# Slimbridge Football Club



## Pitching In Southern Football League
## Division One South

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Saturay November 7th 2026
v Weymouth



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# 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<br>Martin Longstreth |
| **Commercial Manager** | TBC |
| **Treasurer & Secretary** | Alena Wrixon |
| **Safety Officer** | Barry Gay |
| **Welfare Officer** | Will Hawes |
| **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 |
| **Assistants** | Ben Powell<br>Sam Prior |
| **Sports Therapists** | Jasmin Gillingham<br>Tony Woodward |
| **Goalkeeper Coach / Kitman** | Dave Bees |
| **U18 Managers** | Kieran Brice-Ingles<br>Dave Bees |
| **U18 Coaches** | Dan Virgo<br>Archie Carpenter |
| **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 Weymouth

## Todays Teams

| | |
|---|---|
| Callum Godfrey (GK) | Gerard Benfield |
| Sam Hart (GK) | Oakley Hanger |
| Owen Giles | Harry Hutchinson |
| Hadyn Evans | Kieron Douglas |
| Charlie Mathews | Sam Jackson |
| Jacob Rodgers | Matt Neale |
| Kian Kang | Brooklyn Genesini |
| Joe Stokes | Tom Bearwish |
| Toby Soule | Tor Swann |
| Theo Lynden | Mitch Beardmore |
| Casey Collins | Tor Swann |
| Olly Sully | Will Kieta |
| Alex Bell | Harry Dillon |
| Theo Browne | Alfie Robinson |
| James Tainton | Stef Stavrianos |
| Luke Bence | Lewis Brown |
| Jack Holmes | Euan Pollock |
| Josh Barkeley | Calvin Brooks |
| Kieran Moore | Ben Moss |
| | Wes Fogden |
| | Aidy Silverstein |
| | Rhudy Ntounda |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Referee** | Paul Collier |
| **Assistants** | Benjamin Meakin<br>Jack Jarman-Davis |

# Slimbridge
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# Fixtures
# 2026-2027




| Date | Time | Fixture | H/A | Opponent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sat 07 Nov 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Weymouth |
| Wed 11 Nov 26 | 19:45 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Larkhall Athletic |
| Sat 14 Nov 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Melksham Town |
| Wed 18 Nov 26 | 19:45 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Paulton Rovers |
| Sat 21 Nov 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Westbury United |
| Sat 28 Nov 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Paulton Rovers |
| Sat 05 Dec 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Falmouth Town |
| Wed 08 Dec 26 | 19:45 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Hartpury |
| Sat 12 Dec 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Tiverton Town |
| Sat 19 Dec 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Bideford |
| Sat 26 Dec 26 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Bishops Cleeve |
| Sat 02 Jan 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Sporting Club Inkberrow |
| Sat 09 Jan 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Exmouth Town |
| Sat 16 Jan 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Bristol Manor Farm |
| Sat 23 Jan 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Shaftesbury |
| Sat 30 Jan 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Willand Rovers |
| Sat 06 Feb 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Dorchester Town |
| Sat 13 Feb 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Hungerford Town |
| Sat 20 Feb 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Barnstaple Town |
| Sat 27 Feb 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Weymouth |
| Sat 06 Mar 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Hartpury |
| Sat 13 Mar 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Portland United |
| Sat 20 Mar 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Tiverton Town |
| Fri 26 Mar 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Swindon Supermarine |
| Mon 29 Mar 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Bishops Cleeve |
| Sat 03 Apr 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Bideford |
| Sat 10 Apr 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Westbury United |
| Sat 17 Apr 27 | 15:00 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Melksham Town |

