



**WILLAND
ROVERS FC**

**WHITE SHIRTS, DARK BLUE
SHORTS, DARK BLUE SOCKS**



**THATCHAM
TOWN FC**

**ANTRACITE SHIRTS, ANTRACITE
SHORTS, ANTRACITE SOCKS**



Welcome to Silver Street
the home of
Willand Rovers FC

Mike Searle					Paul Strudley (GK)				
Josh Searle					Matt Partridge				
Willaim Richards					Curtis Angell				
Adam Hill					Jordan Williams				
Ryan Guppy					Zak Westlake				
Joe Curtis ©					Matt Day ©				
Craig Veal					Sam Barder				
Rob Norrish					Harrison Bayley				
Dean Stamp					Jack Alexander				
Callum Hall					Callum Willmoth				
Ben Bickle					Adam Kelly				
Brett Worbey					George Jeacock				
Douglas Camilo					James Tennant				
Aidan Moyle					James Guthrie				
Josh Wadham					Kyle Tooze				
David Steele					Felipe Barcelos				
Ethan Slater					Lamin Sankoh				

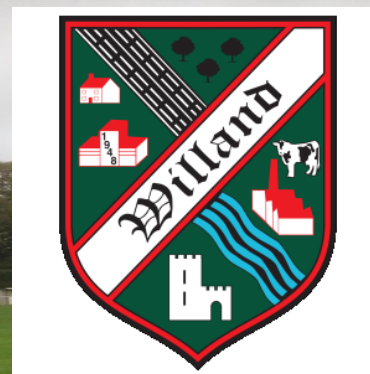
TODAYS OFFICIALS

RUSSELL JEE M
DAVID STEELE A
NEIL GREENING P
WARREN KILLEN C

DANNY ROBINSON
ANDY DARNTON
DECLAN DOWLING
KEITH PENNICOTT-BOWEN

REFEREE
ANDREW HOBBS

ASSISTANT'S
KEVIN LEWIS
CARL PETERS



Saturday 11th January 2020
Willand Rovers FC v Thatcham Town FC
Kick Off 15:00


SPONSORED BY

BETVICTOR | **SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME AND
THANK TODAY'S SPONSOR'S

WILLAND RESERVES OLD BOYS

 WILLAND ROVERS HOME TEAM									
GEORGE						H			
TROUT						LIAM HOLMES			
WASHY						LEE COTTRELL			
JIMBO						LIAM DEVINE			
PHIL CONN						SHAUN DEVINE			
WIGGY						PASTY			
NIGEL HOWE						JAMES SMITH			
RADAR						CAMPS			
KENCH						EDGY			
BUNGI						BIFF			
SPUD						BRETT			
GLIDS						GOZ			
MARROW						STU			

					
Date	KO	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Competition
11 Jan 2020		Willand Rovers		Thatcham Town	Division One South
18 Jan 2020		Barnstaple Town		Willand Rovers	Division One South
25 Jan 2020		Willand Rovers		Frome Town	Division One South
29 Jan 2020		Willand Rovers		Cirencester Town	Division One South
01 Feb 2020		Willand Rovers		Larkhall Athletic	Division One South
08 Feb 2020		Sholing		Willand Rovers	Division One South
15 Feb 2020		Willand Rovers		Evesham United	Division One South
22 Feb 2020		Cirencester Town		Willand Rovers	Division One South
29 Feb 2020		Willand Rovers		Paulton Rovers	Division One South
07 Mar 2020		Basingstoke Town		Willand Rovers	Division One South
14 Mar 2020		Willand Rovers		Slimbridge	Division One South
21 Mar 2020		Moneyfields		Willand Rovers	Division One South
28 Mar 2020		Highworth Town		Willand Rovers	Division One South
04 Apr 2020		Willand Rovers		AFC Totton	Division One South
11 Apr 2020		Melksham Town		Willand Rovers	Division One South
13 Apr 2020		Willand Rovers		Bristol Manor Farm	Division One South
18 Apr 2020		Willand Rovers		Winchester City	Division One South
25 Apr 2020		Cinderford Town		Willand Rovers	Division One South

