	A	Worcester Raiders	1-0	80
Sat 18 Oct 25	FA Vase R1	H	Wells City	3-2	145
Sat 25 Oct 25	League	A	Corsham Town	2-3	137
Tue 28 Oct 25	League	H	Tuffley Rovers	3-0	174
Sat 01 Nov 25	Marsh Cup R3	H	Corsham Town	3-1	110
Sat 08 Nov 25	FA Vase R2	A	Ivybridge Town	5-0	236
Sat 15 Nov 25	League	A	Longlevens	0-1	128
Tue 18 Nov 25	Floodlit Cup R3	A	Westfields	2-3	79
Sat 22 Nov 25	League	H	Hereford Pegasus	3-1	82
Tue 25 Nov 25	League	A	Westfields	3-0	111
Sat 29 Nov 25	League	H	Mangotsfield United	2-1	131
Wed 10 Dec 25	GFA Cup R2	A	Longlevens	1-2	-
Sat 13 Dec 25	FA Vase R3	H	Amesbury Town	1-0	107
Sat 20 Dec 25	League	A	Cinderford Town	4-1	125
Sat 27 Dec 25	League	H	Lydney Town	0-0	145
Sat 03 Jan 26	Marsh Cup R4	H	Westfields	4-0	124
Sat 10 Jan 26	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett	3-0	218
Sat 17 Jan 26	FA Vase R4	A	Downton	0-0^	190
Sat 24 Jan 26	League	H	Fairford Town	3-7	102
Sat 31 Jan 26	League	A	Hallen	0-4	108
Sat 07 Feb 26	League	A	Pershore Town	3-2	128
Sat 14 Feb 26	Marsh Cup R5	A	Stonehouse Town	3-1	120
Tue 24 Feb 26	League	H	Worcester Raiders	0-1	118
Sat 28 Feb 26	League	A	Hereford Pegasus	2-3	179
Tue 03 Mar 26	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett	2-1	117
Sat 07 Mar 26	Marsh Cup SF	H	Droitwich Spa	1-4	172
Sat 14 Mar 26	League	A	Mangotsfield United	7-2	267
Tue 17 Mar 26	League	H	Highworth Town	3-1	102
Sat 21 Mar 26	League	A	Thornbury Town	2-0	166
Tue 24 Mar 26	League	H	Corsham Town	3-2	117

* Won 3-2 on pens

^ Lost 4-3 on pens



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Cribbs

Club History



Cribbs Football Club was founded in London in 1958 as Sun Life Assurance. The Bristol team was established in 1976 when Sun Life first relocated to Bristol. Initially, two teams were run, participating in the Bristol and Avon League, playing at Dundridge Farm. However, when the Cribbs Causeway ground was opened in 1978, the first team were promoted straight to the Avon Premier Combination League (later renamed Bristol Premier Combination) where they stayed for 20 years until they eventually won promotion to the County League in 1999–2000.

In the summer of 2011, the club changed its name from AXA to Cribbs Friends Life FC ready for the 2011–12 season. The season was Cribbs' most successful season to date as the club claimed its first Gloucestershire County League title on the way to an unprecedented League and Cup double. The team later adding the Les James League Cup to the League Championship and in the process becoming the first and only side to achieve this feat.

As a result of winning the league, the club earned promotion to the Western League Division One for the 2012–2013 subsequently changing their name to simply, Cribbs FC.

Cribbs were promoted into the Western League Premier Division for the commencement of the 2015-2016 season and obtained numerous top half finishes until at the end of the 2020–21 season the club were transferred to the Premier Division of the Hellenic League.

Under the stewardship of Richard Luffman, Cribbs in his first full season in charge, recorded a best ever Step Five position of fourth in the Hellenic League. They also were winners of the League Cup defeating Hereford Pegasus 1-0 through a George Kellow goal.

Cribbs gained Southern League status in 2023 after becoming champions of the Hellenic League, clinching promotion with a 1-0 win over Wantage Town with a match to spare.

2023/2024 was the first season in the Southern League and saw a third placed finish and a play-off for promotion to the Premier Division, where we lost 2-1 against local rivals Bristol Manor Farm.

Our second season at Step 4 proved a tougher proposition to the first, finishing in relegation places and as a result returning to the Hellenic League.

