Slimbridge Football Club



Uhlsport Hellenic Football League Premier Division

Friday October 10th 2025
v Thornbury Town

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Slimbridge
Football Club

Chairman	Barry Gay
Vice Chairman	Rob Peck
President	John Mack
Management Committee	Barry Gay Alena Wrixon Rob Peck
General Committee	Tim Blake Ian Blount Malcolm Carter Lewis Hall Natalie Jennings Brenda Martin 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 Natalie Jennings
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Supporters Club Chairman	Colin Gay

First Team Manager(s)	Tom Deakin 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 Stuart Pearce
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 Teams Squads

Alex Kovacevic (GK)
Alfie Mann
Bogdan Mara
Cameron Blacker
Charlie Hitchings
Charlie Mathews
Connor Callow
Hadyn Evans
Jack Hughes — Not Available
Jack Smith
Jack W Smith
Jacob Rodgers
Joe Shutt
Joe Stokes
Joseph Hunt
Kian Kang
Leighton Blacker
Raiyan Ahmed
Ryan Ponting
Stephen Sarkodie (GK)
Theo Browne
Toby Soule
Tristan Haswell

Referee Alex Cadden

Assistants Malcolm Steward
Alan Overthrow

Slimbridge
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Season 2025-26

Fixtures

Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Fri 10 Oct 25	15:00	League	H	Thornbury Town
Tue 14 Oct 25	19:45	League	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 18 Oct 25	15:00	FAV R1	H	Wells City
Sat 25 Oct 25	15:00	League	A	Corsham Town
Tue 28 Oct 25	19:45	League	H	Tuffley Rovers
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
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

* Won 3-2 on pens

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Thornbury Town
Club History

It is understood that football has been played in Thornbury from around 1898 and formerly known as Thornbury Sports became Thornbury Town FC in the early 1970's.

1968-69 we became founder members of the Gloucestershire County League and spectator figures in excess of 500 were regularly recorded. In 1971 the club finished third in the Gloucestershire County League and was accepted into the Western League. However, due to difficulties in bringing the facilities up to the leagues required standards were unable to take the next step up. Relegation to the Bristol Premier Combination League unfortunately followed in 1976-77.

The following 20+ years saw Thornbury Town strive to regain their former status, never really threatening to take the Premier Combination title. The only success during these lean years was reaching the final of the GFA Senior Amateur Cup in 1985-86 and 1989-90 unfortunately on both occasions loser's medals were received.

During the late 1990's, the Club maintained its strong focus on developing local talent and this eventually bore fruit in 1999 when the final of the Stroud Charity Cup was reached, losing narrowly to Dursley Town. 2001-02 season saw the management team of Dave Wiffill and Steve Burbage take the reins, which brought instant success winning the Bristol Premier Combination title by 13 points and a return to the Gloucestershire County League. This followed a run of thirteen consecutive league wins a club record, which still stands to this day. The league and cup double eluded the club when they were defeated by Sea Mills in the League Cup Final.

In preparation for the return to County League football the summer of 2002 saw a lot of hard work undertaken on the Mundy facilities with the building of dug-outs, improved drainage and revamping of the dressing rooms. All this work appeared to have been worth while with the club establishing itself back in the Gloucestershire County league with a creditable 7th league position for the next three seasons. Silverware did come our way in 2003-04 when we defeated Taverners on penalties, after a 2-2 draw, to lift the Stroud Charity Cup. The 2003-04 season, also saw the formation of an Under-18's side in order to maintain Youth development within the club and they gained entry to the Gloucester County Youth League.

Following a number of indifferent seasons when relegation back to the Bristol Premier Combination league was only just averted in 2006–07, a new management committee and first team management were appointed. Dave Lippiatt took over as first team manager, coming to the club from Sea Mills Park bringing with him Carl Derosa as his assistant. With an initial three / four year strategy, which came to fruition during the 2009-10 season when after a steady first half to the season a tremendous winning run of ten league games

saw the Surridge Gloucestershire County League title won for the first time in the clubs history. 2010 also saw the milestone achievement of the long awaited coming together of the two local football clubs “Thornbury Town FC” and “Thornbury Falcons FC” now under one club management umbrella of Thornbury Town FC without losing the heritage and identity of Thornbury Falcons. This will further enhance the long term development within the local community for junior, youth and senior football.

In the 2010-11 season the final of the Les James Cup Final was reached, which resulted in a penalty shoot-out disappointment against Henbury Town. 2013-14 saw the U18’s in their highest league position in the

Gloucestershire County Youth League finishing runners-up, which was a tremendous achievement for the team and managers Simon Pirie and Mark Franklin.

The 2014-15 season was a very successful season finishing 4th in the league and winning the Les James Cup for the first time in the Club’s history. Andy Davies continued to produce a team of quality which resulted in a third 4th-place in a row in Season 2016-17. 2017-18 saw the club finally succeed in their quest win the Gloucestershire County League. After a lot of work behind the scenes to gain planning permission for the required ground improvements, the club were accepted into the Hellenic League for the first time in our history.

Our first season in the Hellenic League saw us finish a creditable 3rd in Div 1 West and win the Supplementary Cup. 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons were ruled null and void due to the Coronavirus pandemic with the team poised to gain promotion. A restructuring of the football pyramid placed us in the Hellenic Premier Division where we are now competing for our fourth season

With a management team of Richard Joyce and newly appointed assistant Tim Wilkins in place we look forward to the season ahead and wish all teams the best of luck in their endeavours.

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Club Shop

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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.