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South & West

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SLIMBRIDGE AFC WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH BARNSTAPLE TOWN TO THORNHILL PARK

SLIMBRIDGE AFC

V

BARNSTAPLE TOWN

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE SOUTH & WEST
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2016
KICK OFF 3.00PM

TODAY'S TEAMS

SLIMBRIDGE AFC		BARNSTAPLE TOWN
Adam Kowalski	1	Steve Oliver
Sam Turl	2	Scott Huxtable
Nick Grimes	3	Liam Gregory
Ryan Thwaite	4	Niall Heeney
Rich Thwaite	5	James Mayne
Jack Twyman	6	Aaron Harper-Penman ©
Dean Turner	7	Jed Harper-Penman
Joe Stokes	8	Jack Jenkins
Sean Lawson	9	Ryan Turner
Lee Smith ©	10	Dave Pearse
John Cant	11	Lee Francis
Marley Thomas	12	James Blake
Archie Haskayne	14	Jimmy Thorne
Jack Sklenar	15	Kyle Paine
Freddy Ward	16	Craig Allen
Sonnie Low	17	Scott Sharp
James Harding	18	Will Nicholls
	19	Shaun Copp
	20	Dominic Rivans
	21	Steven Holland
Leon Sterling	Manager	Barry Yeo
Freddy Ward	Asst Mgr	Karl Baggaley
Tony Woodward	Physio	Witney Stacey/Steven Holland
Referee	Jack Shepherd	
Assistants	Ricky Brookes, James Cox	

Club Chat with Tim Blake

Good afternoon, and welcome to Thornhill Park. I'd like to offer a warm welcome to players, official and fans from our visitors Barnstaple Town. We hope you enjoy your afternoon with us, and have a safe journey back home later on.

Firstly, a reminder that our Predict the Score Prize Pot is continuing to remain in the range of 'interesting' , with a cool £700 on offer if you can correctly get three correct match result predictions. Tickets are available from John Ashplant or Jackie has some tickets at the bar if you would like to try your luck. This near to Christmas, it has to be worth a punt for a quid!

I've managed to dig out a report from what I believe to be the only previous encounter between the sides, in the FA Vase back in 2006, and interesting to see the names Sterling and Cant in the Swans side – I wonder whatever happened to them?

Our postponed game at home to Bishops Cleeve will now take place this coming Wednesday, before a couple of longish road trips – to Tiverton Town and Winchester City. We're then back at Thornhill on December 27th, when our old buddies from Bridgwater Town make the trip up the M5 (hopefully successfully) in a game moved back 24 hours from Boxing Day. Kick Off remains 3.00pm.

I'm writing this prior to our trip to the Memorial Stadium to take on Bristol Rovers, but I'm sure that I'll return to the subject in a later programme. Probably in great depth….and more than once, just to rub the point into our Chairman and Secretary…..

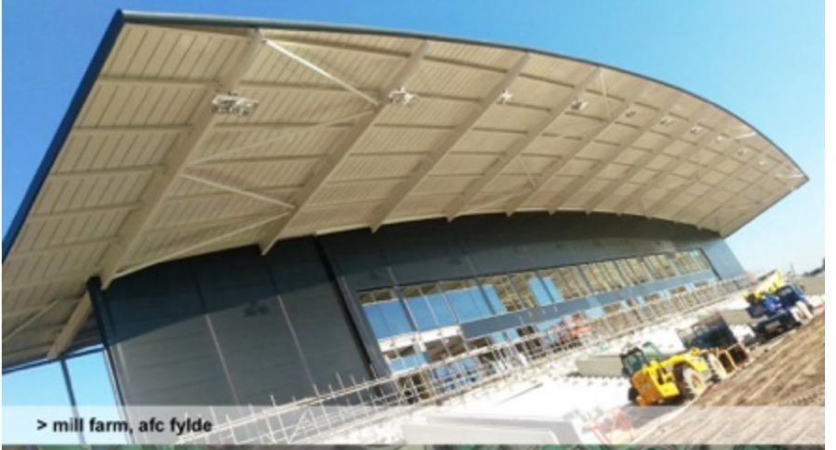
Anyway, enjoy the game this afternoon, the lads are doing themselves proud on the pitch so far this season, and long may it continue!

Tim

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Predict The Score

This week's 'Predict The Score' Jackpot is £500. For a pound stake, it's got to be worth a shot! See Jackie behind the bar or John Ashplant for your ticket


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Swans on the Road!

