



**TUFFLEY ROVERS v  
SLIMBRIDGE**

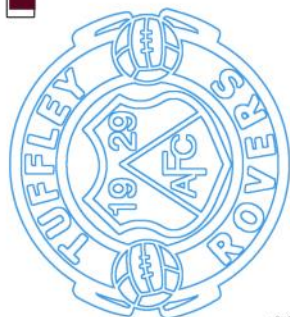
Tuesday 6th August 2024

7:45PM KO

UHLSPORT HELLENIC LEAGUE,  
PREMIER DIVISION

# TUFFLEY ROVERS

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME 2024/25






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# FROM THE EDITOR



It only seems like I've finished writing the last programme for the game against Kidlington, and here we are again!

Welcome this evening to Glevum Park to all our visitors, notably the players, management team, committee and supporters of Slimbridge FC.

It is easy to say "a disappointing start to the season", so I'll avoid that and focus instead on more positive matters, although I hope tonight's game, at least from a Rovers perspective, will bring a more positive feel by the end of the game.

It has been a disappointing start to the season (I did say that was easy!) but we aren't going to move on if we dwell on the two defeats we've suffered. Instead, take Muzzy's lead. If you've seen his post-match interview after Saturday's game he reiterated his belief that we have a good squad and that two results don't define their journey.

Whatever our potential or our performance tonight, Slimbridge will be tough opposition. Three defeats against them last year is evidence enough of their potential and it will be a good litmus test of our progress and the development of a new-ish squad. We lost a few players over the summer, for various reasons, but the recruitment has looked good and so we should keep the faith!

Anyway, this will be a long old season, with many twists and turns. Tonight will be the next part of the adventure. As I often say, we hope that everyone who is visiting from Slimbridge enjoys their evening...but we definitely hope they don't enjoy the result!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this – make sure you do the quiz! :)

I hope everyone enjoys the game. Safe travels home.

- Neil

*#uptherovers*





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**TODAY'S FIXTURES**

(a selection of fixtures involving Hellenic League teams)

Uhsport Hellenic League, Premier Division

- Cirencester Town v Highworth Town
- Royal Wootton Bassett Town v Brimscombe & Thrupp
- Sporting Club Inkberrow v Hereford Pegasus
- Thornbury Town v Mangotsfield United
- Westfields v Pershore Town
- Worcester Raiders v Lydney Town
- Emirates FA Cup – Extra Preliminary Round Replay
- Corsham Town v Burnham
- Winslow United v Longlevens

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Good evening and a warm welcome to Glevum Park. This is our first home league fixture of the 2024/25 season and it is a pleasure that we host our near neighbours Slimbridge. A very warm welcome to their committee, players, management team and all travelling supporters.

As always, games at the start of the season come thick and fast, and this is our third fixture in eight days, so it will be a test for the players fitness and recovery levels.

It has not been the start to the season any of us would have hoped for, losing our first league fixture to Sporting Club Inkberrow on Wednesday evening, then that was followed by our FA Cup exit on Saturday to Kidlington. It is a very long season, and this league is very unpredictable, but it is important that we get some points on the board quickly, before gaps start to get big between us and the other teams in the division.

Away from the first team there has been a lot going on and it is my pleasure to welcome Shaun Norville to the club. Shaun will be leading our Development Squad for the season ahead, having spent 11 years at Newent Town and I think with his experience around Hellenic League Division Two, will be invaluable for our players coming through the ranks.

I hope you enjoy the game and hospitality this evening and have a safe journey home.

- Dan Boon

*#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 11<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>. Mark Pritchett was then appointed as Player/Manager and took the side to consecutive 10<sup>th</sup> placed finishes, before a 15<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> place).

Mustoe achieved an 18<sup>th</sup> place finish at the end of the 2022/23 season, his first full campaign, before achieving a healthy 14<sup>th</sup> place in 2023/24, with a much improved squad.

