

Slimbridge Football Club



Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Tuesday July 29th 2025
v Cirencester Town

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Wisloe Road
Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF

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



Slimbridge v Cirencester Town



Today's Teams Squads

Raiyan Ahmed
Kieran Bennett
Cameron Blacker
Leighton Blacker
Casey Collins
Callum Dark
Benjamin Deakin
Hadyan Evans
Charlie Hitchings
Jack Hughes
Joseph Hunt
Kian Kang
Alfie Mann
Bogdan Mara
Ryan Ponting
Jacob Rodgers
Stephen Sarkodie
Joe Shutt
Jack Smith
Jack W Smith
Toby Soule
Joe Stokes
James Tainton

Finley Bell
Fraser Bell
Aidan Bennett
Will Davidson
Jack Freeman
Ross Gabriel
Jack Horrell
Elliott Keightley
Jordan Morris
James Mortimer-Jones
Ronnie Newbery
George Pearce
Oliver Pitt
Kyle Pitts
Harlie Price
Harrison Reeves
Ethan Rose
Kevin Sawyer
Edward Scott
Jayden Stratford
Jesse Thompson
Jonty Welch

Referee

Alan Robinson

Assistants

Kevin Watkins
William Tose

Slimbridge

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Season 2025-26

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Tue 29 Jul 25	19:45	League	H	Cirencester Town
Sat 02 Aug 25	15:00	FA Cup Extra Prelim	A	Corsham Town
Tue 05 Aug 25	19:45	League	A	Fairford Town
Sat 09 Aug 25	15:00	League	H	Hallen
Tue 12 Aug 25	19:45	League	H	Cinderford Town
Tue 19 Aug 25	19:45	League	A	Droitwich Spa
Sat 23 Aug 25	15:00	League	A	Lydney Town
Mon 25 Aug 25	15:00	League	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 30 Aug 25	15:00	League	H	Westfields
Sat 06 Sept 25	15:00	League	H	Pershore Town
Sat 13 Sept 25	15:00	League	A	Highworth Town
Sat 27 Sept 25	15:00	League	H	Roman Glass St George
Sat 04 Oct 25	15:00	League	A	Cribbs FC
Sat 11 Oct 25	15:00	League	H	Thornbury Town
Sat 18 Oct 25	15:00	League	H	Tuffley Rovers
Sat 25 Oct 25	15:00	League	A	Corsham Town
Sat 08 Nov 25	15:00	League	A	Westfields
Sat 15 Nov 25	15:00	League	A	Longlevens AFC
Sat 22 Nov 25	15:00	League	H	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 29 Nov 25	15:00	League	H	Mangotsfield United
Sat 06 Dec 25	15:00	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Sat 13 Dec 25	15:00	League	A	Cirencester Town
Sat 20 Dec 25	15:00	League	A	Cinderford Town
Sat 27 Dec 25	15:00	League	H	Lydney Town
Sat 03 Jan 26	15:00	League	H	Worcester Raiders
Sat 10 Jan 26	15:00	League	A	Thornbury Town
Sat 17 Jan 26	15:00	League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 24 Jan 26	15:00	League	H	Fairford Town
Sat 31 Jan 26	15:00	League	A	Hallen
Sat 07 Feb 26	15:00	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Sat 14 Feb 26	15:00	League	A	Pershore Town
Sat 21 Feb 26	15:00	League	H	Corsham Town
Sat 28 Feb 26	15:00	League	A	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 07 Mar 26	15:00	League	H	Droitwich Spa
Sat 14 Mar 26	15:00	League	A	Mangotsfield United
Sat 28 Mar 26	15:00	League	H	Cribbs FC
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



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Cirencester Town Club History



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

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

Season 1995-96 was the start of the new era. In partnership with Cirencester College, the club began the groundbreaking Football Academy programme. Developing rapidly, first under Dave Hockaday and when he moved as Youth Team Manager to Watford FC, followed by Steve Lowndes, the Academy have been National College Champions in '97 and in '98, five times winners of the English Schools FA U19 Colleges Cup since 1998, and British Colleges Trophy Champions 4 times since '97.

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

In May 2006, after four highly successful years and having raised expectations at the club, Brian Hughes resigned as First Team Manager to be replaced by Neil Hards. Neil had taken a year out of football after his achievements at Winchester City where they gained “back-to-back” promotions and won the FA Vase in 2004. Unfortunately, despite some good early performances, the team lacked the necessary consistency, and a disastrous run of results after Christmas meant they finished in the relegation places. However, the club was later reprieved from relegation after a number of changes were made to club allocations in the non-league structure due to club mergers and other decisions.

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

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

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

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

December 2019 saw another change with former North Leigh manager John Brough take the helm replacing Charlie Griffin after a disappointing start to the season. The change nearly had the desired effect as the Centurions climbed the

table with a play off place in sight before the season was sadly cut short due to the current situation, we find ourselves in relating to COVID 19.