Saturday 17th December, 3.00pm – Tiverton Town v Slimbridge – Ladysmead, Bolham Road, Tiverton, EX16 6SG.

Exit M5 at Junction 27 and follow A361 to Tiverton's second exit at Roundabout, turning left. Continue for approx. 400 yards crossing a roundabout until reaching a mini roundabout. Continue straight across and the ground is 200 yards on the right hand side

Wednesday 21st December, 7.45pm – Winchester City v Slimbridge – The Denplan City Ground, Hillier Way, Abbots Barton, Winchester SO23 7SR

Exit M3 at Junction 9 and take the A34 towards Newbury. Keep in the right hand lane towards Basingstoke (A33).Take the first turn on the left by the Cart and Horses Public House. Proceed for approximately 2 miles before turning left signposted Winchester Rugby Club and Winchester FC. Turn first right and then first left and the ground is on the right hand side.



Our Visitors

The birth of Barnstaple Town Football Club took place on 23rd September 1906. It was actually founded in 1904 as Pilton Yeo Vale and, under the name of Pilton, was a founder member, and the first winners, of the North Devon League. The name was changed to Barnstaple Town for the start of the 1906/07 season and, two years later in 1908/09, the team clinched the North Devon League title for the second time, and then left the league the next season to play in the Devon and Exeter League. They played their early games at Pilton Park, and had three other venues before moving, in the late 30s, to their current home at Mill Road.

The records show that the period leading up to the Great War (1914/18) and the years immediately following saw Barnstaple Town flirt between the North Devon League and the variously named Exeter-based leagues. Following the hostilities of World War II, Barnstaple Town took up residence in the newly formed Exeter and East Devon League, winning the title at the first attempt in 1946/47 and were runners-up the following season. They then joined the Western League for 1948/49, the first North Devon club to do so, in a season which also saw them make their debut in the FA Cup.

The first match in the Western League, under the management of Arthur Coles, took place on 28th August 1948, a crowd of 1,500 witnessing a 3-7 home defeat to Trowbridge Town Res. Just one year later in 1949/50 they were crowned 2nd Division Champions - scoring 102 goals along the way. In the same year they also reached the 1st Round Proper of the FA Cup for the first time, losing in a replay at Folkestone after a crowd of 5,600 had watched the 2-2 draw at Mil Road - once again being the first North Devon club to play at that level. Barnstaple Town quickly adapted to life in the top flight, finishing 6th in their first season and 3rd in their second season, before being crowned Western League Champions in 1952/53.

Our Visitors

This was one of the closest finishes in Western League history, with both Barnstaple Town and Street level on 44 points. A massive crowd of 3,000 at Mill Road on the last day of the season saw them beat Dorchester Town 6-1 but, unlike today, there was a long wait for the Street result and a further delay whilst calculations were made, before it was announced that Barnstaple Town had taken the title on goal difference by the narrowest of margins – just 0.012 of a goal. That season also saw them lift the Devon Professional Cup - a Cup they would go on to lift on a further 12 occasions – the Festival of Britain Cup and the Westward Ho! Cup. Arthur Coles would go on to cement his place in Barnstaple's history as their greatest-ever manager, by leading them into the 1st Round proper for a second time in 54-55 before losing 4-1 to Bournemouth in front of Mill Road's record attendance of 6,200.

The 50s was a good decade for Barnstaple Town with many top-half finishes, and a third visit to the 1st Round Proper in 1959/60, this time losing away at Exeter City. However the 60s were a very different affair. The team finished in the bottom two or three on six occasions and, had Division 2 not been disbanded at the end of the 1959/60 season, would surely have found themselves relegated.

The 70s saw an improvement in Barnstaple Town's form with eight top-10 finishes, and a fourth visit to the 1st Round Proper of the FA Cup in 1972/73, this time losing to Bilston. Their run of good form culminated in them topping the Western League for the 2nd time in 1979/80 – now re-named the Premier Division - under joint managers Brian Hill and Dave Baglow. The 80s started well with three top-3 finishes in the first four years, as well as winning the Devon St Luke's Challenge Cup in 1987-88. But then performances tailed off and the team was relegated at the end of the 1990/91 season, ending a 40-year spell in the top flight of the Western League.

