

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 9 October 2010

Slimbridge 2-1 Binfield

Slimbridge moved up to fourth in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier league after an enthralling encounter this afternoon which saw the home side come from behind to nick the game by the odd goal in three, and which provided superb entertainment for the Wisloe Road crowd.

With the return of Dave Evans to the area, Manager Leon Sterling immediately restored him in goal, which meant no place for Ashley Gayle. Leone Cornwall and Rob Hine also returned to the side at the expense of Jon Hazel and James Cole, with Freddy Ward and Paul Carter included, meaning Ross Langworthy and Micky Bryant dropped to the bench. Danny Chandler and Lewis Wilton also returned to the side, which included Joe Tustain on the bench, his first appearance following his recent injury.

The game started very evenly, with both sides playing attractive football, and it was the visitors who created the first opportunity - Tom Speers was penalised for a push on the edge of the Slimbridge box, but the free kick came to nothing. Slimbridge immediately broke forward, and Captain Marvin Roberts appeared to be brought down on the edge of the Binfield area, but referee Brian Boyle waved away protests from the home side.

Slimbridge should have taken the lead after eight minutes, when a lovely ball from Wilton played in Roberts, who was played wide and then beat Binfield Keeper Chris Adams, only to see his effort cleared off the line by a backtracking defender.

Both Carl and Ian Davies were putting in impressive performances for the visitors, and Hine's foul on Carl Davies on 21 minutes when he was breaking down the Swans' right flank brought a dangerous free kick which Slimbridge managed to clear. Two minutes later, as Binfield continued to press, James Rogers' corner needed some smart work from Speers to clear.

At the other end, Will Wellon, who had a faultless afternoon, beat two defenders before playing in Chandler, who drove his shot high and wide when well placed. As play swung from end to end, Binfield had the next opportunity - on 29 minutes, Carl Davies found himself well placed after a good through ball, but Evans made a neat stop in the Slimbridge goal. Back up at the other end, Carter played in Chandler for a move which ended in a corner, and Hine headed just over.

With 32 minutes gone, Binfield broke the deadlock - Ian Davies was played into space with a neat pass, and he drew Evans before slotting home to the delight of the away support.

In keeping with the flow of the game, the equaliser came within 2 minutes - A flowing move involving Chandler and Carter saw Carter's cross scrambled home via a combination of Lewis Wilton, Marvin Roberts and Binfield's Paul Shone. The referee at half time confirmed that he had recorded the goal as an own goal against Shone.

With a couple minutes left in a frantic first half, Binfield had a chance to regain the advantage as a free kick was cleared by Hine only as far as the edge of the Slimbridge box, but Binfield Captain Gary Callaway hit his shot high and wide.

The second half continued in the same fashion as the first, with Ian and Carl Davies combining well again on 52 minutes, only for Wellon to get a superb block in to prevent a scoring opportunity. As the ball ran loose and play continued, a scuffle ensued, which eventually involved a dozen players and led to Referee Boyle getting both Captains together to calm down their sides. From the resulting free kick, Carl Withers shot wide for the visitors.

Play moved down the other end, and a Chandler corner was cleared only as far as Ben Wood, who couldn't hit the target with his shot from the edge of the Binfield box. Slimbridge began to gain the upper hand, and created three good chances in 5 minutes, as first Chandler, then Speers and Wood, following two Ward free kicks failed to make a good spell of possession pay.

Slimbridge took the lead for the first time after 74 minutes, when another precise move involving Ward and Roberts played in Channing with a neat diagonal pass, and he netted in the far corner, giving Adams no chance.

With four minutes left, it still looked as if Binfield were going to nick a point, but superb blocking by Hine, and then Wood cleared the danger, and the Swans' held on for a very impressive win.

Slimbridge now travel to Oxford City Nomads for a League encounter on Wednesday (7.45), before a trip to Brimscombe and Thrupp next Saturday in the GFA Challenge Trophy (2pm).

Following their defeat of Oxford City Nomads, Slimbridge have been drawn away in the next round to Maidenhead United Reserves. The tie will be played on a date still to be confirmed, either during week commencing 8th or 15th November.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Welon, Hine, Speers, Wood, Carter, Ward, Roberts (Tustain 74), Chandler (Bryant 77), Wilton (Langworthy 90)

Goals: Shone (OG) 34, Chandler 74