# FROM THE MANAGER



Good evening and welcome to Glevum Park to all players, management, officials and supporters from Slimbridge FC.

Tonight is a local derby against a team we struggled to get a result against last season, across three games, although our home matches were a lot closer than the away fixture.

We have not settled into any sort of rhythm yet with two very different performances over the last week. Saturday' FA Cup tie was difficult and we were beaten by a well organised outfit, but we looked more compact and had a better shape than we had last Wednesday, and we were not cut open, so that it was giving away silly free kicks in areas that caused us problems - we allowed them to put balls into our box which cost us and then we were not able to impose ourselves on the game as we would have liked.

Hopefully tonight we have a few more bodies available and we can get a result to kick start our season. Over the last few years we have had some positive early results, than a bit of a struggle, before ending quite strong. This season, the preseason schedule was well balanced with training and games and we looked like we were in a good place, so I am confident it will click into place imminently.

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy the game.

- Muzz

*#uptherovers*





# HEART HEROES



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Tuffley Rovers' partner charity for the 2024/25 season

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# HELLENIC LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

Up to and including 31 July 2024

Pos	Team	Home											Away											Overall		
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1	Malmesbury Victoria	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	8	3		
2	Roman Glass St George	1	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	1	1	0	0	6	1	5	3		
3	Fairford Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	3		
4	Highworth Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3		
5	Sporting Club Inkberrow	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	3		
6	Corsham Town	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3		
7	Hereford Pegasus	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3		
8	Pershore Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	1		
9	Slimbridge	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	1		
10	Hartoury University	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
11	Westfields	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
12	Longlevens AFC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
13	Worcester Raiders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
14	Lydney Town	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0		
15	Mangotsfield United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0		
16	Thornbury Town	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0		
17	Tuffley Rovers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0		
18	Royal Wootton Bassett Town	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0		
19	Cirencester Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	1	1	6	-5	0		
20	Brimscombe & Thrupp	1	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	-8	0		

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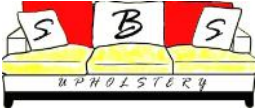


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## **PREVIOUSLY AGAINST TODAY'S OPPONENTS**



We look back at games against today's opposition from years past, with some details around the key moments....

### **6 September 2008, Gloucestershire County League, Tuffley Rovers 0-2 Slimbridge**

The Gloucestershire County League described Slimbridge's visit to Tuffley Rovers as a local derby game, which Rovers coming into the game on top of the table, with Slimbridge a very close second. In a close match, the scores remained goalless at the break.

It wasn't to be Rovers' day, as a 50th minute goal from Carl Brown opened the scoring for the visitors, before Brown got a second in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute to make it 2-0 to the visitors.

### **2 May 2009, Gloucestershire County League, Slimbridge 4-0 Tuffley Rovers**

Newly crowned Champions, Slimbridge, finished the 2008/09 season on a high with a 4 - 0 win over Tuffley Rovers.

Jamie Martin scored two goals, the first and last, either side of a goal from Will Wellon, before Lewis Wilton netted the fourth goal for the hosts.

### **17 October 2009, GFA Challenge Trophy, Tuffley Rovers 1-2 Slimbridge**

Slimbridge saw off the challenge of Tuffley Rovers to advance in the 2009 Challenge Cup, courtesy of a 2-1 victory.

### **29 November 2011, GFA Challenge Trophy, Tuffley Rovers 2-0 Slimbridge**

Goals from Shayne Bradley and Warren Mann proved enough for Tuffley Rovers to progress in the GFA Challenge Trophy at the expense of Hellenic League Premier Division side Slimbridge.

### **6 August 2022, Emirates FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round, Tuffley Rovers 1-2 Slimbridge**

Ryley Mace gave Tuffley Rovers the lead against higher division opposition but late goals from Jacob Geddes and Marley Thomas saw Slimbridge advance to the next round.