Date	Opponent			Res	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	Lge Pos
06/08/16	Winchester City	H	League	5-3	Merchant	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne 1	Twyman	Lawson 2*	Mace	Payne 1	Oldham	Major	Martin 1	5
09/08/16	Bishops Cleeve	A	League	0-0	Davies	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne	Oldham	Lawson*	Major	Payne	Mace	Martin	Twyman	4
13/08/16	Yate Town	A	League	2-1	Kowalski	Turl	Mace*	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Twyman	Haskayne	Oldham	Lawson	Major 1	Payne	Martin	Ward	Orchard 1	3
17/08/16	Swindon S'marine	H	League	1-1	Kowalski*	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite 1	Ward	Twyman	Oldham	Lawson	Cant	Major	Orchard	Martin	Haskayne	5
20/08/16	Bedfont Sports	H	FAC PR	3-0	Merchant	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Ry Thwaite	Twyman 2*	Haskayne	Oldham	Lawson 1	Cant	Major	Martin	Orchard	Ward	-
27/08/16	Wantage Town	H	League	2-2	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Ry Thwaite	Ward	Haskayne	Twyman	Lawson*	Cant 1	Orchard 1	Major	Oldham	Payne	7
03/09/16	Fleet Town	A	FAC 1Q	1-1	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Hoyle	Ry Thwaite	Twyman*	Turner	Oldham	Lawson	Cant	Major	Thomas	Orchard 1	Haskayne	-
07/09/16	Fleet Town	H	FAC 1QR	1-0	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle*	Rich Thwaite 1	Turner	Twyman	Orchard	Lawson	Cant	Major	Thomas	Haskayne	Mace	-
10/09/16	Wimborne Town	H	League	1-1	Kowalski	Turl*	Mace	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman 1	Haskayne	Major	Orchard	Thomas	Oldham	Ry Thwaite	Turner	10
17/09/16	Taunton Town	A	FAC 2Q	0-2	Merchant	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne	Twyman*	Major	Cant	Thomas	Mace	Ward	Orchard	-
20/09/16	Bridgwater Town	A	League	0-0	Merchant	Turl	Ry Thwaite*	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman	Haskayne	Martin	Mace	Orchard	Turner	Major	Thomas	11
24/09/16	North Leigh	H	League	0-2	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Hoyle	Rich Thwaite*	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Martin	Mace	Thomas	Ward	Major		12
27/09/16	Hereford	A	League	0-3	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Turner	Twyman*	Martin	Major	Thomas	Haskayne	Cant	Green	13
01/10/16	Larkhall Athletic	A	League	0-2	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite*	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Haskayne	Twyman	Major	Cant	Thomas	Martin			14
04/10/16	Bishops Cleeve	A	SFLCC 1R	0-1	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite*	Twyman	Green	Haskayne	Martin	Cant	Thomas	Turner	Major	Ward	-
08/10/16	Swindon S'Marine	H	FAT PR	1-3	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Oliver	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne*	Smith	Martin	Cant	Lawson 1	Thomas	Ward	14
11/10/16	Mangotsfield United	A	League	0-3	Kowalski	Ry Thwaite	Mace	Oliver*	Rich Thwaite	Twyman	Thomas	Haskayne	Lawson	Smith	Cant	Turner	Martin	Green	14
15/10/16	Salisbury	H	League	2-1	Kowalski	Ward	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite*	Turner	Twyman 1	Haskayne	Smith 1	Sklenar	Cant	Thomas	Martin	Mason	13
22/10/16	AFC Totton	A	League	1-3	Kowalski	Turl	Mace	Grimes	Rich Thwaite*	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Sklenar	Thomas 1	Smith	Martin	Cant	Ward	14
26/10/16	Evesham Utd	H	League	1-5	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Ward	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne*	Smith 1	Cant	Thomas	J Martin	B Martin		17
01/11/16	Taunton Town	A	League	0-0	Kowalski*	Grimes	Mace	Ry Thwaite	Rich Thwaite	Turner	Twyman	Haskayne	Smith	B Martin	Thomas	B Martin	Stokes		16
05/11/16	Didcot Town	H	League	2-3	Kowalski	Low	Turl	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Stokes	Haskayne	Smith 1	Mace 1	Thomas*	Harding	Ward			16
12/11/16	Paulton Rovers	A	League	3-1	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman*	Stokes	Smith 1	Mace 1	Thomas	Lawson 1	Mason	Martin	13
19/11/16	Yate Town	H	League	3-1	Kowalski	Turl	Ry Thwaite	Grimes*	Rich Thwaite	Ward	Twyman	Stokes	Smith 1	Lawson	Mace 1	Martin	Haskayne 1	Harding	13
06/12/16	Bristol Rovers	A	GFA 1R																
10/12/16	Barnstaple Town	H	League																
14/12/16	Bishops Cleeve	H	League																
17/12/16	Tiverton Town	A	League																
21/12/16	Winchester City	A	League																
27/12/16	Bridgwater Town	H	League																
02/01/17	Shortwood United	A	League																
07/01/17	Mangotsfield United	H	League																
10/01/17	Swindon S'Marine	A	League																
14/01/17	Bideford	A	League																
21/01/17	Tiverton Town	H	League																
28/01/17	North Leigh	A	League																
04/02/17	Hereford	H	League																
11/02/17	Salisbury	A	League																
18/02/17	Taunton Town	H	League																
25/02/17	Evesham United	A	League																
04/03/17	AFC Totton	H	League																
11/03/17	Didcot Town	A	League																
18/03/17	Paulton Rovers	H	League																
25/03/17	Larkhall Athletic	H	League																
01/04/17	Barnstaple Town	A	League																
08/04/17	Bideford	H	League																
15/04/17	Wantage Town	H	League																
17/04/17	Shortwood United	H	League																
22/04/17	Wimborne Town	A	League																

