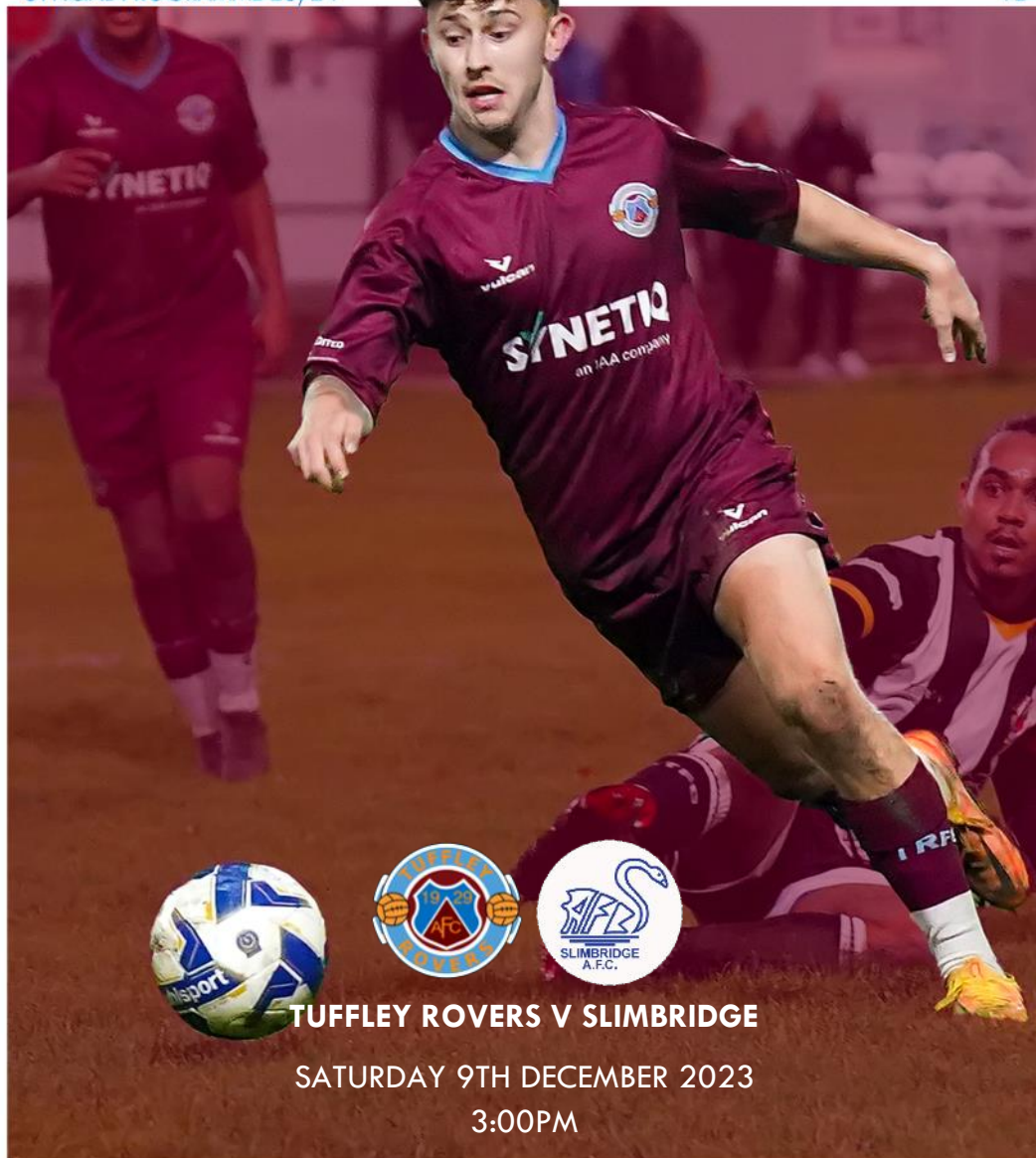


TUFFLEY FC

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 23/24

12



TUFFLEY ROVERS V SLIMBRIDGE

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023

3:00PM

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION






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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park this afternoon for the visit of Slimbridge. I would like to welcome all their players, supporters and officials to our home.

What a frustrating season this has been so far. We barely seem to have played a home Saturday fixture in the Hellenic League, and the weather is now poor when we seem to have a string of games! Our drainage system is good but pitches need rest when battered by the elements and we have the challenge of hosting three teams on our surface. I wouldn't want to reduce our number of teams but it does make for a real challenge at this time of the year.

Talking of challenges, I'd like to take this opportunity to share my opinion on the FA's disciplinary system. I've been involved in two significant cases recently and to say the system is weighted ridiculously in favour of anyone other than the players and volunteers at clubs would be an understatement.

We lost the appeal against the red card shown to Kieran Alder at Hereford Lads Club, where he apparently defied physics to headbutt an opposition player (who didn't even seem to notice) whilst his weight was going backwards, despite the submission of video evidence in support of his case. The trouble is that you have to prove the decision of the referee was an "obvious error" and because Kieran was obscured from view the decision was to dismiss our appeal. We now have a player suspended for three games and the only person who seemed to think a red card was warranted was the referee.

I don't criticise the referee, because he has to make an instant decision, based upon one view of the incident, but the panel that considered this case had the chance to look at it again and again but their analysis of Kieran's case suggests written evidence has no value, because if the video isn't conclusive, it doesn't matter.