### **30 September 2023, UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division, Slimbridge 4-1 Tuffley Rovers**

A late Connor Walters goal was only a slim consolation after Slimbridge outplayed their visitors with goals from Rudi McKinnon, George Neill, Jack Smith and Elliot Gardner taking them to a 4-1 victory.

### **9 December 2023, UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division, Tuffley Rovers 2-3 Slimbridge**

Despite leading through goals from Karnell Chambers and Connor Walters, Tuffley Rovers succumbed to a second defeat of the season as George Neill, Jack Smith and Sam Blackie scored the goals to take the visiting team to victory.

### **19 December 2023, Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup, Tuffley Rovers 1-2 Slimbridge**

George Neill and Pele Kouisseoue scored the crucial goals for Slimbridge, as they saw off a spirited display from Rovers, who scored through Josh Radford, to advance in the Wiseman Lighting Floodlit Cup.

# SLIMBRIDGE FC – PLAYER PROFILES



## **Olly Phillips**      *Goalkeeper*

Olly joined Slimbridge this summer after completing his scholarship with Bristol Rovers. He becomes the next young GK to walk through the doors at Thornhill Park.

## **James Holder**      *Goalkeeper*

James is entering his first full season with Slimbridge , having spent the last half of the season at the swans. His previous clubs include Brimscombe and Thrupp, Frampton and Sharpness.

## **Nathan Dennis**      *Defender*

Big old school style defender who like to put himself about at both ends of the pitch. Now in his third season with the club.

## **Charlie Hitchings**      *Defender*

Made a huge impact last year, has bags of experience at Southern and Western League levels. This season's vice-captain will again be leading the team from the heart of the defence.

## **Craig Mills**      *Defender*

Craig rejoined Slimbridge after previously playing when were in the Western League. Last season he had to bide his time before making an impact in our end of season push. Former clubs Frampton Brimscombe & Thrupp. Shortwood..

## **Jack Smith**      *Midfield*

Jack is entering his second season with the first team having been captain of the u18s. He has previously played for Thornbury Town and Bristol Rovers.

## **Sam Blackie**      *Midfield*

In his second season with the Swans after a brief spell in 2015. . Sam is a skilful midfielder who is effective at both ends of the pitch with past experience at Hellenic and Southern League level having played at Bishops Cleeve, and local neighbours Brimscome and Thrupp.

## **Myron Turner**      *Midfield*

As captain and Mr Dependable out on the field, Myron has played all outfield positions in recent seasons. Brings a calmness and solid feel to the squad, and very popular among the supporters here at Thornhill Park. Now in his eighth season with the Swans having previously played for Longlevens, Gala Wilton and Frampton.

## **Jonny Welch**      *Midfield*

Joined this Summer after 5 seasons at Brimscombe and Thrupp. Prior to that, had 4 seasons at Longlevens.

# SLIMBRIDGE FC – PLAYER PROFILES



## **Liam Harper**      *Midfield*

First season back, had two seasons with the U18s as captain and two years with the reserves and 1st team. Previous clubs: Frampton United and Brimscombe and Thrupp.

## **Jacob Rodgers**      *Midfield*

Played for Tredworth Tigers Jacob has come back to the club after a spell with Tredworth. He previously had 2 successful seasons with the Swans U18s.

## **Callum Dark**      *Midfield*

Callum joins Slimbridge for the 24/25 campaign having previously played for Lydney Town last season scoring against us 3 times. His other former clubs include Bristol Rovers, Chepstow Town and Pershore Town.

## **Will Hawes**      *Forward*

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 and Commercial Manager.

## **Shiyak Sutherland**      *Forward*

Shiyak joined the club in February from Longlevens last season and made an instant impact. Quickly becoming a fans favourite he is quick and has an eye for goal.

## **Will Tainton**      *Forward*

Will has been a part of our youth team for the last 3 years. Breaking a league goal scoring record last season. He has played men's football with Sharpness and broke into the first team squad at the end of last season.

