

Slimbridge Football Club



The Emirates FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round



Saturday August 30th 2025
v Dorchester Town

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Slimbridge v Dorchester Town



Today's Teams Squads

Bogdan Mara
Callum Dark
Cameron Blacker
Casey Collins
Charlie Hitchings
Charlie Mathews
Hady Evans
Jack Hughes
Jack Smith
Jack W Smith
Jacob Rodgers
James Holder (GK)
Joe Shutt
Joe Stokes
Joseph Hunt
Kian Kang
Kieran Bennett
Leighton Blacker
Raiyan Ahmed
Ryan Ponting
Stephen Sarkodie (GK)
Toby Soule

Archie Whitfield
Bobbie Redknapp
Brett Pitman
Brooklyn Genesini
Cameron Murrar
Charlie Wooding
Corby Moore
Gerard Benfield (GK)
Harry Hutchinson
Harvey Wright
Ieuan Turner
Jack Dickson
Joe Parker
Josey Casa-Grande (GK)
Lucas Phillips (GK)
Luke Pardoe
Luke Roberts
Marcus Daws
Matthew Buse
Oliver Haste
Thomas Fu
Thomas Smith
Wayne Robinson
Wesley Fogden
William Spetch

Referee

Adam Wilson

Assistants

Daniel Hughes
Matt Baird

Slimbridge

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Season 2025-26

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 30 Aug 25	15:00	FA Cup	H	Dorchester Town
Sat 06 Sept 25	15:00	League	H	Pershore Town
Sat 13 Sept 25	15:00	League	A	Highworth Town
Sat 20 Sept 25	15:00	FA Vase	A	Longlevens
Tue 23 Sept 25	19:45	League	H	Westfields
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

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

UHSport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table



Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Slimbridge	6	5	1	0	15	4	11	16
2	Corsham Town	7	4	1	2	10	6	4	13
3	Droitwich Spa	7	4	1	2	16	15	1	13
4	Hereford Pegasus	6	4	0	2	13	11	2	12
5	Roman Glass St George	5	3	2	0	12	7	5	11
6	Mangotsfield United	4	3	1	0	10	3	7	10
7	Worcester Raiders	4	3	0	1	11	3	8	9
8	Tuffley Rovers	4	3	0	1	8	5	3	9
9	Westfields	5	3	0	2	7	10	-3	9
10	Fairford Town	6	2	2	2	12	9	3	8
11	Cinderford Town	6	2	2	2	9	9	0	8
12	Pershore Town	4	2	1	1	7	6	1	7
13	Highworth Town	7	1	3	3	5	8	-3	6
14	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	5	1	2	2	3	8	-5	5
15	Longlevens AFC	6	1	1	4	9	10	-1	4
16	Thornbury Town	5	1	1	3	6	9	-3	4
17	Hallen	5	0	2	3	6	9	-3	2
18	Cirencester Town	6	0	2	4	7	12	-5	2
19	Lydney Town	5	0	1	4	4	14	-10	1
20	Cribbs	5	0	1	4	2	14	-12	1



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Dorchester Town

Club History



The history of Dorchester Town Football Club can be traced back originally to 1871 and the founding of The Dorchester Football Club. Like many clubs of that era, the Club played the rules of football that later evolved to become what is known today as rugby, but nevertheless the club quickly “attained an enviable reputation for respectability and skill” according to the Dorset County Chronicle.

By the end of the decade, the craze of Association Rules for the game of football had swept along the south coast, and on Monday, 18th October 1880, the town’s men gathered in The Kings’ Arms Hotel to “resuscitate” The Dorchester Football Club under association rules. They would play their home games at The Recreation Ground on Weymouth Avenue, which was home to the cricket club in the summer months. Leonard Robinson became the club’s first-ever captain, a position he would hold for many years.

