Slimbridge Football Club



Uhlsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division

Tuesday August 1st 2023
v Highworth Town

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Slimbridge
Football Club

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Vice Chairman	Rob Peck
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Kitman	Dave Bees
Sports Therapists	Tony Woodward Nathan Hartfield
U18 Manager	Tom Read
Head of Youth Development	Kevin Russell
Ground Staff	Paul Chappell Malcolm Carter Barry Gay

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Slimbridge v Highworth Town

Todays Team Lineups

Lewis Adams	1	Connor Johns
Alfie Toland	2	Michael Miller
Ben Prictor	3	Matty Grabe
Myron Turner (C)	4	Liam Haines
Nathan Dennis	5	Dan Comer
Charlie Hitchings	6	Matthew Cheetham
Ben Hands	7	Rhys Wells
Sam Blackie	8	Tom Griffiths
George Neil	9	Sol Pryce
Jack Smith	10	Josh Davis
Marley Thomas	11	Dan Drewett
Dale Evans	12	Connor Mattimore
Edji Mbunga	14	Christian Turner-Williams
Theo Clayson	15	Zak Robinson
Tyler Jaggers	16	Luke Whelan
Bogdan Mara	17	Oli Gargett (GK)
Rudi McKinnon	18	

Referee	Ian Butler
Assistants	Luis Gough Ian Hamilton

Uhlsport Hellenic League
Premier Division Fixtures

Tuesday 1st August
Brimscombe & Thrupp v Wantage Town
Fairford Town v Mangotsfield United
Hereford Pegasus v Hereford Lads Club
Pershore Town v Worcester Raiders
Slimbridge v Highworth Town
Thornbury Town v Royal Wootton Bassett
Westfields v Cinderford Town
Worcester City v Tuffley Rovers

Wednesday 2nd August
Longlevens AFC v Lydney Town
Roman Glass St George v Corsham Town

Saturday 5th August
FA Cup EP Rd
Bishops Cleeve v Thornbury Town
Brimscombe & Thrupp v Highworth Town
Clevedon Town v Wantage Town
Cribbs v Longlevens AFC
Fairford Town v Aylesbury United
Hartpury University v Holyport
Hereford Pegasus v Hanley Town
Larkhall Athletic v Corsham Town
Lydney Town v Roman Glass St George
Mangotsfield United v Royal Wootton Bassett
Shifnal Town v Hereford Lads Club
Slimbridge v Reading City
Tuffley Rovers v Aylesbury Vale Dynamos
Westfields v Cogenhoe United
Wokingham & Emmbrook v Cinderford Town
Worcester City v Dudley Town
Worcester Raiders v Belper United

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Season 2023-24

Fixtures

Tue 01 Aug 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 05 Aug 23	15:00	FA Cup Extra Prelim	H	Reading City
Tue 08 Aug 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Thornbury Town
Sat 12 Aug 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Tue 15 Aug 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Roman Glass St George
Sat 19 Aug 23	15:00	FA Cup Prelim	A	TBC
Tue 22 Aug 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Wantage Town
Sat 26 Aug 23	15:00	FA Vase 1Q	H	Lydney Town
Mon 28 Aug 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Tue 05 Sept 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Mangotsfield United
Fri 08 Sept 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Westfields
Tue 19 Sept 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Corsham Town
Tue 26 Sept 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Fairford Town
Sat 30 Sept 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Tuffley Rovers
Fri 06 Oct 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Pershore Town
Wed 11 Oct 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Highworth Town
Sat 14 Oct 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Lydney Town
Sat 21 Oct 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Longlevens
Fri 27 Oct 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 04 Nov 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Hereford Lads Club
Sat 11 Nov 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Cinderford Town
Sat 18 Nov 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 25 Nov 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Worcester City
Fri 01 Dec 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Westfields
Sat 09 Dec 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Tuffley Rovers
Fri 15 Dec 23	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Pershore Town
Sat 23 Dec 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Lydney Town
Wed 27 Dec 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Sat 30 Dec 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Longlevens
Mon 01 Jan 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 06 Jan 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Hereford Lads Club
Sat 13 Jan 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Cinderford Town
Sat 20 Jan 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Worcester Raiders
Sat 27 Jan 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Worcester City
Sat 03 Feb 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Thornbury Town
Sat 10 Feb 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Sat 17 Feb 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Roman Glass St George
Sat 24 Feb 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Wantage Town
Sat 02 Mar 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Mangotsfield United
Sat 09 Mar 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	Corsham Town
Fri 15 Mar 24	19:45	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Fairford Town

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Highworth Town
Club History

Highworth Town Football Club was formed in 1893. We joined the Cirencester & District league and it took us some time to record our first honours, until 1909-10 in fact, when we won both the Swindon Junior cup and the local advertiser cup, a cup we captured again in 1912-13.