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building surveying • m&e design • quantity surveying • cdm consultancy



WILLAND ROVERS

Silver Street, Willand, Devon, EX15 2RG
Telephone: 01884 33885
Midweek fixture day: Wednesday, 7.30pm
Nickname: Rovers **County FA:** Devon

FA Charter Status: Standard Club	Joined League: 2019
Website: www.willandrovers.co.uk	Twitter: @WillandRovers
Facebook: n/a	
Instagram: n/a	
Shirt Sponsor: Stan Robinson	Pitch type: Grass
Pitch dimensions: 105 x 64 yards	Covered seats: 102
Ground capacity: 1500	

Chairman
Mike Mitchell, Little Holme, Crowbridge, Cullompton,
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Email: jennymitchell389@hotmail.com

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Press Officer
As Media Officer

First Team Manager
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Mobile: 07970 341997

Fixtures Secretary
As Football Secretary

Therapist
Neil Greening
Mobile: 07788 265982

Finance Director/Treasurer
Catherine Dinner, 6 Siskin Close, Cullompton,
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Email: catherine.cork895@gmail.com

Directors/Committee Members
Richard Barrs (Committee), Dom Clark (Football
Secretary), David Cork (Committee), Cath Dinner
(Treasurer), Simon Dinner (Committee), Tracey
Greening (Secretary), Mike Hawkins (Committee),
Graham Mitchell (Committee), Mike Mitchell
(Chairman), Peter Ward (President), Tony Williams
(Vice Chairman)

Programme Editor
Tracey Greening, 28 Oak Crescent, Willand, Devon,
EX15 2SS
Mobile: 07515 667498
Email: traceyfoister26@hotmail.com

Directions
Leave M5 South at junction 27 and turn left
signposted Wellington, Willand. Go past the
Waterloo Cross Public House and turn right at the
roundabout, signposted Willand B3181. Follow this
road for 2 miles and you will come to a roundabout.
Continue straight across and the ground is 182 mile
on your left hand side.

Club Safety Officer
Mike Hawkins, 2 Worcester Crescent, Willand,
Devon, EX15 3TA
Mobile: 07870 727120
Email: mjh@mjhps.co.uk

Nearest Railway Station
Tiverton Parkway, 4 miles

Home Colours White shirts Dark blue shorts Dark blue socks	Third Choice Colours n/a n/a n/a
Change Colours Purple shirts Purple shorts Purple socks	Goalkeeper Colours Sky blue shirt Blue shorts Blue socks



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Willand Rovers Football Club is a Members Club. All positions below are elected annually by members of the club at the Annual General Meeting which is held in August of each year as per club rules.

Chairman: Mike Mitchell
President: Peter Ward
Vice President: Tony Williams
Treasurer: Catherine Dinner
Football Secretary: Dominic Clark
Secretary: Catherine Dinner
Members: Simon Dinner, Richard Barrs, David Cork, Graham Mitchell, Mike Hawkins, Neil Stone, Andy Barnard, Tracey Greening, Mel Barrs.

MATT PARTRIDGE (Defender) – Former Reading FC youngster who has played in the Football League with Dagenham & Redbridge and Newport County. Joined his home-town team from Gosport Borough in Sep '19.

JACK ALEXANDER (Midfielder) – Former Scotland Youth international who joined from Swindon Supermarine in Nov '18 and has since performed consistently in the middle of the park. Also played in the youth systems at Liverpool FC and Bristol City before moving to Eastleigh.

CALLUM WILLMOTH (Midfielder) – An athletic and skilful player who first represented Town in 2011 and has previously won the club's Player's and Manager's Player of the Year awards. Returned to Thatcham in Summer '19 following an injury-hit spell with Hungerford Town.

SAM BARDER (Midfielder) – A hard working player who can operate at right-back or in midfield. Signed in summer '19 from Didcot where he was a key member of the team which reached the play-offs and league cup final.

