# SLIMBRIDGE

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Season 2016-17

The Evo-Stik League Southern Division One
South & West

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# The Renaming of our ground from ‘Wisloe Road’ to ‘Thornhill Park’, Monday 25th July 2016












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

# SLIMBRIDGE AFC

# V

# FLEET TOWN

**THE EMIRATES FA CUP 1st PRELIMINARY ROUND REPLAY**
**WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2016**
**KICK OFF 7.45PM**

# TONIGHT'S TEAMS

| SLIMBRIDGE AFC (from) | | FLEET TOWN |
|---|---|---|
| Adam Kowalski | 1 | Ryan Pryce |
| Sam Turl | 2 | Dan Williamson |
| Adam Mace | 3 | Josh Harfield |
| Ryan Thwaite | 4 | Dan Rousell |
| Rich Thwaite | 5 | Zac Gill |
| Alex Hoyle © | 6 | Craig Davis |
| Dean Turner | 7 | Dailo Cadete |
| Jack Twyman | 8 | Ben Toye |
| Sean Lawson | 9 | Ben White © |
| Ed Major | 10 | Simba Mlambo |
| Liam Orchard | 11 | Taylor Watts |
| John Cant | 12 | Jordan Chandler |
| Archie Haskayne | 14 | Archie Fawcett |
| Jack Oldham | 15 | Jack French |
| Luke Merchant | 16 | Craig Martin |
| Jack Sklenar | 17 | Dease Kerrision |
| | 18 | |
| Leon Sterling | Manager | Craig Davis |
| Freddy Ward | Asst Mgr | Craig Martin |
| Tony Woodward | Physio | TBC |
| Referee | TBC | |
| Assistants | Jack Clench, Ademola Olagunju | |

# Club Chat with Tim Blake

Good evening, and welcome to Thornhill Park for this Emirates FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round Replay. I'd like to offer a warm welcome to players, official and fans from our visitors Fleet Town – we thank them for their hospitality to our players, officals and fans on Saturday. We hope you enjoy your evening with us, and have a safe journey back down the M4 later on.

Saturday was a rollercoaster of a game – after a bright start, once we went behind, it looked as if Fleet were going to progress into the next round until Ding pitched up with a 93rd minute equaliser, which I think I can safely say was rather enthusiastically celebrated both on and off the pitch, and ensured the bus journey home was slightly louder than it might otherwise have been. Such are the joys of FA Cup football.

Unfortunately, I missed Ding's appearance in the clubhouse after the game as I was on the phone putting a match report through, but suffice it to say we had to break off the Phone call to allow the noise to subside!

Our trip to the Memorial Stadium has had to be moved due to the abandoned Swindon Town – Bristol Rovers League Two game – we now visit Horfield on November 1st, 7.30pm Kick Off.

Also a reminder we are back here on Saturday, when we entertain Wimborne Town, who have made a strong start to the season, in what is bound to be another test for the boys.

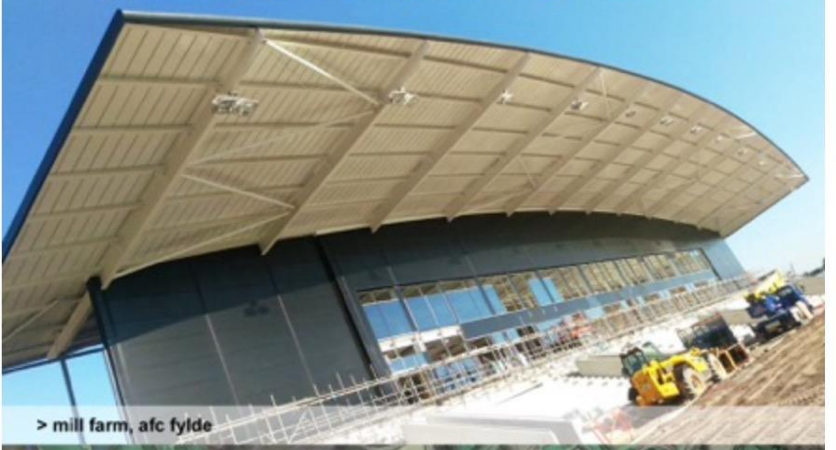
Enjoy the game tonight!