## **Toby Soule**      *Forward*

Previously played for Bishops Cleeve & Hartpury FC. Toby is entering his first season with the club and is looking forward to a positive season with the Swans.

## **Haydn Evans**      *Forward*

Hadyn is entering his debut season for the swans. He has impressed pre season with his tenacity. He has previously played for Dursley Town first team, and come up through the academy at Forest Green Rovers.



# STATISTICS

## Statistics 2024/25

### Competition

Uhlsport 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						
31/Jul	7:45pm	Sporting Club Inkberrow		A	0-2	190 -
03/Aug	3pm	Kidlington FC	FAC	H	0-3	141 -
06/Aug	7:45pm	Slimbridge		H		
10/Aug	3pm	Lydney Town		A		
13/Aug	7:45pm	Worcester Raiders		A		
20/Aug	7:45pm	Hartpury University		H		
26/Aug	3pm	Longlevens		A		
03/Sep	7:45pm	Westfields		A		
07/Sep	3pm	Thornbury Town		A		
14/Sep	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		H		
16/Sep	7:45pm	Hereford Pegasus		A		
24/Sep	7:45pm	Pershore Town		H		
28/Sep	3pm	Fairford Town		A		
01/Oct	7:45pm	Slimbridge		A		
05/Oct	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria		H		
08/Oct	7:45pm	Lydney Town		H		
12/Oct	3pm	Highworth Town		A		
19/Oct	3pm	Cirencester Town		H		
26/Oct	3pm	Corsham Town		A		
02/Nov	3pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		A		
09/Nov	3pm	Mangotsfield United		H		
16/Nov	3pm	Roman Glass St George		A		
23/Nov	3pm	Thornbury Town		H		
30/Nov	3pm	Royal Wootton Bassett Town		A		
07/Dec	3pm	Fairford Town		H		
14/Dec	3pm	Malmesbury Victoria		A		
21/Dec	3pm	Highworth Town		H		
26/Dec	3pm	Longlevens		H		
28/Dec	3pm	Cirencester Town		A		
2024						
01/Jan	3pm	Corsham Town		H		
04/Jan	3pm	Brimmscombe & Thrupp		H		
11/Jan	3pm	Mangotsfield United		A		
18/Jan	3pm	Worcester Raiders		H		
25/Jan	3pm	Hartpury University		A		
01/Feb	3pm	Westfields		H		
08/Feb	3pm	Sporting Club Inkberrow		H		
15/Feb	3pm	Hereford Pegasus		A		
22/Feb	3pm	Pershore Town		H		
01/Mar	3pm	Roman Glass St George		A		

TOTAL APPEARANCES
STARTS
SUBSTITUTE
UNUSED SUBSTITUTE

### Goalscorers

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## TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

### **Luke Merchant**

### **Goalkeeper**

Club captain who returned to the club in the 2022/23 season, after a Hellenic League Premier Division title winning season at Bishops Cleeve. A great shot stopper, commanding presence and accomplished keeper. Holds the club record for Hellenic League appearances as a keeper.

### **Robin Hoffland**

### **Goalkeeper**

Now a long-serving player, despite his age, who acts as a capable back-up to Luke Merchant in goal, whenever needed. Has played for the club's 1sts, 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths, as well as the U18s and always gives his all. Reliable, in a word.

### **Macaulay Herbert**

### **Defence**

Begins this season as our longest-serving member of the squad. 'Macca' came through our U18s and is solid and dependable; an excellent defender who has been getting better with every season that passed. Has made over 290 first team appearances, despite several injuries punctuating each season. On course to reach 300 appearances this season.

### **Josh Stevens**

### **Defence**

Development Squad player of the season in 2023/24; broke into the first team squad during pre-season, putting in some excellent performances in central defence. Tall, strong in the air, solid in the tackle and capable in possession, this could be the season when he steps up into first team football.