Due to the importance of the town’s economy to the wider region, while most of the country typically took their half-holiday on a Saturday afternoon, the townsfolk of Dorchester took theirs on a Thursday, the day after market day. While the Saturday team of Dorchester Football Club struggled in the Dorset League, the Thursday team excelled. The town’s unique weekend arrangements meant that many Dorchester clubs struggled to organise matches with opposition on Thursdays or to muster a team for Saturday matches outside of town. In the 1908/09 season, the club imposed a policy of only playing fellow Dorchester teams and visiting military teams.

However, this policy only lasted for one season, and in the following year, an alternative plan was drawn up. On 26 August 1910, representatives from Dorchester United (cricket), Rovers (cycling), Athletic, and Wanderers attended The Dorchester Football Club AGM and agreed to join them to create “a team worthy of the good old town of Dorchester.”

It was here that the club adopted its new name of Dorchester Town Football Club to signify its new united ambition for the town. In 1929, the club moved from the Recreation Ground to the dedicated Avenue Football Ground. Just five years later, a remarkable event took place at the ground on 30 August 1934. To commemorate the centenary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, Lloyd George MP, the last of the Liberal Prime Ministers held a rally at a packed Avenue Ground. In the afternoon, Dorchester Town hosted the London Labour Football Club, followed in the evening by a game against an international workers’ XI.

With post-war football thriving across the country, the club joined the Western League in 1947 and two years later turned professional with Mr. K.W. Holland declaring, "People will not turn up in large numbers to watch Dorset league football." With the club now averaging gates of between 1000-1500, the club were able to attract bigger names to the club - none more so than former Wolves Goalkeeper, Ken Bird, who joined as player-manager from AFC Bournemouth. Bird quickly led the Magpies to success, winning the Western League Championship in 1954/55. The same year also saw us reach the First Round Proper of the FA Cup. Qualifying rounds saw us score victories over Poole, Bournemouth Gasworks, Portland and Winchester. In the first round, the club hosted fellow non-leaguer's Bedford Town in front of a gate of 3,500. A 2-0 win saw the club rewarded with the plum tie of York City at home. A record crowd of 5,750 packed out the Avenuem Ground, but despite taking the lead, the Magpies would fall short, losing 5-2. York would go on to make the semi-finals that year.

The following year (1955/56), Dorchester Town once again made the first round proper. Having put aside Newport IoW in the final qualifying round, the club was drawn away to Norwich City. A packed Carrow Road saw the Magpies fall to a 4-0 defeat. They again reached the First Round proper in 1956/57. After being taken to a replay by Bideford, their reward was a trip to Loftus Road to face Queen's Park Rangers, where they once again fell to a 4-0 defeat. For the fourth year running, Dorchester Town reached the First Round Proper in a campaign that really turned heads. A local derby was on the cards in the fourth qualifying round as the club was drawn away to then high-flying local rivals Weymouth. Almost 6,000 were in attendance as a 2-2 draw brought them back over the Ridge, where a packed-out Avenue Ground watched the Magpies defeat the old enemy 2-1. The prize was the visit of the then-famous amateur team - and indeed holders of the FA Amateur Cup - Wycombe Wanderers. The Magpies ran out 3-2 winners in a pulsating game. An away trip to Plymouth Argyle would await, but again, they would stumble to a heavy defeat to league opposition, this time 5-2. Then in '59, Dorchester Town were at it again. A Dinky Curtis goal against Weymouth gave the club another derby cup victory and put them in the First Round hat, where they were drawn away to Port Vale. Bill Gillett equalised, but the team slipped to a narrow 2-1 defeat.

The club joined the Southern League (South) in 1972 and five years later finished runners-up to Margate to gain promotion to the Premier Division. The following season saw the Magpies curtailed by the formation of The Alliance League (now The National League). Struggling in their initial season in the Premier Division (1978-79), they fell four places short of making the cut into the new league and were placed into the reformed Southern Division. Dorchester Town celebrated their centenary season by winning the Southern

Division at the first time of asking, but with no promotion to the Alliance Premier in its first season of existence, they were denied the chance to play at the highest level of non-league football.