Kieran joins Pritch, Yesh and Ashley Davies in a group of players absent due to suspension today. That is a really strong group of players and to be without them, when we play quality sides like Slimbridge, is of concern. That having been said, Muzzy has added to the squad – particularly in attacking areas – and so I hope we can give our visitors a good game today. We need to be disciplined in our approach today if that is to be a reality.

After today attention will turn to a really important game against Thornbury Town next Saturday, when we play what might be considered a traditional six-pointer!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this and support our humble football programme. I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home.

- Neil

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Uthsport Hellenic League, Premier Division

Cinderford Town v Corsham Town

Hereford Lads v Fairford Town

Hereford Pegasus v Highworth Town

Lydney Town v Roman Glass St. George

Royal Wootton Bassett Town v Pershore Town

Thornbury Town v Westfields

Worcester Raiders v Brimscombe & Thrupp

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to Glevum Park. An extended welcome to the committee, management, players and supporters of our close neighbours Slimbridge.

When we met earlier in the season at Thornhill Park, I thought Slimbridge were excellent value for their win and for us it was one of the low points of the season during that game. Whatever the plan was that day, it was blown out the water after about two minutes when Rudi McKinnon came back to haunt us with a well taken header. After that, it was mainly one-way traffic.

Onto today, and this is the first competitive game here for our first team since 18th November when we hosted Mangotsfield United. We have not had our home fixtures given to us in a favourable manner when it comes to them falling on a Saturday, which obviously has a detrimental impact on income and crowds coming to the games. Fortunately, and weather dependent, we now go on a run of three home games starting with today's fixture, then hosting Thornbury Town next Saturday and finally onto a repeat of our opponents today, on 19th December, for a Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup fixture with a 19:45 kick-off.

We need to put a run of winning results together as the bottom third of the table is extremely tight, and with the squad that Muzzy has put together we should be aiming to be a mid-table team. Recruitment has been positive; we just need to now see that come to fruition and kick on as a team.

I hope everyone enjoys the game and hospitality here this afternoon and has a safe trip home.

Thanks,

- Dan

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TUFFLEY ROVERS CLUB HISTORY



The late Donald E Hall founded Tuffley Rovers FC in 1929. The Club's Headquarters were in a former railway carriage, which served as Mr Hall's Boot and Shoe repair shop on the Stroud Road at Tuffley in the City Of Gloucester. The Club started its playing life in the North Gloucestershire League. Senior XI Championship honours include that of the North Gloucestershire League and Stroud and District League (4 times) and in 1987/1988 the Club were Champions of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League and gained promotion to the Gloucestershire County League.

After two seasons of consolidation the Club won the County League Title in 1990/1991, their application to join the Hellenic League was successful and they were accepted into Hellenic Division One. Progress continued as in the 1992/1993 season Rovers were Champions of Division One and also Division One League Cup Winners and after promotion competed in the Premier Division of the Hellenic League from 1993/1994, regularly finishing in the top half of the table. The 1998/1999 season saw Tuffley win the Norman Matthew's Floodlit Cup defeating Carterton Town in the final. Whilst the Club enjoyed this success, the 2nd XI and 3rd XI also gained promotion and championship honours. The 1998/1999 season saw the 2nd XI win the Northern Senior League and reach the finals of both the County Cup and League Cup, unfortunately losing out on both occasions. Promotion, however, was not possible as reserve teams were not allowed at that point to enter the Gloucestershire County League and progress further up the pyramid system.

The Club continued to thrive in the Hellenic League and managed to win the Floodlit Cup again in the 2002/2003 season defeating Brackley Town over two legs in the final. However, the ever-changing ground grading requirements, if the club was to remain in the Hellenic League, and the financial strain these improvements imposed on the Club forced Tuffley Rovers to make the decision to withdraw from the Hellenic League in 2005 and settle for local football in Gloucestershire.

After a difficult start Rovers were crowned champions of Division 2 of the Northern Senior League in the 2005/2006 season and were promoted to Division 1. After a slow start the team put together a consistent run and managed to claim the Division 1 Title as well as win the GFA Senior Amateur Cup and reach the final of the Reg Davis Memorial League Cup.

A return to the Gloucestershire County League followed and the club finished a very creditable 4th place (2007/8) but the summer of 2008 saw a number of senior players retire. Over the next few seasons, an evolving squad finished 11th, 3rd, 6th and 3rd in the County League, before the 2012/13 Season marked an improvement for the club. After challenging for league championship honours all season, the club couldn't quite maintain the form to secure the title, finishing second. However, this was enough to gain promotion to the Hellenic League Division One (West) for the 2013/14 season.

On their return to the Hellenic League, The Rovers saw a season that witnessed some turmoil – including the departure of manager, Doug Foxwell – to record a decent sixth place finish and some good cup results. This was followed up with the Runners'-up spot in 2014/15 and promotion back to the Hellenic Premier Division, exactly ten years after they had withdrawn from the League.

The first season saw a struggle against relegation, ultimately resulting in the resignation of Warren Evans as manager, before the club retained their status due to a vacancy in the league, after finishing 17th. Mark Pritchett was then appointed as Player/Manager and took the side to consecutive 10th placed finishes, before a 15th place finish in 2018/19. Two pandemic affected seasons then passed, with Pritchett leaving the club part-way through. Rich Cox took over as Manager for a single season, but resigned midway through 2021/22 after a disastrous run of results. Former Manchester United player Neil Mustoe then took over, steering the club away from danger (finishing in 17th place).

Since the resumption of full-playing activities, Mustoe has had one full campaign, with the club finishing in 18th place and narrowly avoiding relegation from the Hellenic League Premier Division.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Good afternoon and welcome to Glevum Park, including all players, officials and supporters from Slimbridge.

