

Slimbridge Football Club



The Isuzu FA Trophy Second Qualifying Round



Saturday September 12th 2026
v Willand Rovers



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Slimbridge

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U18 Coaches Bradley Barnard

Ground Staff Barry Gay
Malcolm Lineaker

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



Slimbridge v Willand Rovers



Today's Teams

Callum Godfrey GK
Sam Hart GK
Josh Blyth
Tristan Haswell
Owen Giles
Hady Evans
Charlie Mathews
Jacob Rodgers
Kian Kang
Joe Stokes
Toby Soule
Theo Lynden
Sam Moseley
Casey Collins
Olly Sully
Jack W Smith
Alex Bell
Theo Browne
James Tainton
Leighton Green
Joe Shutt
Luke Bence
Jack Holmes

Adam Seedhouse-Evans
Josh Baxter
Jude Horn
Josh Ford
Calum Thomas
Joel Jackson
Zeph Collins
Tiago Sa
James Richards
Aidan Bown
Lewis Morgan
Charlie Bateson
Sol Ayunga
Bailey Kempster
Fin Rooke
Ben MacIver-Redwood
Harvey Dorothy
Sanocy Camara
Zack Williams

Referee

Simon Gudger

Assistants

Richard Sargeant
Joshua Marchant

Slimbridge

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Fixtures

2026-2027



Date	Time	Fixture	H/A	Opponent
Sat 12 Sep 26	15:00	FA Trophy Second Round Qualifying	H	Willand Rovers
Tue 15 Sep 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Worcester Raiders
Sat 19 Sep 26	15:00	FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round	H	Hungerford Town
Wed 23 Sep 26	19:45	GFA Challenge Cup	H	Bishops Cleeve
Sat 26 Sep 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Falmouth Town
Wed 30 Sep 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Larkhall Athletic
Sat 03 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Bristol Manor Farm
Sat 10 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Exmouth Town
Tue 13 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Shaftesbury
Sat 17 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Willand Rovers
Wed 21 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Hungerford Town
Sat 24 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Dorchester Town
Wed 28 Oct 26	19:45	Southern League Div 1 South	H	Worcester Raiders
Sat 31 Oct 26	15:00	Southern League Div 1 South	A	Barnstaple Town
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
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
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	Hartpur
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 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	4	4	0	0	12	3	9	12
2	Weymouth	4	4	0	0	12	4	8	12
3	Dorchester Town	4	3	0	1	7	7	0	9
4	Willand Rovers	4	2	1	1	8	5	3	7
5	Westbury United	4	2	1	1	5	6	-1	7
6	Bishops Cleeve	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
7	Sporting Club Inkberrow	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
8	Hungerford Town	4	1	1	2	5	4	1	4
9	Exmouth Town	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
10	Portland United	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	4
11	Tiverton Town	4	1	1	2	3	4	-1	4
12	Melksham Town	3	1	1	1	1	2	-1	4
13	Shaftesbury	4	1	0	3	8	7	1	3
14	Barnstaple Town	3	1	0	2	5	4	1	3
15	Falmouth Town	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
16	Worcester Raiders	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
17	Larkhall Athletic	4	1	0	3	7	10	-3	3
18	Bristol Manor Farm	4	0	3	1	2	5	-3	3
19	Bideford	4	0	3	1	6	11	-5	3
20	Hartpury	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
21	Paulton Rovers	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1
22	Slimbridge	2	0	0	2	2	9	-7	0

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Slimbridge AFC - Constitution

Slimbridge AFC is a non-profit making members club run by a management and club committee.

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

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

Willand Rovers

Club History



Rovers from humble origins to today!

Football has been played in Willand for well over a century. Indeed match reports exist from as far back as 1907 when Willand Association Football Club was under the chairmanship of Dr Henry Tracey of the Gables.

The club then played their home games at the Pavilion Ground; this the field opposite the one and only public house in Willand, The Halfway House.

By 1939 the Football club was still going strong when the world entered another period of war; at this time the Club had become known as Willand Wanderers FC. During the years of the Second World War two members from the football club joined the committee of the Willand United Services Club; this was formed in 1942 to organise wartime events for the local community.

In 1953 the club moved to its current location in Silver Street, playing in the Tiverton District League. Progress was continued when the club moved into the Devon and Exeter League passing through the lower intermediate divisions, and eventually winning the Devon cup in 1967.

In 1971 the club had the foresight to purchase the the Silver Street ground from a and land owner local farmer; at that time there were no houses surrounding the ground just orchards and fields.

