

Slimbridge Football Club



Pitching In Southern Football League Division One South



Saturday October 3rd 2026
v Bristol Manor Farm



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Gloucestershire
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Slimbridge v Bristol Manor Farm



Today's Teams

Callum Godfrey (GK)
Sam Hart (GK)
Josh Blyth
Tristan Haswell
Owen Giles
Hady Evans
Charlie Mathews
Jacob Rodgers
Kian Kang
Joe Stokes
Toby Soule
Theo Lynden
Sam Moseley
Casey Collins
Olly Sully
Jack W Smith
Alex Bell
Theo Browne
James Tainton
Leighton Green
Luke Bence
Jack Holmes
Josh Barkeley
Ellis Rudman

Joe Beardwell
Ryan Caaney
Eli Collins
Owen Crawford
Bailey Croome
Henry De-Long
Nathan Goodwin-Worrell
Ryan Guppy
Jacob Hodgson
Reece Hedges
Aaron Parsons
Elliot Nicholson
Josh Timbrell
Lucas Tomlinson
Abdoulie Tunkara
Kevin Vega
Sam Watkins
Charlie White

Referee

James Cairns

Assistants

Jack Rose
Edgar Sanha

Slimbridge

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Fixtures

2026-2027



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Wed 30 Sep 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Larkhall Athletic
Sat 03 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Bristol Manor Farm
Wed 07 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Portland United
Sat 10 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Exmouth Town
Tue 13 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Shaftesbury
Sat 17 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Willand Rovers
Wed 21 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Hungerford Town
Sat 24 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Dorchester Town
Wed 28 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Worcester Raiders
Sat 31 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Barnstaple Town
Sat 07 Nov 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Weymouth
Wed 11 Nov 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Larkhall Athletic
Sat 14 Nov 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Melksham Town
Sat 21 Nov 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Westbury United
Sat 28 Nov 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Paulton Rovers
Sat 05 Dec 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Falmouth Town
Sat 12 Dec 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Tiverton Town
Sat 19 Dec 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Bideford
Sat 26 Dec 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Bishops Cleeve
Sat 02 Jan 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Sporting Club Inkberrow
Sat 09 Jan 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Exmouth Town
Sat 16 Jan 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Bristol Manor Farm
Sat 23 Jan 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Shaftesbury
Sat 30 Jan 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Willand Rovers
Sat 06 Feb 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Dorchester Town
Sat 13 Feb 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Hungerford Town
Sat 20 Feb 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Barnstaple Town
Sat 27 Feb 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Weymouth
Sat 06 Mar 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Hartpur
Sat 13 Mar 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Portland United
Sat 20 Mar 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Tiverton Town
Fri 26 Mar 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Swindon Supermarine
Mon 29 Mar 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Bishops Cleeve
Sat 03 Apr 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Bideford
Sat 10 Apr 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Westbury United
Sat 17 Apr 27	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Melksham Town

Results

2026-2027



Date	Match	H/A	Opponent	Result	Att
Sat 26 Sep 26	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Falmouth Town	1-0	370
Wed 23 Sep 26	GFA Challenge Cup	H	Bishops Cleeve	2-3	123
Sat 19 Sep 26	FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round	H	Hungerford Town	1-3	188
Tue 15 Sep 26	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Worcester Raiders	0-4	216
Sat 12 Sep 26	FA Trophy Second Round Qualifying	H	Willand Rovers	2-3	118
Sat 05 Sep 26	Fa Cup 1st Qualifying Round	A	Baffins Milton Rovers	4-1	88
Mon 31 Aug 26	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Sporting Club Inkberrow	0-2	235
Sat 29 Aug 26	FA Trophy First Round Qualifying	A	Swindon Supermarine	1-0	182
Tue 25 Aug 26	FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay	A	Milton Keynes Irish	1-1	257
Sat 22 Aug 26	FA Cup Preliminary Round	H	Milton Keynes Irish	2-2	106
Wed 19 Aug 26	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Swindon Supermarine	2-7	243
Sat 15 Aug 26	FA Trophy Preliminary Round	A	Paulton Rovers	2-0	132
Wed 12 Aug 26	FA Cup Extra Prelim Round Replay	H	Burnham	2-1	181
Sat 08 Aug 26	FA Cup Extra Prelim Round	A	Burnham	1-1	105