The following season, the club once again tasted FA Cup glory. A replay win over Minehead saw them rewarded with an all-Dorset clash at home to AFC Bournemouth in front of a sold-out Avenue Ground. A famous Paul Thorne goal took the club back to Dean Court, where a last gasp extra-time goal broke Magpies hearts.

A severe financial crisis hit in the mid-eighties, with relegation and near bankruptcy. However, a remarkable season in 1986/87 saw the club win the league and return to the Premier Division. Having come so close to losing the club in the late 80s, Peter Aiken and the board realised that the old Avenue Ground had begun to outlive its purpose and brokered a deal with Tesco and the landowners, the Duchy of Cornwall, to develop a new stadium for the club. The move saw Dorchester Town establish themselves in the Southern Premier in the early 90s, before Stuart Morgan took over and led the club to sixth in 1994/95 and fourth in 1997/98, along with cup success including reaching the FA Cup First Round Proper once again, where they were knocked out away at Oxford United,

That season also saw the club reach the last sixteen of the FA Trophy. Having beaten Slough, Sutton, and Salisbury, the club hosted Woking at a sold-out Avenue Stadium. In a highly eventful game that will go down in club folklore, the Cards (and eventual winners) scored in the last minute to win 3-2. After a poor start to the 1999/2000 season, manager Stuart Morgan was relieved of his position as manager and was replaced by Mark Morris. Morris was able to steer the club out of the relegation zone in his first season but was unable to repeat the feat the following season when the Magpies lost the Premier Division place they had held for fourteen seasons. That season did see the club again reach the FA Cup First Round Proper, where, despite taking the lead, they lost 2-1 away to high-flying Wigan Athletic.

The Magpies threatened to regain their Premier Division status in their first season in the Eastern Division but finished in third place. However, they achieved their objective the following season, when after a fine campaign with only five defeats, the club returned to the Premier Division as Champions. In the first season back in the Premier Division, the club reached the play-offs for promotion to the newly launched Conference South. Having won away at Bath City, a swan-song Matty Holmes performance inspired the stripes to a 2-0 victory over Tiverton at Exeter City's St James' Park to become founding members of the Conference South. The Magpies almost reached the play-offs once again in their

inaugural season in the Conference South, but missed out on another promotion opportunity on the final day of the season. The following season saw Mark Morris resign to be replaced by Mick Jenkins. Jenkins reign was short lived and the club went through a handful of managers until former Dorchester player and reserve team manager Phil Simkin took over. The club stalwart guided the Magpies to their greatest FA Cup triumph in the modern era as the club beat Plymouth Argyle 1-0 in the first round proper, in a match televised live. The reward was a trip to Luton Town in the second round, where the Magpies narrowly lost 2-1 in a pulsating game. Simkin would lead the Magpies to eight in the Conference South the following season, before financial difficulties hit the club and they were subsequently relegated to the Southern Premier League South. Whilst the club fought to get its finances back in order, the club spent many years in the wilderness, constantly fighting against relegation.

That would eventually change when former player Glenn Howes returned to the club as manager and sparked a revival. That revival was further enhanced when Howes invited Tommy Killick to return to the club half way through the 23/24 season, to take over as manager, with Howes becoming his number two. Killick - an Avenue cult hero in his playing days - had seen remarkable success as manager at Poole Town, spanning well over a decade. Howes had been his number two at Poole for a number of years before embarking on his own managerial career, where he led Blackfield & Langley from the Wessex 1 to the Southern Premier League. Now reunited, the pair led Dorchester to 9th place in the 2023/24 season, before reaching the play-offs the following season. The Magpies would lose out to eventual play-off winners AFC Totton in the last minute of extra-time in a remarkable game.

