

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 30 October 2010**

### **Thame United 1-2 Slimbridge**

Slimbridge returned from Oxfordshire with all 3 points and a place at the top of the Hellenic league thanks to a brace of goals from Mickey Bryant.

The home side started the brighter and could easily have been two goals up within the first 5 mins, two corner kicks resulted in centre half James Saulsbury being allowed free headers but both went wide of the goal.

Slimbridge appeared to be very lethargic, unable to string any passes together and this gave the home side confidence to move forward in numbers, pressurising the visitor's defence who managed to sustain the pressure thanks to some great defending from Rob Hine who was outstanding all afternoon.

Slimbridge had their first attempt on goal in the 12th min when Paul Carter's free-kick found Tom Speers in space but his shot went wide.

Shortly after Marvyn Roberts set Craig Cole up but his shot was weak and hit straight at the home keeper.

At the other end Thame's Adam Rhodes went close with a good volley which went just over the bar.

Thame had a loud appeal for a penalty in the 21st min when Ben Wood appeared to shove his opponent in the back but their appeal's were waved away by referee Paul Humphrey.

Play became very scrappy and apart from a 'mazy' run by the home side's Alex Stewart, which ended in a magnificent last ditch tackle by Hine, their were no further chances and the first half ended all square;

Whatever manager Leon Sterling said in his half-time team talk seemed to take effect because within a couple of minutes of the re-start Slimbridge were in front.

Mickey Bryant chested the ball down on the edge of the penalty area and shot into the corner of the net to give the visitors the lead.

The game suddenly came to life and further chances for Roberts in both the 64th & 65th minutes went begging.

Slimbridge replaced Craig Cole and Paul Carter with Fred Ward and Ross Langworthy in the 65th minute, the latter having a great chance to increase the lead virtually straight away when Roberts threaded a great ball to him but his attempted 'chip' over the keeper lacked power and the keeper chased back to gather the ball safely.

In the 70th minute the home side equalised in controversial circumstances.

Dave Evans made a superb save, palming over Alex Stewart's goal bound shot and the referee awarded a corner, however the assistant raised his flag and signalled for a penalty kick, apparently for a tug on the shirt by Tom Speers, which infuriated the visitor's and resulted in cautions for both Speers and Roberts.

After a discussion with his assistant referee Humphrey's pointed to the spot and the penalty was neatly despatched to bring the scores level.

This appeared only to inspire the visitor's and they pushed forward in numbers.

It didn't take long for them to regain the lead when in the 75th min Mickey Bryant, with his back to goal, turned on a sixpence and hit a superb low shot from 12 yards out which crept just inside the post and into the net, sending the away fans into rapture's with chant's of 'Justice' echoing around the ground.

Thame tried to respond with shots by Jones and Ricketts but both were comfortably dealt with by Evans.

There was still time for one last scare when Thame were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the visitor's box but it was well defended and the ball was cleared up field to safety and the final whistle was blown.

An excellent three points for the swans and loud cheers were heard coming from the changing rooms when the result from Shortwood filtered through, Ardley's defeat at Meadowbank meant that Slimbridge went top of the table and this set's up Wednesday Evening's home encounter with Ardley very nicely.

Team: Evans, Hazel, Wellon, Hine, Speers, Wood, Carter (Ward 65), Bryant, Roberts, Cole (Langworthy 65), Wilton

Goals: Bryant 47, 75