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Season 2016-17

The Evo-Stik League Southern Division One
South & West

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THE EVO-STIK LEAGUE SOUTHERN

THE EVO-STIK LEAGUE SOUTHERN

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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 SWINDON SUPERMARINE TO THORNHILL PARK

SLIMBRIDGE AFC

V

SWINDON SUPERMARINE

THE EVO-STIK SOUTHERN DIVISION ONE SOUTH & WEST
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17TH 2016
KICK OFF 7.45PM

TODAY'S TEAMS

SLIMBRIDGE AFC (from)		SWINDON SUPERMARINE (From)
Luke Merchant	1	Connor Johns
Sam Turl	2	Jack Alexander
Adam Mace	3	Ryan Morgan
Ryan Thwaite	4	Ryan Wood
Rich Thwaite	5	Zak Westlake
Alex Hoyle ©	6	Sam Morris
Dean Turner	7	Brad Hooper
Jack Twyman	8	Bradley Gray ©
Sean Lawson	9	Connor Waldon
Jamie Martin	10	Callum Parsons
Liam Orchard	11	Josh Parsons
John Cant	12	Ash Taylor
Archie Haskayne	14	Connor Thompson
Jack Oldham	15	Henry Spalding
Nathan Payne	16	Lewis Thompson
Pete Davies	17	Joe Shepherd
Tyler Brock	18	Ryan O'Hara
Ben Prothero	19	
Adrian Kowalski	20	
Leon Sterling	Manager	Dave Webb
Freddy Ward	Asst Mgr	Lee Spalding
Tony Woodward	Physio	James Williams
Referee	Richard Gardner	
Assistants	Joshua Rodd, James Whittington	

Club Chat with Tim Blake

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

We had a couple of cracking League games with Supermarine last season, and with both sides making a decent start again this time round, hopefully, we'll see another entertaining game this evening. Of course, we are also due to meet again here in the FA Trophy a little further down the road, so there is a lot to play for.

The other big news this week was, of course, the fact that our club will be paying a visit to League One Bristol Rovers next month in the GFA Challenge Trophy. What a fabulous opportunity for everyone to enjoy an experience that demonstrates just how far this club has progressed. I know some of the red contingent at the club would rather we (of course) had ended up with a trip to play City at Ashton Gate, and I admit that, for me, a visit to the Mem gives me a chance to catch up with some old friends, but I can honestly say I would be just as excited if we were off to the Gate, because it's not necessarily the opponents that matter, it's what our club has achieved to reach that level. What a historic moment for our football club, who, don't forget, were playing in the Northern Senior League as recently as the 2007-8 season.

Anyway, there are definitely some good vibrations around Thornhill Park at the moment, and long may they continue!

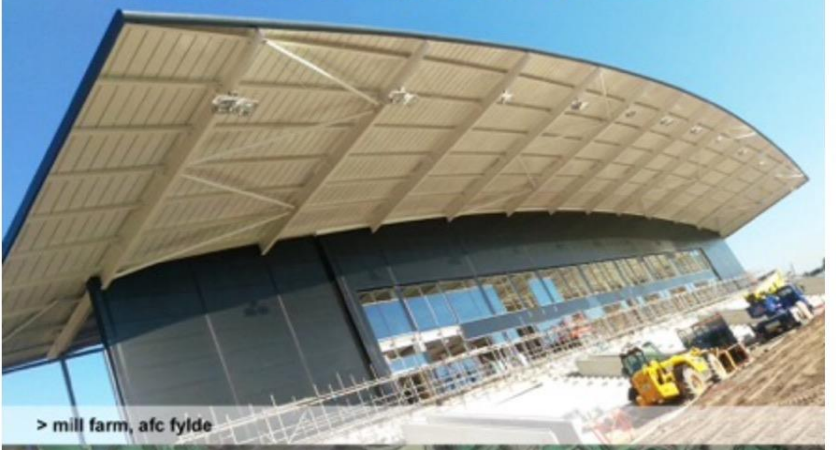
Enjoy the game!

Tim

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Burger and Chips	£3.50
Cheese Burger and Chips	£4.00

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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Swans on the Road!