During the early seventies there was promotion to the senior leagues and eventually into the Premier Division of the Devon and Exeter League. We were then playing teams such as Tiverton, Elmore, Dawlish, Heavitree, Ottery St Mary and Crediton, who all went on to play in the Western League.

The 1972 season saw the first ever Willand Rovers programme produced with 40% of the sales going towards the matchday draw. There was also a refreshment caravan at the ground for the first time.

Legend says that when the M5 Motorway was built in the 1970s the old village hall had to be taken down to make way for the new road and some of the timber from that building which was used in the building of our first grandstand at the ground. In fact, as the ground has been reshaped in more recent years some of this timber can still be seen in our Main Grandstand by virtue of it being re-used to form the front row of seats.

Despite having built a grandstand, in 1985 the Devon & Exeter League ruled that the facilities were not up to the required standard for a Premier Division team: the club was consequently demoted to the Senior Division whilst the Reserves went to play in the North Devon League.

In 1986, the clubhouse – part of the present building – and changing rooms were built. With these facilities in place the club was able to attract a wider range of quality players resulting in soon winning promotion back into the Premier Division.

In 1992 Rovers became founder members of the Devon County League and they had the honour of hosting the first ever County League league match. In attendance for that opening game was Mr Bert Millichip, then the Chairman of the Football Association.

Clive Jones then became the first team manager and our rise continued apace. The County League was won in 1998/99 and again in 2000/01. This was followed by promotion to the Western League Division One and, after just three years, the club was promoted again into the Western League Premier Division.

Clive Jones' very successful tenure came to an end in 2013 when Scott Rogers took the helm. He presided over the team for two campaigns with his swan-song guiding the team to victory in the Les Phillips Cup final in May 2015, with success against Barnstaple Town at Bridport.

The current manager, Russell Jee, is very well known and respected at the club, having been a player here for many years. He is ably assisted by David Steele, another long term servant with a very distinguished Rovers playing career behind him.

Russell and Dave have continued the success of their predecessors ultimately leading the team as they became the 2018/19 Champions of the Toolstation Western League to gain promotion to the Southern Football League: no one will forget the final league match of the season away at Bitton and the jubilant scenes that followed the final whistle!

During our recent history there have been a number of excellent runs in both the FA Vase and FA Cup.

The FA Cup highlight undoubtedly being in 2014, a run that took the team to the fourth qualifying round and a meeting here at Silver Street where very nearly 1,000 people, and the BBC radio Devon outside broadcast team, were present to see Scott Rogers' side go out 3-1 to Gosport Borough. They in turn went out in the next round, beaten by Colchester United.

More recently in the FA Vase, in the 2018/19 season under Russell Jee, the Rovers reached the Quarter Final stage where they were narrowly beaten by Cray Valley Paper Mill, again in front of a crowd nearly 1000 strong.

Off the pitch the rise of the club has been every bit as extraordinary as the action on it!

Under Chairman Mike Mitchell Silver Street has seen plenty of ground improvements and developments in recent years: the clubhouse has been overhauled and expanded, purpose made new changing rooms installed, a new seated grandstand installed and covered terrace stands erected. These improvements have given the club a stadium to be truly proud of.

PAST PLAYERS

The club have had a number of fine players wearing the shirt of “The Rovers” – which incidentally started as white, later changed to orange and is now back to the original club colour of white – including four Wembley winners, Kevin Smith, Steve Hynds, Phil Everett and of course Scott Rogers, all of whom appeared there for Tiverton Town in the FA Vase. Phil is actually a double Vase winner, former Non League Footballer of the Year and has represented the FA against Jersey.

Another Wembley connection for the club is former Exeter City and Tiverton Town legend, Hedley Steele, who played in Tiverton Town’s first, and losing, FA Vase final team; he was in the Willand side that won the County League in 1998-9. Hedley is without doubt a Mid Devon Footballing legend who can be regularly seen attending the home Rovers games where he is able to support his son David.

Other local notables to have graced “The Rovers” colours include Steve Rowlands, Martin Tregedon, Mark Seatherton, who undoubtedly is one of the areas greatest ever goal scorers, Jason Reeves, Gavin Hudd, Nick Howe, Darren Cork, Steve Venner, Phil Staddon and long serving goalkeeper, Brian Cann.

AND AS FOR THE FUTURE

So Willand Rovers stand proudly ply their trade in the Southern Football League Division One South, the fourth tier of non-league football. This is the highest point the club has reached in the football pyramid in its short history.