We are looking forward to today's game, having added a few additional players to the squad to freshen it up and give a little bit of competition in areas we have not had most of the season.

After a disappointing result against Roman Glass - although we put in a good performance for about an hour - we did not manage the game while on top and leading,

We then bounced back with a win in the cup against Hereford Lads Club and kept a clean sheet. Since then we have had two good training sessions working on a few things that have cropped up in games which we need to improve.

We know today's opponents will be difficult, having already played them this season and it was one of the games I think as a whole we didn't do ourselves justice on the day, albeit I must accept that we were beaten fairly on the day by a good team and performance.

Today we need to be much better and sharper all round, and fitness has improved since that day. I hope we give ourselves a chance with the right attitude and desire, because I know the ability is there, but it has only been in sporadic flashes when we need it to be more consistent in a tough league like the Hellenic Premier Division.

Being a local derby I am hoping for a reasonably decent attendance, with those here hopefully rewarded with an entertaining game with us coming out on the right side of the result.

I hope you enjoy the game.

- Muzz

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HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 6 December 2023

Pos	Team	Home					Away					Overall							
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Worcester City	17	7	2	1	31	6	7	0	0	22	6	14	2	1	53	12	41	44
2	Corsham Town	20	7	2	2	33	12	5	4	0	16	8	12	6	2	49	20	29	42
3	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	17	5	1	0	9	4	6	0	5	20	23	11	1	5	29	27	2	34
4	Roman Glass St George	19	3	2	4	15	16	7	0	3	25	12	10	2	7	40	28	12	32
5	Pershore Town	19	4	2	4	25	18	5	2	2	23	13	9	4	6	48	31	17	31
6	Worcester Raiders	18	3	3	4	11	14	5	3	0	19	8	8	6	4	30	22	8	30
7	Highworth Town	16	5	1	1	12	6	4	2	3	16	14	9	3	4	28	20	8	30
8	Hereford Pegasus	18	5	1	3	19	20	4	2	3	16	15	9	3	6	35	35	0	30
9	Slimbridge	18	5	1	4	23	23	3	3	2	10	8	8	4	6	33	31	2	28
10	Fairford Town	17	2	3	4	11	15	5	2	1	18	6	7	5	5	29	21	8	26
11	Mangotsfield United	18	4	2	4	20	19	3	1	4	13	10	7	3	8	33	29	4	24
12	Cinderford Town	16	3	0	3	15	12	4	3	3	18	19	7	3	6	33	31	2	24
13	Longlevens AFC	16	3	2	3	11	14	3	1	4	17	19	6	3	7	28	33	-5	21
14	Westfields	19	5	1	5	22	21	1	1	6	12	19	6	2	11	34	40	-6	20
15	Brimscombe & Thrupp	16	3	2	3	13	11	2	2	4	10	18	5	4	7	23	29	-6	19
16	Hereford Lads Club	19	3	4	2	12	14	1	2	7	8	17	4	6	9	20	31	-11	18
17	Tuffley Rovers	17	2	1	5	11	18	2	2	5	8	18	4	3	10	19	36	-17	15
18	Thornbury Town	18	2	1	4	10	13	2	1	8	16	32	4	2	12	26	45	-19	14
19	Lydney Town	18	2	0	8	17	30	2	1	5	17	25	4	1	13	34	55	-21	13
20	Wantage Town	20	2	1	7	10	26	0	0	10	8	40	2	1	17	18	66	-48	7

HELLENIC LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP

We are grateful to all the companies, supporters and other benevolent individuals who have sponsored the first team squad this season.



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SLIMBRIDGE FC – PLAYER PROFILES



Ellis Parker

Goalkeeper

Good young prospect that has returned to the club after a year away at Cinderford Town. Came through the Under 18s and reserve sides and now looking to establish himself as the clubs number 1.

Lewis Adams

Goalkeeper

Lewis progressed through our U/18s side and has become a very capable Southern League player. Good shot stopper who has made over 100 appearances in the number one jersey, resigned on dual registration with Evesham United as a backup to Ellis.

Evan Coombs

Goalkeeper

Current U/18s keeper looking to gain experience working with the first team and has the potential to push Ellis for the number one spot this year.

Ben Hands

Defender

A strong lad at the heart of the defence also plays in a defensive midfield role and capable of chipping in a few goals returning for his third season with the Swans. Previous clubs include Longlevens and Cinderford Town.

Nathan Dennis

Defender

Has made a huge impact in the central defence in the last two seasons, big old school style defender who puts himself about at both ends of the pitch.

Charlie Hitchings

Defender

With over 400 games behind him at Southern and Western League level, will bring a huge amount of experience in the centre of defence.

Ben Pricor

Defender

Experienced Southern and Hellenic League defender in his third spell with the club, likes getting forward down the flanks.

Joe Hunt

Defender

Former Cheltenham Town youth player who likes getting forward down the flanks signed on dual registration with Malvern Town, also played for Evesham United and Worcester City.

Bogdan Mara

Defender

A comfortable young defender and a product of the very successful SGS college in Bristol.

Craig Mills

Defender

A strong powerful Centre back, who is good in the air. Previous clubs include Shortwood, Brimscombe and more recently Frampton United.

Myron Turner

Midfield

Brings a calmness and solid feel to the midfield, very popular and dependable member of the squad and among the supporters here at Thornhill Park. In his seventh season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens.

SLIMBRIDGE FC – PLAYER PROFILES



Jack Smith *Midfield*

Member of last season's successful U18/s team who has impressed during preseason and has a good future ahead of him with the Swans.

