

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 12 March 2011**

### **Slimbridge 2-2 Flackwell Heath**

The Swans dropped more valuable points this afternoon as Flackwell Heath left Wisloe Road with a draw. After going behind in the first half, 2 goals in 3 minutes from Craig Cole and Paul Carter seemed to have swung the contest towards the home side, but Slimbridge failed to build on their lead, and Flackwell's second goal earned them a thoroughly deserved point and a share of the spoils.

Manager Leon Sterling made four changes to the side which lost at Carterton, bringing Leon Cornwall and Will Wellon into the back four at the expense of Jamie Inch and Tom Cole. Ross Langworthy dropped to the bench to be replaced by Ben Wood, and Marvin Roberts returned to the side at the expense of Danny Chandler.

A turgid opening saw neither team create anything remotely approaching a chance, and it was the visitors who had the first shot on goal with 20 minutes on the clock - Leon Cornwall found his way into Referee Steve Glyde's book for a challenge on Adam Paget, but James Pritchard's shot was easily saved by Dve Ecans in the Slimbridge goal.

The visitors continued to create the better chances as the first half progressed - firstly, on 24 minutes, a Carter foul on Riccardo Cannon saw Evans forced into action again, pushing Pritchard's shot for a corner, before Pritchard was again thwarted - Leon Cornwall clearing his goalbound shot after he lobbed Evans and looked as if he had opened the scoring.

It was not until the 28th minute that the home side fashioned a decent chance for themselves, but Micky Bryant's spectacular overhead kick, following good work from Hine and Carter, went over the bar.

On the balance of play, it was no surprise when the visitors took the lead with half an hour on the clock, initiating a seven minute period when three goals were scored. Heath's Adam Paget converted Callum Coull's cross with ease to give them an advantage they deserved on chances created.

The goal seemed to spur the home side into action, and they responded four minutes later - Roberts' cross neatly put away by Craig Cole to level the scores. Just three minutes later, a 25 yard free kick from Paul Carter, which whistled past Heath Keeper Ollie Brown gave the home side the lead at the interval.

Flackwell Heath continued to press as the second half started, and Danny Jordan wasted two good chances in the first 5 minutes as the visitors looked to pull back their one goal deficit. Pritchard and Cannon created the next good chance for Heath, but Cannon would have looked to do better with a weak shot when well placed which didn't trouble Evans.

The Swans thought they had a cast iron penalty on the hour, when Roberts was felled in the box chasing a Bryant header from Carter's corner, but Referee Glyde was having none of it, and waved play on despite protests from the home side. Slimbridge continued to have a good spell of pressure, and Roberts' missed overhead kick on 66 minutes brought an end to a neat move which saw Jamie Martin miss his kick following a corner and goalmouth scramble.

Will Wellon was next into the Referee's notebook, being pulled up for a foul outside the box on Pritchard which had the away bench screaming for a red, but the free kick was cleared. Marvin Roberts had a superb opportunity to kill the game off on 76 minutes, but his lob over Keeper Brown drifted just over the Heath bar, after being played in by some good work from Jamie Martin.

The miss was to prove costly, as the visitors went straight up the other end and equalised - Pritchard's surging run towards a backtracking defence saw him pick his spot and drill the ball past Evans to even up the scores on 79 minutes.

Although Cole and Langworthy both had decent chances in the last 10 minutes, a draw was probably a fair reflection of the play on the day, but the Swans were left to rue two more dropped points in their title challenge.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Wellon, Sterling, Speers, Wood, Bryant (Martin 64), Hine (T. Cole 52), Roberts, C. Cole, Carter (Langworthy 75)

Goals: C. Cole 34, Carter 37