After winning the Cirencester & District league division two championship in 1931-32, we moved to the Swindon & District league, where we completed the third division championship and Swindon junior cup double in 1933-34.

The 1950s saw us make a dramatic rise through the local football ranks. We won the Swindon & District league third division title again in 1954-55 and then the division two title the following season. One more season was needed to clinch the division one title and also the wilts junior cup. We then went on to win the premier division title in 1957-58, along with the Faringdon Thursday memorial cup and the following season we were the premier division champions again, also winning the advertiser cup.

We continued to dominate the Swindon & District premier division in the 1960s, winning four successive titles from 1960-61 and another hat-trick from 1965-66 to 1967-68, making seven titles in eight seasons. We reached the final of the wilts senior cup for the first time in 1962- 63 and won it the following season.

There was a switch to the wilts combination league, where we finished as runners-up in division two in 1970-71. 1972-73 saw another wilts senior cup victory and all this success prompted us to join the Hellenic league. We achieved our first honours in 1988-89, winning the first division challenge cup and reached the final of the wilts senior cup yet again.

We finally achieved premier division status in 1993-94 gaining promotion after finishing third in division one. Since then we have been winners of the wilts senior cup in 1995-96, 1997-98, 2008-09 and again in 2014-15, winners of the Hellenic challenge cup in 2011-12, winners of the Hellenic supplementary cup in 1998-99 and runners up in 2003-04, runners-up in the premier division in 1999-00 and winners of the premiership title in 2004-05.

In more recent history, which reached the semi-final of the FA vase in 2014-15 where we were knocked out by eventual winners North Shields in a closely fought two-legged tie. This season also saw us pick up the Wilts Senior Cup.

In the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons we were runners-up in the Wilts Senior Cup to Swindon Supermarine and Chippenham Town respectively, both of which played at higher levels than us.

Also in the 2017-18 season we saw promotion to the southern league division 1 south as we finished as the best third placed team across the whole country. This means we are now playing the highest level of football the club has seen.

The 2022-23 season saw us move laterally into the southern league division 1 central due to the re-shuffling of the league.

After a difficult season with the circumstances dealt to us, such as the extra travelling time/distance, we finished 17th as we just weren't good enough. 17th was a relegation play-off spot which meant we had to play against a team that finished 2nd at step 5. Our opponent was Malvern Town who trounced us 4-1.

This means we are back in the Hellenic League for the 2023-24 campaign with a management change. Paul Braitwaite and his backroom staff replace the outgoing Gareth Davies and his backroom team.

Highworth Town

Player Profiles

	**Connor Johns** *Goalkeeper* *Vice-Captain*		**Oli Gargett** *Goalkeeper*
	**Dan Comer** *Defender*		**Michael Miller** *Defender*
	**Liam Haines** *Defender*		**Zac Skinner** *Fullback/Winger*
	**Joe Thomas** *Defender*		**Matty Grabe** *Defender*
	**Matt Cheetham** *Midfielder* *Captain*		**Tom Griffiths** *Midfielder*
	**Christian Turner-Williams** *Midfielder*		**Connor Mattimore** *Midfielder/Winger*
	**Zak Robinson** *Midfielder*		**Luke Whelan** *Winger*
	**Dan Drewett** *Winger*		**Rhys Wells** *Winger*
	**Josh Davis** *Forward*		**Sol Pryce** *Forward*

Slimbridge
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Slimbridge
Player Profiles

Ellis Parker
Goalkeeper
Good young prospect that has returned to the club after a year away at Cinderford Town. Came through the Under 18s and reserve sides and now looking to establish himself as the clubs number 1.

Lewis Adams
Goalkeeper
Lewis progressed through our U/18s side and has become a very capable Southern League player. Good shot stopper who has made over 100 appearances in the number one jersey, resigned on dual registration with Evesham United as a backup to Ellis.

