

Hellenic League Premier Division

Monday 24 January 2011

Binfield 2-2 Slimbridge

Yet another late, late goal earned Slimbridge a share of the points in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier League Clash with promotion chasing Binfield. A 150 mile round trip to Surrey on a Monday night was nobody's idea of fun and the cold, damp conditions made it all the more daunting.

With a number of enforced changes, Slimbridge once again took time to settle against a side with a very impressive home record. In the twentieth minute, however, Rob Hine was unlucky to see a header go narrowly wide from a Paul Carter cross. Binfield should have gone ahead after twenty eight minutes when Dave Evans dived to his left to save a harshly awarded penalty. For the second game running though, Evans's heroics came to nothing as the defence failed to clear the resulting corner and Milward put the home side ahead from close range.

Slimbridge then enjoyed a spell of good possession and levelled with a crisp finish from Carter following good work on the left by Jamie Martin. Marv Roberts then hit a good chance over the bar and half time came with the game well poised.

Slimbridge's early season habit of starting the second half badly returned and after fifty one minutes a corner from the right was headed in by the unchallenged Milward. Hine should have levelled the score two minutes later when Hine headed wide but Slimbridge's luck seemed to be out and a series of bad decisions added to the pressure.

Manager Leon Sterling introduced Danny Chandler and Ross Langworthy with twenty minutes to go in an effort to sharpen up the attack but it was Evans who remained the busier keeper. A brilliant save with ten minutes to go seemed to deflate the home side and a long clearance with just a minute to go was well controlled by Roberts. The big skipper turned

deftly and fed the ball through to Langworthy who confidently beat Weait in the home goal for a well-deserved equaliser.

The large crowd of Binfield supporters sportingly acknowledged the whole hearted efforts of the Swans who can be well pleased with a third consecutive draw.

*This weekend sees a break from League action as Slimbridge welcome back Reading Town for a Bluefin Insurance Brokers Challenge Cup Third Round Tie. A minute's applause will be held prior to the game in memory of Reserve Team player Nathan Smith and former Chairman Gordon Tudor who passed away last week.