Marley Thomas *Midfield*

In his third spell with the Swans having made over 150 appearances with the club . The pacy winger is another fans favourite and looking to continue his goal scoring touch after spells away at Evesham United and Cinderford Town.

Sam Blackie *Midfield*

Vastly experienced at Hellenic and Southern League level rejoining the club from Bishops Cleeve. Sam is a skilful midfielder who is effective at both ends of the pitch, also played at local neighbours Brimscome and Thrupp.

Theo Clayson *Midfield*

Another product of last year's successful U/18s team who broke through into the first team towards the end of the season. Going to play an important part in this season's team.

Dale Evans *Midfield*

Combative midfielder with bags of Southern League experience who joined the Swans towards the end of last season. Previous clubs include Larkhall, Melksham and Paulton Rovers.

Edjija Mbunga *Striker*

Pacey striker who can be a real handful in and around the penalty area.

Tyler Jagers *Striker*

Young enthusiastic winger who has bags of pace, progressed from the U/18's and looking to progress further into the first team.

Rudi McKinnon *Striker*

Talented young striker joined the club part way through last year and looking to establish himself as a regular in the team this season. Previous clubs include Longlevens, Tuffley, Yate Town and Cribbs

Will Hawes *Striker*

Will has a very good eye for goal and is a very skilful player in his sixth season at Thornhill Park and is destined continue to score plenty more this season. Off the field Will is also the clubs Welfare Officer.

George Neill *Striker*

Joined the Swans this season from Chipping Sodbury where he scored a hat full of goals last year. Another good young prospect that enhances the squad.

Romaine Campbell *Striker*

Another former U18/s and reserve team player looking to break into the first team this season after returning from a long term injury after a good start playing for Thornbury Town last season

Previously against today's opposition at Glevum Park

The last time we hosted today's visitors in a competitive fixture at Glevum Park was in August 2022, as we welcomed Slimbridge in an Emirates FA Cup tie. It proved to be a terrific game....

THE EMIRATES FA CUP, EXTRA PRELIMINARY ROUND TUFFLEY ROVERS 1-2 SLIMBRIDGE SATURDAY, 6 AUGUST 2022 (ATT: 186)



This was a dream draw for the hosts with a local Southern League club coming up to Gloucester for the afternoon, but there were certainly words of warning to be heeded by Neil Mustoe's squad, because apart from winning at Windsor in the Extra Preliminary Round in 2021, Rovers had lost their three previous matches at this stage of the competition to Harefield United (2020), North Greenford United (2019) and Colney Heath (2018).

In addition to that, the last Southern League team to visit Glevum Park in an F.A. Cup-tie, Swindon Supermarine in 2017, had inflicted a heavy defeat on their hosts but the visitors' status on that occasion had ensured a 200+ attendance at Glevum Park and Rovers would certainly be hoping to emulate or better that five years on.

Slimbridge arrived in Gloucester with four former Rovers players in their matchday squad with three of them making the starting eleven. One of them, Jacob Geddes, would have a significant impact as the match reached its closing stages. As ordinary time moved into added-time, Rovers were on the brink of a sensational victory over their Southern League neighbours, but even after Geddes' headed equaliser, Slimbridge roused themselves for one final push and were rewarded when substitute Marley Thomas cut in from the left and fired an unstoppable shot past Elliot Jones for an amazing finale to an absorbing afternoon's entertainment.

Things were much quieter at 3pm as the teams trotted out on a warm afternoon in front of a crowd that was, in fact, just short of the two hundred mark.

The Swans' tricky right-winger and former Rover Joe Shutt had an early chance to run at former team-mate Warren Mann but, interestingly, chose not to. When a similar opportunity presented itself a couple of minutes later, Joe raced past Mann but was deliberately fouled by the Tuffley captain. So Round One to Mister Shutt and an intriguing tussle which lasted for most of the afternoon.



Chances were few and far between at both ends until Mann combined with Henry Birkett and the latter's cross from the left was met with a firm header from Jack Beardsell at the far post, which visiting goalkeeper Lewis Adams caught comfortably. After a Slimbridge shot had flown high over Elliot Jones' crossbar, Mason Lewis shot narrowly wide from the left after breaking through Slimbridge's defensive line.

No more real chances came until half an hour had been played when, after a neat passing move involving three or four players, Will Hawes shot narrowly past the post with his left foot. Following a Slimbridge corner on the right, Shutt's cross was headed wide by Myron Turner before a Tuffley free-kick taken by Birkett was reached by Noah Smerdon, but he could only head the ball out of play. So, the first half ended without a goal being scored.

Early in the second period Ben McLean shot wide for the Swans after Demilade Yussuf had lost possession in midfield. When Rovers won a corner on the left, the ball drifted beyond the far post but Lewis was unable to get a touch on the ball.

As the match reached a point at which substitutions would be made on a very warm afternoon, Rovers' choice of the man to come on after a mid-session water-break was the height, power and experience of 42-year-old Shayne Bradley. What an impact he would make as the match moved into its final quarter! A delightful Bradley flick on halfway sent Ryan Dobbins racing down the right-hand channel and when he squared the ball across the Slimbridge penalty-area another substitute, Ryley Mace, controlled the ball before placing it past Adams, who was unable to recover from the position he had taken up a few seconds earlier.



Dobbins, who had worked like a Trojan all afternoon, came off and the Swans made changes as well as they tried to retrieve something from the game. Before Rovers went ahead there had earlier been an enormous scramble on their own goal-line when Jones saved a shot then lost the ball but recovered to make a second save before watching a third Slimbridge effort get hacked away from danger, but the pressure was mounting.