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Dorchester Town



Player Profiles

Goalkeepers

Gerard Benfield Gerard Benfield re-joined the Magpies for a second spell in August 2024. Born on 28 September 1997 in Poole, Benfield began his career at Hamworthy United, before moving stepping up a couple of levels with Wimborne Town. His exploits at Cuthbury attracted the attention of Salisbury where he featured during the 19/20 season, before once again stepping up a level to join then National League side Weymouth in 2000. In August 2021, Benfield joined Dorchester Town on a short-term loan, making 16 appearances during the 2021–22 season. Spells with Weymouth, Salisbury and Wimborne followed, before he rejoined The Magpies on loan from Weymouth in 2024. His reliable performances in the first half of the season led to the move being made permanent in January 2025. Known for his commanding presence and shot-stopping abilities, Benfield brings a wealth of experience to the squad.

Josey Casa-Grande Josey joined the Magpies in August 2025 on loan from Bristol City, as injury cover for Gerard Benfield. Highly thought of at Ashton Gate, the young Welshman had spells on loan in the National League South last season at Bath City, Weymouth and Chippenham Town.

Lucas Phillips Young goalkeeper who came through the club's academy setup.

Defenders

Jack Dickson Jack Dickson, a versatile right-sided player, joined Dorchester Town in 2023 following a long stint with Poole Town. Comfortable in both defensive and attacking roles, Dickson's pace and ability to beat a man one-on-one has often seen him hailed as one of the best right backs in the league. In 2020 he spent a year in the National League with Weymouth, before returning to Poole Town the following season. Dickson made over 242 appearances for the Dolphins before moving to the Avenue Stadium in September 2023, where he has quickly established himself as one of the first names on the team sheet and one of the best right backs in the league.

Thomas Fu A promising, young centre back, Fu was a member of Dorchester's U23's last season as well as spending time with Christchurch and Shaftesbury to gain further experience. Previous clubs: Hong Kong FC

Brooklyn Genesini Young right back who came through AFC Bournemouth's academy.

He joined Swindon Town in 2023, where he had loan spells at both Yeovil Town and Weymouth. Joined The Magpies in August 2025.

Ollie Haste A versatile left-sided defender, Haste signed with Dorchester Town permanently from Yeovil Town in August 2024, following an impressive season on loan. Haste's all action displays during his season-long loan saw him win the Supporters' Player of the Season award and he further delighted Dorchester fans by making the move permanent the following summer, despite interest from numerous other clubs. Haste said at the time of signing: "It feels great to be a Dorchester player. I fell in love with the club the moment I came in on loan. The club has a clear vision to succeed that I want to continue where we left off. I had options at the end of last year but after discussions with family and friends, Dorch was always the right answer." The 21-year old previously won the Southern Premier League South whilst on loan from the Glovers at Truro City and also spent a period on loan at his hometown club, Barnstaple.

Harry Hutchinson A versatile left-sided defender who is also comfortable further forward on the wing, Hutchinson signed for the club in June 2023 from Poole Town. Hutchinson was a regular in the Dolphins side for a couple of seasons before making the switch to link up with boss Tom Killick again, while also previously impressing during his time whilst at neighbours Portland United. Son of former Magpie Ian Hutchinson, he also spent a month at fellow Southern League Premier South side Winchester City last campaign before returning to The Avenue and becoming a regular in the Magpies side.

Will Spetch Experienced defender Will Spetch, joined the Magpies in September 2023 from neighbours Poole Town. A hugely experienced centre back, Spetch made over 450 appearances for the Dolphins, having first joined them in the Wessex League in 2007-08. Spetch quickly made a name for himself with his leadership and aerial prowess, attracting the likes of AFC Bournemouth and Portsmouth. He made the move in to full-time football in March 2014, joining Sutton United. Injury however hampered his season with the U's and he returned to Poole the following season, where he'd go on to play for Tommy Killick for another 11 seasons. Following Killick's departure from Poole, he made the move across Dorset along with Corby Moore and Jack Dickson, where his powerful displays and obvious leadership qualities soon endeared him to the Magpies faithful. His threat at set pieces saw him score eight times in his debut season. He scored four the following season, including a memorable 98th minute winner on the last day of the season at Hungerford, which secured a place in the play-offs.