# Results
# 2026-2027




| Date | Match | H/A | Opponent | Result | Att |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sat 31 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Barnstaple Town | 1-3 | 263 |
| Wed 28 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Worcester Raiders | 1-1 | 116 |
| Sat 24 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Dorchester Town | 2-0 | 391 |
| Wed 21 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Hungerford Town | 0-3 | 141 |
| Sat 17 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Willand Rovers | 3-3 | 112 |
| Tue 13 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Shaftesbury | 4-5 | 224 |
| Sat 10 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Exmouth Town | 0-2 | 276 |
| Wed 07 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Portland United | 1-0 | 115 |
| Sat 03 Oct 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Bristol Manor Farm | 1-2 | 168 |
| Wed 30 Sep 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Larkhall Athletic | 0-1 | 186 |
| Sat 26 Sep 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Falmouth Town | 1-0 | 370 |
| Wed 23 Sep 26 | GFA Challenge Cup | H | Bishops Cleeve | 2-3 | 123 |
| Sat 19 Sep 26 | FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round | H | Hungerford Town | 1-3 | 188 |
| Tue 15 Sep 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Worcester Raiders | 0-4 | 216 |
| Sat 12 Sep 26 | FA Trophy 2nd Round Qualifying | H | Willand Rovers | 2-3 | 118 |
| Sat 05 Sep 26 | FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round | A | Baffins Milton Rovers | 4-1 | 88 |
| Mon 31 Aug 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | A | Sporting Club Inkberrow | 0-2 | 235 |
| Sat 29 Aug 26 | FA Trophy First Round Qualifying | A | Swindon Supermarine | 1-0 | 182 |
| Tue 25 Aug 26 | FA Cup Preliminary Round Replay | A | Milton Keynes Irish | 1-1 | 257 |
| Sat 22 Aug 26 | FA Cup Preliminary Round | H | Milton Keynes Irish | 2-2 | 106 |
| Wed 19 Aug 26 | Southern League Div 1 South | H | Swindon Supermarine | 2-7 | 243 |
| Sat 15 Aug 26 | FA Trophy Preliminary Round | A | Paulton Rovers | 2-0 | 132 |
| Wed 12 Aug 26 | FA Cup Extra Prelim Round Replay | H | Burnham | 2-1 | 181 |
| Sat 08 Aug 26 | FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round | A | Burnham | 1-1 | 105 |

# League Table
## 2026-2027

| Pos | Team | Pl | W | D | L | F | A | Diff | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Swindon Supermarine | 16 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 34 | 16 | 18 | 37 |
| 2 | Weymouth | 13 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 34 | 11 | 23 | 34 |
| 3 | Dorchester Town | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 29 | 19 | 10 | 31 |
| 4 | Westbury United | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 27 | 18 | 9 | 29 |
| 5 | Hungerford Town | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 10 | 14 | 26 |
| 6 | Falmouth Town | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 25 |
| 7 | Hartpury | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 26 | 19 | 7 | 24 |
| 8 | Bishops Cleeve | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 13 | 11 | 23 |
| 9 | Worcester Raiders | 17 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 23 |
| 10 | Sporting Club Inkberrow | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 25 | 22 | 3 | 21 |
| 11 | Portland United | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 25 | -2 | 21 |
| 12 | Tiverton Town | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 24 | 22 | 2 | 19 |
| 13 | Willand Rovers | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 21 | -1 | 18 |
| 14 | Barnstaple Town | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 23 | 26 | -3 | 16 |
| 15 | Shaftesbury | 16 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 26 | 36 | -10 | 16 |
| 16 | Exmouth Town | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 26 | -9 | 15 |
| 17 | Bideford | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 30 | -8 | 14 |
| 18 | Paulton Rovers | 13 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 19 | -8 | 12 |
| 19 | Larkhall Athletic | 15 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 28 | -9 | 12 |
| 20 | Slimbridge | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 33 | -17 | 11 |
| 21 | Bristol Manor Farm | 16 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 28 | -17 | 10 |
| 22 | Melksham Town | 14 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 28 | -17 | 9 |

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# Slimbridge AFC - Constitution

Slimbridge AFC is a non-profit making members club run by a mangement and club committe.

Membership is £20 per season, offering discount entry to all home league games.