Mann was cautioned for chopping down Hawes and Slimbridge won corners on both sides. From what seemed likely to be the final play in normal time, a left-wing corner was met by Geddes at the far post and his firm downward header rippled the net after passing a motionless goalkeeper.

At that point both teams would probably have settled for a replay, but the momentum of equalising so late pushed Slimbridge on. When the ball reached Thomas near the left touchline, there seemed no immediate danger, but the substitute cut inside, danced into the penalty-area and hit a sublime shot up and over Jones into the far corner. It was a goal fit to win any game ... and it won this one.



Every player in both teams gave their all during a frenetic second half. Rovers could have managed the match better after going ahead but their opponents just wouldn't give up. It is a cruel way to lose and an uplifting way to win. It wasn't just Slimbridge's team that won. The game of football was a winner too. Rovers will play worse and win; Slimbridge will play as well and might not. That is what sport is like. In defeat you have to lift yourself to avoid what happened here happening again any time soon.

Rovers have just three days before Malvern Town come to Glevum Park, the Hillsiders having also drawn their opening league match of the season in the midweek before the FA Cup-ties. Both urgently want that first three points of the season but Rovers have the motivation to quickly get Saturday's heartbreak out of their systems quickly.

Statistics 2023/24

Competition										Merchant, Luke	Hills, Sam
Uhtsport Hellenic Premier Division, unless stated											
FAC = FA Cup; FAV = FA Vase; GFA = GFA Challenge Trophy;											
MSCC = Marsh Sports Challenge Cup;											
WLFC = Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup; SC = Supplementary Cup											
2023										Att	Scorers
01/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester City		A	0-0	487	-			1	2
05/Aug	3pm	Aylesbury Vale Dynamos	FAC	H	2-2	124	S Hicks, J Rhodes			1	
12/Aug	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		A	0-2	108	-			1	
15/Aug	7:45pm	Hereford Pegasus		H	3-4	103	J Rhodes, M Pritchett, T Shyamapant			1	
19/Aug	3pm	Evesham United	FAC	A	0-2	247	-			1	2
22/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester Raiders		A	1-1	TBC	T Shyamapant			1	15
26/Aug	3pm	AEK Boco	FAV	A	1-1*	69	S Hill			1	2
28/Aug	3pm	Longlevens		H	0-2	271	-			1	17
02/Sep	3pm	Westfields		A	0-4	102	-				
09/Sep	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		H	1-2	74	C Walters			1	
12/Sep	7:45pm	Stonehouse Town	WLFC	H	5-1	108	C Walters (3), W Mann, M Marquez-Espada			1	
19/Sep	7:45pm	Lydney Town		A	3-2	87	M Pritchett (2), J Martin			1	
23/Sep	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria	FAV	A	0-0**	108	-			1	
26/Sep	7:45pm	Cinderford Town		H	0-0	157	-			1	
30/Sep	3pm	Slimbridge		A	1-4	128	C Walters			1	
03/Oct	7:45pm	Worcester City		H	2-4	224	H Birkett, Jake White			1	2
07/Oct	3pm	Thornbury Town		A	1-0	98	M Pritchett			1	
14/Oct	3pm	Wantage Town		H	3-2	67	K Alder, C Walters, J Rhodes			1	
21/Oct	3pm	Brockenhurst	FAV	A	0-3	166	-			1	
24/Oct	7:45pm	Pershore Town		H	2-1	72	J Rhodes (2)			1	
28/Oct	3pm	Corsham Town		A	0-2	162	-			1	
31/Oct	7:45pm	Thornbury Town	WLFC	H	2-2***	68	C Walters, Y Lomotey				
18/Nov	3pm	Mangotsfield United		H	0-3	89	-			1	
21/Nov	7:45pm	Stonehouse Town	GFA	A	0-1	90	-				12
25/Nov	3pm	Roman Glass St George		A	2-3	55	Jake White, K Alder			1	
28/Nov	7:45pm	Hereford Lads Club	MCC	A	1-0	48	K Alder			1	
09/Dec	3pm	Slimbridge		H							
16/Dec	3pm	Thornbury Town		H							
19/Dec	7:45pm	Slimbridge	WLFC	H							
23/Dec	3pm	Wantage Town		A							
26/Dec	3pm	Longlevens		A							
30/Dec	3pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		A							
2024											
01/Jan	3pm	Corsham Town		H							
06/Jan	3pm	Fairford Town		A							
09/Jan	7:45pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp	MCC	H							
16/Jan	7:45pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		A							
20/Jan	3pm	Mangotsfield United		A							
27/Jan	3pm	Roman Glass St George		H							
31/Jan	7:45pm	Highworth Town		A							
03/Feb	3pm	Pershore Town		A							
06/Feb	7:45pm	Fairford Town		H							
10/Feb	3pm	Hereford Lads Club		H							
17/Feb	3pm	Hereford Pegasus		A							
20/Feb	7:45pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		H							
24/Feb	3pm	Worcester Raiders		H							
02/Mar	3pm	Westfields		H							
08/Mar	7:45pm	Lydney Town		H							
16/Mar	3pm	Cinderford Town		A							
TBC	TBC	Highworth Town		H							

*Tuffey Rovers won 4-1 on penalties
 ** Tuffey Rovers won 4-3 on penalties
 ***Tuffey Rovers won 5-4 on penalties

TOTAL APPEARANCES	22	7
STARTS	22	4
SUBSTITUTE	0	3
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE	0	0

Goalscorers

Walters, Connor	7	Hicks, Sammie	1
Rhodes, Jake	5	Marquez Espada, Minolo	1
Pritchett, Mark	4	Mann, Warren	1
Alder, Kieran	3	Martin, Jamie	1
Shyamapant, Tomos	2	Birkett, Henry	1
White, Jake	2	Lomotey, Yeshaya	1

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

Luke Merchant

Goalkeeper

Returned to the club last season, after a Hellenic League Premier Division title winning season at Bishops Cleeve, and was in sensational form. A great shot stopper, commanding presence and accomplished keeper. Should surpass Bruce Perks' record number of appearances for a keeper (at Step 7 and above) this season.