### **Dan Lander**

### **Defence**

Debut in 2022/23 after returning to the club following a spell at Quedgeley Wanderers. A good club man, who gives his all in every game. Offers height, strength and determination at centre-half. A real competitor.

### **Elijah Simpson**

### **Defence**

Player under Neil Mustoe at Gloucester City U18s and recently signed from Brimscombe & Thrupp and a great addition to the squad. Comfortable on the ball when in possession, shows a turn of pace, and good defensively. A key signing for this season.

### **Ellis Clifford**

### **Defence**

Came through the U18s squad, after joining from Gloucester City's youth set-up. Made a breakthrough last season and amassed 14 appearances at left-back. Very promising youngster who will be looking to be a regular in 2024/25.

## 2024/25 PLAYER PROFILES

### **Mark Pritchett**

### **Defence**

Tasted Hellenic League title winning success at Bishops Cleeve. Previously at Rovers as Player/Manager before stepping away from the role in 2021/22. Offers a no nonsense, uncompromising, good old-fashioned performance in every game, and a threat in the opposition box.

### **Sammie Hicks**

### **Defence/Midfield**

Now in his fourth season at the club, after spells at Gloucester City and Cinderford Town. Injuries have hampered his progress but he remains a reliable and very versatile member of the squad, capable of filling in at full-back, in midfield or in the No.10 role.

### **Harley Mustoe**

### **Defence/Midfield**

A member of this season's U18s squad after joining the squad late in 2023/24, Harley has gained experience playing County League football for Harwicke. Most comfortable in midfield but has played at full-back and looked very accomplished.

### **Callum McGuirk**

### **Defence/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.

### **Liam Smith**

### **Midfield**

Has 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 three injury hit campaigns. Offers experience and capable of dropping into the back four when needed.

### **Cole Clinton**

### **Midfield**

New signing from Hartpury University. A diminutive figure, who is deceptively strong and has looked to be a good signing based on pre-season performances. Good on the ball and hard working, has the quality to improve our midfield.

### **Dean Turner**

### **Midfield**

Another new signing and a great addition to the Rovers fold. Southern League experience with Slimbridge and then spent several seasons at Brimscombe & Thrupp. Combative, communicative, hard-working, great positionally and a leader. Just what we needed to add to our midfield!

## TUFFLEY ROVERS AFC

## 2024/25 PLAYER PROFILES

### **Kieran Alder**

### **Midfield/Forward**

Returned to the club in 2022/23, after spells with Cinderford, Bishops Cleeve and Worcester City; and overcame injuries to return to his best. 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.

### **Corey Warrington**

### **Midfield**

Signed during pre-season after excelling at Northern Senior League side Tredworth Tigers during 2023/24. A highly energetic midfielder who likes to get on the ball; he's ambitious and could be an excellent addition to the squad for 2024/25, although an injury in pre-season could limit his immediate progress.

### **Matt Lee**

### **Midfield**

A new signing for 2024/25 who will play in midfield or an attacking role and looks to be a good addition to the squad. Hard-working and comfortable on the ball, has previous Hellenic League experience with Cinderford Town and Lydney Town.

### **Tyrel Roberts**

### **Forward**

Another player to come through from the U18s and then through the Development Squad, Ty is an old-fashioned centre-forward who never gives the opposing defence a break and has been a regular scorer in his time in the club's junior sides. Another player for whom this could prove to be their breakthrough season.

### **Karnell Chambers**

### **Forward**

Experienced at a higher level, this is a player who Neil Mustoe was delighted to sign in November 2023. Has previously been at Gloucester City, Hungerford Town, North Leigh, as well as a spell overseas, and is a goalscorer equally at home wide or in the middle. Finished 2023/24 as top goalscorer for the first team and added the sort of threat that Rovers have needed.

### **Yeshaya Lomotey**

### **Forward**

Powerful striker who joined in 2021/22 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 contribute more goals to secure a regular place in the side.