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

2024-2025 voluntary relegation to the Hellenic league was taken due to the levels of travel required in the Southern League, we ended our 28-year stay. Following the departure of John Brough, we appointed assistant manager and ex player James Mortimer-Jones who finished a respectable 15th in the league after starting pre season with only 2 players from the previous season. Jonah rebuilt the side and reaped the rewards of his hard work by winning the Wiseman Lighting Cup final in his first full season in charge

Cirencester Town

Player Profiles



CIRENCESTER TOWN
FOOTBALL CLUB

Ronnie Newbury - Goalkeeper

Into his second full season after taking over as the number 1 spot after 6 games last term. Highly rated young goalkeeper with a big career ahead of him in non-league football. Brilliant Shot Stopper and getting better

Ed Scott– Defender

Signed from Bishops Cleeve and impressed the Ciren Faithful with displays at the heart of the Centurions defence. Big, Strong, pacey and good on the ball. A brilliant first season at The Talent Hire Stadium last term

Kyle Pitts– Defender

Returned to The Talent Hire Stadium in January 2025 and he commanded a starting place from the outset. A star performer in the last 4 months of the season leading at the heart of the defence and it was no coincidence our form improved with arrival.

Elliot Keightley– Defender

Joins the Centurions after 2 successful seasons with Worcester City FC. The former Hartpury student had a brief spell under old manager John Brough and is a great addition to the squad. The experienced tough tackling defender will bolster the defence this season.

Jordan Morris – Defender

Signed from Forest Green Rovers in 2018 and has been at The Talent Hire Stadium ever since. One of the best lefts foots in the league and managed 30 league games last season after a long-term injury. A key player for the Centurions down the left with bags of experience.

Fraser Bell – Defender

Talented full back and younger brother of midfielder Fin. Joined Ciren from Forest Green Rovers on loan at the tail end of last season and slotted in to the full back position straight away. An impressive pre season has season the youngster join permanently.

Ethan Rose– Midfielder

Last seasons young player of the year. The talented midfielder has a great engine and never stops working. Selfless for the team and covers every blade of grass and contributes with a few goals.

Jack Freeman – Midfielder.

A quality ball carrier who loves to spray the passes and loves to get forward when the opportunity arises and has plenty of goals in the locker.

Jack Horrell – Midfielder

One of last season stand out players after rejoining Ciren from Worcester Raiders. The talented midfielder has a good football brain and a great array of passing and his leadership on the pitch was second to none last term.

Finley Bell – Midfielder

Last seasons player of the year and supporters player of the year. A fantastic first season at The Talent Hire Stadium which included 7 goals and was instrumental in our Wiseman Cup Victory. The Fast, pacey and tricky midfielder has a number of clubs currently chasing his services.

Harrison Reeves – Midfielder

Another match winner in the midfield. The tricky winger has a superb first season in red and black with more to come this year. 10 goals in only 29 games and hopefully more of the same to come. Exciting to watch on the ball and beats defenders with ease..

Jonty Welch – Midfielder

A key signing this summer. Manager Jonah was keen to get the skillful and combative midfielder in. The former FGR and Slimbridge man has impressed over pre season with his hard work, tenacious appetite and great ability on the ball during pre season and will be a key player for the Centurions.

Jayden Stratford – Midfielder/Striker

An injury riddled season last term. We got to see glimpses of the talent Jayden possesses. An exciting attacking midfielder has bags of pace, quick feet and beats defenders with ease. A big season ahead and important player for the Centurions.

Bonsa Teshome – Striker

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

Harley Arnold– Striker

Skillful and pacey striker who has come through our junior ranks. An impressive first season in senior football and will be looking to kick on this term. The Hartpury student has bags of goals in him and is an important member of the squad.

Aidan Bennett – Striker

Mr Cirencester. The Captain of the team led us to the Wiseman Cup victory last season and is a club legend. Comfortable on either foot with a powerful strike and scorer of some important goals over the years. Nearing 500 appearances for The Centurions. Can play any position and has played every position apart from in Goal.

Harlie Price – Striker

Star signing and a great acquisition for the Centurions. The former Brimscombe & Thrupp, Bishops Cleeve frontman signed in the summer having scored 19 goals last season for Pershore Town FC. The versatile front man has great hold up play and links up with the midfield to create

Ross Gabriel - Striker

The Forest of Dean based striker has been with the Centurions now for the last 5 seasons and is an integral part of the team. Despite injury problems last season the big striker managed to fire us to Cup victory with 7 goals in 4 games including 2 in the Wiseman Cup final

George Peare – Striker

Joins from Royal Wootton Bassett FC. Another player who rejoins the Centurions. A broken shoulder put paid to his football last season but has returned to full fitness and will score goals

Management Team

James Mortimer-Jones- Manager

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

Tom Speers – 1st Team Coach

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

Nick Peare – 1st Team Coach

Former CTFC player who has played Southern League throughout his career joins as 1st team coach. His experience and knowledge as a player will be priceless to the team.

Kevin Sawyer – GK Coach

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

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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.