Dan Lander

Defence

Debut in 2022/23 after returning to the club following a spell at Quedgeley Wanderers. A great club man, who gives his all in every game. Offers height, strength and determination at centre-half. He knows his role in the side and rarely lets the team down. A real competitor, who gives his all in every game, and

Macaulay Herbert

Defence

Now the second longest-serving member of the first team, 'Macca' came through our U18s and is solid and dependable; an excellent defender who has been getting better with every season that passed. Has now made over 250 first team appearances, despite several injuries punctuating each season. If he can stay fit could be the second highest appearance maker in the modern era.

Alex Barrett

Defence

Joined during pre-season 2023/24 and has settled in well, offering an option at left-back. Good defensively, very competitive and carries a threat going into the opposition half. Previously with Shortwood United; now looking to step up into Hellenic League, Premier Division football. Impressed during pre-season and hopes are high for the season ahead.

Joel White

Defence

The return of 'Digger' is a massive boost and the former Rovers captain is back playing after a season managing Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, Brockworth Albion. Can play in midfield but has developed into a fantastic centre-half, who is one of the team's leaders and most dependable players.

Mark Pritchett

Defence

Another player who tasted Hellenic League title winning success at Bishops Cleeve during his time away. Previously at Rovers as Player/Manager before stepping away from the role during pre-season in 2021/22. Now back at the club his father

2023/24 PLAYER PROFILES

had great success at, offering a no nonsense, uncompromising, good old-fashioned performance in every game, whilst also offering a threat in the opposition box.

Warren Mann

Defence/Midfield

Our longest serving player and has now made over 500 appearances for the Rovers first team at Step 7 and above, which is a record for the club. 'Wazza' may now lack pace in comparison to the winger who started with the club, but is hugely committed and massively experienced. Brings energy, passion and excellent technique; he's constantly involved in every game. Practical joker off the field; usually the opposition support's least favourite player!

Ashley Davies

Defence/Midfield

In his 3rd spell with the club. Has had spells away at Hardwicke, Shortwood United & Cinderford Town but returned in 2021/22! Was Neil Mustoe's 1st signing and an incredible coup. Brings class on the ball, a physical presence, leadership and a wonderful work ethic to the squad - his influence is of huge value to the club.

Sammie Hicks

Defence/Midfield

A wonderful footballer, who finally seems to be overcoming some of the injury challenges that had previously restricted his appearances, both at Cinderford Town and then at Rovers. Talented midfielder, who can also play at the back or in more advanced positions. Could be a vital member of the squad, if he can stay fit.

Max Harper-Emerson

Defence/Midfield

Another new signing, who can play at full-back or in midfield. Has been with a number of clubs in Gloucestershire, including Slimbridge and Shortwood United. An industrious player with a turn of speed who will hopefully put some injury problems behind him and challenge for a regular place in the side.

Jack Twyman

Midfield

A new signing and one that could be a real coup! Injuries have taken their toll over the years, but 'Twy' has played at a good level, with plenty of Southern League experience at Slimbridge and Yate Town. Has been managing at County League Hardwicke over the past couple of seasons but we're now hoping some of his injury problems are behind him and he can make a successful return to

TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

playing. Calm on the ball, creative, destructive...has all the qualities of a top midfielder.

Dayton Fallows

Midfield

One of a crop of youngsters who could breakthrough this season. Mature beyond his years, he came through the youth section and has shown he is good on the ball and hard-working. This could be a vital season in his development as a future first team player. One to watch in 2023/24 and beyond.

Callum McGuirk

Midfield

Signed from Longlevens in 2022, where he'd largely been used at full-back, he is a hard-working midfielder, who looks comfortable on the ball. Played academy football during his earlier years, including a spell at Bristol City. Was originally with the Rovers, where he featured in our U18s squad. His versatility is a big attribute but he'll be keen to secure place in the midfield positions.

Liam Smith

Midfield

Another player with Southern League experience. Calm in possession and possesses a good passing range, whilst also physically strong, will be looking to hold down a regular place in the side, after two injury hit campaigns in 2021/22 and 2022/23. Offers experience and capable of dropping into the back four when needed.

Henry Birkett

Midfield

Now in a 3rd (or 4th!) spell with Rovers, after a fairly nomadic life in Hellenic League & County League football. Great energy, good passing ability, hard-working and contribute goals, as well as good delivery from set-pieces. Has become an increasingly influential member of the team and won Manager's Player of the Year in 2022/23.

Jake White

Midfield

Recent signing from Longlevens, where he had a short spell after time at Roman Glass St. George and Weston-Super-Mare. Will be looking to add some creativity and composure in the middle of midfield – a more attacking option than several of his rivals for the place in the middle of the park.

Tomos Shyamapant

Forward

Has been a consistent goalscorer for both the U18s and Development Squad over 3 seasons. Highly rated; a genuine prospect. Natural finisher, looking to build on a run in the first team last season.