Ieuan Turner A product of the club's youth system, Ieuan Turner has emerged as a promising central defender. Turner captained both the U18 and U23 teams to league and cup glory, whilst also dual registered with Wessex Premier League side, Bournemouth, where he awarded the player-of-the-season. A physically imposing centre back, he made his senior Dorchester debut in the 2023-24 season, making 23 appearances and scoring his first senior goal in the final away game at Basingstoke Town, before going on to start

21 times the following season.

Harvey Wright A summer signing from Dorset neighbours Wimborne Town, Harvey is powerful and dynamic centre back, who has won titles and awards where ever he has been. Wright came through the youth ranks at Poole Town before joining Wessex League side Christchurch, where he was a crucial part of the squad that went on a memorable FA Cup run, reaching the third qualifying round where they narrowly lost on penalties to Dulwich Hamlet, live on the BBC. From Christchurch he joined Hamworthy United, helping the Hammers win the Wessex League and reach the Southern League South play-offs the following season. Wright rejoined Poole Town in 2023 where he won the Dolphins' Player of the Year award in his debut season in the Southern Premier League. He joined Wimborne the following season, where he won the Player's Player of the Year award and Chairman's Player of the Year Award.

Midfielders

Matt Buse Buse joined Dorchester Town in July 2024 from National League South side Truro City. A combative central midfielder, Buse has extensive experience at Step One and Two of the non-league ladder, having previously featured clubs including Yeovil Town, Torquay United and Weymouth, whilst also making over 100 appearances for Taunton Town. In his debut season at The Avenue, Buse was a regular in the Magpies side, showing both his defensive and attacking versatility with appearances in addition to his usual central midfield role at wing-back and also further forward in attacking midfield, chipping in with an impressive six goals in his debut season at The Avenue.

Wes Fogden The former AFC Bournemouth, Portsmouth and Yeovil midfielder returned to the Avenue Stadium in the summer of 2024, fifteen years after making his senior footballing debut with the Magpies. Fogden initially signed for the Magpies from Brighton & Hove Albion, playing over forty times for the club in the then Conference South. His battling and creative displays saw him join big spenders Havant & Waterlooville, with whom he won back-to-back promotions with to the National League. His displays for the Portsmouth-based club saw him move into the Football League, firstly with AFC Bournemouth where he featured over 50 times for the Cherries before joining Portsmouth FC for the 2014-15 season. He moved to Yeovil the following season before returning to Havant & Waterlooville in 2016. Fogden joined Dorking Wanderers in 2020, where he helped the club gain promotion from the National League South, and then spent two seasons under Tommy Killick at Poole Town before returning home to the Avenue Stadium to reunite with Killick ahead of the 2024/25. Appointed Player/Coach in Summer 2025.

Corby Moore Midfielder Moore joined the Magpies from Poole Town in September 2023. A metronomic central midfielder, he began his career with Southampton, where he made his debut in a League Cup tie against Stevenage Borough. He moved to the United States in 2014, joining Indy Eleven, before returning to the UK to sign for then-Conference National side, Forest Green Rovers. In January 2016 he joined National League South side Bishops Cleeve, before making the switch to Chelmsford City the following season. Following his release from the National League South side, Moore joined Poole Town where he went on to make 260 appearances for the Dolphins, where he was an integral part of the team that won promotion to the National League South. Corby moved to the Avenue in September 2023 alongside Will Spetch and Jack Dickson, where he was soon to be reunited with Killick once again. He quickly established himself as a vital part of the Magpies midfield, where his composure and tactical awareness allow him to dictate play from the centre of the pitch.

