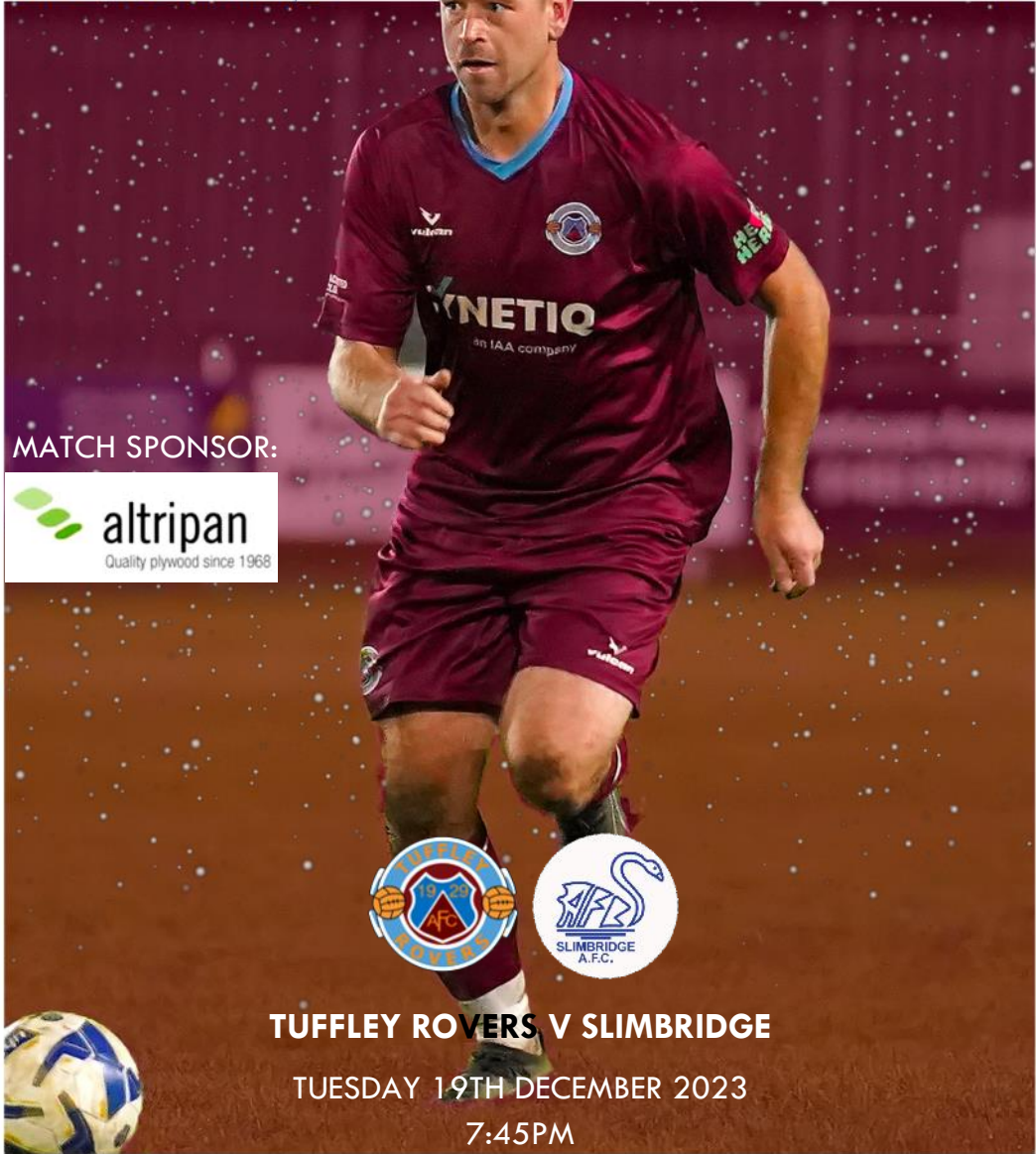


TUFFLEY FC

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 23/24

14



MATCH SPONSOR:



TUFFLEY ROVERS V SLIMBRIDGE

TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2023

7:45PM

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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

Dan has referenced this in his article today but I just want to open by reflecting on the dreadful news about Allan Boulton at the end of last week. Allan and his son Scott are as synonymous to football at Brimscombe & Thrupp as anyone I can think of. I was absolutely knocked over when I saw Scott's post about his father passing away and the news came as a complete shock to me.

