

Slimbridge Football Club



Uthsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division



Saturday August 9th 2025
v Hallen

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U18 Manager Kieran Brice-Ingles

U18 Assistant Dave Bees

U18 Coaches Bradley Barnard
Stuart Pearce

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Slimbridge v Hallen



Todays Teams Squads

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

Harry Thomas-Barker
Tom Smallman
Louis Holden
Louie Millard
Toby Walwin
Noah Blundell
Jordan Greenwood
Luke Bence
Ben Courtier
Syd Camper
Jack Sheppard-Cozens
Scott Cousins
Harry Barter
Lewis Saunders
Cory Thomas-Barker (C)
Harrison Fairman
Elliot Gardner
Ryan Crawford

Referee

James Cairns

Assistants

Garry Collier
Steve Cook

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Season 2025-26

Fixtures



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 09 Aug 25	15:00	League	H	Hallen
Tue 12 Aug 25	19:45	League	H	Cinderford Town
Sat 16 Aug 25	15:00	FA Cup Prelim	A	Portishead 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

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



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Hallen Club History



The club was formed by members of a new community living at Lawrence Weston on the outskirts of Bristol, which had been developed shortly after World War Two. The club was named Lawrence Weston Athletic and played in the Bristol & District League, and it has moved forward steadily since moving to the village of Hallen in 1979, to conform with League Ground grading. Much of the credit for the progress of this club can be accredited to the late Frank Fairman and his family. His son Francis, and grandson Lee continue the link with the club. In fact Lee played a major part in our fight for survival during the summer of 2015, when the club was in danger of losing its home. So it was no surprise when long serving Chairman Barrie Phillips nominated Lee to take over the chair from himself, at the next AGM.

The club became known as Lawrence Weston Hallen when it moved to Moorhouse Lane, joining the Gloucestershire County League in 1982, and under that title were runners up 1987-88, and Champions 1988- 89, after which the club dropped Lawrence Weston from its title to become known as simply Hallen. The club completed the double in 1992-93, when winning the Gloucestershire Challenge Trophy and the League title. Promotion was achieved, joining the Hellenic League Division One, and after further improvements to the facilities (particularly the erection of floodlights and a 200-seater stand), a runner-up position in 1996-97 led to another step up, to the Hellenic League Premier Division. The club had always considered the Western League as its goal, as this League was more familiar with Bristolians than the Hellenic League.

Their wish to transfer over was granted at the second time of asking but it was insisted that the club join the First Division for season 2000-01. The club finished fourth in its first season in the Western League and reached the last sixteen of the F.A.Vase losing to Brigg Town 6-5 in extra time. Further progress was made when new manager Gary Damone led the team to the Division One title in Season 2003-4, and fourth place in the Premier Division at the first attempt. The club also reached the final of the GFA Trophy and were denied a place in the first round of the F.A. Cup when losing to Nationwide Conference side Canvey Island in the fourth and final qualifying round. This success saw Southern League side Taunton Town tempt Gary Damone to try his hand at a higher level, which in turn saw Hallen have a dip in form, as players were also tempted away. It is however well known that a high percentage of players are happy to return to Hallen, and for season 2009-10 the club welcomed back Gary Damone as manager and many former players too.

The club finished in a disappointing twelfth position in 2009-10, but a crop of long term injuries did not help. The club however were to lift the Western League (Les Phillips) Cup for the first time. The club had experienced a bad start to the 2010-11 season, which saw the departure of manager Gary Damone who chose to take charge of his own town club Wellington. Club stalwart Paul Owen was given the task of steering the team to safety. With just one win prior to taking over in November, he and his assistant John Tierney changed fortunes around and we were safe from relegation with six games left. Paul Owen's first full season as manager saw the club challenging for the title, but a dip in form saw the club slip to fourth. Off the field, the club had ensured promotion would not be denied, had the club won the title by obtaining the ground grading for Southern League football.

Season 2012-13 saw no repeat of a challenge for promotion, but the season was kept alive by reaching the final of the Les Phillips League Cup for a second time. In the final Willand Rovers won 1-0 before a crowd of 400 at Cribbs Friends Life FC. As Paul Owen had already decided to step down at the end of the campaign, it was unfortunate that he could not see his side lift the cup. By mid May the club announced that Hengrove Athletic manager Jamie Hillman was to take over as manager, He had been at the helm for eight years at Hengrove, and had just guided them to the Premier Division as runners up in April. The 2013-14 season under Jamie and his assistant Grantley Dicks, was a mixture of highs and lows. The highs being success in lifting the GFA Trophy for a third time and reaching the fifth round of the FA Vase losing away to West Auckland Town. In contrast we finished the League campaign without a win in fifteen games.

Manager Jamie Hillman announced that he would be leaving, and previous manager Paul Owen agreed to return for the 2014-15 season. By November the League form was yet again cause for concern and Paul decided it would be best to bring in a new face, rather than wait to the end of the season. Steve Winter a former Walsall and Torquay player was appointed with a view, of him settling in, prior to the coming season. He was to resign in December 2015, and long serving player Tom Collett took on the role as player manager assisted by Rayan Wilson for the 2016-17 season. Following another poor run of results, Tom Collett made way for former player Ben Willshire to return as the new manager. Ben guided the club away from relegation, but when fortunes did not change in the next campaign, it was decided his assistant Rob Sage should take over the helm prior to Christmas 2017, with Ben remaining as a player. The resignation of Rob Sage forced the club to seek another manager in February.

Former manager Gary Damone returned as interim manager, whilst the club decided on a replacement from a record number of applicants. The successful candidate being former player Ray Johnstone, who had guided Odd Down to the title in 2016. Ray recruited another former Hallen player Tony Davis as his assistant for the 2018-19 season, unfortunately Tony had to step down during the course of the season.

It was a season which saw a more settled side, finishing in twelfth place the best for several years. Further progress was made during the 2019-20 season, with Ray being assisted by Dean Horseman, before it was brought to an abrupt end due to the coronavirus pandemic. Ray's departure early in the season 2020-21, saw Dean takeover as Manager in what turned out to be another pandemic disrupted season. A poor run of results at the start of 2021-22 resulted in Dean and his new Assistant Tony Beecham departing the club. Stuart Jones and his trusty Director of Football Andy Hawkins took over, but unfortunately they could not magic a way out of the situation the team had been left in and we were relegated to step 6, which saw us back in The Western League, due to The FA's lateral movement. Early on in season 2023-24 we saw Stuart step down from the managerial role, and replaced by Karl Baggaley, who added some new faces to the squad and ended the season just outside the play off positions. In his first full season (2024/25) Karl built a team to win the Division One title by a 13 point margin to get Hallen back to Step 5 football.

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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.