Next First Team Game at Thornhill Park – Wednesday 14th December v Bishops Cleeve (7.45pm)

Our Visitors

Brian Hill was re-appointed as manager and succeeded in getting the club back into the Premier Division after only three seasons when they won the First Division Championship in 1993-94 and, in doing so, emulated Arthur Coles' record of winning both divisions of the Western League.

Barnstaple Town reached the fourth round of the FA Vase in 94/95, and were finalists in both the Western League Les Phillips Cup in 95-96 and the Devon St Luke's Cup in 2005/06. They remained in the Premier League until the end of the 2012/13 season when, with only three wins all season, they were relegated to Division One - the first time in their Western League history that they had finished at the bottom of either division.

The gloom surrounding Mill Road was to be short-lived as, in the December of 2013, the club appointed the joint management team of Barry Yeo and Karl Baggaley and the rest, as they say, is history. Building a squad of mainly local players, the managers turned the 2013/14 season around and finished a creditable 3rd. In their first full season in charge, 2014/15, the club returned to the Premier Division after winning the First Division Title in 2014-15 for the 3rd time in its history. Their total of 100 points, 128 goals scored and a goal difference of 101 were among 15 club records that were set during the year, in addition to reaching the final of the Les Phillips Cup for the second time.

2015/16 was to be equally successful. After an average start the team went on two long unbeaten runs which saw them finish as runners-up in the Premier Division, missing out on back-to-back titles by just 3 points, but securing the coveted prize of promotion to the Southern League. One of the main features of the current side is that, on occasions, all eleven players on the field were born in Barnstaple - surely a record that not many teams at any level of football would be able to equal.

This season will see Barnstaple Town play at the highest level in the club's history, with everyone at the club looking forward to new challenges with new grounds to visit – the biggest step the club has taken since joining the Western League in 1948.

Slimbridge 3-1 Yate Town, Saturday 19th November

Yate Town started the game brightly with striker Josh Morgan-Williams causing the Slimbridge back line all sorts of problems in the first 20 minutes with Nick Grimes and Richard Twaite called upon several times making a number of important headers and interceptions. Eugene Keary goal bound shot was blocked by Grimes 2 yards in front of goal, and Morgan-Williams twice placed shots wide when in goal scoring opportunities.

Slimbridge came back into the game with Sean Lawson having a half chance blocked and a Richard Twaite header sailing over from a Lee Smith cross. On 30 minutes Jack Twyman, and Lawson linked up on the left resulting in a Slimbridge corner. The home side took the lead on 35 minutes Mace's cross from the left was chested down by Twyman who played the ball into the path of Smith who drilled the ball into the corner of the Yate net leaving the keeper no chance.

Soon after the restart Yate Town were reduced to 9 men, Morgan-Williams and Swans full back Sam Turl clashed on the touch line with Morgan-Williams kicking out at Turl resulting in a straight red for the visitors. Yate Captain Kye Mountfield also received his marching orders for dissent while protesting against his team mates sending off.

A minute before half time Yate Town equalised from a free kick deep into the home sides half was headed in unopposed at the back post by Jack Ball.

The second half was one-way traffic Slimbridge taking advantage of the two extra men passing the ball around neatly from the back. Mace and Smith were getting down both flanks delivering delightful crossed unfortunately not managing to find a home player in the box. On the hour Grimes headed wide from a Slimbridge corner when well placed at the back post.

