# Slimbridge Football Club



## Uhlsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division

Tuesday August 12th 2025
v Cinderford Town

# Who will you be today?




## Show some Respect

Thousands of referees drop out of the game every season due to abuse.

The uhlsport® Hellenic League operate a ZEROTOLERANCEpolicy toward Inappropriate Language & Behaviour

TheFA.com/Respect

Respect

The FA

# Slimbridge
## Football Club

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chairman** | Barry Gay |
| **Vice Chairman** | Rob Peck |
| **President** | John Mack |
| **Management Committee** | Barry Gay<br>Alena Wrixon<br>Rob Peck |
| **General Committee** | Tim Blake<br>Ian Blount<br>Malcolm Carter<br>Lewis Hall<br>Natalie Jennings<br>Brenda Martin<br>Tony Woodward |
| **Commercial Manager** | TBC |
| **Treasurer & Secretary** | Alena Wrixon |
| **Safety Officer** | Barry Gay |
| **Welfare Officer** | TBC |
| **Fixture Secretary** | Ian Blount |
| **Programme Editor** | Rob Peck |
| **Web Site Manager** | Rob Peck |
| **Social Media** | Oli Neale<br>Natalie Jennings |
| **Archivist / Historian** | Tim Blake |
| **Supporters Club Chairman** | Colin Gay |

| | |
|---|---|
| **First Team Manager(s)** | Tom Deakin<br>Michael Palmer |
| **Assistant** | Ben Powell |
| **Coach** | Sam Prior |
| **Sports Therapists** | Tony Woodward |
| **Kitman** | Dave Bees |
| **U18 Manager** | Kieran Brice-Ingles |
| **U18 Assistant** | Dave Bees |
| **U18 Coaches** | Bradley Barnard<br>Stuart Pearce |
| **Ground Staff** | Barry Gay<br>Malcolm Lineaker |

Wisloe Road
Cambridge
Gloucestershire
GL2 7AF

Website: www.slimbridgeafc.co.uk
Email: info@slimbridgeafc.co.uk
Twitter: @slimbridgeafc

# Slimbridge v Cinderford Town

## Todays Teams Squads

Bogdan Mara
Callum Dark
Cameron Blacker
Casey Collins
Charlie Hitchings
Charlie Mathews
Hadyn Evans
Jack Hughes
Jack Smith
Jack W Smith
Jacob Rodgers
Joe Shutt
Joe Stokes
Joseph Hunt
Kian Kang
Kieran Bennett
Leighton Blacker
Raiyan Ahmed
Ryan Ponting
Stephen Sarkodie
Toby Soule

Lewis Adams (GK)
Adam Davies
Ben Vine
Ismail Yakubu
Nathan Dennis
Ben Watkins
Dale Evans
Marley Thomas
McCauley Power
Ellis Quarterley
Owen Taylor
Kian Davies
Jonas Dobson
Lewis Powell
Sam Hunt
Will Morford
Joe Cattermole
Josh Parsons
Ollie Taylor

| | |
|---|---|
| **Referee** | Keith Simpson |
| **Assistants** | Darren Mcmillan<br>Graham Pugh |

# Slimbridge
## Our Sponsors

**Slimbridge would like to acknowledge their gratitude to the following organisations and people for thier generous support.**

Cellar Supplies
Furniture Factory Outlets
Rose & Andy Carter
VMR Autos

Bateman Sports
Coles Electrical
Customade Group
Generate Sports Supliments
Iron & Earth Equipment Ltd
Kordy's Carpets
Mackway Transport
Nailsworth Computers
P & M Financial Ltd
Renishaw PLC
Toolstation