League Table

2026-2027



Pos	Team	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Swindon Supermarine	6	6	0	0	17	5	12	18
2	Weymouth	6	5	1	0	16	5	11	16
3	Dorchester Town	6	5	0	1	13	9	4	15
4	Bishops Cleeve	5	4	0	1	14	3	11	12
5	Hungerford Town	7	3	2	2	9	6	3	11
6	Sporting Club Inkberrow	6	3	2	1	10	8	2	11
7	Willand Rovers	6	3	1	2	13	9	4	10
8	Exmouth Town	5	3	1	1	7	7	0	10
9	Shaftesbury	8	3	0	5	14	13	1	9
10	Worcester Raiders	7	2	3	2	9	10	-1	9
11	Portland United	5	2	2	1	10	6	4	8
12	Falmouth Town	7	2	2	3	11	11	0	8
13	Hartpury	6	2	2	2	9	10	-1	8
14	Westbury United	7	2	2	3	7	12	-5	8
15	Bideford	7	1	4	2	11	16	-5	7
16	Barnstaple Town	8	2	0	6	12	15	-3	6
17	Paulton Rovers	7	1	3	3	6	11	-5	6
18	Melksham Town	6	1	2	3	4	10	-6	5
19	Tiverton Town	5	1	1	3	4	6	-2	4
20	Bristol Manor Farm	7	0	4	3	5	11	-6	4
21	Larkhall Athletic	7	1	0	6	10	18	-8	3
22	Slimbridge	4	1	0	3	3	13	-10	3

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Slimbridge AFC - Constitution

Slimbridge AFC is a non-profit making members club run by a management and club committee.

Membership is £20 per season, offering discount entry to all home league games.

To become a member download the membership form from the club website. Completed forms should be handed in to Natalie Jennings along with payment (Cash and card payments accepted).

Bristol Manor Farm Club History



Our Legacy

Bristol Manor Farm Football Club has a storied history filled with resilience, ambition, and community spirit. This page chronicles the club's journey, starting with its foundation and early years, through decades of consolidation, memorable cup runs, and league achievements, to its modern era.

Early Years (1960–1977)

Bristol Manor Farm Football Club was formed for the 1960/61 season before disbanding and reforming for the start of the 1962/63 campaign. Our ground 'The Creek' used to be the site of the Port of Bristol Authority Sports & Social Club. In 1965, when the authority moved to new premises, Manor Farm took it over, making it our permanent home. The club joined the Somerset Senior League and over time made good progress through the divisions. In 1977, the club made the step-up to the Western League.

Consolidation and Ambition (1977–1998)

In the 1982/83 season, Bristol Manor Farm achieved promotion to the Premier Division as Division One champions. Legendary former Chairman Alex Thomas led the club from 1984 to 1992, with one of his key achievements being the installation of the first floodlights at The Creek, marking a significant milestone in the club's history.

The club would remain at this level for the next three decades. Ambitious seeds were sown for the club's future in 1998 when Geoffrey Sellek, a founding player during those early 60s 'homeless' years, took over the helm of the club as Chairman. In a life of total dedication to the football club and its social club activities, Geoff began the long, arduous task of steering the club towards promotion to the Southern League and beyond.

Memorable FA Cup and Trophy Triumphs (2010–2013)

Bristol Manor Farm's decent FA Cup pedigree is rooted in an exciting run during the 2010/11 competition, which saw us win a penalty shootout against Almondsbury Town and hold Basingstoke Town to a draw before being pipped by a single goal in the replay.

The 2011/12 season was the most successful in the history of the club to that date. We won the GFA Challenge Trophy after beating Shortwood United 5-0 in a thrilling final, and this was followed three days later with another cup triumph when we beat Willand Rovers in extra time to lift the Les Phillips Cup.

The Modern Era Begins (2013/14)

The modern era of Bristol Manor Farm truly began at the start of the 2013/14 season with the appointment of our long-serving and most successful Manager, Lee Lashenko. Fresh from winning the Premier League title with Bishop Sutton, Lashenko quickly made an impact with Manor Farm. The team made a good push for the league title but finished as runners-up to Larkhall Athletic – breaking club records for league position, goals scored, and fewest goals conceded along the way.

