

Hellenic League Premier Division

Wednesday 18 August 2010

Slimbridge 2-0 Shrivenham

The Swans moved to second place in the the UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division with a 2-0 victory over Shrivenham at Wisloe Road this evening. After a dour first 45 minutes, two goals in 5 minutes from Joe Tustain put Slimbridge in charge, and the striker was denied a Hat Trick in the final minute when his penalty was well saved by Shrivenham Keeper Daryl Simms.

Manager Leon Sterling brought himself into the side that had drawn at Wokingham and Emmbrook, with Assistant Manager Freddy Ward dropping to the bench. Jamie Inch returned to the side as Captain, replacing Richard Workman, and Rob Hine, Marvin Roberts and Ben Wood were replaced with Tom Cole, Micky Bryant and Adam Philp as Sterling made use of his squad.

The game quickly developed into a stalemate, with neither side able to put their opponents under pressure - The Visitor's best effort came early - Anthony Packer firing over the bar after a good run on five minutes. Slimbridge hit back with a sweeping move from left to tight involving Will Wellon, Tustain and Paul Carter, whose probing cross was put behind for a corner which came to nothing. Jamie Inch was his usual dependable self, and some good work from him set Carter up with a good chance on 32 minutes, but his shot was saved by Simms.

Shrivenham had two chances to register on the scoresheet before half time - on 43 minutes, Rory Sproul made space for himself by turning Sterling in the box, but then saw his shot loft over the bar, and just before the break, following a clearance from Swans' Keeper Dave Evans, Michael Lawson tried a first time effort from just inside the Slimbridge half which drifted wide of the goal with Evans struggling to get back. The Swans replied with a surging run from Philp, who appeared to be barged off the ball in the box. Referee Benin, who had a very impressive evening,

was having none of it, and waved away the home side's appeals for a penalty.

Slimbridge started the second half at a completely different tempo, and were soon looking far more dangerous. There were further shouts for penalties early in the second half, as a Tom Speers header was blocked in the box on 50 minutes. The Swans felt there may be an element of handball, but Mr Benin waved away the appeals. A minute later, neat work from Sterling saw him play in Philp, who seemed to be pulled down in the box, but again, the referee ruled the challenge fair.

On 57 minutes, the tiring Philp was replaced by Marvin Roberts, and his presence had an instant impact on the home side, as he contributed to a lovely move involving Lewis Wilton and Carter, which resulted in Tustain shooting wide when well placed. Tustain and Wilton were again involved 2 minutes later, when they created the space for a Tom Cole cross which was cleared by an under pressure Shrivenham defence.

On 61 minutes, Slimbridge made the breakthrough their second half performance deserved, when another well worked flowing move involving Bryant and Tustain made space for Tustain to net in the corner past Simms, who was well beaten by the Striker's effort.

Shrivenham replied with another good effort from Sproul, who was causing Sterling some problems, but his shot on the turn went just wide on 65 minutes. The Swans broke at the other end, and Wilton played a ball wide left to find Tustain. His cross in the box was missed by everyone, and with Keeper Simms distracted by the presence of Carter, it ended up in the back of the net to double the Swans' advantage.

The second goal killed the game off, and although Roberts and Wilton both had opportunities to increase the lead, it was not until the 90th minute when, following a foul on Wilton in the penalty area, Tustain was given the chance to complete his hat trick. His powerful penalty was very well saved by Simms to deny the Slimbridge man his third goal.

The Swans now face three away games on the bounce, at Bracknell Town (Saturday 21st, 3pm), Pegasus Juniors (Wednesday 24th, 7.45pm) and Ascot United (Saturday 28th, 3pm) before they return to Wisloe Road on August Bank Holiday Monday, entertaining Shortwood United (Monday 30th, 3pm).

Team: Evans, Sterling, Wellon, Speers, Inch, Cole, Carter (Ward 66), Bryant, Tustain, Philp (Roberts 57), Wilton

Goals: Tustain (61, 66)