To become a member download the membership from from the club website. Completed forms should be handed in to Natalie Jennings along with payment (Cash and card payments accepted).

# Weymouth
## Club History



It all began with a simple stroll along a beach…

It was the summer of 1890 and three men by the name of Mr. Robert Bennet, Mr. Mark Frowde & Mr. Jimmy Newport were having a chat as they preambled on the golden sands at Weymouth.

Crucially for the origins of our football club they were all footballers. Frowde had played in Plymouth before moving to the town to take up employment at Cosens & Co., a firm of paddle steamer operators and marine engineers whereas his two companions were already playing football in the borough for Weymouth Rovers.

As the trio walked they were all struck by the huge numbers of people playing football on the beach. (It has to be remembered that pitches and any recreational space was sparse in those times so having a kick about on the open flat sands at low tide was as probably a good a place as any at that time!)

The discussions of the three men deepened, bemoaning the fact there was no football club to represent the growing town as although there were a number of sides in the area they were mostly connected with churches or businesses such as “Whiteheads” based at the Ferrybridge torpedo factory.

That day the friends decided to take action and, having sounded out the opinion of several other local sportsman, Frowde organised a meeting to be held on 26th August 1890 at Cook’s Assembly Rooms in the town. The Southern Times later reported that around 20 people attended and the

club was duly formed with Frowde as secretary and the colours agreed upon as Terra cotta and blue. (In later years it was said a man called Fred Pates had suggested the colours having recently painted the town's Jubilee clock in the same livery).

The newly formed club were offered two fields upon which to play - at Lodmoor which would be used for the first team (now a car park!) and Bincleaves for the reserves and when the low-lying Lodmoor pitch was deemed unplayable.

The club's historic first fixture took place on 24th September 1890 at the Lodmoor ground when they met a team put together by a Mr. Pope of Dorchester brewery fame. The game was won 2-0 with Jimmy Newport credited with scoring the first ever Weymouth FC goal after 40 minutes of play.

In the early years there was no Dorset league to enter so fixtures were all friendlies or in minor cup competitions but the fledgling club more often than not held their own against their more established opponents.

1893 though saw the start of change and progression as the club moved to a better pitch at Goldcroft Farm in Westham (now the site of Weymouth college) and they became the first team from Dorset to enter the FA cup.

Three years later and at last Dorset had a league competition for its football teams to enter, Weymouth finishing a creditable 3rd of the eight teams that entered with the "Torpedomen" at Whiteheads winning the title unbeaten. However it only took another year for Weymouth to win their first league first title, pipping Whiteheads by two points.

Another year another ground move and in 1897 we moved to what would become known as the Recreation ground which would be our home for 90 years!

A decade later and another landmark moment for the club - we were accepted into the Western league division 2 which proved to be a very competitive endeavour but attendances and performances gradually improved until the outbreak of World War I in 1914.

Like many clubs up and down the land it took Weymouth FC a while to get back on its feet. Many great players were lost to the war effort or were too injured or affected to play. Others moved on to other clubs or simply retired in the interim. Even the ground had be requisitioned for the war effort and it took time to make fit for football again.

In time the club re-applied and were accepted back into the Western league and in 1923 won the competition for the first time, prompting the decision to join the more prestigious Southern league. Sadly this proved a costly affair and, following a five year spell, the club dropped back down to the western league in a bid to dramatically cut costs.

However in the 1930's one man was almost single-handedly responsible for turning around the club's fortune when Wyndham "Farmer" Haines signed from Southampton. His incredible goalscoring feats led the foundation for six consecutive seasons with the team scoring more than 100 league goals in each and with it three Western league division 2 titles. Haines would end his five season stint with an incredible 264 goals in all games.

World War 2 brought an eight-year gap to football at the club. Like in the Great War the club lost too many young men and their ground for storage

of war equipment. In the two seasons after the resumption though their goalscoring feats from the 1930's were repeated as nearly 300 net busters were registered in just two seasons, propelling the club back into Southern league football.