Our FA Cup run that season saw us put 9 goals past Oldland Abbotonians and 7 past Lymington Town, bringing us national media attention. The 1st Round Qualifying tie against Corsham Town ended in a 4-4 draw with Manor Farm winning the hard-fought replay 1-0. We then also held Bridgwater Town to a 4-4 draw in the next round before narrowly going out 2-1 in the replay.

Near Misses and Cup Glory (2014–2016)

In 2014-2015, Bristol Manor Farm just missed out on promotion by 3 points. However, we won the GFA County Challenge Trophy with a 2-0 win over local neighbours Shirehampton. The 2015/2016 season saw an epic run in the FA Vase that took us to within sniffing distance of Wembley. A notable 3-2 comeback win in the 5th Round at Sunderland RCA meant another long return trip to the north-east for a Quarter Final showdown with Morpeth Town. On a heavy pitch, we heroically went down fighting 2-0, with Morpeth going on to beat Hereford FC 4-1 in the showpiece Wembley final.

We finished third in the League – narrowly missing out on promotion once again but won the GFA County Challenge Trophy for the second season in succession with a record 9-2 win over Lydney Town. On a happy night at Ashton Gate, our former

Exeter City and Truro City striker Dean Stamp also won the Bristol Post 'Footballer of the Year' award for his astonishing tally of 59 goals in all competitions.

The Farm also made it to the final of the inaugural Toolstation Cup at Staveley Miners Welfare in late July, where they defeated Knaresborough Town 1-0 thanks to an early George Bimson goal.

Promotion to the Southern League (2016/17)

The many highlights of the triumphant 2016/17 season will be forever woven into the fabric of the club's history as Geoff Sellek's Bristol Manor Farm finally secured that elusive promotion to the Southern League in emphatic style. Lee's team amassed 102 points and scored over 100 goals on the way to being crowned as Western League Champions. An extraordinary unbeaten league run of 21 games between September and March (19 wins and 2 draws) all but secured the title, which was eventually clinched with three games to spare following a 2-0 win at local club Hallen on Good Friday.

Lee and his squad were warmly acknowledged later in the year on another great night for the club at Ashton Gate – popularly walking off with 'Coach of the Year' and 'Team of the Year' respectively at the Bristol Post Sports Awards.

Southern League Challenges and FA Cup Runs (2017–2020)

Manor Farm hit the ground running during our dramatic, debut Southern League campaign (2017/18) – briefly leading the pack in September and never out of the top six until the final agonising fortnight of the season.

The 2018/19 campaign was beset by second-season syndrome – a plague of injuries, a rash of suspensions, and inconsistent league form. Manor Farm's national profile was given a further boost, however, by another extended run in the FA Cup. We finally fell to National League side Slough Town in a Third Qualifying Round replay after a valiant 2-2 draw in the original tie at their Arbour Park ground and a 5-2 thumping of Basingstoke Town at home in the previous round – both games played amid torrential rainfall.

Strength Through Adversity (2020–2022)

During the Covid-19-interrupted League seasons of 2019/20 and 2020/21, we enjoyed two further FA Cup runs. A smash-and-grab 4-2 victory at Tiverton Town set us up with a tasty home tie with National League side Wealdstone. Manor Farm

defended heroically in a goalless draw in front of a sell-out capacity crowd at The Creek but bowed out bravely in the replay.

The following year saw dramatic penalty shootouts – away at Kidlington (which we won) and at home to the National League's Cray Wanderers, which we lost after a thrilling 3-3 comeback at The Creek. We also won the inaugural Steve Hillier Memorial Cup, named in honor of our long-serving Secretary.

The 2021/22 season, the first to be completed post-Covid, was the most epic in the club's history for all kinds of reasons. A rocky first half to the season was swept away on a tide of pure emotion after Christmas with a breathtaking push for promotion in which Manor Farm was defeated just once – winning 12 from 16 with 32 goals scored and just 8 conceded. On the final day of the season, at a delirious, jam-packed Creek, Owen Howe scored an 84th-minute equaliser against Winchester City to finally secure us that coveted play-off spot.

