Slimbridge
Football Club



Uhlsport Hellenic Football League
Premier Division

Saturday October 4th 2024
v Royal Wootton Bassett Town

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Football Club

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Coach	Sam Prior
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Kitman	Dave Bees
U18 Manager	Kieran Brice-Ingles
Assistants	Ben Jaggers Tom Read
Ground Staff	Barry Gay Malcolm Lineaker

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Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF

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Slimbridge v Royal Wootton Bassett Town

Todays Team Lineups

Archie Myatt
Ben Deakin
Callum Dark
Charlie Hitchings
Craig Mills
Gavin Jones (GK)
Hadyn Evans
Jack Smith
Jack Watts
Jacob Rogers
Joe Hunt
Jonty Welch
Liam Harper
Myron Turner
Nathan Dennis
Olly Phillips (GK)
Rhys Sarson
Sam Blackie
Sergio Mills
Theo Clayson
Toby Soule
Will Hawes
Will Tainton
William Djaha-Nsangou

Adam Corcoran
Alan Griffin
Alfie Presley
Bailey Gallagher
Brad Pagliaroli
Chalmers Phin
Chris Taylor
Chris Zebroski
Dan Hill
Finnlay Hopkins
George Peare
Jack Hobson-McVeigh
James Foster
Louis Spalding
Mikey Wilkes
Noah Coates
Oliver Case
Ollie Pitt
Tom Moore
Tommy Ouldridge

Referee Aaron Baker

Assistants Waldemar Malek
Richard Boyce

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Season 2024-25
Fixtures

Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Tue 01 Oct 24	19:45	League	H	Tuffley Rovers
Sat 05 Oct 24	15:00	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Tue 08 Oct 24	19:45	League	A	Hartpury University
Sat 12 Oct 24	15:00	League	A	Fairford Town
Sat 19 Oct 24	15:00	League	H	Malmesbury Victoria
Sat 26 Oct 24	15:00	League	A	Highworth Town
Sat 02 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Cirencester Town
Sat 09 Nov 24	15:00	League	H	Corsham Town
Sat 16 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Brimscombe & Thrupp
Sat 23 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Mangotsfield United
Sat 30 Nov 24	15:00	League	A	Roman Glass St George
Sat 07 Dec 24	15:00	League	H	Thornbury Town
Sat 14 Dec 24	15:00	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Sat 21 Dec 24	15:00	League	H	Fairford Town
Thu 26 Dec 24	15:00	League	A	Lydney Town
Sat 28 Dec 24	15:00	League	A	Malmesbury Victoria
Wed 01 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 04 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Cirencester Town
Sat 11 Jan 25	15:00	League	A	Corsham Town
Sat 18 Jan 25	15:00	League	H	Westfields
Sat 25 Jan 25	15:00	League	A	Sporting Club Inkberrow
Sat 01 Feb 25	15:00	League	H	Hereford Pegasus
Sat 08 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Pershore Town
Sat 15 Feb 25	15:00	League	H	Longlevens AFC
Sat 22 Feb 25	15:00	League	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 01 Mar 25	15:00	League	H	Brimscombe & Thrupp

Season 2024-25
Results

Date	Match	H/A	Opposition	Result	Att
Tue 30 Jul 24	League	H	Pershore	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 2024	League	A	Thornbury Town	3-2	130

Uhlsport Hellenic League

Premier Division - League Table

Pos		Pl	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Roman Glass St George	12	9	3	0	41	12	29	30
2	Corsham Town	11	9	1	1	28	12	16	28
3	Highworth Town	13	8	1	4	23	16	7	25
4	Hartpury University	12	7	3	2	28	9	19	24
5	Mangotsfield United	11	7	3	1	22	8	14	24
6	Sporting Club Inkberrow	12	7	3	2	21	11	10	24
7	Fairford Town	10	5	4	1	21	11	10	19
8	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	13	6	1	6	23	21	2	19
9	Hereford Pegasus	12	6	1	5	21	19	2	19
10	Tuffley Rovers	13	6	1	6	15	17	-2	19
11	Westfields	13	5	3	5	25	12	13	18
12	Slimbridge	12	5	2	5	31	29	2	17
13	Worcester Raiders	12	3	7	2	14	13	1	16
14	Pershore Town	12	3	2	7	24	22	2	11
15	Cirencester Town	13	2	2	9	16	35	-19	8
16	Lydney Town	12	2	2	8	11	38	-27	8
17	Malmesbury Victoria	9	2	1	6	14	21	-7	7
18	Thornbury Town	12	2	1	9	17	27	-10	7
19	Longlevens AFC	11	2	1	8	10	24	-14	7
20	Brimscombe & Thrupp	11	1	0	10	6	54	-48	3