2023/24 PLAYER PROFILES

Kieran Alder

Forward

Returned to the club in 2022/23, after spells with Cinderford, Bishops Cleeve and Worcester City; recently hampered by injuries. Gifted No.10, whose work rate is as noticeable as his work on the ball - a creative player. Previously with Neil Mustoe's U18s at Gloucester City reunited at Rovers.

Connor Walters

Forward

Wide player who joined from Gala Wilton in the summer and made a really positive impression. Quick, strong and full of trickery, this mercurial talent could be a really fantastic addition to the Rovers squad. A goalscoring threat who will be looking to tie down a regular starting place.

Jake Rhodes

Forward

In his 2nd spell with the club, having signed in the summer, following spells with Bishops Cleeve and Shortwood United. An all-round centre-forward who can hold the ball up, create chances for others, and is good finisher. Very strong in the air, so will add a new dimension to Rovers' attack.

Yeshaya Lomotey

Forward

Powerful striker who joined in 2021/22 after spells at other local clubs, including Slimbridge and Cinderford Town. Offers quality on the ball and packs a powerful shot that is a potent weapon. Will be hoping to stay fit and if he does, will be looking to contribute a regular supply of goals.

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Appointed as Manager in January 2022, took the club away from relegation fears in 2021/22, before successfully battling against relegation in 2022/23. Spent many years as a professional at Manchester United, Wigan Athletic, Cambridge United, Stevenage and Yeovil Town, before over 350 appearances for Gloucester City. Previous coaching experience with City before a spell away from the game until his appointment with The Rovers.

Liam O'Neill

Assistant Manager

Appointed as Assistant Manager in 2023, after a spell as Manager at Frampton United. Liam is still in the formative stage of his coaching journey but will offer great support to Muzzy.

Sam Tandy

Physio

New for 2023/24 and son of legendary Gloucester City physio Ade Tandy. Can play as a keeper!



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HALF-TIME QUIZ: BREAK FOR FIVE

Grab a cup of tea and something to eat, then spend the five minutes of your half-time break trying to answer these questions. As ever, there is a theme and in this edition we look at questions and answers relating to bridges...

1. Chelsea FC's Stamford Bridge was the host ground for three FA Cup Finals, in 1920, 1921 and 1922. All three games finished with the same scoreline, won by Aston Villa, Tottenham Hotspur and Huddersfield Town. What was the score in those finals?

2. This striker scored plenty of goals during spells at Sunderland, Leeds United, Carlisle United and Newcastle Jets, amongst other clubs, but who is he?



3. Which 'Bridge' did our manager, Neil Mustoe record over 100 appearances for between 1997 and 2002, winning their Player of the Year award in 1999?

4. Which Bridge made 467 competitive first team appearances for eight English clubs between 1998 and 2014, including 173 games for Southampton and 58 for Manchester City, as well as making 36 appearances for England?

5. The club badges below belong to non-league teams with the word 'bridge' in their name. They've been cropped to remove any reference to the club name. Can you identify the clubs who play in the Western League, Isthmian League and Northern Premier League, respectively?



(a)



(b)



(c)

Quiz Answers: (1) All finished 1-0; (2) Michael Bridges; (3) Cambridge United; (4) Wayne Bridge; (5) a – Bridgewater United, b – Three Bridges, c – Bamber Bridge.



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On (or around) this day in history...



Current records date back, fairly accurately, to the 2007/08 season and although there are a few gaps stopping us having a full set of data, it gives us the opportunity to include a programme feature that allows us to reflect on days gone by and fixtures on, or around, today's date.

Since those records began, we've only played once on 9 December, but have had plenty of games on the dates either side. We've selected a few to reflect our fortunes on or around this particular date...

6 December 2014

Tuffley Rovers secured an impressive victory over Hook Norton – and revenge for a 3-1 defeat earlier in the season – although they did it the hard way in this Hellenic League, Division One (West) fixture, as they fell behind early on, to Sam Grant's opener.

Moments before the interval, Rovers levelled as Mark Ford netted from close range after Shayne Bradley's effort had been blocked on the line.

An error from Norton's Kurt Fox saw Ford get his second shortly after the restart and they took control of the game on 67 minutes, as Marcus Foxwell scored from the edge of the box, then Brett James made it 4-1. In the closing moments Jordan Dowdeswell made it 5-1 and Warren Evans' side were left to reflect on a good afternoon and a valuable three points.

Squad: Aaron Taylor; Marcus Foxwell; Kieran Squires; Macaulay Herbert; Glenn Gittins; Stuart Griffith; Jordan Dowdeswell; Ashley Davies; Shayne Bradley; Mark Ford; Brett James. **Subs used:** Michael Devlin.

9 December 2017

Tuffley Rovers returned from their trip to Burnham having recorded a second consecutive UHlsport Hellenic League win, in a four day period, helping them move up to ninth in the table in the process.

Rovers were by far the better side but it took until 40 minutes for them to seize the lead, from the most unlikely of sources. Courtney Hamilton, without a goal since March 2015 and with only two goals in the past 4 ½ years, met Sam Hill's low cross to the front post with a neat touch that went beyond Gibson and into the bottom corner of the Burnham net.

Shortly after the interval, Warren Mann converted from the penalty spot and although Rovers had plenty of possession that was the way the score remained and Rovers left with a valuable 2-0 victory.

Squad: Dave Evans; Sam Hill; Liam Wright; Shayne Anson; Joel White; Courtney Hamilton; Will Emery; Kieran Alder; Shayne Bradley; Ashley Bird; Warren Mann. **Subs used:** Cameron Williams; Macaulay Herbert; Mark Pritchett.