HARRISON BAYLEY (Midfielder) – Central midfielder who was part of the FA Vase and Hellenic League winning side in 2017/18 before moving to Bracknell Town. Returned for a second spell with Thatcham in Dec '19.

GEORGE JEACOCK (Midfielder) – Versatile former Oxford United junior who joined from Farnborough early in the 2018/19 season, scoring a debut hat-trick at home to Barnstaple Town. Has since been a regular choice up front or down the right wing.

ADAM KELLY (Midfielder) – Much-travelled wide player who contributes some important goals and assists. Joined from Mangotsfield Utd in Dec '18 and counts Salisbury, Truro City and Weymouth amongst his former clubs.

JAMES TENNANT (Forward) – A strong forward who is effective down the left wing. After scoring 17 goals during the club's 2016/17 Hellenic League campaign he moved to Southern League Premier side Hartley Wintney, before re-joining Thatcham at the start of last season.

JOE SELMAN (Winger) – A former Bristol City junior who signed at the start of the season from Swindon Supermarine. Began the season well, causing defences problems with his pace and trickery, and scoring a handful of goals before being sidelined by a long-term knee injury.

LAMIN SANKOH (Forward) – A nimble forward often used from the bench where his pace and flair cause problems for tiring defences. In his second stint with the club after spells at Highmoor Ibis & AFC Aldermaston.

KYLE TOOZE (Forward) – Lively forward who is a real handful for opposing defences with his high work-rate and robust style. Has a proven Southern League goalscoring record, and made an immediate impact when joining from Mangotsfield in Feb '19, scoring 8 goals in 14 games.

FELIPE BARCELOS (Forward) – A quick, strong and skilful Brazilian striker who was a prolific scorer for Grantham Town and Didcot Town, where he scored 27 goals and won Player of the Year awards in 2017/18.

THATCHAM TOWN FC PLAYER PROFILES – 2019/20 SEASON

DANNY ROBINSON (Manager) - Became Joint Manager alongside Gareth Thomas for the 2015/16 season after spells managing at Winchester City and Alresford Town. Took sole charge the following season and signed a 2-year contract after the FA Vase & Hellenic League double in 2017/18.

ANDY DARNTON (Assistant Manager) – Joined in Jan '17, bringing lots of coaching experience in addition to having managed Andover and Bashley. Made 700 Southern & Isthmian League games in his playing career.

KEITH PENNICOTT-BOWEN (Coach) – A qualified member of the FA's Licensed Coaches Club with Level 1 & 2 badges. Was a midfielder in his playing career, making over 800 senior non-league appearances.

PAUL STRUDLEY (Goalkeeper) – A hugely popular player who spent many seasons with Thatcham in the club's early Southern League days. After leaving for Hungerford Town following the 2011/12 season, he re-signed in Summer '19 after playing for Hartley Wintney.

MICHAEL MILLER (Defender) – A solid and versatile defender who has made over 100 appearances for his local team since joining from Winchester City, and was last season's Manager's Player of the Season.

CURTIS ANGELL (Defender) – A popular, hard-working left-back who was part of the team which won the FA Vase at Wembley Stadium. He was voted last season's Supporter's and Player's Player of the Season, and also coaches the club's Youth Team.

GARETH THOMAS (Defender) – A Thatcham Town legend who has been associated with the club for years, playing over 400 games and operating as Player-Manager from 2015 to 2017. Re-signed from Hungerford in Jan '18 but is likely to miss most of this season with an ankle injury.

MATT DAY (Defender) – A natural leader on the pitch who signed from Bracknell Town in Summer '19, but is best known for his time at Hungerford whom he captained as they reached the Conference South.

ZAK WESTLAKE (Defender) – A dependable centre-back who is forming a strong partnership with Matt Day, and scored the club's opening goal of the season. Formerly with North Leigh and Swindon Supermarine, where he captained the side to promotion to the Southern League Premier.