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THE HELLENIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOUNDED 1953

Royal Wootton Bassett Town
Club History

Situated six miles from Swindon, Wootton Bassett Town Football Club was first established in 1882, making the club one of the oldest in Wiltshire. The club's early achievements came in the Wiltshire Senior Cup, making the final in both 1902-3 and 1903-4, although losing both. The club folded for a period pre-World War 1 before re-forming in the Calne & District League when it began playing at the Gerard Buxton Sports Ground which had been donated by a local dignitary for sporting activities within the town and opened in 1930.

Early successes included winning the Calne & District League in the 1930-31 Season, having finished runners-up the previous season, and then again in 1934-35. Following a move up to the Wiltshire League Division 2 promotion was earned again the following season and the team then remained in the top division in the county until the outbreak of war. After the war Wootton Bassett Town F.C. recommenced in the County League with limited success until 1958-59 when they won their first Wiltshire League title.

In 1987-88 the Wiltshire League Division 1 title was won, elevating the club into the Hellenic League, where they have remained ever since. The club finally won the Wiltshire Senior Cup in 1998-99 and repeated this achievement in 2000-01. The club have had three spells in the Hellenic Premier and the current spell in the topflight commenced after gaining promotion back in 2012-13. The highest finish so far, and in the history of the club, was fourth spot in Season 2023-24, just missing out on promotion to the Southern League after losing to Cinderford Town in the Play-off final.

Since the onset of the new millennium the club has expanded significantly, with the establishment of a thriving Youth Section, a very successful Ladies Section and a Veteran's Section. The club now operates 33 teams from under 7s upwards. All now play their games at the relocated Gerard Buxton Sports Ground, which opened in the summer of 2015 and with the Royal title now included within the name, Royal Wootton Bassett Town continues to thrive as a key part of the community.

This growth led to the club being awarded Charter Standard Development Club status by the Football Association in 2008 before this was upgraded to Community Club status a year later, the first club in Wiltshire to achieve this. International ties have also been established with Dutch amateur side FC 's-Gravenzande who sides from the club's Youth Section visit each year.

In Season 2020-21 the club had good cup runs in both the FA Cup and the FA Vase, as well as the Hellenic League end of season cup competition. In the FA Cup the club equalled their best performance in the prestigious competition, reaching the 2nd Qualifying Round, losing narrowly to a late winner against National League South side Oxford City. The club also equalled their best showing in the FA Vase up to that point making it through to the Second Round. In the Bluefin Insurance Cup competition, they safely progressed from the group stages and then won two knockout games to reach the semi-final but just fell short against eventual winners Kidlington, going down 2-1 in the semi. Whilst doing well in the cup competitions the side never really got going in the league. It was a similar story in Season 2021-22 with the best form again being shown in the cups with Royal Wootton Bassett Town reaching the 3rd Round of the FA Vase for the first time in the club's history, eventually losing a tight game to Hamworthy who were to go on to reach the semi-final.

Season 2022-23 saw Sam Collier in charge of the First Team for his fifth season with a new assistant in the shape of experienced striker Alan Griffin. It would prove to be a successful season with the team achieving their then highest ever position in Non League football, finishing in fifth place in the Premier Division which was then exceeded last season with that fourth place finish and Play-off final. The management duo returns for another season looking to build on that success last season which nearly saw the club promoted to the Premier Division but still searching for that first elusive title or cup final win.



James Foster - Goalkeeper
An experienced keeper who joined Bassett towards the end of last season. Has Southern League experience with Abingdon United, Didcot Town, Hungerford Town, Thatcham Town and North Leigh. Recent Hellenic Premier experience with Shrivenham and Wantage Town.



Dan Hill – Defence
A right back who joins us this season from Cirencester Town having come through their Development Team. Has also played for Brimscombe & Thrupp, Fairford Town, Highworth Town and Cinderford Town in the Hellenic Premier Division.



Louis Spalding - Defence
Highly talented full back who is now in his third season with Bassett. Was named Manager's and Player of the Year in his debut season for the club. With Swindon Town in his youth before joining Cirencester Town. Subsequently played for Swindon Supermarine.



Adam Corcoran – Defence
Bassett's current longest serving player and captain, now in his 13th season with the club, having reached the 300-appearance mark in 2022-23. A Cirencester Town Academy graduate, he initially joined Bassett in 2011-12 after brief spells with Fairford Town and Calne Town.



