

Hellenic League Division 1 West

Saturday 26 February 2011

Slimbridge 6-0 Kidlington

Expectations of a game generally expected to be a tightly fought affair between two of the top three sides in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier League were confounded by a dominant and powerful performance by The Swans, who drew level with their opponents on points following this six goal demolition job.

Slimbridge took the lead through Captain Marvin Roberts within three minutes of the start, and never looked like relinquishing their advantage against a Kidlington side who never hit their stride. Roberts' second goal doubled the home side's advantage just before the interval, and second half scores from Micky Bryant, Danny Chandler, Paul Carter and a Tom Cole penalty completed the rout.

Slimbridge were looking for a fast start against their second placed opponents, and took the lead with the first meaningful move of the game. With three minutes on the clock, neat work between Micky Bryant and Craig Cole won a corner for the home side, and Carter's cross was met by a superb diving header from the Swans' captain to put them ahead.

Two minutes later, the game could have effectively been over, as Craig Cole was played through on goal one-on-one with Kidlington Keeper Tom Macnamara, but the ball bobbed as Cole was just about to shoot, and his effort skied over the Kidlington goal.

Slimbridge continued to press, not allowing their opponents to get into any sort of stride, and looked the more likely side to get on the scoresheet, although a dropped cross from Slimbridge Keeper Dave Evans resulted in a rare chance for the visitors on 22 minutes. Jimmy Deabil's subsequent challenge caught Evans rather than the loose ball, and the chance went begging, with a free kick awarded to the home side. Evans received treatment for his knock, but was able to continue in goal.

The move sparked Kidlington's best spell of the game, with Anaclet Odhiambo looking dangerous for the visitors, but a back four superbly led by Leon Sterling and Tom Speers denied them any real goalscoring opportunities, despite the extra possession that Kidlington enjoyed.

On 26 minutes, the visitors felt that a challenge by Speers on Odhiambo as he broke through on goal deserved a red card, but Referee Steve Dolton decided that Speers was not the last man, and he escaped with a yellow. Ben Willoughby's subsequent free kick crept wide of the Slimbridge goal, with Evans watching the ball closely past the post.

With a minute to go before half time, Craig Cole's break and cross down the left flank saw Roberts notch his second headed goal of the game to put Slimbridge firmly in control at the break.

Slimbridge again made a positive start to the second period, and after only two minutes, Roberts could have completed his hat trick of headers, just missing the target after another good cross from Carter. Five minutes after the break though, the game was effectively ended as a contest by another nicely crafted move. Ben Wood's shot from outside the penalty box saw Macnamara make a superb save to push his shot away, however the ball came back across the box for Micky Bryant to finish off from close range.

Danny Chandler came on for Bryant with 62 minutes on the clock, and nearly made an instant impact. Craig Cole, who was again at the heart of many of the Swans' best moves, set Chandler through, but he shot over the bar. The Slimbridge marksman was not to be denied though, and he extended the home side's lead on 76 minutes - played through on goal past a static Kidlington defence, Chandler lobbed Macnamara to score the home side's fourth of the afternoon.

With their tails up, Slimbridge continued to press and Carter was next on the scoresheet two minutes after Chandler's strike. A cross was cleared to him outside the Kidlington box, and Carter's rocket shot gave Macnamara no chance.

Still the goalscoring continued - with a minute remaining, Speers made a foray into the Kidlington box, and was felled after a neat sidestep. Tom Cole stepped up and confidently stroked the ball home to record the Swans' sixth of the afternoon, and complete a memorable afternoon for Slimbridge and their fans.

The Swans entertain Thame United at Wisloe Road this Saturday (3rd March, 3.00pm) before travelling to Carterton next Tuesday (8th March 7.45pm). Flackwell Heath then come to Wisloe the following Saturday (12th March, 3.00pm)

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Wellon, Sterling, Speers, Wood, Bryant, (Chandler 62) T. Cole, Roberts (Langworthy 84), C. Cole (R. Wilton 89), Carter

Goals: Roberts 3, 44, Bryant 50, Chandler 76, Carter 79, T. Cole 89 (Pen)