The team, fans, and wider community were undoubtedly spurred on throughout the second half of last season by the tragic news the club had received in January that Geoff Sellek had become terminally ill. Alas, Geoff was not well enough to witness Manor Farm's greatest ever night – a well-deserved 3-1 semi-final victory over Frome Town at their Badgers Hill home. After going one-nil down, Kye Simpson responded with an immediate equalizer, and the tide duly turned. Owen Howe sealed a famous and historic victory with a superb second-half brace to the obvious delight of the traveling Farmy Army. The season was to end on the saddest of notes, however, with Winchester City winning 4-1 in a traumatic final overshadowed by Geoffrey Sellek's tragic passing just three days earlier.

Resilience and Rebuilding (2022/23)

Manor Farm suffered from second-season syndrome, which saw them fighting for their lives at the bottom of the table. The Farmers secured their Southern League status in a dramatic Inter-Step Play-Off Final against Saltash United on the final day of the 2022/23 season.

Play-Off Heartache and Aspirations (2023 – 2024)

After the challenges of the previous season, 2023/24 was meant to be one of stability. However, in true Manor style, another roller-coaster ensued in an almost mirror image of 2021/22. A late season surge of nine wins in 11 matches saw the squad reach the play-offs once again. A bumper Farmy Army traveled to local rivals Cribbs for the semi-final, with Farm enjoying a tense but deserved 2-1 victory and a

place in the final away at Frome Town. Again, the supporters turned out in their droves, and despite taking an early lead, it proved a game too far as the Robins replied with three of their own, dashing hopes of an unexpected promotion to the Premier Division.

The End of an Era (2024 – 2025)

The 2024 season was one that started full of hope as the club looked to go one step further and secure promotion. Louis Britton's signing had a massive impact as he scored 36 goals before departing for Weston-Super-Mare in April, but post-Christmas any hopes of a playoff push faded. However a GFA Cup run saw the Farm grab a piece of silverware as the Farm ran out 3-0 winners over Bishops Cleeve in front of hundreds of the Farmy Army at Almondsbury.

In April, long serving manager Lee Lashenko announced that he would be departing the Farm following 12 years of service.

The New Era (2025 – present)

The departure of Lashenko has seen a lot of change throughout the club. Jon Line was appointed as the Chairman to head us through this and his first major move was to appoint William Justin as the manager of Bristol Manor Farm. The 25/26 season is going to be a year of transition but we are excited to see what it brings...

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Bristol Manor Farm

Player Profiles



Joe Beardwell (Forward)

Beardwell is a strong centre forward who joined us in the summer of 2026 from Swindon Supermarine. He has previously featured for Westbury United, Hungerford Town and Tiverton Town. No stranger to the Farm, Joe was top scorer in our U18s setup.

Ryan Caine (Midfielder)

Ryan is a dynamic midfielder who joined Manor Farm in 2025 from Taunton Town, having linked up with them at the start of the 2024/25 campaign. Before that, he played a key role in Cribbs' successful Southern League side.

Eli Collins (Midfielder)

Eli joins us from Willand Rovers, adding further presence & quality in midfield.

Owen Crawford (Goalkeeper)

Owen is a talented young goalkeeper who joined the Farm last October from Shepton Mallet. He developed through the Woking Academy before making the move west two years ago.

Bailey Croome (Forward)

Croome joined the Farm last season from Taunton Town in the Southern Premier Division. Prior to this, he had a number of successful years at Cribbs, where he was part of their highest league finish.

Henry De-Long (Defender)

Henry joins us on loan from Bristol Rovers. The young defender spent time on loan at Hungerford Town last season and has also captained Bristol Rovers' youth sides, and is an assured and cultured defender with a bright future ahead of him.

Nathan Goodwin-Worrell (Defender)

Goodwin-Worrell is a strong defensive option who will look to shore up the Farm back line. He joined last season from Corsham Town, a competitive Step 5 outfit.

Ryan Guppy (Midfielder)

Ryan is a vastly experienced central midfielder but is comfortable anywhere across the pitch. Arrives after 13 years & 583 appearances for Willand, bringing a wealth of experience to The Creek.

Jacob Hodgson (Midfielder/Defender)

Hodgson joined the Farm last season following a year at Taunton Town, where he served as vice-captain. The energetic midfielder was a key figure at Cribbs for nearly a decade, playing an important role in their rise, and is now Farm's captain.