Cameron Murray Murray returned to The Avenue Stadium in the summer of 2025, having first featured for the club in 2018. The technically gifted midfielder came through the Academy of Leeds United, before signing for neighbours Bradford City. He signed for York City in 2013, before going on to feature for club's such as Scarborough United, FC United of Manchester and Stalybridge Celtic in the Northern Premier League. Murray moved to Dorset in 2018, joining the Magpies for his first spell. Murray stood out in a struggling team and his energetic and creative displays soon caught the attention of local rivals Weymouth. Murray made the move over the Ridgeway, where he played a significant part in their back-to-back promotions to the National League. A change of manager saw Murray team up with Tommy Killick at Poole, joining on loan initially in 2022 before making the move permanent the following season. Killick's departure saw Murray move to Southern Premier League side Gosport Borough last season, before re-joining The Magpies the following summer.

Luke Pardoe Luke Pardoe joined Dorchester Town in February 2024, bringing versatility and experience to the midfield. A cultured winger, who can also fill in at full-back, he began his career with AFC Bournemouth's youth setup. Upon his release from the Cherries, he joined Poole Town, where he made over a 100 appearances before his move to the Magpies. Since joining Dorchester, Pardoe has contributed both in attack and defense, showcasing his tactical nous and adaptability. He scored a memorable sixth minute goal in the 2024/25 play-off semi-final, where his mazy run from the half-way line saw him beat four Totton defenders, before slotting home to put the Magpies ahead.

Kyran Samadi An exciting and direct winger who can play on either flank, Kyran began his career with Eastleigh, coming through the Hampshire club's academy system. He first teamed up with Tommy Killick in 2023, where he went on to feature thirty times for the Dolphins in his debut season in men's football. He followed Killick across Dorset, joining The Magpies in July 2024.

Tom Smith Tom Smith joined Dorchester Town in June 2025 from Taunton Town. A cultured, goalscoring midfielder, Smith began his career with Swindon Town, before joining National League South side Bath City. Smith became a Twerton Park icon during a seven-year spell, where he made over 260 appearances and scored over 50 goals for The Romans. He was notably named National League South Player of the 2019–20 Season. He left Bath in the Summer of 2024 to sign for fellow Somerset side, Taunton Town, where he captained the team to a top-half finish. Known for his forward runs, creativity and goal contributions, his arrival is seen as a significant coup for Magpies manager Tom Killick, who had been a long-term admirer.

Charlie Wooding A young and highly promising midfielder, Wooding joined the Magpies in August 2025 having impressed on trial during the pre-season of 2025/26. An England Schoolboys international, Wooding came through the academy system at Salisbury FC, where he made his Southern Premier League debut aged just 16. In search of more playing time, Wooding signed for Bashley in 2024, where he impressed hugely in his debut season in the Southern League South Division. In January last season, he made the switch to league rivals Westbury United, where he went on to win a number of man of the match awards and picked up February's Player of the Month award. His calm and mature displays at such a young age caught the attention of Tommy Killick, who invited him to trial with the Magpies this summer.

Forwards

Marcus Daws A Northern Ireland U21 international, Daws is an electric wide-forward who began his career with AFC Bournemouth, coming through the Cherries' academy, where he enjoyed a fruitful loan spell under Tommy Killick at Poole Town. Daws joined Luton Town in 2023, but left the then-Premier League club the following season. He reunited with Killick at Dorchester in January 2024, where he got back to enjoying his football and playing with confidence once again. He joined AFC Totton briefly at the beginning of 2024/25 season but returned to The Avenue in October, where his end of season form was a major factor in The Magpies getting into the Play-offs that season.

