Slimbridge Football Club



Uhlsport Hellenic Football League
Marsh Challenge Cup Semi-Final

Saturday March 7th 2026
Droitwich Spa

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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 Stuart Pearce
Ground Staff	Barry Gay Malcolm Lineaker

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Slimbridge v Droitwich Spa

Todays Teams Squads

Alex Bell
Bogdan Mara
Charlie Hitchings
Charlie Mathews
Hadyn Evans
Jack Smith
Jack W Smith
Jacob Rodgers
Joe Hunt
Joe Shutt
Joe Stokes
Kian Kang
Ollie Barnes
Owen Giles
Ryan Ponting
Shiyak Sutherland
Stephen Sarkodie (GK)
Theo Browne
Toby Soule
Tristan Haswell

James Baldwin
Daniel Barnes
Nathan Binner
Jack Brighton
Will Dallaway
Alex Dugmore
Joe Hurdman
Josh Hurdman
Sam Hurdman
Matt Jackson
Thomas King (Gk)
James Lemon
Rohan Levy
Liam Livesey
Haydn Morris
Perry Moss
Lewis Phillips

Referee James Wilson

Assistants Steven Arkwell
Terry Cleasby

Slimbridge
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Season 2025-26
Fixtures

Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 07 Mar 26	15:00	Marsh Cup SF	H	Droitwich Spa
Sat 14 Mar 26	15:00	League	A	Mangotsfield United
Tue 17 Mar 26	19:45	League	H	Highworth Town
Sat 21 Mar 26	15:00	League	A	Thornbury Town
Tue 24 Mar 26	15:00	League	H	Corsham Town
Sat 28 Mar 26	15:00	League	H	Cribbs FC
Tue 31 Mar 26	19:45	League	H	Droitwich Spa
Fri 04 Apr 25	15:00	League	A	Cirencester Town
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
Tue 12 Aug 25	League	H	Cinderford Town	2-0	178
Sat 16 Aug 25	FA Cup Prelim	A	Portishead Town	6-2	260
Tue 19 Aug 25	League	A	Droitwich Spa	6-0	267
Sat 23 Aug 25	League	A	Lydney Town	1-0	87
Sat 30 Aug 25	FA Cup 1Q	H	Dorchester Town	0-1	287
Sat 06 Sept 25	League	H	Pershore Town	5-0	105
Sat 13 Sept 25	League	A	Highworth Town	4-1	102
Sat 20 Sept 25	FAV 2Q	A	Longlevens	4-4*	120
Tue 23 Sept 25	League	H	Westfields	3-4	143
Sat 27 Sept 25	League	H	Roman Glass St George	2-2	114
Sat 04 Oct 25	League	A	Cribbs	3-2	65
Fri 10 Oct 25	League	H	Thornbury Town	1-0	266
Tue 14 Oct 25	League	A	Worcester Raiders	1-0	80
Sat 18 Oct 25	FA Vase R1	H	Wells City	3-2	145
Sat 25 Oct 25	League	A	Corsham Town	2-3	137
Tue 28 Oct 25	League	H	Tuffley Rovers	3-0	174
Sat 01 Nov 25	Marsh Cup R3	H	Corsham Town	3-1	110
Sat 08 Nov 25	FA Vase R2	A	Ivybridge Town	5-0	236
Sat 15 Nov 25	League	A	Longlevens	0-1	128
Tue 18 Nov 25	Floodlit Cup R3	A	Westfields	2-3	79
Sat 22 Nov 25	League	H	Hereford Pegasus	3-1	82
Tue 25 Nov 25	League	A	Westfields	3-0	111
Sat 29 Nov 25	League	H	Mangotsfield United	2-1	131
Wed 10 Dec 25	GFA Cup R2	A	Longlevans	1-2	-
Sat 13 Dec 25	FA Vase R3	H	Amesbury Town	1-0	107
Sat 20 Dec 25	League	A	Cinderford Town	4-1	125
Sat 27 Dec 25	League	H	Lydney Town	0-0	145
Sat 03 Jan 26	Marsh Cup R4	H	Westfields	4-0	124
Sat 10 Jan 26	League	A	Royal Wootton Bassett	3-0	218
Sat 17 Jan 26	FA Vase R4	A	Downton	0-0^	190
Sat 24 Jan 26	League	H	Fairford Town	3-7	102
Sat 31 Jan 26	League	A	Hallen	0-4	108
Sat 07 Feb 26	League	A	Pershore Town	3-2	128
Sat 14 Feb 26	Marsh Cup R5	A	Stonehouse Town	3-1	120
Tue 24 Feb 26	League	H	Worcester Raiders	0-1	118
Sat 28 Feb 26	League	A	Hereford Pegasus	2-3	179
Tue 03 Mar 26	League	H	Royal Wootton Bassett	2-1	117

* Won 3-2 on pens
^ Lost 4-3 on pens

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Droitwich Spa
Club History

There has been Saturday senior football, as well as thriving Sunday and Junior League football for many years now in the historic brine town of Droitwich Spa. The records date back to 1896 when Droitwich Town won the Worcester Saturday Junior Cup.

Other sides representing the town over the years included: Droitwich United, Droitwich Sports, Droitwich Comrades, Droitwich Juniors and Droitwich St. Peters.

Droitwich Spa FC were formed in 1985 (originally named Droitwich St. Peters as a Sunday side) as an open aged team when the then Under 16's side had no other junior league to participate in.