The 1950's oversaw a time of great change at the club as ambition and professionalism took hold. The players were well paid and floodlights were installed, paving the way for evening games in the winter for the first time and attracting visiting European sides to share the experience.

But it was the 1960's that witnessed arguably the strongest ever Weymouth sides. Former Liverpool and Ireland player Frank O'Farrell joined as player-manager, masterminding a top 5 place in the southern league and our longest ever FA cup run when we reached the fourth round proper in a 2-0 loss away to Preston North End in front of 26,000 fans.

Better was to come in 1965 when O'Farrell helped the Terras win the Southern league for the very first time, then the pinnacle for a non-league club in the region, only for the club to repeat the feat a year later under Stan Charlton. The club even applied to join the football league but without automatic promotion at the time the unfair voting system meant their merits were not rewarded.

Despite a slew of top half finishes, the 1970's never reproduced the successes of the previous decade although the team came close in 1979/80, missing out on winning the inaugural Alliance Premier league by just two points.

The 1980's was time of much promise but ultimately underachievement. There was more FA cup glory though this time in the second round proper in 1982 in an astonishing 3-2 comeback win from two goals down away to

Cardiff City from the football league. In 1987 we left the Recreation ground after 90 years to what was then called the Wessex stadium on the outskirts of town (now the Bob Lucas stadium today).

1989 witnessed the first ever relegation for the club in almost 100 years of league football but worse was to come as a two season spell in the Southern league premier ended with another drop into the southern division of the league. It took the club seven seasons but they eventually were promoted again and this time made it stick, maintaining their place in the Southern League premier until the formation of the Conference South division in 2004.

It took Weymouth just two attempts to win the division during a memorable season in 2005/06 when over 10,000 fans watched the Terras match former European champions Nottingham Forest at the City Ground in round 1 of the FA cup, the Wessex stadium packed the the gunnels for the replay we sadly lost 2-0.

The Terras spent three seasons at the top tier of non-league football again before a financial crisis prompted a dive down the divisions from successive relegations. This time it would be a nine season stint in the Southern Premier before Mark Molesley masterminded the most dramatic of successive promotions, the playoff final to grant progression back to the Conference National won on penalties in 2020!

Sadly the latest spell at the top table of non league football only lasted two campaigns before we dropped back down to the Conference South for a three season run. This season we are back in the Southern League Premier at the Bob Lucas stadium but if history is anything to go by it won't be long before we will be enjoying higher level football once again…

# Who will you be today?




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# Opposition
## Player Profiles

### Max Evans

### Oakley Hanger

Primarily a right sided defender, Oakley joins from local side Poole Town whom he played for in the 2024/25 season.

He joined the Dolphins from neighbours Wimborne Town in the summer of 2024 where he was part of a Wimborne squad that achieved promotion to the Southern League Premier South.

The 29-year-old played youth football at Weymouth college before moving to Dorchester Town, making his debut 2014.

In 2016, he made the decision to continue his career in the States in university sides. After four years in the US he returned to Dorchester before his move to Wimborne in 2022.

### Kieran Douglas

A commanding centre back in his first season at the Terras, Kieran has a lot of experience at conference south level having previously featured for Winchester City, Dorchester Town, Bognor Regis Town.

Joining us from Bemerton Heath Harlequins, he is known for his physical presence and leadership at the back.

We're excited to welcome Kieran to the Bob Lucas Stadium and look forward to seeing him in claret and blue this season.

### Brooklyn Genesini

A former AFC Bournemouth graduate, Brooklyn is now in his second stint at the club having re-joined this autumn. His first spell was just last season when he featured 46 times scoring 7 times and making 4 assists. His return follows a brief stint at Dorchester

before he headed back over the ridgeway to Weymouth. A versatile player, he can play a variety of positions at the back or in midfield.

## Tom Bearwish

“Captain Fantastic” Tom is now enjoying his 5th consecutive season at the Terras following his move from Eastleigh.