Joe Parker Joe began his career at Gloucester City, where his goalscoring exploits quickly attracted the attention of Newport County. With the arrival of James Rowe Joe opted to leave and was sold to Leamington where he played as a right winger. It was a role that he also occupied at Chippenham Town and one that he was brought back to City to fill with the aim of him feeding Danny Wright in the middle. The former Newport County forward scored 11 times in 15 games at the end of a 2023-24 campaign that saw Yellows retain their Pitching In Southern League Premier Division South status. It is without argument that Joe's goals were a huge factor in that. Agreeing signing originally on loan from Gloucester City in 2024, Joe went on to score 21 goals for The Yellows in 58 appearances. Gloucester City Development XI, Gloucester City, Bishops Cleeve (loan), Shortwood United (loan), Newport County, Gloucester City (loan), Gloucester City (loan), Gloucester

City (loan), Gloucester City, Cinderford Town (loan), Leamington, Chippenham Town, Gloucester City, Tiverton Town (loan), Tiverton Town

Luke Roberts Roberts signed for Dorchester Town in January 2024, where the former Poole Town forward arrived following a highly successful spell working with boss Tom Killick, making over 170 appearances for the Dolphins in a 5-year spell during which time he attracted interest from full-time professional clubs. Hailed by Killick as “probably the best I have ever managed”, Roberts has overcome terrible luck with injuries following a serious knee ligament injury, and having worked his way back to full fitness became a regular in the side last season, impressing the Magpies faithful with his performances on the wing.

Wayne Robinson Signed in the summer of 2024 from Salisbury, Robinson arrived at The Avenue having won back-to-back promotions in the previous two seasons, firstly at Sholing before gaining promotion from the Southern League Premier South with the Wiltshire side. Niggling injuries impacted his debut season with the Magpies, but the lively forward still made telling contributions both through the middle and from wider positions. His most memorable moment at The Avenue came in a dramatic 3-2 win against Basingstoke Town last season, with the Magpies scoring twice in injury time and Robinson netting the crucial 90+5th minute winner at the Bypass End to send the crowd wild.

Brett Pitman - A highly experienced and decorated centre forward, the former AFC Bournemouth striker joined the Magpies in March 2025, scoring a memorable 16-minute hatrick on his debut. The Jersey-born forward is a prolific goalscorer with a wealth of experience in the Football League, scoring over 180 goals across the Championship, League One and League Two for clubs including AFC Bournemouth, Bristol City, Ipswich and Portsmouth. Pitman made the move into non-league football in recent seasons, scoring over 50 goals in consecutive seasons for AFC Portchester and then Shaftesbury, before moving to The Avenue Stadium. A coach with AFC Bournemouth's academy, this season Brett will assist Tommy Killick as Player/Coach.

Coaching Staff:

Tom Killick - Manager Killick returns to the Avenue following a hugely successful 20 year spell as manager at Poole Town, where he took charge of nearly 1,000 games. He guided the Dolphins from the tenth tier to the National League South. The ex-Magpies striker is fondly remembered at the Avenue from his playing days in the 1990s scoring a number of memorable goals in the black & white stripes. Killick returned home in September 2023, to link up with Glenn Howes again, the two having played together at Basingstoke and later spells together at Salisbury and Poole Town.

James Wood – First team Coach Wood joined the club from AFC Totton in October 2021, having worked alongside Howes at both Blackfield & Langley and The Stags. Following his playing career, Wood stepped into management with Wessex League side Bournemouth Poppies, where a successful three year stint almost culminated in leading them to a shock league title. He joined Poole Town as Tommy Killick's assistant and alongside then coach, Howes. He left Poole to join Howes at Blackfield, where they have built up a partnership that has seen success wherever they go.

Brian Churchill – First Team Coach Churchill is an experienced coach and UEFA B licensed coach, who has previously been involved with AFC Bournemouth's academy, as well as spells at Swanage Town & Herston and Hamworthy United. Was head coach of the club's highly successful U23's side before stepping aside at the end of last season.

Steve Dodge – Goalkeeper Coach An experienced goalkeeper who came up through the same Dorchester Town Youth team as former Liverpool player David West, Dodge went on to a career with Dorchester, Weymouth, Bashley and Christchurch amongst others, before moving into coaching with Portland United.

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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.