The forthcoming years will bring a different set of challenges, not least the decision as to whether the Stan Robinson Stadium can be upgraded to meet the requirements of the next step up the football pyramid, promotion to the Premier Division of the famous and historic Southern League. This would see us playing at the same same level as some very big and famous non-league clubs such as Truro City, Salisbury City, Taunton Town, Dorchester Town and Tiverton Town to name just a few! Dizzy heights indeed, but we must have a goal and something to aim for ... so lets aim high!

Off the pitch the thriving clubhouse continues to help provide vital funding through social events, parties and being used by local organisations serving the community. We also

wouldn't have achieved the success we have in recent years without the support and backing all our sponsors and the local business community. We say to you a BIG THANK YOU to you all.

There is still a hunger within the club for even more success as "The Rovers" seek to maintain the impetus of the last few years. The story goes on, as the dream continues to unfold – WATCH THIS SPACE!

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Willand Rovers

Player Profiles



Adam SEEDHOUSE-EVANS (GK)

Adam is a well-known local keeper, having played at Bideford and Buckland, played for a short spell with us last season, before having an opportunity to join his home town club Torquay United.

Josh BAXTER (RB)

Josh has joined from Tavistock, since arriving he has shown his versatility by filling in on both flanks and in the centre back positions. Good athlete and two footed.

Jude HORN (RB)

Teenager Jude has really impressed in preseason, having been released after many years in the Exeter City academy. Technically very good but have strengthen and pace to support that.

Josh FORD (CB)

Veteran centre back has returned to add some experience, know-how to a youthful back line. His ability to take command will be a real asset to us.

Calum THOMAS (CB)

Calum starts his second season having arrived from Brixham where he has played for the past 2 years. A young athletic centre back, at 6'3" will add to our armoury both ends of the pitch.

Joel JACKSON (CB)

Joel also returns for a second season having transferred from Tavistock, he previously played for Street and now reconnects with Ben. Strong commanding ball winning centre back will strengthen our back division.

Tiago MARQUES SA (LB)

Tiago has played over 150 games for Weymouth and Dorchester before joining Taunton where injury has affected his game time. Now back to full fitness he is a very accomplished experience player.

Zeph COLLINS (LB)

Zeph has shown his versatility by being able to play either left back or centre back, having played for Street last season. Zeph is a fine athlete 6' plus gives us an extra dynamic both ends of the pitch.

Aidan BOWD (MID)

Young Aidan spent his formative years at Exeter City, this is first season of men's football.

In preseason he has shown his ability on the ball playing in a variety of roles.

James RICHARDS (MID)

Rico needs no introduction to SL football having played and starred for many years at Tiverton Town. He will bring ample of experience to the engine room.

Mike LILLEY (MID)

Ex City product Mike remains with Willand in between his studies, excellent ball playing midfielder, with an eye for a pass.

Lewis MORGAN (MID)

Ex Dorchester midfielder where he played more than 100 games arrived mid-way through last season from Shaftesbury where he had a brief stay. Scored on his debut at Mousehole, but has shown in his few appearances for the club what an excellent signing he is and will be.

Fin ROOKE (MID)

Fin has returned after a spell at Step 3 Tiverton Town and Taunton town. Our leading goal scorer in 2024 will add a presence to the midfield.

Harvey DOROTHY (FWD)

Harvey starts his 3rd season with us he racked up 15 goals last season. Lightning fast, his ability to break the line will be a real asset. His partnership in preseason with Sol looks to be one that will cause mayhem for the opposition.

Ben MacIVER-REDWOOD (FWD)

Ex Stirling University and Montrose striker returns for a second season. His work rate is exceptional, has shown he is strong in possession, excellent in the air and a real handful for defenders.

Zack WILLIAMS (FWD)

Last season he was top goal scorer for local neighbours Sidmouth Town. He has shown in preseason fleetness of foot with some tricky wing play.

Bailey KEMPSTER (FWD)

Bailey has returned for a second full season after ending his association with WSM, fabulous left footed player who can play anywhere across the front line. Top goal scorer last season with 15 alongside his 11 assists.

Charlie BATESON (FWD)

Young Charlie arrives with a growing reputation he is averaging a goal every 2 games in the past two season. This young exciting prospect is one to look out for.

Sol AYUNGA (FWD)

Sol has been top scorer in preseason; he certainly has an eye for goal and can scorer all manners of different types of goals. Last season top goal scorer for Bridport.