Oliver Case – Defence
Another product of Bassett's youth section, Case re-joined the club in January 2024 and played a key role in the Men's First Team's late season playoff push. Previously with Swindon Town, Highworth Town and joined Bassett from Southern League Didcot Town.



Junathain Walker – Midfield
Recent signing from Roman Glass St George. Has previously also played for Corsham Town and Tytherington Rocks in the Hellenic League.



Jack Hobson-McVeigh - Midfield
Experienced, cultured central midfielder entering his 3rd season with Bassett having joined from Malmesbury Vics. A New Zealand national and represented his country in the 2009 FIFA U17 World Cup in Nigeria helping the Kiwis reach the last 16.



Chris Taylor - Midfield
Vastly experienced midfielder who is entering his fifth season with Bassett and last season was Manager's and Players' Player of the Year. Previously with Swindon Supermarine and Highworth Town amongst others. An England Under 15 international in his youth, he featured four times for Swindon Town in 2002-03.



Tommy Ouldridge - Midfield
Entering his fourth full season with Bassett. Came through Swindon Town's youth system and was in and around the Robins' first team, though never made an appearance. Subsequently played for Chippenham Town, Cirencester Town, Hungerford Town and Shrivenham.



Bailey Gallagher - Midfield
Graduate of Bassett's youth section, who made the step up to first team football three seasons ago after having consistently performed strongly for the club's Development team. A highly skilful attacking midfielder who can play on either wing.



Alfie Presley - Forward
A hugely talented attacking midfielder who re-joined Bassett in October 2023 after brief spells with Corsham Town and Abingdon Utd. Won Player of the Year awards for Bassett in three different seasons. 42 goals in 113 appearances prior to the start of this season.



Ollie Pitt – Midfield
Recent signing from Brimscombe with a prolific record in the Hellenic League. Began his senior career with Cirencester Town, before joining Brimscombe where, over the course of eleven seasons he scored 109 goals in 350 games.



George Peare - Forward
Centre forward who joins Bassett this season from Brimscombe and Thrupp. A powerful target man who is strong in the air and an assured finisher. Previously with Cirencester Development, Fairford Town, Corsham Town and Malmesbury Victoria. Can also play at centre back.



Finnlay Hopkins- Forward
Highly talented young forward who joins Bassett from near neighbours Shrivenham this season. Previously with the Swindon Town Foundation's C6 team & was part of the Swindon team that won the Community & Education Football Alliance Cup in 23-4.



Mickey Wilkes - Midfield
Talented young defensive midfielder who joins Bassett this season. Was briefly with Bassett at the start of his youth career but played in Swindon Town's Academy for several years and has recently captained Marlborough College's first team side.



Chalmers Phin - Forward
Recent signing from Malmesbury Victoria where he was top scorer with six goals from eight appearances this season. Made his debut for Bassett as a substitute in the home game against Hartpury University.

