

Hellenic League Premier Division

Tuesday 8 March 2011

Carterton 2-0 Slimbridge

A disappointing display saw the Swans drop points to a Carterton side who thoroughly deserved their spoils on a bitterly cold night in Oxfordshire. The Swans never hit any kind of rhythm, and the closing game played by the home side laid the foundations for them to score two late goals to nick the points.

Slimbridge made a bright start, and had the first real chance in the opening minute, when Micky Bryant's good work found Craig Cole via Paul Carter, but Cole couldn't control the direction of his shot and it missed the target.

Carterton responded with a neat move involving Tim Crofts and David Craig, which saw Craig's effort stopped by a timely tackle from Captain Jamie Inch with three minutes on the clock. Slimbridge responded again with a spell of pressure which saw them earn 3 corners on the bounce, and as the third corner was cleared, it took a good covering tackle from Tom Cole to stop George Seacole, who had slipped past Inch's challenge to move into a dangerous position.

As the game moved from end to end, a Rob Hine break with 11 minutes saw Danny Chandler brought down on the edge of the Carterton box. Chandler himself took the free kick, which was deflected for a corner which was subsequently cleared by the home defence.

The Swans continued to press, and Hine was again involved in a neat 1-2 with Carter, and it took a strong tackle from Carl Austin to break up what looked like a promising move down the Slimbridge left flank.

As the game began to drift a little, the visitors created the next effort - On 29 minutes, Carters Free kick saw Tom Speers find the side netting with his effort. As the pressure built again from the visitors, Craig Cole

brought a good save from Carterton Keeper James Domm with 33 minutes on the clock, and, a minute later, Hine headed just wide following Chandler's corner

If a goal was going to come, at this point it looked like the away side who would fashion a breakthrough - Ross Langworthy played in Chandler after 39 minutes, but the striker miscontrolled the ball and the chance was lost. The home side had the last decent chance of the half, when Hine was dispossessed by Gary Smales, who shot just wide from 20 yards to leave the game goalless at the end of the first period.

Carterton started the second period a lot more brightly, and started to put on their own spell of pressure. With 52 minutes on the clock, Chris Zoldan combined with Seacole in a move which saw Seacole shoot wide, and then, following a miscontrolled ball by Jamie Inch, Danny King shot over as the home side continued to press.

Leon Sterling responded to the change of pace by replacing Danny Chandler with Marvin Roberts, but Carterton still kept pushing forward - after a Carter cross had seen Ross Langworthy head just wide, a fluffed clearance from Tom Speers saw Seacole again pressing forward, this time his shot ending up just over the bar.

With Dean Turner now replacing Ross Langworthy for the visitors, Carterton continued to press. David Bostock went close on two occasions with shots, before his third attempt saw him convert an opportunity after Danny King's shot has come back off the Slimbridge crossbar with Dave Evans beaten all ends up, to put the home side ahead with 69 minutes on the clock.

Leon Sterling played his last card on 75 minutes, replacing Micky Bryant with Karl Nash, but Carterton responded by scoring their second goal to seal the game two minutes later. Mark Threlfall worked his way through a static Slimbridge defence to bring a superb save from Evans, but Zoldan was first to the rebound and netted to secure the points for the home side.

Although Roberts went close with two minutes remaining, shooting over when well placed, it was to be a blank night for the visitors, and it was a delighted Carterton who celebrated their success at the final whistle.

Team: Evans, Sterling, T. Cole, Inch, Speers, Hine, Carter, Bryant (Nash 75), Chandler (Roberts 56), C. Cole, Langworthy (Turner 65)