Reece Hedges (Defender)

Hedges joined the Farm this summer having ended the season with Portishead Town. The defender has also played in the Southern League with Taunton Town and Cribbs.

Aaron Parsons (Defender)

Parsons is an experienced central defender having started out in Bristol City's ranks before moving on to Weston. He has since picked up Southern League experience with the likes of Yate, Mangotsfield Utd and Larkhall Athletic.

Elliot Nicholson (Defender)

Nicholson is a strong and experienced defender, having played well over 200 games for Clevedon Town. He brings excellent leadership qualities and a calm presence to the back line.

Josh Timbrell

Josh joins us returning from the United States, where he spent time with Wheeling University. He also brings experience from Westbury, Wootton Bassett Town and more.

Lucas Tomlinson (Midfielder/Forward)

Tomlinson joined us permanently this summer following a brief loan spell last year cut short by injury. The former Bristol Rovers player has spent recent years at Yate Town and has also featured for Barry Town United, Salisbury and Gloucester City.

Abdoulie Tunkara (Midfielder)

Tunks is a strong & agile central midfielder who reads and disrupts the game well. The Gambian-born midfielder has recent experience in Wales with Canton and Goytre, as well as a spell at Chipping Sodbury in the Hellenic Premier.

Kevin Vega (Forward)

Kevin has progressed through our youth set-up. A hard working & exciting young player who has earned his opportunity to step up.

Sam Watkins (Defender)

Watkins is a versatile young defender who signed this summer from Portishead, having left Newport County at the end of his professional contract in January 2026.

Charlie White (Defender)

A left-sided defender who came through the Southampton academy before signing for Bristol Rovers. He has also had loan spells at Tiverton Town and Poole Town.

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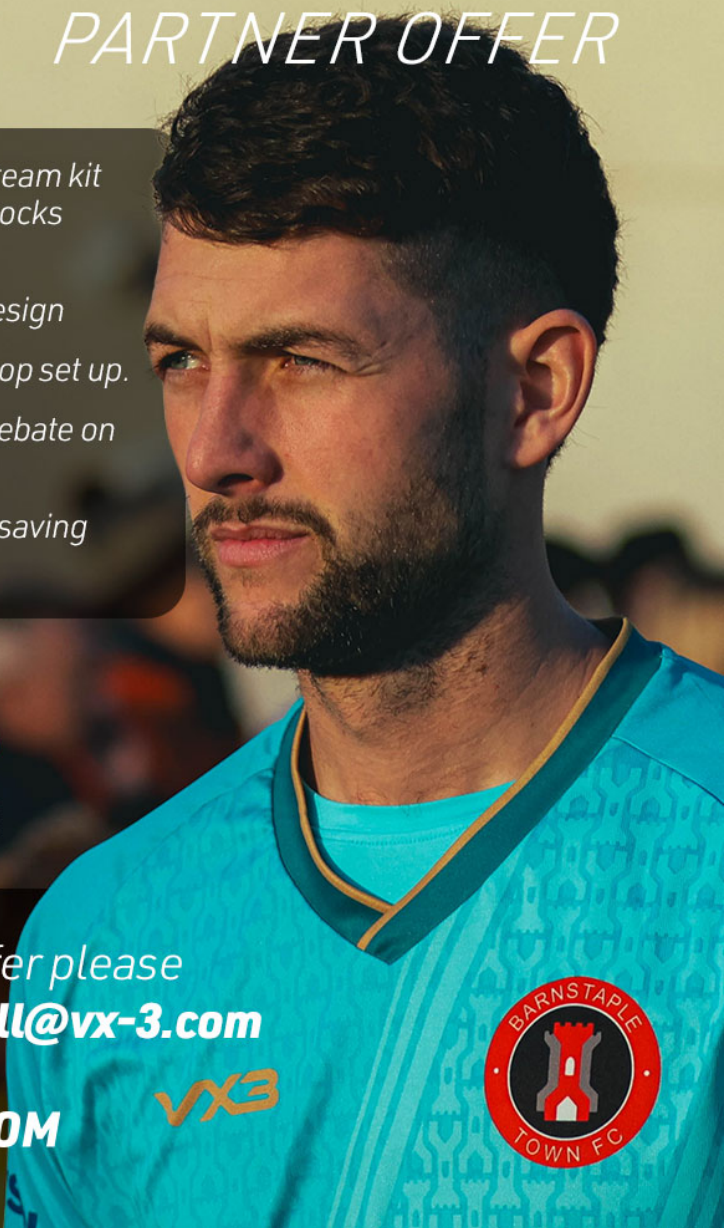
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Slimbridge Club History



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.