Evan Coombs
Goalkeeper
Current U/18s keeper looking to gain experience working with the first team and has the potential to push Ellis for the number one spot this year.

Ben Hands
Defender
A strong lad at the heart of the defence also plays in a defensive midfield role and capable of chipping in a few goals returning for his third season with the Swans. Previous clubs include Longlevens and Cinderford Town.

Nathan Dennis
Defender
Has made a huge impact in the central defence in the last two seasons, big old school style defender who puts himself about at both ends of the pitch.

Charlie Hitchings
Defender
With over 400 games behind him at Southern and Western League level, will bring a huge amount of experience in the centre of defence.

Ben Prictor
Defender
Experienced Southern and Hellenic League defender in his third spell with the club, likes getting forward down the flanks.

Alfie Toland
Defender
An energetic full back who likes to get forward, joined the Swans towards the end of last season and has returned this year to bolster the defense. Previous clubs include Dorchester Town and Eastleigh.

Bogdan Mara
Defender
A comfortable young defender and a product of the very successful SGS college in Bristol.

Craig Mills
Defender
A strong powerful Centre back, who is good in the air. Previous clubs include Shortwood, Brimscombe and more recently Frampton United.

Myron Turner
Midfield
Brings a calmness and solid feel to the midfield, very popular and dependable member of the squad and among the supporters here at Thornhill Park. In his seventh season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens.

Jack Smith
Midfield
Member of last season's successful U18/s team who has impressed during preseason and has a good future ahead of him with the Swans.

Marley Thomas
Midfield
In his third spell with the Swans having made over 150 appearances with the club . The pacy winger is another fans favourite and looking to continue his goal scoring touch after spells away at Evesham United and Cinderford Town.

Sam Blackie
Midfield
Vastly experienced at Hellenic and Southern League level rejoining the club from Bishops Cleeve. Sam is a skilful midfielder who is effective at both ends of the pitch, also played at local neighbours Brimscome and Thrupp.

Theo Clayson
Midfield
Another product of last year's successful U/18s team who broke through into the first team towards the end of the season. Going to play an important part in this season's team.

Dale Evans
Midfield
Combative midfielder with bags of Southern League experiance who joined the Swans towards the end of last season. Previous clubs include Larkhall, Melksham and Paulton Rovers.

Edjija Mbunga
Striker
Pacey striker who can be a real handful in and around the penalty area.

Tyler Jaggers
Striker
Young enthusiastic winger who has bags of pace, progressed from the U/18's and looking to progress further into the first team.

Rudi McKinnon
Striker
Talented young striker joined the club part way through last year and looking to establish himself as a regular in the team this season. Previous clubs include Longlevens, Tuffley, Yate Town and Cribbs

Will Hawes
Striker
Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skilful player in his sixth season at Thornhill Park and is destined continue to score plenty more this season. Off the field Will is also the clubs Welfare Officer.

George Neill
Striker
Joined the Swans this season from Chipping Sodbury where he scored a hat full of goals last year. Another good young prospect that enhances the squad.

Romaine Campbell
Striker
Another former U18/s and reserve team player looking to break into the first team this season after returning from a long term injury after a good start playing for Thornbury Town last season

Club Shop

A full range of club merchandise is available online and in store through Bateman's Sports in Stroud.

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*Scarves, and hats are also available for purchase at home matches See Barry Gay for details.







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Slimbridge
Staff Profiles

Tom Deakin
Joint Manager
Deaks joined Slimbridge two seasons ago as first team coach and promoted to joint manager during last season. He arrived from Forest Green Rovers after 2 years with the academy and 14 years in total having also coached at Brimscombe and Thrupp working with both the first team and development sides.

Adam Coyle
Joint Manager
Adam is a long term servant with the club joining from the county youth scene to set up and manage the successful Under 18's youth team and more recently managing the reserve side. Has bags of coaching experience and brings a new dimension to the first team.

Tony Woodward
Sports Therapist
Tony has been with us for very many years and is a popular figure in the dugout. Keeps threatening to retire but keeps turning up, Tony is also a qualified football referee.

Nathan Hartfield
Sports Therapist

Dave Bees
Kit Man

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MARSH

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.



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