# Season 2025-26

## Fixtures

| Date | Time | Fixture | H/A | Opponent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tue 12 Aug 25 | 19:45 | League | H | Cinderford Town |
| Sat 16 Aug 25 | 15:00 | FA Cup Prelim | A | Portishead Town |
| Tue 19 Aug 25 | 19:45 | League | A | Droitwich Spa |
| Sat 23 Aug 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Lydney Town |
| Mon 25 Aug 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Worcester Raiders |
| Sat 30 Aug 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Westfields |
| Sat 06 Sept 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Pershore Town |
| Sat 13 Sept 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Highworth Town |
| Sat 27 Sept 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Roman Glass St George |
| Sat 04 Oct 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Cribbs FC |
| Sat 11 Oct 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Thornbury Town |
| Sat 18 Oct 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Tuffley Rovers |
| Sat 25 Oct 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Corsham Town |
| Sat 08 Nov 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Westfields |
| Sat 15 Nov 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Longlevens AFC |
| Sat 22 Nov 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Hereford Pegasus |
| Sat 29 Nov 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Mangotsfield United |
| Sat 06 Dec 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Royal Wootton Bassett Town |
| Sat 13 Dec 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Cirencester Town |
| Sat 20 Dec 25 | 15:00 | League | A | Cinderford Town |
| Sat 27 Dec 25 | 15:00 | League | H | Lydney Town |
| Sat 03 Jan 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Worcester Raiders |
| Sat 10 Jan 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Thornbury Town |
| Sat 17 Jan 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Highworth Town |
| Sat 24 Jan 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Fairford Town |
| Sat 31 Jan 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Hallen |
| Sat 07 Feb 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Royal Wootton Bassett Town |
| Sat 14 Feb 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Pershore Town |
| Sat 21 Feb 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Corsham Town |
| Sat 28 Feb 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Hereford Pegasus |
| Sat 07 Mar 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Droitwich Spa |
| Sat 14 Mar 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Mangotsfield United |
| Sat 28 Mar 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Cribbs FC |
| Mon 06 Apr 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Tuffley Rovers |
| Sat 11 Apr 26 | 15:00 | League | A | Roman Glass St George |
| Sat 18 Apr 26 | 15:00 | League | H | Longlevens AFC |

# Season 2025-26

## Results

| Date | Match | H/A | Opposition | Result | Att |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tue 29 Jul 25 | League | H | Cirencester Town | 3-2 | 203 |
| Sat 02 Aug 25 | FA Cup Extra Prelim | A | Corsham Town | 1-0 | 125 |
| Tue 05 Aug 25 | League | A | Fairford Town | 1-1 | 148 |
| Sat 09 Aug 25 | League | H | Hallen | 2-1 | 142 |

BATEMAN'S SPORTS
SINCE 1893

THE HELLENIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FOUNDED 1953

Sole retail partner to the Hellenic League
In Partnership With uhlsport

We offer free
Club Web Shops

COMPETITIVE DEALS
WIDE RANGE OF
OFFERINGS

- MATCH KIT
- TRAINING KIT
- OFF-FIELD
- ACCESSORIES
- BALLS & EQUIPMENT







www.batemanssports.co.uk

kevin@batemanssports.co.uk
01453 764320
2 KENDRICK STREET, STROUD,
GLOS, GL5 1AB

# Cinderford Town
## Club History

Cinderford Town was formed in 1922 and played in the Glos Northern Senior League until 1939. In that year they joined the newly formed Bristol Charity League, but this folded two weeks later at the outbreak of World War Two. They then joined the Western League Division 2, and in 1957 won the title. During the two seasons they spent in the top flight, they set a ground attendance record, when a home game with Minehead saw 4,850 people in attendance. Sadly, participation at this level put severe financial pressure on the Club, who were then forced to withdraw and return to the Glos Northern Senior League. Three years later, the Club made the unusual decision to join the Warwickshire Combination, and won a League and Cup double in 1964, which saw them step up to the West Midlands (Regional) League. A very strong league at the time, with member clubs such as Kidderminster Harriers, Boston United, Tamworth and Hednesford. 1968-69 season was their last at this level, but they bowed out as Joint League Cup winners with Kidderminster. Both Clubs shared the Trophy for 6 months.