### **Brad Bevan**

### **Forward**

Signed from Fairford Town last season. Incredibly hardworking, tenacious, a real team player. Runs all day and although not a prolific goalscorer has been a good signing. Can play wide or down the centre.

### **Connor Walters**

### **Forward**

Wide player who joined from Gala Wilton in 2023/24. Strong and full of trickery, he had a fantastic start to his first season and contributed goals, as well as being a threat to opposition defences. Works hard for the team.

### **Riley Bourne**

### **Forward**

Under 18s player who graduated from our U16s last season. Quick, skilful, with an eye for goal, age is no impediment for this confident lad.

### **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. Still in the formative stage of his coaching journey but offers great support to Muzzy and is an important presence in the first team set-up.

### **Mike De-Bear**

### **Physio**

New for 2024/25 and a great signing off the pitch. Has experience working at EFL clubs and is already making a great impression.

### **Alex Butler**

### **Coach**

Joined in 2023/24 after previous experience in local football. Mr Reliable and a really positive influence in the dressing room on match-days.

### **Tim Hall**

### **Coach**

Previously been at Longlevens. Knew Muzzy and Ken Blackburn from his time with Gloucester City and is a great character. A keen cyclist, who also has an interest in classic cars.



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# Respect



# 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 this week we ask “Where are they now?” – or what did they do after retirement, to be more precise!**

1. Peter Odemwingie (pictured) became something of a cause célèbre during the 2013 window, when he turned up at QPR in an event to force a move from WBA. That wasn't very professional, but what sport does Odemwingie now play professionally, having turned Pro in 2024?



2. Pascal Chimbonda, who played for Wigan Athletic, Tottenham Hotspur, Sunderland, and QPR in the Premier League, was manager at a Step 5 National League System side club until he was sacked at the end of the 2023/24 season. Which club was he fired from?

3. Remember Kenwyne Jones, a forward who played for Stoke City, Sunderland and Bournemouth between 2004 and 2016? He retired and took up coaching in the Women's game. Which country did he represent at international level, before coaching the Women from 2021 & 2022?

4. Which former top flight player in the 1980s (pictured) ran a children's soft play equipment business in the New Forest area of Hampshire after retiring?



5. Three players pictured. Who are they and can you link them to their post-football job – one ran a bar bistro in the Netherlands; another became a firefighter; and the other was a postman?



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Quiz Answers:** (1) Golf – he became a PGA professional in 2024; (2) Trinidad & Tobago; (3) Skelmersdale United; (4) John Chiedozie; (5) A is David Hillier, who became a firefighter; B is Ken Monkou who ran the bar bistro in the Netherlands; and C is Micky Gynn who became a postman.

# Appearance information

Up to and including Saturday, 3 August 2024  
(includes selected list of former players)



Two games in and we've seen seven debutants this season, with Cole Clinton making his debut on Saturday, following the six players who made a first appearance in Rovers colours last Wednesday evening at Sporting Club Inkberrow.

Harley Mustoe has now overtaken his father for competitive first team appearances in Rovers colours, having featured in both games since we started our competitive fixtures, although it wasn't necessarily the greatest challenge as Muzzy (Snr) has only played once, with a single appearance at Lydney Town last season!

We almost, almost saw Callum McGuirk's first goal for the club on Saturday but he was denied that distinction by a terrific save from the Kidlington keeper – 88 and counting!