Monday 29th August 3.00pm – Bridgwater Town v Slimbridge – Fairfax Park, College Way, Bath Road, Bridgwater TA6 4TZ. *Leave the M5 at junction 24 and enter the town on the A38, follow signs for Glastonbury (A39). The ground is between Bridgwater College and Bridgwater Rugby ground as you pass over railway bridge.*

Saturday 17th September, 3.00 – Mangotsfield United v Slimbridge – Cossham Street, Mangotsfield, Bristol, BS16 9EN. *Exit M32 at junction 1 and take first exit for A4174. At traffic lights continue forward and at next lights bear right to join a roundabout. Take first exit at the roundabout, through lights and continue until next lights. Turn left and go up Cleeve Hill. Continue forward for 1 mile until the next Pedestrian traffic lights, then turn left into Cossham Street.*



Our Visitors

The football club was founded in 1992 from the amalgamation of two established Hellenic League clubs - Swindon Athletic and Supermarine. After the merger Swindon Supermarine regularly finished in the top eight in the Hellenic Premier Division.

In 1994/95 under managers Alan Dyton and Leo Colucci we entered the Wiltshire Premier Shield for the first time and went all the way to the final only to lose out to Trowbridge Town. That all changed in the 1996/97 season when we won our first trophies since the club's merger when we defeated Devizes Town in the final of the Wiltshire Premier Shield and a successful season came to a close when we won the Hellenic Premier Division Challenge Cup with a win over Kintbury Rangers. Under the guidance of John Fisher and former Swindon Town stalwart Don Rogers in the 1997/98 season the team won their last two fixtures to secure our first Hellenic Premier Division Championship.

The 2000/01 season the team won the Hellenic League Premier Division championship title and the retention of the Floodlight Cup. With the championship secured the application to join the Southern League (sponsored by Dr Martens) was accepted. To secure promotion a number of ground improvements were successfully undertaken to meet the league's guidelines.

Manager Alan Dyton informed the club of his decision to step down from his role because of work commitments so in July 2001 the club appointed Swindon Town's community officer Clive Maguire as first team manager and equally pleasing was that Alan decided to assist Clive that season. Unfortunately, Clive resigned his managerial post at the end of October and after acting as caretaker manager for three games Alan also left the club. Clive's resignation came after a disastrous start to the season with twelve defeats from thirteen games. The club then secured the services of the vastly experienced John Murphy. John had managed Cinderford Town, Witney Town, Trowbridge Town and Cheltenham Town and had achieved a number of successes in the Southern League. With John at the helm the team staged a tremendous come back in the league to ensure Southern League survival.

Our Visitors

The following 2002/03 season was unfortunately far worse than our first season in the Southern League and at the end of September 2002 John Murphy decided to relinquish his managerial position with the club rooted at the bottom of the league. The committee promoted the club's Academy Director, Tom Jones, to the manager's position but just a month later he resigned following eight defeats. A few days later former Cirencester manager Ray Baverstock accepted the manager's position and the difficult task of saving the club from relegation. Ray began the daunting task of keeping the club in the Southern League which he duly obliged with a record seven wins from the last eight league.

The 2003/04 season started so differently from our first two seasons in the Southern League. With Ray and his team at the helm the team started very well with 18 points and a mid-table position by the end of October 2003. So it was a complete shock to everyone at the club when Ray decided to step down at this time due to personal commitments.

Although Ray returned briefly after reconsidering his position he was gone again within a couple of games. Tommy Saunders' footballing exile ended with the former Chippenham Town boss being unveiled as the man to take over at Swindon Supermarine shortly afterwards. Unfortunately, Saunders' reign only lasted a couple of months as he resigned. His Assistant, Mark Collier took over the job for the following game against Stourport Swifts and duly led the side to their first victory in seven games. Following that win Mark was offered the position as manager which he accepted and took us to safety with a 17th place finish in the Western Division and Southern League football for the 2004/05 season.

For a fifth consecutive season we started the 2005/06 league campaign in the Southern League, with Mark Collier in his first full season as manager and Ian Howell as his assistant and the club had its most successful season to date with a fifth place finish and a place in the end of season play-off's. Unfortunately, the side lost in the play-off's to a strong Hemel Hempstead Town who went on to secure promotion to the Premier Division.

Our Visitors

The 2006/07 season was a successful one as the team scrapped into a play-off place and duly went through to win 2-0 in the play-off final win over Taunton Town to take us into the Southern League Premier Division for 2007/08 season. The team were also successful in winning the Wiltshire Premier Shield with a 2-1 victory over Swindon Town in the final.