By the end of the second World War in 1945, the club were playing in a field just off Moorend Lane, which was sold for housing redevelopment, and which eventually became Tynning Crescent in the village. Therefore, in 1950, they moved just over the other side of Moorend Lane to a pitch in a field on Fishers Farm, with their changing rooms being sited a couple of fields away at the Village Hall.

This upheaval off the pitch did not seem to disturb the footballing side, with the first team winning Stroud League Division Three in 1951-52 (Along with the Gloucestershire Minor County Cup), Division Two in 1952-53, and Division One in the 1953-54 season in an early purple period for the club.

The Fishers Farm site was also sold for housing development a few years later, so between 1950 and 1958, they were forced to move three times. From Fishers Farm, they moved to a pitch alongside the River Cam behind the George Pub in Cambridge, and the nearby White Lion Pub became a de-facto Clubhouse for Club meetings. It was at the White Lion that the deeds to our current ground were formally handed over to the club in 1960.

The pitch behind The George was the site of some legendary Boxing Day tussles, when the First Team and Reserves played a Tug of War on either side of the River Cam. The great football tradition of leaving fishing nets on the side of the pitch to retrieve stray balls from the river was also part and parcel of those years. You can still visit this site, although nowadays it is part of a campsite situated behind the pub.

The current ground at Wisloe Road (Now renamed as Thornhill Park) became the club's third home in the 1950's when they moved there in 1958. 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

having played the previous two seasons at what would become their permanent home. It was to prove an incredibly valuable treasure in future years.

Evi had purchased the two fields upon which the club and the industrial estate next door are now situated for £600.

The reserve team continued to play on the Field behind the Slimbridge British Legion during the mid 1960's.

The modern history of the club really starts nearly thirty years after they acquired the Wisloe Road pitch. In 1988 a handful of committee members led by Gordon King and Gordon Tudor, and the following season joined by Paul Chappell, started to move the club forward. 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, and still remains a regular visitor to the club.

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 also 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.

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, the ground attendance record was beaten again 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.

After two successive third place finishes in the Stroud and District League First Division, season 2005-06 saw the Reserves 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.

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 season's 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.

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.

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 four steps below, and 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 took over as player manager with assistance from long term club captain Leon Sterling to begin the next stage of the club's journey.

Four promotions followed as the club regained their previous status. James Cole handed over to Leon Sterling, who moved into the Manager's role, 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.

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.

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.

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 had received from Evil Thornhill 46 years earlier.

Evi's son, Tony and his wife Margaret (Sadly neither of them still with us) were on hand to cut the ceremonial Ribbon, and Tony made a short and very 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.

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 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 assistants team of former Swans' legend Tom Speers and Adam Coyle took over the reins, assisted by Tom Deakin and Tom Hitchens.

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.Turier 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.

In their third season in the Hellenic League, Tom Deakin assumed the role of Sole Team Manager following Adam Coyle's decision to step back from the position during the 2024-25 Season, with Sam Prior brought in to work as his Assistant.

After an inconsistent season that petered out, the introduction of Mike Palmer (as Joint Manager) and Ben Powell prior to the start of the 2025-26 season completed the 'Fab Four' Management Team, and it paid off spectacularly.

The Swans clinched the Hellenic League Title with two games remaining, for only the second time in the club's history, securing promotion to the Southern League South after four years away. A late winner at Tuffley Rovers and an excruciating 11 minutes of stoppage time in other games made them wait, however, the celebrations were unrivalled once all the games had finished.

Kieran Brice-Ingles and his management team also made some superb progress with the Under 18 side, who won the Cheltenham Youth Floodlit League and also triumphed in the HFA Giantkillers Cup Competition to crown a superb season for the team and for the football club.

With a fresh Southern League challenge in front of them, these are exciting times for the little village team from Gloucestershire.



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