Allan was a tremendous guy and always on-hand to help or chat through on issue, whether we were preparing for a game, discussing a player move or just catching up in another way. He was the first to welcome you when you arrived at Brimscombe and always made time to chat. He was a really wonderful guy and I just can't comprehend him not being at The Meadow when we visit them just before the New Year. I can only extend my sincerest condolences to Allan's family, particularly Scott who is also such a good bloke, at this difficult time for them. If it is any comfort, the outpouring of positive messages I've seen on various forum over the past few days will all be 100% reflective of Allan's place in the local footballing community. We have lost a really good man.

I'll say a little about tonight and that is to welcome Slimbridge here again, although I hope we can secure a better result than we have in recent encounter with them. The Swans have won their last three competitive games against us, played over the past two seasons, although the two games at Glevum Park have been won by a single goal, in highly competitive games.

I'm sure Muzzy will follow a familiar path and shake the squad up a little this evening, as he often does for cup ties, but there is no reason we can't come into this fixture with a realistic ambition of making it through to the next round. Slimbridge will feel the same, so here is hoping that leads to the teams putting on another exciting encounter and one that is a fitting end to our year at Glevum Park.

In closing, I would just like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and I hope that you can enjoy the festive period and that continues into the New Year. I'm hoping 2024 is a Tuff year, rather than another tough year!

I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home.

- Neil

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Hellenic League, Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup

Worcester City v Cheltenham Saracens

TOMORROW'S FIXTURES

Gloucestershire FA County Cup

Mangotsfield United v FC Bristol

Hellenic League, Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup

Worcester Raiders v Pershore Town

Hellenic League, Marsh Challenge Cup

Longlevens v Shortwood United

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Good evening and a very warm welcome to Glevum Park. Welcome to the committee, management, players and supporters of Slimbridge.

It was a fantastic atmosphere here just over a week ago, when both sides met in the league and a great game to watch that had it all. Let's hope for more of the same this evening, but perhaps more from our point of view, a victory for the home supporters.

We had some really sad news last week with the untimely passing of Allan Boulton, the long serving Club Secretary from Brimscombe and Thrupp. Allan was a true gent who will be sorely missed by everyone. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and everyone at his club at this difficult time.

Following on from that was the news that young Lucas Vaughan from Lydney Town is currently in hospital after a very serious car collision last week. We wish Lucas a speedy recovery and our thoughts are with all those that know the young man.

It is events like these that make you realise how precious life is.

I hope everyone enjoys the game and hospitality here this evening. Please have a safe trip home and I hope you can enjoy the festive season.

Thanks,

- Dan

#uptherovers



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

After playing tonight's opponents twice already this season we meet for a third time; and the second meeting in just under two weeks.

If my squad selection goes to plan tonight we will be resting a few, ahead of a really busy festive period, but also want to be competitive and to make progress in the competition. We have had a mixed bag of results and performances but I feel the squad is in a good place, specifically off the field where the group are coming together, but we need to turn our good periods into points and we all know and understand the importance of getting results, which will help us over the next few weeks and beyond.

Hopefully we will produce a performance that helps us progress, but we can also use tonight's game to get valuable minutes for some players who need it most.

I hope you enjoy the game.

- Muzz

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Andrew Gillespie
Director

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Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2023/24 season

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HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 16 December 2023

