

TOO BALL CT

THATCHAM TOWN FC

WHITE SHIRTS, DARK BLUE SHORTS, DARK BLUE SOCKS

ANTHRACITE SHIRTS, ANTHRACITE SHORTS, ANTHRACITE SOCKS

Mike Searle		
Josh Searle		
Ryan Guppy		
Will Richards		
Adam Hill		
Cormac Pike		
Glenn Gould		
Mani Skett		
Harry Horton		
Archie Reay		
Alfie Mouldon		
David Steele		
Douglas Camilo		
Craig Duff		
Frank Rosenwald		
Aidan Moyle		
Pat O'Hallaran		

George Legg	Ш
Tinashe Gwavava	
Kallum Thomas	
Michael Miller	
Andy Gunn	
Lamar Koroma	
George Smith	
Jamal Branker	
Harvey Harry	
Matt Newbrook	
Conor Lynch	
Jordan Alves	
Alex Fragata	
Kieran Jordan	
Will Frank	
Ousman Darboe	

TODAYS OFFICIALS

RUSSELL JEE M JAMIE LEACOCK DAVID STEELE A YASHWA ROMEO NEIL GREENING P DECLAN DOWLING WARREN KILLEN C SHAUN ALLAWAY REFEREE JAMES GOULD

ASSISTANT'S ALAN BASSETT BAILEY WALKER



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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 Website: www.willandrovers.co.uk Facebook: n/a

Instagram: n/a

Shirt Sponsor: Stan Robinson Pitch dimensions: 105 x 64 yards

tan Robinson Pitch type: Grass

Chairman

Mike Mitchell, Little Holme, Crowbridge, Cullompton, EX15 1QZ

Mobile: 07564 955967

Ground capacity: 1500

Email: jennymitchell389@hotmail.com

Football Secretary

Dom Clark, Braddons Barn, Muxbere Lane, Willand, Devon, EX15 2JH

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Work: 01392 356796 Email: domclarkwillandrovers@gmail.com

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As Football Secretary

Finance Director/Treasurer

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Warren Kileen, 12 Meadow View, Uffculme, Devon,

Covered seats: 102

Joined League: 2019 Twitter: @WillandRovers

EX15 2SS

Mobile: 07802 195072 Email: wazza01uk@gmail.com

Press Officer

As Media Office

First Team Manager

Russ Jee Mobile: 07970 341997

Therapist

Neil Greening Mobile: 07788 265982

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)

Directions

Leave M5 South at junction 27 and turn left signposted Wellington, Williand. Go past the Waterloo Cross Public House and turn right at the roundabout, signposted Williand 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.

Nearest Railway Station Tiverton Parkway, 4 miles

Home Colours Third Choice Colours

White shirts n/a
Dark blue shorts n/a

Dark blue socks n/a

Change Colours Goalkeeper Colours

Purple shirts Star blue shirts

Purple shirts Sky blue shirt
Puple shorts Blue shorts
Puple socks 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.



Willand Rovers Football Club

Southern League Division One South

Silver Street, Willand, Devon EX15 2RG Tel: 01884 33885

Sponsorship Opportunities Season 2020-2021

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- Match Ball Sponsorship £75: Package includes 4 match tickets, pre-match buffet, matchday programme insert and tannoy announcements

(If you wish to increase the number of guests included in the standard Match or Ball package, then each additional guest/ticket is charged at £10)

- Bespoke Match Sponsorship Packages: for larger parties or special occasions we can tailor a bespoke match-day package to your specific requirements
- Mascot Package £50: Packages includes your child leading the teams onto the field, photo with the two captains & referee, 2 match tickets for parents and half-time hospitality

If you are interested in purchasing any match day package then please speak to any of the Club officers on matchdays or contact Cath Dinner on willandroversfc@outlook.com or 07775 550436

All prices stated above are net and are subject to VAT at the current rate



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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.....

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 midtable 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.