Name	Apps	Goals	Name	Apps	Goals
Alder, Kieran	127	37	Lander, Daniel	47	1
Anson, Shayne	71	4	Lee, Matt	2	0
Beardsell, Jack	72	13	Lomotey, Yeshaya	58	8
Bennett, Adam	85	0	Maher-Goldsmith, Kian	4	0
Bevan, Bradley	25	2	Mann, Warren	539	85
Birkett, Henry	127	10	McGuirk, Callum	82	0
Bourne, Riley	1	0	Merchant, Luke	117	0
Bradley, Shayne	260	117	Middlecote, Martin	88	2
Chambers, Karnell	24	14	Mustoe, Harley	2	0
Clifford, Ellis	16	0	Mustoe, Neil	1	0
Clinton, Cole	1	0	Perks, Christopher	92	0
Cornwall, Leone	70	4	Pritchett, Mark	187	28
Davies, Ashley	190	27	Rhodes, Jake	75	25
Dobbins, Ryan	87	18	Roberts, Tyrel	9	0
Ford, Mark	164	61	Shutt, Joe	72	15
Foxwell, Marcus	302	32	Simpson, Elijah	2	0
Griffith, Stuart	129	22	Smith, Liam	77	1
Hamilton, Courtney	178	6	Squires, Kieran	90	7
Haswell, Tristan	99	1	Stevens, Josh	2	0
Hoffland, Robin	9	0	Thomas, Peter	79	15
Herbert, Macaulay	290	10	Turner, Dean	2	0
Hicks, Sammie	56	2	Wallington, Lee	131	4
Hill, Sam	130	9	Wallington, Mark	220	29
James, Brett	186	64	Walters, Connor	47	9
James, Richard	125	40	White, Joel	140	4
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.

# 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 Hellenic Division One West and that was won by an 11 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. 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 received from Evi Thornhill 46 years earlier. Evi's son, Tony and his late wife Margaret were on hand to cut the ceremonial ribbon, and Tony made a short heartfelt speech about how much the renaming meant to him and the entire Thornhill family, and how honoured they were that the football club had recognised their father in this way.

A difficult two seasons of struggle at a higher level saw the eventual departure of Leon Sterling as Manager, with Freddy Ward stepping up to the plate, assisted by local footballing legend Lee Driver-Dickerson. With Freddy then stepping aside to concentrate of 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

The last 2 years have seen an incredible expansion of the football club– the establishment of a thriving Youth setup at Under 18 level, and the resurrection of the Reserve side has seen Slimbridge AFC make great strides as a club.

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 Club has gained a great local reputation both on and off the pitch for looking after players and developing them in their careers - already some of those previously with the club in the last 2 seasons have moved to Conference South level to ply their trade. It is a tribute to the committed and very talented team of coaches and managers in place at all levels of the club, that the future is very bright indeed for The Swans.



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# TEAM SHEET



**TUFFLEY ROVERS**

**SLIMBRIDGE**



Luke Merchant ©	<b>1</b>	Olly Phillips
Callum McGuirk	<b>2</b>	Nathan Dennis
Ellis Clifford	<b>3</b>	Charlie Hitchings
Mark Pritchett	<b>4</b>	Craig Mills
Elijah Simpson	<b>5</b>	Myron Turner ©
Dean Turner	<b>6</b>	Jack Smith
Liam Smith	<b>7</b>	Sam Blackie
Kieran Alder	<b>8</b>	Will Hawes
Karnell Chambers	<b>9</b>	Shiyak Sutherland
Brad Bevan	<b>10</b>	Toby Soule
Warren Mann	<b>11</b>	Jonty Welch
Matt Lee	<b>12</b>	Liam Harper
Sammie Hicks	<b>14</b>	Jacob Rodgers
Connor Walters	<b>15</b>	Callum Dark
Macaulay Herbert	<b>16</b>	Will Tainton
Harley Mustoe	<b>17</b>	Haydn Evans
Cole Clinton	<b>18</b>	James Holder (GK)

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

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

Neil Mustoe	<b>MANAGER</b>	Tom Deakin / Adam Coyle
Liam O'Neill	<b>ASST. MANAGER</b>	
Mike De-Bear (Physio) Alex Butler (Coach) Tim Hall (Coach)	<b>OTHER OCCUPANTS</b>	Tony Woodward (Physio) Nathan Harfield (Physio) Adam Bees (Kit Man)

## OFFICIALS

James Alliband

Alan Berrow

Steve Cook