JACK STANLEY (Defender) – A steady, reliable defender who joined from Salisbury in Sep '18 and has made a string of solid performances at right-back and in the Kingfishers' midfield.

JON BEEDEN (Defender) – Central defender who signed in Feb '19 and brings a lot of experience, principally from his time with Chippenham Town. Has missed the first half of the 2019/20 season through injury.

JORDAN WILLIAMS (Defender) – Pacey left-sided player who signed from Mangotsfield United in Feb '19 and is comfortable operating at full-back or in midfield. Has previously played in the Conference South with Weston Super Mare, and for St Andrews in the Maltese Premier League.



**NELLIE
GREENING**
Physio

**DAVID
STEELE**
Asst Manager

**RUSSELL
JEE**
Manager

**WARREN
KILLEN**
Coach



Follow us on Twitter

@willandrovers

Club History

Rovers from humble origins to today!

Football has been played in Willand for well over 100 years and the first match reports exist from November 1907, when Willand Association Football Club was under the chairmanship of Dr Henry Tracey of the Gables and played their home games at the Pavilion Ground, being the field opposite the Halfway House.

The football club was still going strong by the years of the Second World War, when it was known as Willand Wanderers FC. However, a spell in the financial doldrums left Wanderers going out of business and out of the ashes rose Willand Rovers.

There were two members from the football club on the committee of Willand United Services Club formed in 1942 to organize wartime social events.

During the 2nd World War and for a period of time after wards, the club played home games in Henry Eveleigh's field which is the land that, these days, is opposite the chip shop in Station Road, Willand.

It was in the early 1950's that the club made the switch to its present home, Silver Street, now known as the Stan Robinson Stadium in deference to its main sponsor, Stan Robinson Transport. In 1972 Willand started the season there against near neighbor's Tiverton Town in the Premier Division of the Devon and Exeter League. Interestingly enough, the K. O. was scheduled for 3.15. (To allow the crowds time to enter?) This season saw the first programme produced for match days with 40% of the proceeds on sales going to a prize draw. It also saw the introduction of a refreshment caravan. Whilst it is not clear what was sold from the caravan, the programme advertisers included current programme advertisers, Willand Service Station and Cafe and Spearing's Coaches, past stand sponsors, Lloyd Maunder, now 2 Sisters food group and the long departed Railway Inn at the original Tiverton Junction station.

For the opening match of 1972-3, the two teams included any number of well-known local football names including, for Willand Rovers, Kenny Freeman and current club chairman, Mike Mitchell whilst Tiverton Town included Colin Campion, a relative of Dave Campion who was to go on and become Secretary of the club in early 21st century, along with Nick Seatherton, whose relative, Mark, was one of the stars of the Rovers Devon County League side in the 90's.

LEGEND SAYS.....



*The club's 2017/18 trophies:
the Hellenic League Premier
Division Shield & the FA
Vase*

In 1989 Thatcham reached the last eight of the FA Vase, and in the same competition a record attendance of 1,400 was set when Aldershot Town won 1-0 at Waterside Park in 1993/94. However in 2017/18, Thatcham went all the way and rounded off a magnificent season by lifting the trophy at Wembley Stadium!

A fifth round win against Bromsgrove Sporting brought realisation the club could be on the verge of something special, then over 2,200 attended the quarter-final victory at Melksham Town as cup fever swept the town. Thatcham defeated 1874 Northwich 1-0 and 3-2 in the two-legged semi-final, and took over 5,000 fans to Wembley as Stockton Town were beaten 1-0 in the final.

1996/97 saw Thatcham's best FA Cup run as they reached the Fourth Qualifying Round, but the club are yet to progress beyond the Second Qualifying Round of the FA Trophy.

Thatcham completed the Hellenic league and cup double, by lifting the Hellenic First Division Cup in 1972/73 and the Premier Division Cup in 1974/75. Also in 2017/18 the club reached both league cup finals, only to lose to Bracknell in the Challenge Cup and Binfield in the Floodlit Cup. Meanwhile during the 1990s Thatcham won the Wessex League Cup on four occasions, completing the double in 1995/96. In 1974/75 the club lost the final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup but were awarded the trophy following a dispute between Wycombe Wanderers and the Berks & Bucks FA.