Tim

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SPECIALS

| | |
|---|---|
| Bacon Cheese Burger | £3.00 |
| Kids meal – Hot Dog or Burger and Chips Plus Fruit Shoot | £3.00 |

Beer, Lager, Cider, Soft drinks, Crisps, Nuts and Chocolate available in the clubhouse

*'The best Bacon Burgers in Gloucestershire' (BBC Radio Gloucester)*

## 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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THAN 15**
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# Our Visitors

Fleet Town FC was officially formed in 1890, making it the oldest sports club in the town. The centenary was celebrated in 1990 with a special Scroll being presented by the Football Association to the club, together with a commemorative plaque from the Hampshire FA.

In its early years Fleet FC played at the bottom of the Views where Campbells Close is today. Later they moved to Watsons Meadow in Fleet Road, roughly opposite where Travis & Perkins now stands, at the station end of Fleet Road. It was during this time that a young, future Prime Minister, Clement Atlee played for the club, his aunt living in a house that backed onto this original ground.

In 1923 Lord Calthorpe of Elvetham Hall made available the site of the present ground in Crookham Road, and the club moved to its new home in March of that year, playing their first match on 3rd March 1923. The ground was subsequently bequeathed to the District Council and later the Fleet Town Council, with the proviso that it would continue to be for the use of the town's football club.

In 1953 floodlights installed for the first time. The club entered the Hampshire League in 1961. From then on Fleet Town FC gradually moved through the Divisions, eventually moving into the Wessex League for the 1989/90 season.

After six years of steady progress, the club finally gained promotion to the Southern League as Wessex League Champions. In 1999/00, its fifth season in the Dr Martens Southern League the club finished bottom and returned to the Wessex League.

Within a few seasons the club returned to the Southern League, winning promotion under Player/manager, Steve Beeks. The next two seasons the club sought to stabilise itself at this level.

# Our Visitors

Playing in the Ryman League the 2005/06 season began with a new management team of ex-England International Andy Sinton assisted by Steve Mellor. In their second season together this new team saw their side top the table at Christmas before they finally finished in 5th place. In a pulsating play-off semi-final they lost 2-1 to Tooting & Mitcham, with the London side scoring twice in added-on time. The team also reached the final of the Hampshire County Cup, losing 2-1 to Aldershot, the game played at AFC Bournemouth.

For season 2007-08 the FA moved the club to the BGB Southern League, South & West Division, and again had a record breaking season. Right up until the last few games they were in with a chance of automatic promotion but eventually had to accept 2nd spot behind Farnborough. This however was their highest ever non-league finish and again played in front of record crowds. It was heartbreak in the play-offs though as the team again lost in the semi-final, this time to an injury time penalty that gave Uxbridge a 2-1 victory. Fleet also went the furthest so far in the FA Cup before losing 2-1 at Havant & Waterlooville in the 3rd Qualifying Round.

Season 08/09 had the club on the move yet again with promotions/relegations elsewhere meaning that Fleet returned to the Ryman League, South Division. Andy Sinton's side again broke more records as the team won four cups, including the prestigious Hampshire Senior Cup when over 1,200 witnessed victory over VTFC at St Marys Stadium, Southampton, to send the cup to Fleet for the first time. In addition the team also won the Russell Cotes Cup, Aldershot Senior & North Hants cups. The FA Cup run again went to the 3rd Qualifying Round before losing 5-2 in a bruising encounter at AFC Totton, with Fleet's current 1st team Player/Manager, Craig Davis, scoring a hat-trick of penalties for Totton.

# Slimbridge AFC

Slimbridge Football Club is a Member's Club which is Run by Volunteers.

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.

Why not become a member and have a say on how this Club is run?

Just Approach any Committee member on a Matchday for more Information.

You will be made very welcome.


