Slimbridge
Football Club



Uhlsport Hellenic Football League
Premier Division

Tuesday February 11th 2025
v Thornbury Town

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Slimbridge
Football Club

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Assistant	Will Hawes
Coach	Sam Prior
Sports Therapists	Tony Woodward Nathan Hartfield
Kitman	Dave Bees
U18 Manager	Kieran Brice-Ingles
Assistants	Ben Jaggers Tom Read
Ground Staff	Barry Gay Malcolm Lineaker

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Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF

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Email: info@slimbridgeafc.co.uk
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Slimbridge v Thornbury Town

Todays Team Lineups

Callum Dark
Charlie Hitchings
Hadyn Evans
Henri Parry-Williams
James Tainton
Joe Hunt
Joe Shutt
Joel Jagger
Jonty Welch
Josh Barclay
Kieran Bennett
Kieran Winstone (GK)
Liam Harper
Nathan Dennis
Rhys Sarson
Sergio Mills
Theo Clayson
Toby Soule
Travis Wood (GK)
Will Hawes
Will Tainton
William Djaha-Nsangou

Details not supplied

Referee	Aaron Baker
Assistants	Malcolm Steward Alan Berrow

Slimbridge
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Season 2024-25
Fixtures

Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Tue 11 Feb 25	19:45	League	H	Thornbury Town
Tue 18 Feb 25	19:45	County Cup	A	Shortwood United
Sat 22 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Worcester Raiders
Tue 25 Feb 25	19:45	League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 01 Mar 25	15:00	League	H	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Tue 04 Mar 25	19:45	League	H	Cirencester Town
Sat 15 Mar 25	15:00	League	A	Hartpury University
Tue 18 Mar 25	19:45	League	A	Malmesbury Victoria

Season 2024-25
Results

Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 30 Jul 24	League	H	Pershore Town	3-3	196
Sat 03 Aug 24	FA Cup Extra Prelim	H	Malmesbury Victoria	3-1	136
Tue 06 Aug 24	League	A	Tuffley Rovers	0-3	210
Sat 10 Aug 24	League	H	Hartpury University	1-0	90
Tue 13 Aug 24	League	A	Westfields	2-1	179
Sat 17 Aug 24	FA Cup Prelim	A	Wallingford & Crowmarsh	0-3	140
Tue 20 Aug 24	League	H	Sporting Club Inkberrow	2-4	142
Mon 26 Aug 24	League	H	Lydney Town	10-1	153
Mon 02 Sept 24	League	A	Hereford Pegasus	1-4	207
Sat 07 Sept 24	League	H	Mangotsfield United	1-3	131
Sat 14 Sept 24	League	H	Roman Glass	2-4	114
Wed 18 Sept 24	League	A	Longlevens	3-1	197
Sat 21 Sept 24	FA Vase 2Q	A	Devizes Town	1-2	89
Tue 24 Sept 24	League	H	Worcester Raiders	3-3	127
Sat 28 Sept 24	League	A	Thornbury Town	3-2	130
Sat 05 Oct 24	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	3-6	102
Sat 12 Oct 24	League	A	Fairford Town	1-1	80
Sat 19 Oct 24	League	H	Malmesbury Victoria	3-1	95
Sat 26 Oct 24	League	A	Highworth Town	0-5	147
Sat 02 Nov 24	League	A	Cirencester Town	2-0	154
Sat 09 Nov 24	League	H	Corsham Town	5-2	141
Tue 12 Nov 24	GFA Trophy	H	Lydney Town	4-0	85
Sat 16 Nov 24	League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp	2-2	121
Sat 23 Nov 24	League	A	Mangotsfield United	0-2	367
Sat 30 Nov 24	League	A	Roman Glass	1-5	110
Fri 06 Dec 24	League	H	Longlevens	2-3	109
Tue 10 Dec 24	GFA Trophy	H	Longlevens	5-1	95
Sat 14 Dec 24	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	2-2	111
Sat 21 Dec 24	League	H	Fairford Town	0-3	89
Thu 26 Dec 24	League	A	Lydney Town	0-4	167
Sat 18 Jan 25	League	H	Westfields	1-0	102
Tue 21 Jan 25	Wiseman Cup	H	Corsham Town	2-3	84
Sat 25 Jan 25	League	A	Sporting Club Inkberrow	1-3	158
Tue 28 Jan 25	Marsh Cup	A	Ludlow Town	2-2*	
Sat 01 Feb 25	League	H	Hereford Pegasus	1-1	96
Sat 08 Feb 25	League	A	Pershore Town	1-3	98