The club spent its early years in the Worcester Leagues and in 1999 joined the Midland Combination Division 3.

A 4th placed finish ensured promotion at the first attempt to Division 2, when the club also changed names to Droitwich Spa FC.

The first season under the new name saw the club attain a respectable 7th placed finish.

In 2002-03, the club finished 3rd - narrowly missing out on promotion, however 4 years later the Spa repeated that feat and with the necessary facilities in place, were promoted to Division 1 and remained there for the next 15 seasons, initially flirting with relegation with the occasional mid-table finish, but in the latter years the Saltmen were a permanent fixture at the right end of the table.

In 2004-05 season, Spa reached the Worcestershire Junior Cup Final for the first time in their history, losing 1-0 to Bewdley Town.

In season 2013-14, after a long yet eventually successful struggle against relegation, the club achieved a Cup double - winning both the Worcestershire Junior Cup and the Evesham Nursing Cup.

A poor start to the following season culminated in Colin Rudge being replaced by the management team of Mark Owen and Wayne Oliver. Several new players were brought in from the former Worcester City Academy yet when the new managers took over, they found the club at the foot of the table. In a remarkable turnaround, the Saltmen ended the season in their highest ever league position (8th) with 46 points, reaching the Worcestershire Junior Cup Semi Final.

The Saltmen continued to progress in an upward trend: in 2015/16 Spa finished 3rd and won the Presidents Cup for the first time.

The following year the club won the Midland Football League Division 2 ahead of Paget Rangers & Alvis Sporting, however were penalised with a points deduction one month after the season had finished, after a lengthy investigation & appeal process for "fielding an ineligible player". The deduction was ironically just enough to send the Saltmen out of the promotion places by 1 point and consign them to another season in Division 2.

The club moved away from their home at KGPF due to re-development plans, and for the next 5 years played home games at Walshes Meadow, Stourport.

In 2017/18, the Saltmen finished 3rd in Division 2, runners-up in the Worcestershire Junior Cup and made a first foray in to the FA Vase - eventually losing out in the 2nd Qualifying Round at Step 5 side Shifnal Town after extra time.

the club moved across in to the West Midlands (Regional) League Division 1 in 2018/19, finished 3rd, and won the Worcestershire Junior Cup.

2019/20 saw the club produce an enviable run in the FA Vase, reaching the 2nd round proper. Spa defeated opponents 2 divisions higher in previous rounds: Wednesfield (A - Won 0-2), Tividale (A- Won 1-2), Whitchurch Alport (H- Won 2-0). The run came to an end at MFL Premier club Lye Town, as the Flyers scored a stoppage time winner to progress 2-1.

The following two seasons were curtailed due to Covid measures, but with 8 games to play, Droitwich were 13 points clear at the top of the West Midlands Regional League, but with no promotions except for a few examples, had another year at Step 7.

When football resumed in 2021-22, with a new Manager at the helm in former player & Assistant Manager Andy Crowther, the Saltmen won the League and achieved promotion to Step 6 for the first time whilst also reaching the League Cup Final.

After 5 years in Stourport, the renovation at Kingy's was completed, and the club moved back to Droitwich Spa in 2022-23 enjoying a fantastic season with crowds averaging over 300.

On the field, the Saltmen reached the Worcestershire Senior Cup Semi Final having defeat Worcester City, Bewdley Town & Pershore Town and just missed out on a second successive promotion having lost in the play-off Final to a late Ashby Ivanhoe goal.

Spa followed that up in 2023-24 with another Play-off Final appearance, having finished the season in 5th place, Andy Crowther's men overcame Allscott Heath in the Semi Final,

then after 1-1 at the end of normal time in the Final, OJM Black Country prevailed on penalties to secure promotion, and ensure Droitwich spent another season at Step 6.

The Saltmen were moved to the Uhlsport Hellenic League Division 1 for 2024-25, a move that Andy Crowther's men took in their stride, as they won the Division by an 11 point margin to gain a first ever promotion to Step 5 whilst reaching the FA Vase 3rd Round; a best ever performance, before being defeated at North West Counties League side Abbey Hulton United.

HONOURS: Presidents Cup: Winners - 2015/16

Pershore Hospital Cup: Runner Up - 1992/93

Worcester League Premier Division: Winners -1996/97, 1997/98

Baylis Cup: Winners- 1997/98, 2002/03 (Reserves)

Worcester Nursing Junior Cup: Winners - 1993/94, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2009/10 (Reserves) Runner Up -1997/98

Worcestershire Junior Cup: Winners - 2013/14, 2015/16, 2018/19

Runner Up - 2004/05, 2007/08, 2017/18

West Midlands Regional League Division 1: Champions - 2021/22

WMRL League Cup: Runner Up - 2021/22

Uhlsport Hellenic League Division 1: Champions - 2024/25

Record victory: 05/01/2019 vs Bustleholme (A) 10-0

Record points tally: 79 points 2021/22 & 2024/25

Record number of goals scored: 115 - West Midlands (Regional) League Division 1 - 2018/19

Record goals scored in one game: 6 - James Lemon v Earlswood Town & Nick Seabourne v Sutton Utd

Best FA Vase run: 3rd Round 2024/25

Record Attendance: 972 vs Worcester City (2022/23 season)

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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.

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.

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