

# **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Thursday 29 March 2012**

## **Binfield 0-1 Slimbridge**

A pulsating 90 minutes of football ended with the Swans returning home with all three points in the bag thanks to a wonder strike from Alex Higgs in the 87th minute.

Slimbridge made the long Journey to Binfield in Berkshire on Thursday evening but they showed no signs of travel sickness, taking the game to their hosts, who along with Slimbridge were battling for a final place in the top six of the Hellenic League Premier Division.

The game was played at a fast pace throughout and was a credit to both sides.

As early as the 2nd minute Swans skipper Marvyn Roberts tested home keeper Danny Wealt with a good shot and within a minute Binfield striker Garry Sargeant replied with a similar effort which Swans keeper Dave Evans held well.

Both sides were biting at the bit and both sets of supporters were treated to a good display of fast flowing football.

After 10 minutes Mike Bryant crossed from the right, Roberts headed on to Jamie Martin who volleyed just wide.

Tackles were flying in as the battle continued and Binfield's skipper Paul Shone was lucky to escape with a lecture from referee Douglas after a poor challenge on Tom Cole after 18 minutes.

Rob Hine's poor back header to Evans after 20 mins let Ian Davies in but his weak shot was straight at the Swans keeper.

Slimbridge should have been awarded a penalty kick on 23 minutes when Ross Langworthy was blatantly bowled over in the box but the referee ignored their appeals, one of several incidents that Douglas failed to deal with throughout the game.

With 30 minutes on the clock Binfield's James Suarez fired hard and low at Evans but once again the Swans keeper showed a safe pair of hands to gather well.

5 minutes later Evans did even better when he got down low to push a drive by Suarez round the post for a corner.

On 40 minutes a superb pass by Jamie Martin let Langworthy free on goal but his lob over keeper Wealt, who got a hand to it, went agonisingly wide of the post for a corner.

The resulting corner by Martin found Roberts who nearly gave the Swans a half time lead but his looping header came back off the post.

The first half ended with Binfield battering the Swans defence but they held firm as an entertaining half ended goalless.

The second half started as the first, fast and furious, with both sides upping their game, and after 54 mins Langworthy's darting run into penalty area ended with Dave Fenton bringing him down and referee Douglas pointed to the spot.

The usually reliable Tom Cole stepped up but his poor kick was easily saved by Wealt, much to the frustration of the visitor's bench.

On 60 mins manager Leon Sterling replaced Martin with Alex Higgs and straight away the young striker was involved in several good attacks.

With the Swans tails up Binfield introduced star striker Carl Davies and with his first touch of the ball his header rebounded back off the post with Evans stranded.

Sterling brought on Brad Martin for Bryant after 70 mins as the game continued at a frantic pace.

Fred Ward's cross in the 75th minute was headed just wide by Roberts and at the other end Binfield nearly took the lead but some excellent defending by Hine and Wellon, plus two outstanding saves by Evans ensured the game remained in the balance.

On 82 minutes Slimbridge's Leon Cornwall was lucky to remain on the pitch when he brought down Davies, a confrontation ensued between the two which caused a fracas, referee Douglas decided that a yellow card was sufficient to Cornwall, much to the Astonishment of everyone else in the ground.

As the game entered the last 5 mins tempers frayed with Rob Hine receiving a caution for a poor challenge.

It was going to take something special now for either side to win the game and that moment arrived for the Swans on 87 mins.

Alex Higgs was some 30 yards out when the ball arrived to him at waist level, the youngster hit a stunning volley which hit the back of the net with such force that Keeper Wealt just stood still in amazement.

The travelling Swans supporters went wild, a goal worthy of winning any game and one which made the long journey back home that much more enjoyable.