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| Alex Hoyle | Paul Mace<br>Malcolm Carter | |
| Jack Twyman | Brenda Martin | |
| Leon Sterling | Tim Blake | |

# Our Visitors

Promotion however was the main target and but for a high number of draws the Blues would have gone up automatically. They did finish 3rd and had to settle for a play-off semi-final for the 3rd successive year. This time it was Met Police who spoiled the dream, winning 1-0 at Calthorpe Park

May 2010 brought major changes at the club with Chairman Graham Smith stepping down and this was shortly followed by manager Andy Sinton resigning to join AFC Telford United. For the new season Steve Mellor stepped into the Manager's shoes. A largely new Blues side finished a credible 13th.

Season 2011-12 saw Fleet Town move leagues again as they were switched back to the Southern League after a three year absence, this time placed in the Div One Central. However results were poor and after a run of defeats and exiting the major cup competitions Mellor left in November 2011 to be replaced by Craig Davis as player/manager. Despite some improved displays, come season end the Blues faced relegation after ending the season in 21st spot. However, due to circumstances elsewhere in the Football pyramid , Fleet Town were one of the sides to benefit from an FA reprieve and retained their place as a Southern League club, to play a 2nd season in the Division One Central for season 2012/13.

Before the new season started however, there was another change in the management of the club, with Chairman Jamie Williamson standing down, current Chairman, Steve Cantle taking over in July 2012. With Craig Davis bringing in a new back-room staff, and a host of new players, the club enjoyed an improved Southern League season, finishing with 4 teams behind them, in 18th spot.

# Our Visitors

Following the season end Fleet Town were again moved, this time within the Southern League, being switched to the Div One South & West. During a difficult 2013/14 season the side eventually found some form , and taking points off both promoted sides, Cirencester and Paulton Rovers, finished above bottom spot to remain a Southern League club. Remaining isolated at the far Eastern edge of the South & West Division, with the nearest club 45 miles away, the 2014/15 was again difficult. But a strong season finish with back to back Easter wins against Wimborne and AFC Totton, saw the side finish well clear of the relegation zone.

The 2015/16 season saw Fleet moved back to the Div one Central, and with 13 clubs in the Division within 50 miles of Fleet, the club enjoyed a successful season, taking points off most of the Division's leading sides.

As the new 2016/17 season begins, the club is looking forward to its 15th continuous season as a level IV club, with Manager Craig Davis beginning his fifth season in charge.

# Slimbridge AFC FA Cup History

Sat 20 Aug 2005 FA Cup Extra Prelim. Slimbridge 0-1 Wimborne Town

Sat 19 Aug 2006 FA Cup Extra Prelim. Westbury United 2-3 Slimbridge

Sat 2 Sep 2006 FA Cup Prelim. Penryn Athletic 2-3 Slimbridge

Sat 16 Sep 2006 FA Cup 1Q Rd Yate Town 1-2 Slimbridge

Sat 30 Sep 2006 FA Cup 2Q Rd Slimbridge 3-1 Chippenham Town

Sat 14 Oct 2006 FA Cup 3Q Rd Merthyr Tydfil 2-0 Slimbridge

Sat 20 Aug 2011 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Rnd Slimbridge 3-1 Bradford Town

Sat 3 Sep 2011 FA Cup Preliminary Rnd Slimbridge 1-2 Cadbury Heath

Sat 11 Aug 2012 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Cove 2-0 Slimbridge

Sat 17 Aug 2013 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Cheltenham Saracens 0-0 Slimbridge

Tue 20 Aug 2013 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay Slimbridge 3-4 Cheltenham Saracens

Sat 16 Aug 2014 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Slimbridge 1-1 Thatcham Town

Tue 19 Aug 2014 FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay Thatcham Town 1-2 Slimbridge

Sat 30 Aug 2014 FA Cup Preliminary Round Slimbridge 0-1 Chalfont St Peter

Sat 29 Aug 2015 FA Cup Preliminary Round Egham Town 2-2 Slimbridge

Tue 1 Sep 2015 FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay Slimbridge 3-2 Egham Town

Sun 13 Sep 2015 FA Cup First Round Qualifying Greenwich Borough 2-3 Slimbridge

Sat 26 Sep 2015 FA Cup Second Round Qualifying North Leigh 4-1 Slimbridge

Sat 3 Sep 2016 FA Cup First Round Qualifying Fleet Town 1-1 Slimbridge



**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.