Sanocy CAMARA (FWD)

Sanocy is a product of our under 18s, lightening quick, excellent feet and surprisingly strong for a lad of his age.

Ben WATSON (MANAGER)

Ben has been involved in football since he was 7 signing for Brighton, upon his release he spent time at Bognor Regis, Grays Athletic before he signed for Exeter City where he was a player for 4 years where he helped secured 2 promotions. His professional playing career was curtailed by injury, but he enjoyed spells in non-league football at Truro City and Dorchester Town.

Jack FURZER (Asst Manager)

Jack is a former Exeter City youth player who spent 10 years with the Grecian's. Upon his release Jack played for Bideford but moved into coaching at an early age, he has been involved in the management side at Barnstaple Town, Buckland Athletic and currently involved at Topsham Town.

Liam RAYBOLD (Asst MANAGER)

Liam's promising career was wrecked by injury and having suffered several ACLs he gave up on playing and concentrated on managing. He has managed at Cullompton AFC and Honiton. He knows the players from the peninsula league very well and bring fresh eyes and ideas to the team.

Steve GUPPY (GK coach)

Steve is another of the Willand family having played for us many years ago. Steve played for Exeter City, Exmouth Town and others in a trophy laden career. He is now back putting our keeper through his paces.

Mike PARKER (GK coach and physio)

Mike has joined from Street, he helped out a few times last season and is already a popular member of the dressing room.

Cayden Clow (Physio)

Newly qualified Cayden come to Willand to get his first experience of match day treatments, midweek recovery and all things tapes, rubs and bandages.

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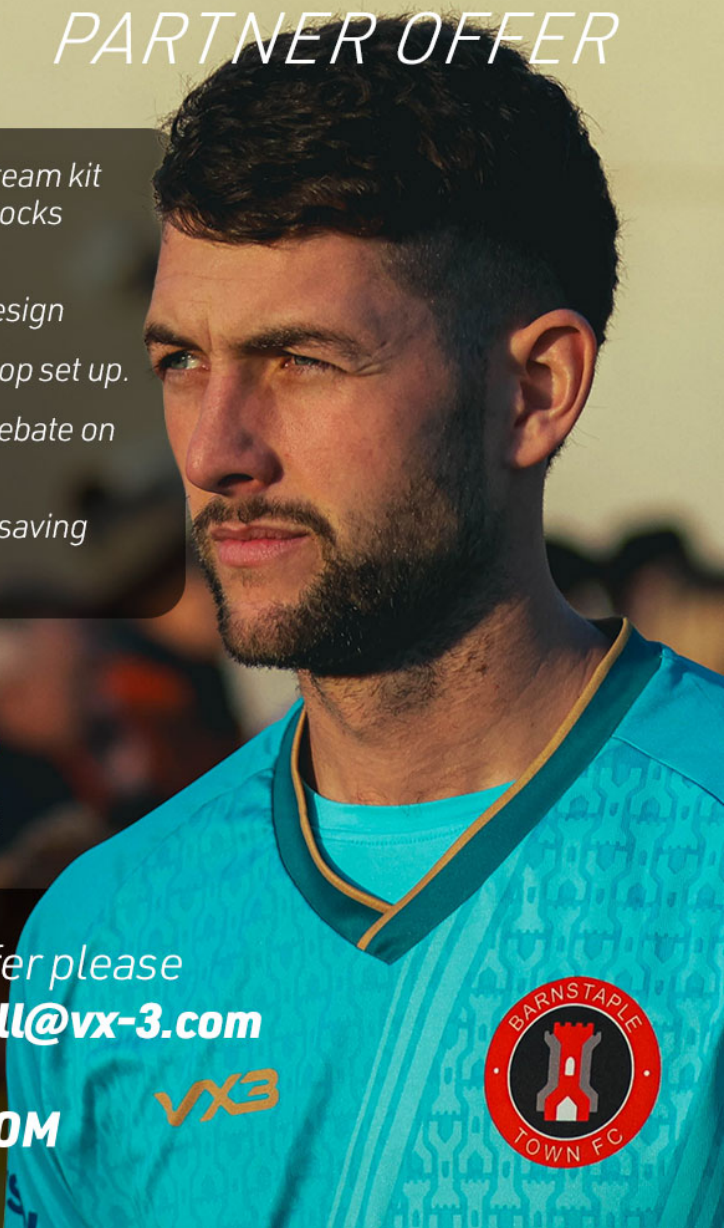
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Slimbridge Club History



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 Tynning 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 Hitchens.

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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