Since its inception the club has run multiple sides across the Bristol Premier Combination and Bristol & District League. The Reserve Team won the Premier Combination in 2021/2022 season and did so in numerous seasons prior. They were granted entry to the Gloucestershire County League for 2022/2023.

In their first season in the GCL they finished six points in front of Bromley Heath United to clinch the title and earn promotion to the Toolstation Western League Division One.

The Reserves finished sixth in the Western League Division One in 2023/2024 and twelfth in 2024/2025. For 2025/2026 season they return to the Gloucestershire County League, keeping the requisite number of divisions between themselves and the 1st XI.

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Player Profiles

Aaron Greatbanks - Goalkeeper – Age 29 - originally joined us during the 2021/2022 season and has returned for this season. Calming presence and Hellenic League Cup winner.

Louie Farrow – Defence – Age 18 – versatile young defender with experience beyond his years. Joins us from Hengrove Athletic where he made over 80 appearances in two seasons.

Ash Kendall – Defence – Age 29 – a very experienced, no-nonsense centre-back. Has a great knowledge of the level and has featured for other local clubs around our area including Oldland Abbotonians, Mangotsfield United and Cadbury Heath.

Matt Binding - Defence - Age 25 - Strong central defender who joined us after spending the last two seasons with Cadbury Heath.

Greg Yarde – Defence – Age 24 – dependable central defender who is comfortable with the ball at his feet. Has previously featured for Clevedon Town and Hengrove Athletic.

Corey Stock – Defence – Age 19 – a fullback with good experience for a young player, playing over 40 matches at Step 5, having been with Shepton Mallet previously.

Raymond Oppong – Defender – Age 16 – centre-back who joined us from Bradford Town of the Western League. Already made his mark with two goals with two goals in a floodlit cup tie at Tuffley.

Archie Lock – Defence/Midfield – Age 26 – player who came through the youth ranks at the club, returning to us in season 2023/2024 after a scholarship in the US. Archie can operate anywhere across the defence and midfield.

Oscar Sullivan – Defence/Midfield – Age 20 – can operate in central defence or central midfield. Was a key player at Hengrove Athletic during the last two seasons.

Aaron Coleman – Defence/Midfield – Age 27 – a regular in our reserve side for many years and a very talented ball player who regularly scores goals and supplies assists. Dangerous set-piece taker on the edge of the box.

Joel Smith – Midfield – Age 21 – talented midfielder who joins us this season from Brislington where he has been a regular for three seasons, making over 100 appearances in the process.

Joe Davis – Midfield – Age 20 – joined our Southern League squad last season, making an immediate impact with goals and assists. Great delivery from set pieces and open play alike.

Keiran Clayton – Midfield – Age 25 – Keiran has been at the club for many years, breaking into the 1st XI squad last season. An industrious midfielder who likes to keep things ticking over in the middle of the park.

Arron Sweete - Midfield - Age 20 - excellent delivery from set-pieces. Hard working wide player who joined the club from Mangotsfield United.

Matt Lee – Midfield – Age 21 – composed midfielder who recently joined us from Bridgwater United of the Western League.

Michael Barry – Forward – Age 21 – pacey and skilful wide attacker with an eye for a goal. Joined us in January 2026 from Mangotsfield United.

Luco Ponsillo – Forward – Age 21 – new to the club this season. Tricky player with fast feet who likes to commit defenders. Previous clubs include Bristol Manor Farm, Roman Glass St George and Hengrove Athletic.

Buster Reed – Forward – Age 21 – another player who came through our youth side. Buster joined the British Army and has featured at representative level for them. This will be his first season with our 1st XI.

Trayvion Jackson - Forward - Age 18 - pacey and skilful striker who has joined us on loan from Bristol City.

Babacar Sarr - Forward - Age 18 - joined us in February 2026 from Stoke Gifford SGS United. Powerful presence in the forward line.

Anthony Essono – Forward – Age 29 - powerful striker who spent the early part of the season with Bristol Manor Farm.

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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.

Now in their third season in the Hellenic League, Tom Deakin has assumed the role of Team Manager following Adam Coyle's decision to step back from the position during the 2024-25 Season, with Mike Palmer confirmed as his new co-manager and Ben Powell as their assistant and Sam Prior as coach.

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