

# **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 11 September 2010**

## **Slimbridge 2-1 Bracknell Town**

Slimbridge consolidated their place in the top three of the UHlsport Hellenic Premier League with a 2-1 victory over Bracknell Town at Wisloe Road this afternoon. The Swans overcame the early loss of Joe Tustain to injury, going in two goals to the good at Half Time thanks to Freddy Ward and Tom Speers, and although Bracknell replied in the second period through Sam Whiting, the home side held on for a deserved victory.

Manager Leon Sterling made changes after the midweek win at Cheltenham Saracens, recalling himself and Leone Cornwall into the back four to replace James Cole and Jamie Inch. In midfield, Rob Hine came in for Tom Cole, and Assistant Manager Freddy Ward replaced Warren Mann.

The Swans were unlucky to lose Striker Joe Tustain after only ten minutes, when he fell awkwardly when chasing for possession. A lengthy stoppage ensued while Tustain was treated, but he returned to the fray, albeit looking in considerable pain.

A fairly slow start from both sides, not helped by the lengthy stoppage, saw the first real chance come from the home side on 15 minutes, when Danny Chandler broke forward and rounded Bracknell Keeper Dan Tillson, only to see a backtracking defender work well to clear the ball before any damage could be done.

Two minutes later, Tustain bowed to the inevitable, and left the pitch to be replaced by Marvin Roberts. Tustain was still obviously in pain, and needed to be carried to the dressing room for further treatment.

The Swans started to up the pressure, and were rewarded on 21 minutes when Micky Bryant was hauled down in the box as Ward delivered a corner, and Referee Boyles awarded a spot kick to the home side. Ward drove the ball high to Tillson's right to put the Swans ahead.

Ward's dead ball deliveries were beginning to cause problems for Bracknell, and on 24 minutes, another of his pinpoint corners saw Tom Speers stoop to head home his first goal for Slimbridge, and double the advantage.

Bracknell replied with a surging run from Dean Thomas which brought him though on goal, only to be thwarted by a courageous save from Dave Evans. As the game swung from end to end, Speers missed a gilt-edged opportunity to double his goal tally on 31 minutes, heading wide after Chandler pushed over a great cross from the left.

Bracknell made a strong start to the second half, and were rewarded on 50 minutes when some slack Slimbridge defending allowed Whiting to latch onto a long through ball, and leave Evans well beaten with a confident finish.

The momentum of the game appeared to be changing at this point, and 2 minutes later, Callum Whitty was brought down on the edge of the Slimbridge box, giving the visitors a free kick in a very dangerous position. However, the Slimbridge wall held firm and the ball was cleared.

As Slimbridge fought their way back, Chandler had a couple of good chances to increase the home side's lead, the best being a head which drifted just wide of the post on 68 minutes, following good work on the left by Rob Hine.

A minute later, Evans kept Slimbridge's lead intact with a fantastic stop from Sam Denison's point blank header.

The tiring Chandler was replaced on 72 minutes by Paul Carter, as Slimbridge looked to try and kill the game off, but Bracknell were still proving tough opponents and Speers and Cornwall were well tested by some inventive running and movement from the away side.

With Ben Wood replacing Marvin Roberts with 5 minutes left, there was still time for Bracknell to have one last chance to tie the game - On 88 minutes, Tom Nugent played in Dean Thomas with a deft through ball,

but he put the ball wide under pressure from Dave Evans to secure the points for The Swans.

On Saturday, Slimbridge return back to Wisloe Road to entertain Witney United, Kick Off 3.00pm.

The home tie in the second round of the A M Print & Copy Floodlit Cup against Oxford City Nomads has been moved back a day, and will now be played at Wisloe Road on Wednesday, October 6th, with a 7.45pm Kick Off.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Wellon, Sterling, Speers, Hine, Bryant, Ward, Chandler (Carter 72), Tustain (Roberts 17, replaced by Wood 85), Langworthy.

Goals: Ward (Pen) 21, Speers 25