Following Thatcham Town's best ever season, the club finished mid-table in their first season back in the Southern League Division One South and are optimistic of a successful 2019/20 season.

THE HISTORY OF THATCHAM TOWN FC

Thatcham Town Football Club was founded in 1894. The club were originally known as Thatcham, with 'Town' added to its name in 1974. In the early years Thatcham played at The Marsh on Dunston Green, Brownsfield (home of the Cricket Club), Station Road, and in 1949 moved to Lancaster Close. In January 1983 a friendly was played against Fulham FC to commemorate the switching on of new floodlights. To provide improved facilities the club moved to Waterside Park in 1992/93.

The club joined the Reading Temperance League in 1896, winning the Division Two title in 1905/06. In 1953 Thatcham became founder members of the Hellenic League and won promotion to the Premier Division as Division One champions in 1958/59, 1964/65 and 1972/73. The club then won the Hellenic Premier Division title in 1974/75. Following spells in the Athenian and London Spartan Leagues, the club joined the newly formed Wessex League in 1986 and won the title in 1995/96. After finishing second in 2005/06, ground requirements were met earning promotion to step four.

The Kingfishers spent eight seasons in the Southern League Division One – seven in the South & West Division and one (2012/13) in the Central. After sixth-placed finishes in 2006/07 and 2008/09, the club achieved its highest ever position in 2010/11. Despite being in the bottom half of the table at Christmas, the club earned 38 points from the final 15 matches to finish in fifth, however Thatcham were beaten at Sholing in the play-off semi-final.

Once safety was assured in 2013/14, the club resigned from the Southern League to cut costs by playing at a lower level. Town finished twelfth in their first campaign back in the Hellenic Premier, and finished second and fourth the next two seasons. However in 2017/18 the club embarked on an incredible 40 game unbeaten run which saw them overtake long-time leaders Highworth Town and eventually pip Bracknell Town to the title on goal difference.

Legend has it that the current grandstand was built with timber from the then village hall, which also had to make way for the motorway. Despite the stand, disaster followed in 1985 when the Devon and Exeter League ruled that the club did not have adequate facilities to continue to play in the Premier Division and demoted the club to its senior leagues and the reserves went to play in the North Devon League.

Looking at the club and its facilities now, one has to admire the quick and positive way the club fought back from this moment of adversity. As a measure of the progress the club made at that time, inspired by current President and former player and club manager, Peter Ward, "The Rovers" not only got back into the Premier Division of The Devon and Exeter League, it then became one of the founder members of the new Devon County League when it was set up in time for the start of the 1992-3 season.

Rovers hosted their first ever County league match, and Bert Millichip, then the Chairman of the Football Association, was in attendance to witness history being made for the village side.

The manager at that time was Mike Howe, a well-known local former player with both Tiverton Town and Elmore and further proof that "The Rovers" were on their way.

THE CLIVE JONES REIGN.....

Under current manager Clive Jones, the club's rise continued with the County League being won in 1998-9 and again in 2000-1 followed by promotion to the Western League Division One and in season 2004-5, promotion as champions to the Premier Division of the same league.

Success like this on the pitch can only come with hard work and dedication going hand in hand off the pitch and the club has been blessed with a series of loyal and unpaid servants such as the already mentioned Peter Ward, Dave Campion and Mike Mitchell plus such people as Andy Jarrett, who served for 22 years as Secretary. There are many, in the past and in the present, who have, and do, work tirelessly for the club. The clubhouse, post and rail pitch surround and floodlights have all been put in place by the club members. In 2013 in his last game for the Club Clive lead his men to a 1 nil victory over Hallen in the Les Phillips Cup Final.

ROVERS CLIMBING THE FOOTBAL PYRAMID.....