Pos	Team	Home											Away											Overall		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1	Worcester City	18	7	2	1	31	6	7	1	0	23	7	14	3	1	54	13	41	45							
2	Corsham Town	21	8	2	2	37	13	5	4	0	16	8	13	6	2	53	21	32	45							
3	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	19	6	2	0	14	7	6	0	5	20	23	12	2	5	34	30	4	38							
4	Roman Glass St George	20	4	2	4	16	16	7	0	3	25	12	11	2	7	41	28	13	35							
5	Hereford Pegasus	20	6	1	3	22	21	4	3	3	18	17	10	4	6	40	38	2	34							
6	Pershore Town	21	4	2	4	25	18	5	4	2	27	17	9	6	6	52	35	17	33							
7	Highworth Town	18	6	1	1	15	8	4	2	4	17	17	10	3	5	32	25	7	33							
8	Slimbridge	20	5	2	4	26	26	4	3	2	13	10	9	5	6	39	36	3	32							
9	Fairford Town	20	3	4	4	13	16	5	3	1	18	6	8	7	5	31	22	9	31							
10	Worcester Raiders	20	3	3	5	14	18	5	3	1	20	12	8	6	6	34	30	4	30							
11	Mangotsfield United	19	4	3	4	22	21	3	1	4	13	10	7	4	8	35	31	4	25							
12	Cinderford Town	17	3	0	3	15	12	4	3	4	18	20	7	3	7	33	32	1	24							
13	Westfields	21	6	1	5	25	21	1	2	6	13	20	7	3	11	38	41	-3	24							
14	Brimmscombe & Thrupp	17	3	2	3	13	11	3	2	4	14	21	6	4	7	27	32	-5	22							
15	Longlevens AFC	17	3	2	3	11	14	3	1	5	17	20	6	3	8	28	34	-6	21							
16	Hereford Lads Club	21	3	5	2	12	14	1	2	8	10	20	4	7	10	22	34	-12	19							
17	Tuffley Rovers	19	2	2	6	14	22	2	2	5	8	18	4	4	11	22	40	-18	16							
18	Thornbury Town	20	2	2	4	11	14	2	2	8	17	33	4	4	12	28	47	-19	16							
19	Lydney Town	19	2	0	8	17	30	2	1	6	19	29	4	1	14	36	59	-23	13							
20	Wantage Town	21	2	1	7	10	26	0	0	11	8	43	2	1	18	18	69	-51	7							

HELLENIC LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP

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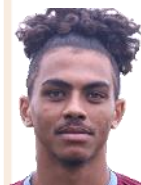


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SLIMBRIDGE FC – PLAYER PROFILES



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

Statistics 2023/24

Competition										Merchant, Luke	Hill, Sam
Ukhsport 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											
Att										Scorers	
2023											
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				
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 Lemotey				
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	2-3	112	K Chambers, C Walters			1	16
16/Dec	3pm	Thornbury Town		H	1-1	71	K Chambers			1	2
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							
12/Mar	7:45pm	Highworth Town		H							
16/Mar	3pm	Cinderford Town		A							

*Tuffley Rovers won 4-1 on penalties

** Tuffley Rovers won 4-3 on penalties

***Tuffley Rovers won 5-4 on penalties

TOTAL APPEARANCES	24	9
STARTS	24	5
SUBSTITUTE	0	4
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE	0	0

Goalscorers

Walters, Connor	8	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
Chambers, Karnell	2		

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 Helleic 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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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 to 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.

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 given that extra-time is no longer a feature in this competition, we look at facts about extra-time!!

1. The first ever FA Cup Final to include extra-time was the 1875 game between Royal Engineers and Old Etonians. Why did the Etonians team play all but 10 minutes with a “howling gale at their backs”?

2. When England lost to Croatia, after extra-time, in the 2018 World Cup, who scored the winning goal (as pictured)?



3. The 1982 & 1983 League Cup finals were won a.e.t. by the same club. Who beat Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United during a period when they won the trophy on four successive occasions?

4. A game perhaps more notorious for Harald Schumacher’s foul on Patrick Battiston saw West Germany win on penalties, after an absorbing 1982 World Cup semi-final tie that went to extra-time. Who is the player seen netting the final goal of the game and what was the score at the end of extra-time?



5. The 1961 League Cup Final (the first year of the competition) saw which team lift the trophy courtesy of a win that came a.e.t.?

Quiz Answers: (1) At that time, teams only changed ends when they scored a goal, with the teams scoring after 30 and 40 minutes, thus leaving Etonians to play the rest of the 120 minutes with a wind behind them; (2) Mario Mandzukic; (3) Liverpool; (4) Klaus Fischer scored and made it 3-3; (5) Aston Villa beat Rotherham United 3-2 aet.



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Ellis Clifford	18	Nathan Dennis
Joel White	19	

Neil Mustoe

Manager

Tom Deakin / Adam Coyle

Liam O'Neill

Asst. Manager

Sam Tandy (Physio)

Other Occupants

Adam Bees (Kit Man)

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