

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 5 February 2011**

### **Old Woodstock Town 2-3 Slimbridge**

Another fine victory on the road for Slimbridge as they continue the fight to stay in touch at the top of the UHlsport Hellenic League. In blustery conditions at Eynsham Park the Swans were forced to hang on for a 3-2 win after having two players dismissed.

Forced to re-shuffle the pack once again as a result of injuries and suspensions, Manager Leon Sterling responded by playing Rob Hine at centre-forward with Ross Langworthy given a deserved place in the starting line-up following a recent run of goals when coming on as a substitute. An uphill struggle looked on the cards against a well-placed Old Woodstock Town after only 58 seconds when Jack Dunmall confidently placed the ball past Slimbridge keeper Dave Evans after smart work on the right from Tom Green. Slimbridge responded well to the early setback and after quarter of an hour could have been ahead as Jamie Martin failed to connect with a Lewis Wilton cutback then squeezed the ball just past the post when one on one with the home keeper.

Both sides were playing some good football despite the conditions but Slimbridge struck the next blow. A corner on the left from Martin was met with a perfectly cushioned header by Hine into the path of Ben Wood who smashed the ball into the net from 25 yards. The visitors were lifted by the goal and went ahead shortly after when Martin was given another chance to take on Barrett and this time slotted the ball past the advancing keeper.

Martin thought he had put the Swans further ahead with another smart finish only to be flagged offside. The scores were levelled though on the stroke of half time when a speculative shot from Green struck the crossbar and Alfie Saunders was first to react and apply the finishing touch.

The second half began in much the same vein as both sides struggled for ascendancy and rhythm and chances were few and far between. Tempers were ignited on the hour when Martin and home full back Matt Willet were given straight red cards following an altercation. The Swans pulled ahead again five minutes later when Lewis Wilton broke free on the right, cut into the penalty area and squared for the prolific Langworthy to add to his mounting tally. The game then became very staccato as every clash and challenge appeared to require a free kick and the brandishing of a card. Assistant Manager Fred Ward was the next one to see red as shortly after being booked an opponent ran straight into him. Unable to get out of the way, Ward was astounded to be heading for the dressing room and the home fans smelt blood with the visitors down to 9 players with quarter of an hour to go.

Time appeared to be going backwards as the Swans held on but the final whistle was met by cheers from the visiting fans as the true battling spirit of the team once again prevailed.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Cole, Wellon, Speers, Wood, Langworthy, Ward, Martin, Hine, Wilton, Bryant