10 December 2019

Two footballing clichés operated in tandem at the HDAnywhere Stadium on Tuesday evening, as a game of two halves well and truly proved that football is a funny old game of cup football!

Mark Pritchett scored a hat-trick and Joe Shutt got another goal, as Rovers roared into a 4-0 lead, but the hosts fought back to secure a 4-4 draw with a 95th minute injury time goal.

Pritchett was then dismissed at the end of the game but his side didn't let him down and secured a 4-1 win on penalties, with Luke Merchant saving two of the three Malvern efforts he faced.

Squad: Luke Merchant; Harri John; Ben Pricor; Mark Pritchett; Isaac Lawrence; Jake Rhodes; Joe Shutt; Tyreece Briscoe; Warren Mann; Dominik Kent; Jeremiah Idowu. **Subs used:** Sam Hill; Adam Bloomfield; Lewis Bainbridge.

Club History



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.

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.

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.

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 its 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 GFA Challenge Trophy.

Season 2004/05 again saw a fourth-Place finish in the Hellenic Premier. The club also made their first appearance in the FA 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 FA 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 FA 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.

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 bonus of record-breaking FA Cup and Vase runs for the senior side. In the FA 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 FA 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 fixture 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 GFA 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.

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, which was disbanded.

The First Team reverted 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.

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.

After the completion of the 2012-13 season, the Swans applied for a transfer to the Toolstation Western Premier League to reduce prohibitive travelling costs, a move which was approved by the FA in the Summer of 2013.

APPEARANCE INFORMATION

Up to and including Tuesday, 28 November 2023
(includes selected list of former players)

Since we last published an edition of our match-day programme we have played three times away from home and seen three players make their debut in those matches.

First, Brad Bevan (signed from Fairford Town) made his debut away at Roman Glass St, George, and then free agent Karnell Chambers (pictured) was joined by Joshua Radford (signed from Hartpury University) in making his debut away at Hereford Lads Club. All three have made a positive impression, to date. Karnell arrives at Rovers after spells at higher level clubs in the non-league game, including time at Gloucester City, Yate Town, Evesham United and Chippenham Town, amongst others.



Welcome to all our new signings. Only a few hundred more before you catch Warren Mann....

Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	107	30	Lander, Daniel	41	1
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Lomotey, Yeshaya	57	8
Barrett, Alex	19	0	Mace, Ryley	19	1
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Marquez Espada, Manolo	2	1
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Martin, Jamie	5	2
Bevan, Bradley	2	0	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Birkett, Henry	109	8	Mann, Warren	522	85
Bradley, Shayne	260	117	McGuirk, Callum	63	0
Chambers, Karnell	1	0	Merchant, Luke	102	0
Clifford, Ellis	2	0	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Cornwall, Leone	70	4	Mustoe, Neil	1	0
Danes-Rutherford, Ellis	1	0	Payne, Nathan	2	0
Davies, Ashley	190	27	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Dobbins, Ryan	87	18	Poole, Bradley	8	0
Fallows, Dayton	5	0	Pritchett, Mark	168	27
Ford, Mark	164	61	Radford, Joshua	1	0
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Rhodes, Jake	63	21
Griffin, Tyrese	4	0	Roberts, Tyrel	5	0
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Shyamapant, Tomos	44	3
Harper-Emerson, Max	9	0	Smith, Liam	61	1
Haswell, Tristan	99	1	Squires, Kieran	90	7
Hoffland, Robin	7	0	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Holdaway, Matt	4	0	Twyman, Jack	19	0
Herbert, Macaulay	275	10	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hicks, Sammie	47	2	Wallington, Mark	220	29
Hill, Sam	127	9	Walters, Connor	26	7
James, Brett	185	64	White, Jake	13	2
James, Richard	125	40	White, Joel	122	4
Jones, Elliot	21	0	Wilton, Joe	2	0
Kent, Dominik	175	21	Wright, Liam	124	3

NB: The figures are correct for all league competitions from season 2007/08, when Tuffley Rovers returned to the County League (Step 7) and include all competitive games since the start of the 2013/14 season. There are some gaps in the information relating to cup games prior to the start of the 2013/14 campaign. This period is currently subject to a thorough review and there may be some variation to statistics in due course.



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Claret & Blue shirts; Claret shorts; Claret & White socks (GK: Grey).

Green shirts, Dark Blue shorts; White socks (GK: Yellow).

Luke Merchant ©	1	Ellis Parker
Warren Mann	2	Theo Clayson
Alex Barrett	3	Ben Pricor
Joel White	4	Sam Blackie
Macaulay Herbert	5	Charlie Hitchings
Callum McGuirk	6	Bogden Mara
Jake White	7	Edji Mbunga
Henry Birkett	8	Myron Turner ©
Joshua Radford	9	Elliot Gardner
Karnell Chambers	10	Charlie Dashfield
Bradley Bevan	11	Marley Thomas
Liam Smith	12	Rudi McKinnon
Tomos Shyamapant	14	Jack Smith
Daniel Lander	15	George Neill
Tyrese Griffin	16	Ben Hands
Connor Walters	17	Will Hawes
Ellis Clifford	18	
Jack Twyman	19	

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Tom Deakin / Adam Coyle

Liam O'Neill

Asst. Manager

Sam Tandy (Physio)

Other Occupants

Adam Bees (Kit Man)

Alex Butler (Coach)

Tony Woodward (Physio)

Tim Hall (Coach)

Nathan Harfield (Physio)

Officials: Paul Herbert; Mark Burns; Martin Jones.