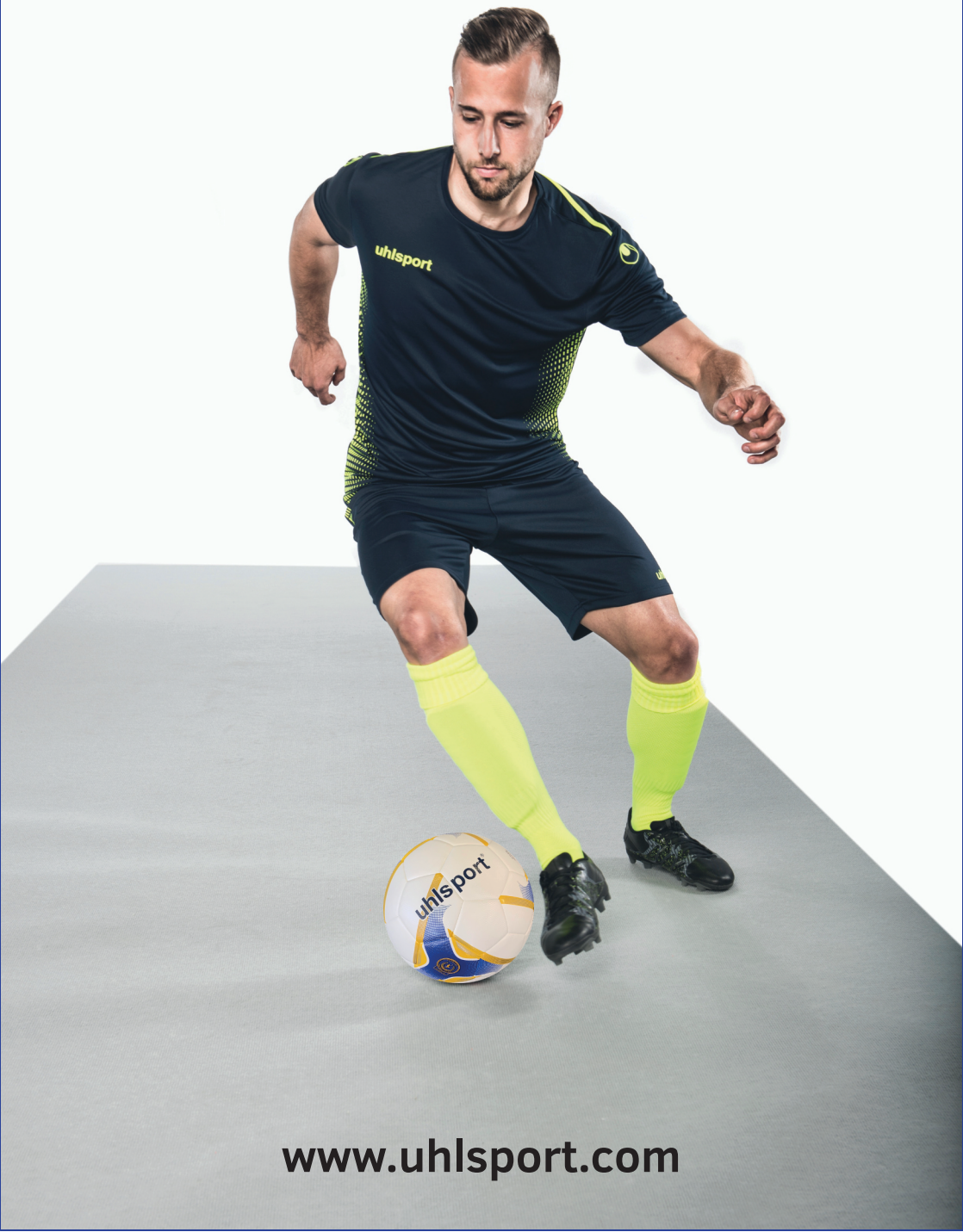


Thomas Moore – Midfield/ Forward
Gifted, young attacking midfielder who re-joined Bassett last season, having spent time at university in Manchester. A player with a superb attitude and willingness to improve his game, he possesses great pace, the desire to take players on and is an excellent crosser of the ball. Moore was with Swindon Town as a youth.



Brad Pagliaroli - Forward
Skilful forward who has played at a much higher level who rejoins the club this season. Fans favourite (especially with the ladies) who makes a habit of scoring spectacular goals. Previous clubs include Binfield, Thatcham Town, Letcombe & Hungerford Town.

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Slimbridge
Player Profiles

Olly Phillips
Goalkeeper
Olly joined Slimbridge this summer after completing his scholarship with Bristol Rovers. He becomes the next young GK to walk through the doors at Thornhill Park

James Holder
Goalkeeper
James is entering his first full season with Slimbridge , having spent the last half of the season at the swans. His previous clubs include Brimscombe and Thrupp, Frampton and Sharpness

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.

Craig Mills
Defender
Craig rejoined Slimbridge after previously playing when were in the Western Legaue. Last season he had to bide his time before making an impact in our end of season push. Former clubs Frampton Brimscombe & Thrupp. Shortwood.

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.

Myron Turner
Midfield
As captain and Mr Dependable out on the field, Myron has played all outfield positions in recent seasons. Brings a calmness and solid feel to the squad, and very popular among the supporters here at Thornhill Park. Now in his eighth season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens, Gala Wilton and Frampton.

Jack Smith
Midfield
Jack is entering his second season with the first team having been captain of the u18s. He has previously played for Thornbury Town and Bristol Rovers.

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.

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 and Commercial 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

Will Tainton
Striker
Will has been a part of our youth team for the last 3 years. Breaking a league goal scoring record last season. He has played men's football with Sharpness and broke into the first team squad at the end of last season.

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.

Jack Watts
Striker
Signed from Southern League Malvern Town Jack is a proven goalscorer at Southern and Hellenic league levels. Previous clubs also include Bishops Cleeve, Stourbridge Swifts.

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
Joint 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.

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.

Sam Prior
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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