Leading from the front the attacking midfielder has weighed in with 23 goals from 177 appearances before the 2025/26 season although he has also been known to help out in the back line when required.

Born in London but growing up on Portland, he played his youth football for Portland United before his move to the Eastleigh academy and eventually their first team.

## Brandon Goodship

Truly a “once in a generation” goalscorer for the Terras, Brandon’s tally of 102 competitive goals for the club has only been surpassed by legends Derek Courtney, Anni Iannone & David Laws since the 1950’s.

Born in Poole, the Dorset man enjoyed a youth career with AFC Bournemouth but was released in 2017 at the age of 23 and, following a brief spell at Yeovil, signed for Weymouth for the 2017/18 season. His impact was immediate with 38 league goals as the Terras reached the Southern league playoffs.

However, his 37 goals and numerous assists the next season were instrumental in the club winning the Southern league and promotion to the Conference South and, for Brandon, an England C cap against Wales.

Brandon left in the summer of 2018 for Southend United in the football league but would return for two more spells in 2021 and then from 2023.

Goodship then spent a season at Salisbury. Before making his second return to the Terras over the summer prior to the 23/24 season!

## Matty Burrows

Although born in Sheffield, Matty is very much a local lad having honed his skills in local football in Weymouth for Melcombe, Redlands, Balti Sports and Portland United.

The promising youngster featured heavily for our U23s in 2022/23 and made five appearances for the first team that season before moving on to pastures new at AFC Totton and then Wimborne.

This season marks a second stint at the club for the popular forward thinking player.

## Andreas Robinson

Midfielder “Sonny” enjoyed a dream debut season with the Terras in 2019/20, helping to secure promotion to the Conference National through the playoffs.

He would go on to feature heavily in both seasons in the top tier of the non-league before leaving for Gosport Borough, but he rejoined for his second spell in claret & blue from the start of last season.

A Bournemouth lad, he actually joined rivals Southampton academy from the age of 8 but only make a couple of first team appearances before signing for Bolton Wanderers although he never turned out for the Lancashire side.

He returned to the south coast, first playing for Dorchester and then Gosport and Havant & Waterlooville before first signing for Weymouth.

## Charlie Betts

A Swindon Town youngster, Charlie joined the Terras on an initial one-month loan in October. Featuring mainly as a defender, the 18 year old is enjoying his first season of senior. Earlier this season he was loaned out to Swindon Supermarine FC.

## Euan Pollock

A forward thinking player, Euan is one of many in the squad who featured in AFC Bournemouth youth sides. Whilst at the cherries he was loaned out to a clutch of clubs in the south including Hungerford Town, Truro & Bridport. Now 23 years old, Euan is in his second spell at the club following first campaign with the Terras last season. After a brief departure he has now returned.

## Calvin Brooks

Probably a shoe-in for the next player to be called “Mr. Weymouth”, Calvin will be looking to break more club records this season as he moves towards 400 competitive appearances in his 11th season at the club.

Born in Dortmund, Germany, the right back who likes to get forward  started his career at Yeovil Town but first joined the Terras back in 2014. He has had spells away from the Bob Lucas with Dorchester and Salisbury but he returned to the fold in 2023.

Already 15th on the all-time competitive appearances list, he will be looking to pass some other legends this campaign as he cements his place at one of the Weymouth greats.

## Reuben Reid

Born in Bristol in 1988, Reuben was a promising youth cricketer, making the second XI of the Gloucestershire county cricket team before concentrating on football.

He joined Plymouth Argyle at the age of 17, embarking on a 12 year career in the football league at various clubs before dropping into non league to play for Yeovil in 2020 for two seasons. Most recently he featured for Weston-super-Mare for a trio of campaigns.

## Stefanos Stavrianos

# STAFF

## Jamie Wells

Jamie is an experienced UEFA A football coach with a demonstrated history of coaching within professional academies and senior football.

With the Terras he helped to achieve promotion from the National League South to the National League as a 1st team coach in season 2019/2020 and has also worked as 1st team Coach in EFL League 2.