The following 2007/08 season, the first season in the Southern league Premier Division the side finished a very creditable 12th place and had something to build on. The 2008/09 season saw the team in the top six in January and they had an excellent FA Trophy run only losing in the last sixteen at Conference side Ebbsfleet. The cup meant the side having to play three games a week in the last month or so and dropped out of contention for a play-off place and finished the campaign in mid-table.

The 2009/10 season saw the team struggle for most of the campaign and it was only in March 2010 that they moved out of the relegation places with a run of good results and finished in fifteenth position, seven points away from relegation.

During the summer of 2010 the Executive Committee released a statement indicating that the team was likely to be disbanded and be disbanded from the Southern League due to a lack of funding. They informed manager Mark Collier that they couldn't give him the necessary assurances to finance another season in the Southern League and appealed for the friends and supporters of the club to help with a survival plan.

To continue playing in the Southern League a new Executive Committee was urgently required, with new members and an increase in numbers who would commit to finding the required finance. The old Executive Committee and a number of enthusiastic supporters met each week over a six week period then in the second week of June 2010 a new committee was formed to take the club into the new season and in the Southern League!

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EVO-STIK

Our Visitors

A commitment to financing a playing budget was made by the new committee and Mark Collier accepted the position of continuing as club manager and began the task of recruiting a playing squad for the 2010/11 season and by August 2010 Collier was confident he had a squad of players that could compete with the remaining twenty-one clubs and maintain a place in the Premier Division come May 2011.

The 2010/11 season saw the club maintain its Southern League Premier Division status with a very creditable 10th place finish, but besides the solid league performance the team had an exceptional FA Cup run when they went further than ever before as they reached the Second Round and only lost 1-0 away to NPower League 1 side Colchester United.

A short while after this FA cup run the club accepted the resignation of Manager Mark Collier and Assistant Tom Jones in February 2011 due to personal reasons. Experienced players Gary Horgan and Matt Robinson took over in a caretaker role and rallied the players to perform extremely well and finish the season on a high with three consecutive wins.

The 2011/12 season ended in disappointment for the whole club when the team were relegated from the Southern Premier Division to the Division One South & West after finishing in 22nd place, although only losing our position in the Premier Division for the 2012/13 season on goal difference.

Shortly after the 2011/12 season ended and after long discussions with Gary and Matt the outcome was that a new manager would be appointed for the 2012/13 season in the South & West Division One. Within a mater of days Highworth Town manager Dave Webb was approached by the club committee with a view of taking over the managerial position at the Webb's Wood Stadium.

Dave Webb accepted the offer and along with his assistant at Highworth Lee Spalding, they were duly appointed Manager and Assistant Manager in May 2012 and quickly began the job of building a side ready and prepared for the tough season ahead in 2012/13 and beyond.


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Our Visitors

In Dave Webb's first two seasons he managed to lead them to two playoff finishes and two semi-final defeats defeat's, both at the hands of Merthyr Town, the first on penalties. Last season was something of a non-event as the squad struggled with some devastating injuries that were the main reason for a fourteenth place finish and a much better season was expected in this 2015/16 season.

The 2015/16 season saw a couple of wins in the FA Cup and FA Trophy that helped the clubs funds. The team finished the season in a playoff position and just as they did in 2012 and 2013 they unfortunately lost at the semi-final stage once more. On this occasion it came from a 2-1 defeat at Taunton Town but overall although a disappointing end the players did themselves proud and were unlucky to lose a game they dominated. At the start of this 2016/17 season the team saw a shake up with a number of experienced players being released and a group of youngsters set to make their mark on the team and the Southern League.





Southern League Stats

Our Previous Meetings with Swindon Supermarine

Sat 20 Feb 2016	Evo Stik Southern League South & West (H) L 0-1
Tue 29 Sep 2015	Evo Stik Southern League South & West (A) W 2-1

Division One South & West League Goal Scorers

Name	Team	Total
Connor Waldon	Swindon Supermarine	5
John Mills	Hereford	4
Matthew Wright	Taunton Town	3
Thomas Wright	Salisbury	3
Jamie Cook	North Leigh	3
Sean Lawson	Slimbridge	2
Lance Smith	Evesham Utd	2
Michael Symons	Hereford	2
Tobias Holmes	Wimborne Town	2
Callum Parsons	Swindon Supermarine	2
Matthew Andrew	Bideford	2
Joseph Briggs	Petersfield Town	2

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Johnny Cant	Alena Wrixon	
Adam Mace	Gwen Workman Ian Blount	
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	

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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.



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.