Slimbridge regained the lean on 69 minutes when visiting defender Matson Evans handled at the back post trying to sheppard the ball out for a corner. Mace stepped up to send Jonathan Brown the wrong way, his third successful penalty in three games. Two minutes later the Swans extended the lead when Lee Smith's pin point cross was met by substitute Archie Haskayne who's bullet header left Brown with no chance.

With 5 minutes remaining Joe Stokes was unlucky not to get on the scoresheet when his delightful lob hit the bar with the visitors keeper stranded.

Slimbridge: Kowalski, Turl, Ry Thwaite, Grimes, Rich Thwaite, Ward, Twyman, Stokes, Smith, Lawson, Mace Subs: Martin, Harding, Haskayne
Goals: Smith 35, Mace 69, Haskayne 71

Attendance: 102
MOM: Nick Grimes

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If you are interested in becoming more involved and would like to become part of this very friendly, Family-Orientated Organisation then we are always on the look out for more Volunteers.

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Liam Orchard	Ian Wrixon	
Dean Turner	John & Ange Ashplant	
Sam Turl	Dilwyn Dalby Roofing	237 Bristol Road, Gloucester dalby59@talk21.com 01452 307826 07718805555
Alex Hoyle	Paul Mace Malcolm Carter	
Jack Twyman	Brenda Martin	
Leon Sterling	Tim Blake	

This week's fixtures

Saturday 3 December 2016

15:00 AFC Totton v Wantage Town
15:00 Barnstaple Town v Winchester City
15:00 Bridgwater Town v Mangotsfield Utd
15:00 Hereford v Salisbury
15:00 North Leigh v Bideford
15:00 Paulton Rovers v Swindon Supermarine
15:00 Shortwood Utd v Bishops Cleeve
15:00 Taunton Town v Evesham Utd
15:00 Tiverton Town v Wimborne Town
15:00 Yate Town v Didcot Town

Tuesday 6 December 2016

19:45 Bishops Cleeve v Salisbury
19:45 North Leigh v Hereford
19:45 Taunton Town v Paulton Rovers

Saturday 10 December 2016

15:00 Bideford v AFC Totton
15:00 Bishops Cleeve v North Leigh
15:00 Didcot Town v Bridgwater Town
15:00 Evesham Utd v Tiverton Town
15:00 Mangotsfield Utd v Taunton Town
15:00 Salisbury v Shortwood Utd
15:00 Slimbridge v Barnstaple Town
15:00 Swindon Supermarine v Yate Town
15:00 Wantage Town v Hereford
15:00 Wimborne Town v Larkhall Athletic
15:00 Winchester City v Paulton Rovers

Our Visitors Honours and Records

Western League Premier Division: 1952/53, 1979/80, Runners-up: 1980/81, 1981/82, 2015/16

Western League First Division: 1949/50, 1993/94, 2014/15

Exeter and East Devon League: 1946/47, Runners-up 1947/48

North Devon League: 1904/05, 1908/09, Runners-up: 1906/07

Devon Pro Cup: Winners on 13 occasions between 1952/53 and 1980/81

Devon St Luke's Cup: 1987/88, Runners-up: 2005/06

Western League Les Phillips Cup: Runners-up 1995/96, 2014/15

FA Cup best performance: First Round 1951/52, 1954/55, 1959/60, 1972/73

FA Trophy best performance: Second Round 1971/72

FA Vase best performance: Fourth Round 1994/95

Record Attendance: 6,200 v Bournemouth & Boscombe Athletic, FA Cup 1st Round Proper 1954/55

Biggest win: 12-1 v Tavistock, F.A. Cup 3rd Qualifying Round 1954/55

Biggest defeat: 0-11 v Odd Down, Western League 2012/13

Our Previous Meeting with Barnstaple Town

Saturday 7th October 2006 F.A. CARLSBERG VASE –First Round Proper - Slimbridge 4, Barnstaple Town 0

