

## **Hellenic League Cup**

**Saturday 29 January 2011**

### **Slimbridge 3-1 Reading Town**

The Swans recorded their third victory of the season over Reading Town at Wisloe Road this afternoon, successfully navigated a tricky Bluefin Insurance Challenge Cup Third Round tie. Slimbridge came back from a goal behind to triumph 3-1 after falling behind. Supersub Ross Langworthy continued to press his case for a starting position with a brace of goals that swung the game in the home side's favour, with Freddy Ward adding a third goal late on. Reading had taken the lead on the stroke of half time through Danny Seaward.

Manager Leon Sterling made one change from the side which shared the points at Binfield on Monday, with John Hazel coming back into the side in place of Jamie Inch.

On a bitterly cold afternoon at Wisloe Road, it was the visitors who looked most lively early on, with Marcus Richardson and Danny Seaward looking particularly dangerous. On 10 minutes, Seaward had the first good chance of the game, volleying the ball just over following a neat run and cross from Ashley Watkins. Two minutes later, more pressure from Reading saw Paul Carter lose possession in midfield, resulting in Richardson having a clear run through on goal. His weak shot straight at Swans' Keeper Dave Evans spurned a golden opportunity for the visitors to take the lead.

Slimbridge responded in the 15th minute, when a clever move involving Jamie Martin and Carter saw Marvin Roberts well placed, and although his shot beat Reading Keeper Curtis Rackley, it also ran just wide of the far post to keep the scores level. A glorious move on 21 minutes saw Rob Hine play in Freddy Ward down the Slimbridge left flank, and Ward's pinpoint cross saw Jamie Martin put in a superb goalbound header which was turned away for a corner magnificently by Rackley.

On 37 minutes, Carter, who was clearly struggling with a hamstring injury was replaced by Ben Wood, but it was the visitors who upped the tempo and took the lead on the stroke of half time. A through ball saw Leon Cornwall chasing back towards his own goal with Reading's Danny Seaward, and, under pressure, Cornwall stumbled and failed to clear the ball, leaving Seaward to gleefully net past a helpless Dave Evans to give the visitors the lead.

Slimbridge started the second half brightly, and after an early Ward Free Kick, Lewis Wilton's cross saw Jamie Martin well placed, but his shot was too near Rackley, and was saved comfortably. With 56 minutes on the clock, Leon Sterling made two substitutions which were to change the face of the game - with Martin and Cornwall leaving the fray, the introduction of Craig Cole and Ross Langworthy was to prove inspirational. Within 10 seconds of coming on, langworthy had hit the Reading Town crossbar with a superb header from Wilton's corner, and the Swans' move to three at the back allowed Cole the freedom to put in a very effective performance in midfield.

It took only seven minutes from the substitutions for Slimbridge to draw level, and both the new men introduced were heavily involved - Craig Cole's powerful running down the right flank saw him create space for Tom Cole to put in a dangerous hanging cross, and Langworthy rose superbly to direct a lovely header down past Rackley to level the scores. It was lovely piece of play from the home side.

Eight minutes later, the Swans took the lead - Ward sprung the Reading offside trap down the Slimbridge right, drew the keeper and then passed across the goal for Langworthy to notch his second of the game. Ward's contribution was not finished however, and with two minutes remaining he sealed the game for home side. Played in down the left flank, Ward managed to beat Rackley from the narrowest of angles as he closed in on goal with Langworthy waiting in the centre for the opportunity to collect his hat trick.

The draw for the next round of the competition will be announced in due course. Meanwhile, Slimbridge return to League action next weekend, travelling to Old Woodstock Town on Saturday (3.00pm), before another mammoth trek, this time to Maidenhead United on Tuesday 8th February (7.45pm) for a Floodlit Cup third round tie.

Team: Evans, Hazel, Cornwall (Langworthy 56), Hine, Speers, T. Cole, Carter (Wood 37), Ward, Roberts, Martin (C. Cole 56), Wilton

Goals: Langworthy 63, 71, Ward 88