Slimbridge
Football Club



Uhlsport Hellenic Football League
Premier Division

Saturday November 18th 2023
v Worcester Raiders

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Slimbridge
Football Club

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Wisloe Road
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Slimbridge v Worcester Raiders

Today's Playing Squads

Ben Hands
Ben Prictor
Bogdan Mara
Charlie Hitchings
Edji Mbunga
Ellis Parker
Evan Coomb
George Neill
Harrison Reeves
Jack Smith
Joe Hunt
Kieran Bennett
Marley Thomas
Myron Turner
Nathan Dennis
Rudi McKinnon
Sam Blackie
Theo Clayson
Will Hawes

Referee	Simon Turner
Assistants	Steve Cook Toby Travis

Uhlsport Hellenic League
Premier Division Fixtures

Saturday 18th November 2023 3pm
Hellenic League
Cinderford Town v Thornbury Town
Hereford Lads Club v Wantage Town
Hereford Pegasus v Brimscombe & Thrupp
Longlevens AFC v Corsham Town
Lydney Town v Fairford Town
Pershore Town v Highworth Town
Slimbridge v Worcester Raiders
Tuffley Rovers v Mangotsfield United
Westfields v Roman Glass St George
Worcester City v Royal Wootton Bassett Town

Tuesday 21st November 2023 7:45pm
County Cup(s)
Newent Town v Cinderford Town
Stonehouse Town v Tuffley Rovers
Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Highworth Town
Ledbury Town v Hereford Pegasus

Marsh Challenge Cup
Abingdon United v Wantage Town
Fairford Town v FC Beaconsfield
Pershore Town v Lydney Town
Royal Wootton Bassett Town v Roman Glass St George

Wednesday 22nd November 2023 7:45pm
County Cup
Cadbury Heath v Thornbury Town
Longlevens v Brimscombe & Thrupp

Marsh Challenge Cup
FC Bristol v Westfields

Uhlsport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table

Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Corsham Town	18	12	4	2	47	18	29	40
2	Worcester City	14	12	1	1	46	11	35	37
3	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	15	10	1	4	27	22	5	31
4	Roman Glass St George	16	9	1	6	33	21	12	28
5	Worcester Raiders	16	7	6	3	25	18	7	27
6	Slimbridge	16	8	3	5	30	26	4	27
7	Highworth Town	13	8	2	3	23	15	8	26
8	Hereford Pegasus	16	8	2	6	29	32	-3	26
9	Pershore Town	15	7	3	5	35	24	11	24
10	Fairford Town	15	6	5	4	26	19	7	23
11	Mangotsfield United	16	6	3	7	29	27	2	21
13	Cinderford Town	15	6	3	6	30	29	1	21
14	Westfields	17	5	2	10	30	36	-6	17
15	Brimscombe & Thrupp	14	4	4	6	19	24	-5	16
16	Hereford Lads Club	17	3	6	8	19	29	-10	15
17	Tuffley Rovers	15	4	3	8	17	30	-13	15
18	Lydney Town	17	4	0	13	32	53	-21	12
19	Thornbury Town	17	3	2	12	24	44	-20	11
20	Wantage Town	16	2	1	13	15	51	-36	7

Season 2023-24

Fixtures

Sat 18 Nov 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	Worcester Raiders
Sat 25 Nov 23	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	A	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	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 27 Jan 24	15:00	Uhlsport Hellenic Premier League	H	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

Season 2023-24
Results

Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 01 Aug 2023	League	H	Highworth Town	0-0	132
Sat 05 Aug 2023	FA Cup Extra Prelim	H	Reading City	2-3	105
Sat 12 Aug 2023	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	1-2	105
Fri 18 Aug 2023	League	H	Thornbury Town	5-2	168
Tue 22 Aug 2023	League	H	Wantage Town	2-0	121
Sat 26 Aug 2023	FA Vase 1Q	H	Lydney Town	4-3	105
Mon 28 Aug 2023	League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp	2-0	253
Sat 02 Sep 2023	League	H	Roman Glass St George	1-6	126
Tue 05 Sep 2023	League	A	Mangotsfield United	2-1	158
Fri 08 Sep 2023	League	H	Westfields	3-2	210
Tue 19 Sep 2023	League	H	Corsham Town	1-3	138
Sat 23 Sep 2023	FA Vase 2Q	A	Highworth Town	1-3	93
Tue 26 Sep 2023	League	A	Fairford Town	1-1	71
Sat 30 Sep 2023	League	H	Tuffley Rovers	4-1	128
Fri 06 Oct 2023	League	A	Pershore Town	2-0	191
Tue 10 Oct 2023	League	A	Highworth Town	0-2	119
Sat 14 Oct 2023	League	H	Lydney Town	3-5	124
Tue 24 Oct 2023	Floodlit Cup	H	SC Inkberrow	2-0	92
Sat 04 Nov 2023	League	A	Hereford Lads Club	1-1	52
Tue 07 Nov 2023	GFA Chalange Trophy	H	Lydney Town	2-1	105
Sat 11 Nov 2023	League	H	Cinderford Town	2-0	178

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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.

Joe Hunt
Defender
Former Cheltenham Town youth player who likes getting forward down the flanks signed on dual registration with Malvern Town, also played for Evesham United and Worcester City.

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

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

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
GK Coach / Kit Man

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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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