*Lost 3-5 Penalties

Uhlsport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table

Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Hartpury University	29	21	6	2	68	16	52	69
2	Mangotsfield United	32	18	9	5	57	21	36	63
3	Sporting Club Inkberrow	31	17	9	5	57	29	28	60
4	Roman Glass St George	28	17	5	6	75	44	31	56
5	Highworth Town	30	17	5	8	59	37	22	56
6	Pershore Town	30	16	4	10	72	43	29	52
7	Worcester Raiders	33	13	12	8	58	38	20	51
8	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	31	15	5	11	64	49	15	50
9	Fairford Town	31	14	8	9	54	42	12	50
10	Tuffley Rovers	32	12	7	13	43	46	-3	43
11	Westfields	31	11	8	12	60	40	20	41
12	Corsham Town	30	12	5	13	49	59	-10	41
13	Hereford Pegasus	34	10	8	16	51	57	-6	38
14	Slimbridge	30	10	6	14	58	73	-15	36
15	Cirencester Town	31	9	5	17	43	61	-18	32
16	Thornbury Town	28	9	3	16	44	55	-11	30
17	Longlevens AFC	31	6	6	19	33	66	-33	24
18	Lydney Town	26	6	3	17	37	79	-42	21
19	Brimscombe & Thrupp	32	3	6	23	29	113	-84	15
20	Malmesbury Victoria	22	3	4	15	27	70	-43	13

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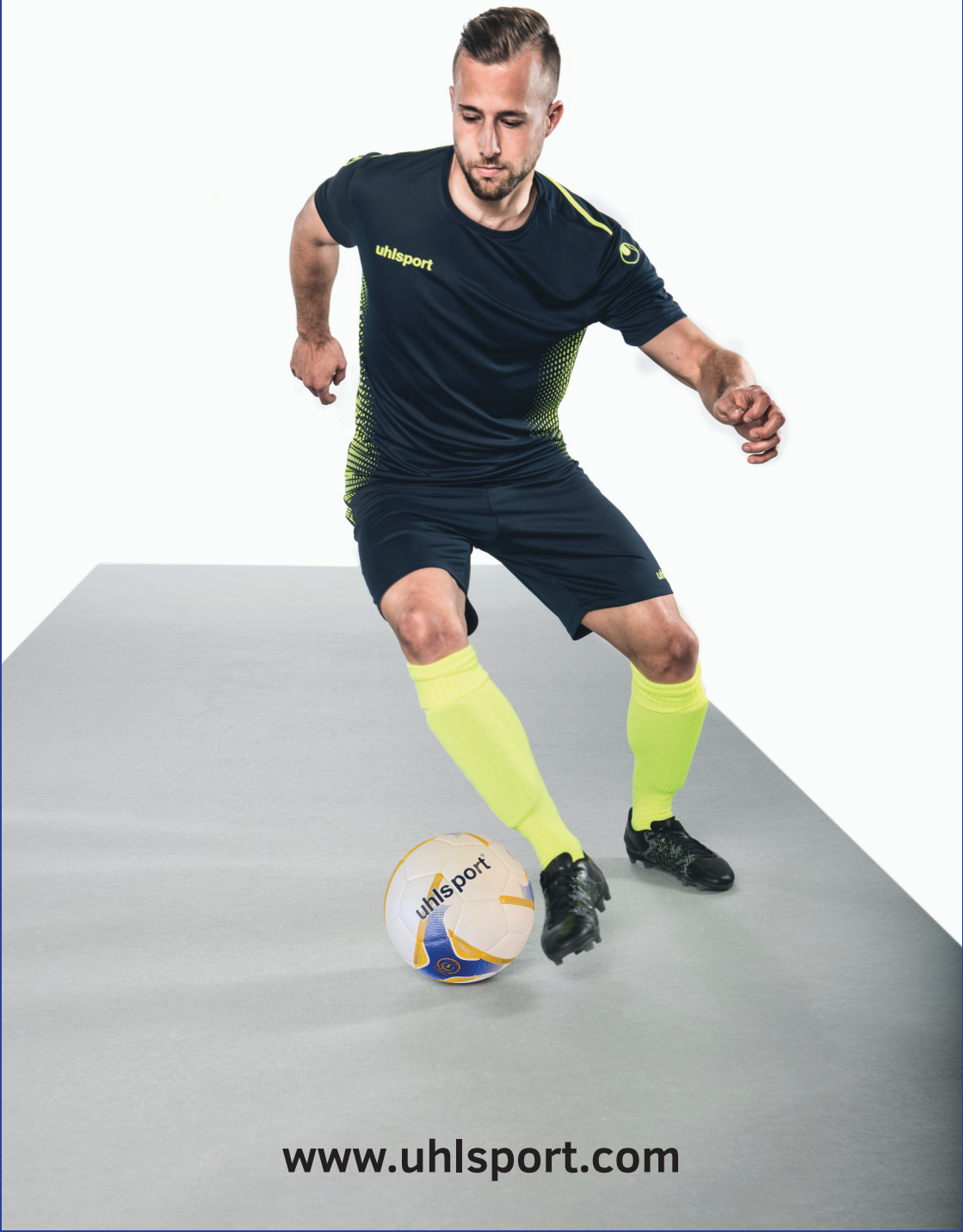
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Slimbridge
Player Profiles