Cinderford returned to play in the newly formed Gloucestershire County League for the 1969-70 season and stayed for the next 5 years, finishing as runners-up on 3 occasions. They again sought a higher standard of football, and were accepted into the Midland Combination. Town played in this League for the next 10 seasons, achieving a best finish of 4th and also winning the League Cup, before being forced to return to the Glos County League following financial problems relating to the Social Club. A new Committee stabilised the Club, so much so that floodlights were purchased outright, and in the 1990-91 season, the Club gained admission to the Hellenic League, initially in Division 1, where they won the title at the first attempt. Four years later, the Club claimed an historic first by winning the Premier Division title, the League Cup and the Hellenic Floodlight Cup, and stepped up to the Southern League, with 28 years unbroken membership. The 1995-96 season saw Cinderford embark on an incredible F A Cup run, beating 2 Conference Clubs to reach the Second Round Proper, holding Gravesend & Northfleet to a 1-1 home draw before losing 3-0 in the replay in Kent. The winners were drawn with Aston Villa in the Third Round.

In the 2015-16 season, Cinderford were Champions of Southern League Div 1, South & West, but initially rejected promotion when undisclosed debts were discovered. However they accepted promotion following a series of appeals which affected the constitution of the League going into the new season. The Club were duly relegated in their first season in the Premier Division, returning to play in the Southern League First Division again.
Under the then leadership of Manager Paul Michael, the Club went from strength to strength, with a League Cup Final appearance, losing to a single goal at Premier Division side Stratford Town, and reaching a League play-off final, losing away at Yate Town, who persuaded Paul to join them for their promotion to the Premier Division.
Former Bishops Cleeve Manager Steve Cleal was appointed to replace Paul Michael but after an unsuccessful spell, he was succeeded as Manager by Alex Sykes, the former Gloucester City and Forest Green player, who was also unable to improve matters on the pitch.

After an incredible 28 consecutive seasons as members of the Southern League, the Club were relegated at the end of the 2022-2023 season, to rejoin the Hellenic League Premier Division.
Alex Sykes left the Club by mutual consent, and was replaced by former Merthyr Town player and former Manager at Welsh Club Aberbargoed, Matt Driscoll, who had the unenviable task of rebuilding the entire squad, with only one senior player remaining from the Southern League side.

Within a few months of the new season, the new squad was taking shape, and the early season of mixed results began to change, and the Club started it's climb up the table. The League title was never going to be achievable with Worcester City the dominant Club all season, but a successful run in saw us clinch 5th place, and into the playoffs.
An away trip to 2nd placed Corsham Town saw us claim a great 1-0 win, and a final away game in the playoff final to Royal Wootton Bassett Town, and an emphatic 4-0 win secured our place back in the Southern League after a one season break.

Unfortunately, our return to the Southern League was short-lived with relegation back to the Hellenic Premier for 2025-26.

**HONOURS**:

Hellenic League Premier Division Playoff Winners 2023-24

Southern League Division One South & West champions 2015–16

Western League Division Two champions 1956–57

Hellenic League Premier Division champions 1994–95

Hellenic League Premier Division Cup winners 1994–95

Hellenic League Floodlit Cup winners 1994–95

Hellenic League Division One champions 1990–91

Warwickshire Combination Western Division champions 1964–65

Warwickshire Combination League Cup winners 1964–65

West Midlands League Cup winners 1968–69 (joint)

Midland Combination League Cup winners 1982–83

Gloucestershire Northern Senior League Champions 1938–39, 1960–61

Gloucestershire Senior Cup Winners 2000–01

We are proud suppliers to the

## Uhlsport Hellenic League

and welcome the chance to help

out any associated clubs with quality trophies,

medals, cups, plaques, glass, engraving and more!

Call us for more details.




www.allsportstrophies.com

Unit G3, Eastern Zone,

Kingston Bagpuize Business Park,

Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 5FE

e-mail: chris@allsportstrophies.com

**Tel: 01865736028**

# Club Shop

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

This includes:

- Home & Away Shirts
- Polo shirts
- Training kit
- Base layers
- Winter jackets
- Scarfs*
- Beanie Hats*
- Baseball caps*







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







Order online (Click and collect available) from:

www.batemanssports.co.uk/clubs/afc-slimbridge/

# 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.

Now in their third season in the Hellenic League, Tom Deakin has assumed the role of Team Manager following Adam Coyle's decision to step back from the position during the 2024-25 Season, with Mike Palmer confirmed as his new co-manager and Ben Powell as their assistant and Sam Prior as coach.