Willand's standing in non-league football climbed to new heights in the last few seasons as they lifted the Les Phillips Cup in 2006/07 beating Welton Rovers in the final, after finishing runners-up to Corsham Town the previous year. Their then highest ever league position also followed in 2007/08 with a fantastic third place spot and that was bettered in a magical 2009/10 season that saw Rovers finish second only to Champions Bideford whilst they also reached the Fifth Round of the FA vase. In 2015-2016 after marathon 7 games were knocked out by Gosport Borough of the Conference South in the 4th Qualifying Round of the FA Cup, just round away from playing in the competition proper.

At the end of the 2013 season long time manager Clive Jones stood down and was replaced by young duo Scott Rogers and Russell Jee. As they learnt their trade the club finished a respectful 8th last year in the league. At the end of the season which was Scott last game in charge of the team we won the Les Phillips Cup beating Barnstable in the final. This season we have had a tremendous FA cup final playing clubs from East London and the South Coast before falling to Conference South giants Gosport Borough.

In 2015 saw Russell Jee taking over as manager with David Steele as his assistant. This exciting pairing will be given time to adjust at the top and improve the club league standing. The season did not start too well with 4 points from the opening league matches and out of both FA competitions. But the club and squad stuck together and went on an unbelievable 12 match winning streak through November, December January and February, by the end of the season we had finished 6th with 70 points our highest points tally in 6 years. We continued our love affair with the Les Phillips Cup with our 6th final appearance in 15 years, unfortunately this year we were the bridesmaid rather than the bride losing to Hengrove Athletic by an odd goal. Our record in the final is now 3 all.

In 2017 the league recognized the sterling services of a few of the 'characters' who have been associated with Willand for over 50 years each. Mike (Mitch) Mitchell, Tony (Tacker) Williams, Pete (Duffy) Ward. Mike (Bacon) Mears and Reg Vile have all shown tremendous commitment to the club and have totaled in excess of 280 years loyal services just to one club, Willand Rovers. We do however have some younger blood helping out within the Club, our Treasurer Cath Dinner has had a long involvement with WRFC as her father played here when she was a mere slip of a girl. Simon Dinner is responsible for the club-house events and maintenance. Tracey Greening is our General Secretary and keeps a sharp eye on all the stock. Dom Clark has been football secretary for a few years now replacing the sadly departed Tony Baker.

Off the pitch the thriving fully refurbished club-house continues to help provide vital funding and the club also has a range of branded merchandise and local business, despite the hard times of the early 21st century recession continue to support, none more so that local haulage firm – Stan Robinson Transport who have increased their involvement with the club as "The Rovers", seek to maintain the impetus of the last few years. Other local businesses have continued to support the club and thanks to The Hickory Inn, Devon Tarmaster, Pencarrie for their involvement with us.

Douglas Baptista CAMILO (MID)

Doug has arrived from Taunton, he has natural balance touch and technique alongside a steely will to win, he will certainly compliment the other central midfield players
Sponsored by Little Copse Garage, Cullompton

Callum HALL (MID)

Callum is a recent acquisition from Tiverton Town, where he produced a number of stand-out performances, finely balanced player who can play down either flank.
Sponsored by Total Roofing, Willand

Josh WADHAM (MID/FWD)

Josh is another player returning to Silver Street, after a few years away at Street where he won the Western League, Taunton, Bideford and Wellington. Exciting runner with the ball, exceptional winger with an eye for a goal
Sponsored by Melanie Barrs, Willand

Dean STAMP (FWD)

Dean has re-joined Willand and brings experience and goals to the side, in his last year at this level he scored in excess of 50 goals, Dean scored over 126 goals in 150 games for the Farm over the last 3 seasons. He was once transferred for £10,000 from Exeter City to Truro FC. Last season Deano has played in 27 games and has scored 15 goals he HAS THIS EASON OVERTAKEN David Steele as the club all time goal scorer sitting on 157 and counting.
Sponsored by The Physical edge, Tiverton

Craig VEAL (FWD)