In December 2025 Jamie stepped up to be the manager of the Terras on the departure of Steve Claridge

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# Slimbridge
## Club History

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.

By the end of the second World War in 1945, the club were playing in a field just off Moorend Lane, which was sold for housing redevelopment, and which eventually became Tyning Crescent in the village. Therefore, in 1950, they moved just over the other side of Moorend Lane to a pitch in a field on Fishers Farm, with their changing rooms being sited a couple of fields away at the Village Hall.

This upheaval off the pitch did not seem to disturb the footballing side, with the first team winning Stroud League Division Three in 1951-52 (Along with the Gloucestershire Minor County Cup), Division Two in 1952-53, and Division One in the 1953-54 season in an early purple period for the club.

The Fishers Farm site was also sold for housing development a few years later, so between 1950 and 1958, they were forced to move three times. From Fishers Farm, they moved to a pitch alongside the River Cam behind the George Pub in Cambridge, and the nearby White Lion Pub became a de-facto Clubhouse for Club meetings. It was at the White Lion that the deeds to our current ground were formally handed over to the club in 1960.

The pitch behind The George was the site of some legendary Boxing Day tussles, when the First Team and Reserves played a Tug of War on either side of the River Cam. The great football tradition of leaving fishing nets on the side of the pitch to retrieve stray balls from the river was also part and parcel of those years. You can still visit this site, although nowadays it is part of a campsite situated behind the pub.

The current ground at Wisloe Road (Now renamed as Thornhill Park) became the club's third home in the 1950's when they moved there in 1958. 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

having played the previous two seasons at what would become their permanent home. It was to prove an incredibly valuable treasure in future years.

Evi had purchased the two fields upon which the club and the industrial estate next door are now situated for £600.

The reserve team continued to play on the Field behind the Slimbridge British Legion during the mid 1960's.

The modern history of the club really starts nearly thirty years after they acquired the Wisloe Road pitch. In 1988 a handful of committee members led by Gordon King and Gordon Tudor, and the following season joined by Paul Chappell, started to move the club forward. 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, and still remains a regular visitor to the club.

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 also 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.

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, the ground attendance record was beaten again 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.

After two successive third place finishes in the Stroud and District League First Division, season 2005-06 saw the Reserves 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.

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 season's 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.

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.

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 four steps below, and 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 took over as player manager with assistance from long term club captain Leon Sterling to begin the next stage of the club's journey.

Four promotions followed as the club regained their previous status. James Cole handed over to Leon Sterling, who moved into the Manager's role, 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.

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.

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.

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 had received from Evil Thornhill 46 years earlier.

Evi's son, Tony and his wife Margaret (Sadly neither of them still with us) were on hand to cut the ceremonial Ribbon, and Tony made a short and very 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.

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 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 assistants team of former Swans' legend Tom Speers and Adam Coyle took over the reins, assisted by Tom Deakin and Tom Hitchings.

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.Turier 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.

In their third season in the Hellenic League, Tom Deakin assumed the role of Sole Team Manager following Adam Coyle's decision to step back from the position during the 2024-25 Season, with Sam Prior brought in to work as his Assistant.

After an inconsistent season that petered out, the introduction of Mike Palmer (as Joint Manager) and Ben Powell prior to the start of the 2025-26 season completed the 'Fab Four' Management Team, and it paid off spectacularly.

The Swans clinched the Hellenic League Title with two games remaining, for only the second time in the club's history, securing promotion to the Southern League South after four years away. A late winner at Tuffley Rovers and an excruciating 11 minutes of stoppage time in other games made them wait, however, the celebrations were unrivalled once all the games had finished.

Kieran Brice-Ingles and his management team also made some superb progress with the Under 18 side, who won the Cheltenham Youth Floodlit League and also triumphed in the HFA Giantkillers Cup Competition to crown a superb season for the team and for the football club.

With a fresh Southern League challenge in front of them, these are exciting times for the little village team from Gloucestershire.

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