Travis Wood
Goalkeeper
Strong shot stopper, vocal leader at the back. Signed from Malmesbury Victoria.

Gavin Jones
Goalkeeper

Kieran Winstone
Goalkeeper
Under 18s goalkeeper who has recently broken into the first team. Brave young shot stopper who shows lots of potential.

Nathan Dennis
Defender
Big old school style defender who like to put himself about at both ends of the pitch. Now in his third season with the club.

Charlie Hitchings
Defender
Made a huge impact last year, has bags of experience at Southern and Western League levels. This season's vice-captain will again be leading the team from the heart of the defence.

Hadyn Evans
Defender
Hadyn is entering his debut season for the swans. He has impressed pre season with his tenacity. He has previously played for Dursley Town first team, and come up through the academy at Forest Green Rovers.

Jacob Rodgers
Defender
Played for Tredworth Tigers Jacob has come back to the club after a spell with Tredworth. He previously had 2 successful seasons with the Swans U18s

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

Ben Deakin
Defender
Solid full back who adds experience to the back line in his second spell with the club after many years at Brimscombe and Thrupp.

Joshua Barclay
Defender
Strong young defender that has made his presence felt in the Under 18s team this season and looking to gain experiance with the first team squad.

William Djaha-Nsangou
Defender
One of a number of Under 18 players pushing to get into the first team. Emposing centre half with a promising future.

Sam Blackie
Midfield
In his second season with the Swans after a brief spell in 2015. . Sam is a skilful midfielder who is effective at both ends of the pitch with past experience at Hellenic and Southern League level having played at Bishops Cleeve, and local neighbours Brimscome and Thrupp.

Toby Soule
Midfield
Previously played for Bishops Cleeve & Hartpury FC. Toby is entering his first season with the club and is looking forward to a positive season with the Swans.

Jonty Welch
Midfield
Joined this Summer after 5 seasons at Brimscombe and Thrupp. Prior to that, had 4 seasons at Longlevens.

Liam Harper
Midfield
First season back, had two seasons with the U18s as captain and two years with the reserves and 1st team. Previous clubs: Frampton United and Brimscombe and Thrupp

Ben Hands
Midfield
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.

Joel Jagger
Midfield
Young midfielder from the Under 18 squad looking to gain experiance in senior football.

Sergio Mills
Midfield

Will Hawes
Striker / Assistant Manager
Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skillful 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, Commercial Manager and Assistant first team manager.

Callum Dark
Striker
Callum joins Slimbridge for the 24/25 campaign having previously played for Lydney Town last season scoring against us 3 times. His other former clubs include Bristol Rovers, Chepstow Town and Pershore Town

Theo Clayson
Striker
Another product of the U18s team. Made really good progress in his first full season of senior football scoring some important goals for the club.

Rhys Sarson
Striker
Returns to the club from Roman Glass. Strong centre forward.

Kieran Bennett
Striker
Another one of the bright talents from the under 18s team that is looking to step into first team football.

Slimbridge
Staff Profiles

Tom Deakin
Manager
Deaks is entering his 5th year at the club having progressed from being a coach to now joint manager. The aim being to put smiles on faces at the club and bring Southern league football back to Thornhill Park. 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.

Sam Prior
Assitant Manager / Coach

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
Physio
Nath is entering his 3rd season with the club and is great amongst the dressing room. He's destined to become a physio at Liverpool

Dave Bees
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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