Vealy has returned from Taunton where he won the league and came second in the premier division. Quick striker whose conversion rate is brilliant, when last playing for us he scored 20 goals in 19 games.
Sponsored by Gary and Liz Kennard

Ben BICKLE (FWD)

Another young talent coming from the Devon league where he excelled for Okehampton last season. He looks strong, sharp with boundless energy, undoubtedly his work rate and goals will soon turn him into a Silver Street favourite. Presently, the young player of the year. In Bicks first season with us coming off the bench in 25 of his 36 appearances he has scored 12 goals
Sponsored by High Dunscoth Labradors Stud, Alan Kennard

Aidan MOYLE (FWD)

It's a miracle that this young lad still plays he has multiple knee surgery on both knees yet he still willing to put his body on the line. This season Aidan has played in 17 games and has scored 4 goals all from the bench, but all three have been vital goals for the club.
Sponsored by CJ Autos, Cullompton

Russell JEE (MANAGER)

Russ was with Exeter City, has played for the likes of Bideford in the past. Took over as manager four seasons ago. His knowledge of the league and local football is second to none. Last season Russ has led the club to a historic ¼ final of the FA Vase. The Les Phillip Cup final and winners of the Western league. He has installed in the team of the benefits of playing exciting football with 150 goals scored last season shows we are a side that likes to entertain. He is now looking forward to pitting his wits against the Southern league

Mike SEARLE (GK)

Experienced keeper at this level having been with Torquay United, Tiverton Town and Truro City in the past, very vocal and assured gloveman.

Last season Searly has played in 41 games keeping 15 clean sheets

Sponsored by Tivvy Skips, Tiverton

Josh SEARLE (RB)

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

Last season Josh has played in 46 games and has scored 16 goals from his full back spot.

Sponsored by Tivvy Skips, Tiverton

Ryan GUPPY (CB)

Ryan is a speedy fullback, with an eye for goal, forth season with us Last season Gups has played in 43 games and has scored 5 goals from his full back spot

Sponsored by Culm Valley Car Sales, Willand

Adam HILL (CB)

Supporters player for past two seasons joined from Callington, tall, athletic, consistent and assured defender. Last season Hilly has played in 43 games and has scored 1 goal, but he does score they are normally very important goals

Sponsored by Tomato Café Bar, Tiverton

Will RICHARDS (LB)

Will has also returned to Willand after leaving Exeter City he had a brief spell with us before trying his luck at Bideford. Recently has been playing his footie in the Devon league. Sweet left foot compliments his mazy runs.

Sponsored by Little Copse Garage, Cullompton

Joe CURTIS (MID)

Joe is now in his 7th season with the club and wears the Captain armband with pride, his ability to be able to keep going for 90 minutes at the same pace is astonishing, very popular member of the squad. Last season Joey had played in 41 games and has scored 2 goals, his break up play is second to none

Sponsored by Mike and Jenny Mitchell, Cullompton

Brett WORBEY (MID)

Brett is in his 6th season with the Club, dead ball specialist with 4 goals this season. Can produce that moment of magic to unlock defences. Presently the managers player of the year.

Sponsored by Edwards plumbing Services, Tiverton

Rob NORRISH (MID)

Combative Rob has returned from Tiverton Town, still showing his warrior attributes with his tenacious break up play and tackling, do not underestimate his passing ability. Last season Bobby has played in 30 games

Sponsored by Highland Car Sales, Willand

David STEELE (MID)

Veteran midfielder, who has played either for us or Tiverton for the past 20 years, very adaptable, uses that knowledge to good effect great communicator and Assistant Manager. Last season Steely has played in 14 games and has scored 2 goals, the second one being very important as it was his 150th goal for the club making the clubs leading goal scorer ever.