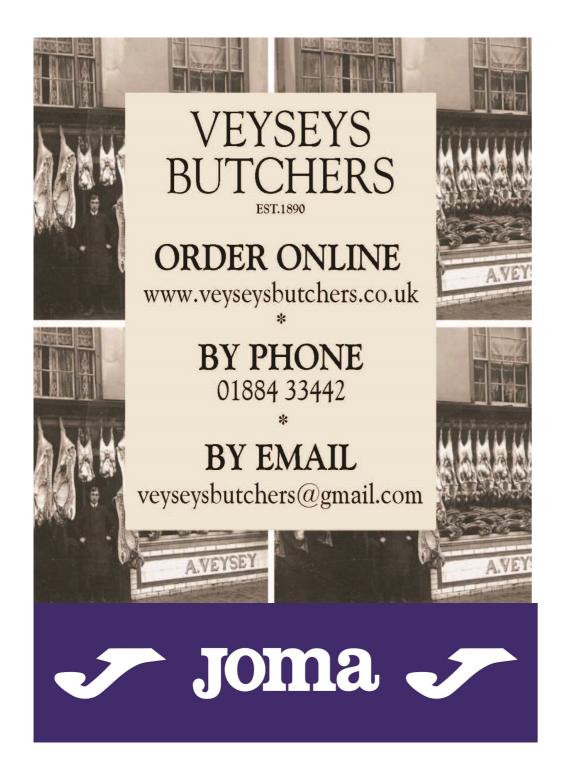
Off the pitch the thriving fully refurbished club-house continues to help provide vital funding and the club also has a range of branded merchandise and local business, despite the hard times of the early 21st century recession continue to support, none more so that local haulage firm – Stan Robinson 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.

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In 2017 we welcomed a new team to Silver Street with the arrival of the Braveheart'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 done 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 lasts 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.



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.

Mike has played in some 180 games in a Willand shirt.

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.

Josh is now in his 4th season with us, having already played in 120 games for the club.

Sponsored by Tivvy Skips, Tiverton

Ryan GUPPY (CB)

Ryan has recently converted to centre back, talented, quick left footed defender. Now starting his 6th season with the club with some 225 appearances already in the bank

Sponsored by Labdon Building Supplies, Cullompton.

Adam HILL (CB)

Hilly is now starting his 5th season with us Mr consistent a fans favourite who keeps winning the supporters player of year award has now played over 200 matches for Willand.

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 Edwards Plumbing, Tiverton.

Joe CURTIS (MID)

Joe is now in his 8th season with the club, his ability to be able to keep going for 90 minutes at the same pace is astonishing, very popular member of the squad..

Sponsored by Mike and Jenny Mitchell, Cullompton

David STEELE (MID)

Veteran midfielder, who has played either for us or Tiverton for the past 22 years, very adaptable, uses that knowledge to good effect great communicator and Assistant Manager.

David has also chalked up 150 goals for the club making the clubs leading goal scorer ever, which is not bad for a lad who played at the back.

Sponsored by Jolly Jaunts Taxi, Uffculme

Douglas Baptista CAMILO (MID)

Doug has arrived from Taunton, now in his second season with us, 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

Glenn GOULD (MID)

Glenn took a year off last year to welcome a new family member, strong combative midfielder, who can also adapt and slot into the back line. Fancy himself as a card sharp.

Sponsored by JHB UK Ltd, Newton Abbot.

Cormac PIKE (MID)

This is Cormac debut season for us he has played for Paulton Rovers and Shepton Mallet before undertaking a soccer scholarship in the status. Athletic left footed player.

Sponsored by Clear Surface, Cullompton.

Alfie MOULDON (MID)

Alfie has arrived from Ilfracombe strong winger with a dream of left peg. Comes from 'up north' so we are taking our time to understand what he says. Sponsored by Crossfit TPE, Tiverton.

Callum EASTWOOD (MID)

Callum comes with a good reputation having arrived from Weston Super Mare on loan. We look forward to seeing his prowess in the middle of the park.

Bailey KEMPSTER (FWD)

Bailey is another loanee from Weston Super Mare, prolific youth team scorer, quick and athletic, getting a taste of men's football with us.

Craig DUFF (FWD)

Swag is a classy footballer, he took a year off to look after his young family but is back. He ahs played for Taunton, Tiverton and the like and was very instrumental in our Championship year.

Sponsored by Alan Kennard, High Dunscott Labradors .

Frank ROSENWALD (FWD)

Frank is a young strong footballer who had a spell with Exeter City as a youngster before undertaking a scholarship in the States.

Sponsored by C J Autos, Cullompton.

Joe WYLIE (FWD)

Joe has recently arrived from our neighbours Wellington where he made his debut aged 16. He is an exciting prospect who like to play in the 'false 9' position.

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.

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