John Cant brought a good save out of visiting goalkeeper Steve Johns in the first minute and was causing all sorts of problems for an uneasy looking defence, particularly from a couple of in-swinging corners, and it came as no surprise when another, on eleven minutes put the home side ahead. The ball bobbled about in the six yard box as Johns failed to take cleanly and eventually Colwell stabbed it into the net.
Good possession failed to breach the battling Barnstaple defence again until yet another Cant corner on 35 minutes, brought almost a carbon copy of the first goal, only this time it was Haddock with the final touch to double the Slimbridge lead.
Slimbridge extended their lead on 64 minutes. Meadows made ground through the mid-field and found Cole on the right who, after a shimmy and a turn, put a cross into Colwell who got in front of his marker and chested the ball into the net after Johns had failed to take.
Belatedly, Barnstaple did find some attacking energy and a good move involving Gavin Meecham and Steve Blurton saw Shaun Goff put a rising, first time shot the wrong side of the post from 12 yards. Squire then tried his luck from just outside the Slimbridge box, but the shot drifted away.
The nearest Barnstaple came to scoring however, was when substitute Steve Ebdy looped a cross cum shot from the right that smacked against the joint of bar and post, but Evans was alert to the danger and stretching, flicked the ball away comfortably.
Morford had the last word by running through to beat Johns to the balljust outside the Barnstaple area. A deft flick round the commited 'keeper and Morford was able to run the ball into the net unchallenged for goal number four.

Slimbridge; D.Evans, L.Sterling, J.Embling, T.Haddock, A.Thomas, A.Axton (J.Inch 52), C.Cole, J.Meadows, K.Johnstone (W.Morford 67), R.Colwell, J.Cant (S.Badham 77).
Barnstaple Town; S.Johns, D.Tapp, S.Avery (L.Langmead 52), G.Meecham, J.Parish, A.Harper-Penman (D.Parish77), P.Carpenter, J.Turner, S.Goff, K.Squire, S.Blurton (S.Ebdy 77).
Attendance; 103

2016-2017 Season

Evo-Stik Southern League

Division One South & West

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Hereford	19	17	2	0	54	12	53
2	Tiverton Town	20	13	5	2	48	23	44
3	Evesham United	19	13	3	3	49	19	42
4	Mangotsfield United	18	13	0	5	35	24	39
5	Shortwood United	18	10	2	6	31	29	32
6	Swindon S'Marine	19	9	4	6	38	27	31
7	North Leigh	16	9	2	5	33	23	29
8	Bideford	20	8	4	8	36	31	28
9	Salisbury	18	8	2	8	46	36	26
10	Didcot Town	19	7	5	7	32	34	26
11	Larkhall Athletic	19	6	7	6	30	25	25
12	Wimborne Town	18	7	3	8	33	37	24
13	Taunton Town*	14	7	3	4	25	17	21
14	Slimbridge	18	5	6	7	23	32	21
15	Bishops Cleeve	18	6	3	9	27	37	21
16	Yate Town	18	6	2	10	22	35	20
17	Winchester City	16	6	1	9	26	33	19
18	Paulton Rovers	17	5	2	10	21	26	17
19	Barnstaple Town	18	4	2	12	17	29	14
20	AFC Totton	20	3	4	13	22	50	13
21	Wantage Town	20	1	6	13	18	50	9
22	Bridgwater Town	18	1	4	13	14	51	7

*Deducted 3 points. Table at December 4th 2016



HANDING over ceremony: In a ceremony at the White Lion Hotel, Cambridge on Wednesday the secretary of Slimbridge AFC (right) Mr. W. G. Prior, received the deeds of the playing field which was bequeathed to the club under the will of Mr. Evi Thornhill. Handing over the deeds is Mr. L. J. Hawkins of Messrs. Scott and Fowler, and also in the picture are members of the football club committee, and Mr. E. W. H. Thornhill, and Mr. A. Thornhill.

Handing Over Soccer Pitch

Slimbridge Bequest of Mr. E. Thornhill

Slimbridge Football Club, thanks to the generosity of its late president Mr. Evi Thornhill, now owns the playing field at The Cross Roads, Slimbridge.

Prior to his death Mr. Thornhill allowed the club to use the pitch, and bequeathed the ground to the club in 1957. Mr. Thornhill died on February 9, 1960, and the necessary legal work having been completed, the official "handing over" ceremony of the deeds took place at the club's headquarters, the White Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Wednesday evening.

Secretary of the club, Mr. W. G. Prior, received the deeds from Mr. L. J. Hawkins of Messrs Scott and Fowler (Gloucester), the solicitors handling the estate. Mr. E. W. H. Thornhill, joint-president, and Mr. A. Thornhill, vice-president, sons of the late Mr. Evi Thornhill were also present at the ceremony, together with Mr. B. A. Snow, Mr. C. Webb, Mr. G. Weaver, Mr. M. G. Tudor, Mr. E. Pearce of the football club.

To commemorate the gift the club have affixed a plaque to the changing rooms on the ground.