Sponsored by Jolly Jaunts Taxi, Uffculme

In 2017 we welcomed a new team to Silver Street with the arrival of the Brave-heart's FC a local side formed to help raise funds for service personnel and founded out of the tragic loss of one of their mates who was killed in action whilst serving with British forces in Iraq. The Saturday side run by Nick Lush finished in mid table in Division 6 their highest finish in their short history but gained success in winning the Carlisle Cup with a late equalizer they then went onto score twice in extra time to secure their first piece of glittering silverware. The Sunday side ably led by Kris Roper put a magnificent late season run together overturning a huge goal difference as the chased the leading side to come through magnificently with a splendid last match win to ensure they ended up as Champions.

For Willand Rovers the 2017-18 season brought the most entertaining attacking football brand we have seen, we were leading goal scorers in the division with some 121 goals in all competitions. Russell and David have brought in exciting young talent in the shape of Luke Mortimore and Brad Ausden and added some experience with Josh Searle and Glenn Gould together with the existing retained squad secured 3rd place with 78 points and a positive goal different of 50+. WRFC were in great shape going into February with games in hand on the eventual league winners, but the wet weather reduced the league programme to a shambles ensuring we are and other clubs were playing 3 times a week. Added to that the loss of 4 key players to serious injury did not help our cause. But as we strive to improve both on and off the pitch this season was certainly taking us in the right direction.

2018-2019 The History Makers

2018 was the Chinese year of the dog well for Willand it was a year when we ended up top dog. It was a year never to be forgotten and will take some effort to beat. The season started by the return of a warrior in Rob Norrish and the introduction to senior football at the club of one of ex youth players Ben Bickle. Both were to have an impact on how the season went. In September another experienced player joined in Craig Duff and that mix of young talent, experience stood us in great stead over the 52 game we played last season.

The brand of football we played was one of excitement and flair some of our goals would not been out of place at the Eithad or Nou Camp. We ended scoring 152 goals across all competitions. We departed the FA cup early but did not lose in the league until late September but by then we have started our FA Vase journey which took deep into the competition finally bow out in the ¼ finals against the losing finalists. In snow covered February and with 6 inches of snow on the ground a magnificent village effort with some 30 volunteers aged between 12 and 84 came and cleared the snow from the pitch so we could get the FA Vase 5th game on was truly amazing. Overcoming Deeping Rangers that Saturday was a magical and befitting moment for the club players and volunteers taking us further into the Vase then we had been before.

Our bread and butter is the league steadily we marched on sitting top of the table for much of the season, where everyone wants to come and knock you off your perch. There were a few hiccups on the way but come late April it was a 2 horse race we needed to draw the other side needed to win.

Travelling to third place Bitton, needing a draw to win the league, Bitton themselves could pip everyone if the calculators could work out the permutations. We got off to the worst possible start conceding a goal after 20 seconds, now the pressure was on but slowly we came into the game but could not find that allusive equaliser.

On the hour we were reduced to 10 men when one of ours was sent off for protecting one of our players from getting thumped. With second place Parkway winning and now top of the league as it stood we needed something special from someone.

But true Champions find a way; they don't lie down in the face of adversity and 2 minutes after being reduced to 10 men, Luke Alden popped up with a sublime finish to gain parity.

So for the first time in the club history we won the Western league and were promoted to the Southern league.

Some of those history makers have left some have moved away some have business and a young family to consider, but they will all go down in Willand folklore as heroes.

So Willand Rovers stand proudly at the highest point the club has reached in its short history. The this year will bring a different set of challenges, the decision has been made to start to develop the Stan Robinson Stadium, a new seating stand which can accommodate at least 50 seats is being sourced, ground in fill around the pitch side has been completed, a physio room and outside toilets have been added as we prepare for our first encounter with the Southern League.

The Club now has to consider whether to stay at Silver Street or move to a facility fit for purpose, with ever more development going on in the village and surrounding area now is the time to make that decision of where our home for the next 55 years will be The last news is that in consultation with a local businessman and land owner we may well be placed to find Willand Rovers a new home in the next 5 years .The story goes on as the dream still unfolds - Watch this space.

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Robert Norrish

Carpet and Flooring Ltd

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Bingo

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