

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 27 August 2011

Slimbridge 1-4 Binfield

The Swans fell to their first defeat of the season this afternoon at Wisloe Road, where they were comprehensively outplayed by a Binfield side who looked sharper and more determined in every department.

Binfield took the lead on 26 minutes through Ian Davies, although the home side struck back almost immediately with Brad Martin notching his second goal of the season. Danny Wing restored the visitor's advantage before the break, and two early second half goals from Carl Withers and Carl Davies emphasised Binfield's superiority on the day. The home side can have no complaints about the score line, and Manager Leon Sterling must now rally his troops for the visit of Highworth Town on Monday afternoon.

Sterling shuffled his back four from the side that won at Shrivenham in midweek, with Shane Anson being recalled to the side. Will Wellon and Rob Hine made up the central pairing, with Leon Cornwall reverting to left back, allowing Brad Martin to be selected on the left side of midfield. Ben Wood, Freddy Ward and Paul Carter made up the rest of the midfield four, with Marvin Roberts partnering Jamie Martin up front.

Binfield started the game at a very high tempo, and immediately began creating chances as the Swans struggled to settle into the pace of the game - after just three minutes, a cross from the left flank saw Danny Wing in space, but he scuffed his shot and Dave Evans made an easy save. A mix up between Evans and Will Wellon over a through ball, saw Carl Davies very nearly take advantage, with Evans forced into a hurried clearance. From Paul Mortimer's long throw back into the Slimbridge box, Mike Hancock rose above Leon Cornwall, but could not direct his header and Evans gathered safely.

Ian Davies and Carl Davies were already creating all sorts of problems for the Slimbridge defence with some very quick and accurate passing moves, and with 13 minutes gone, their interplay created another good chance for the visitors, but Carl Withers' shot just skipped past the Slimbridge post to keep the scores level.

With 20 minutes on the clock, another intricate move saw Carl Davies set up Withers, but he blasted his shot high and wide. The first goal for the visitors didn't take too much longer coming though - A corner on 26 minutes saw Ian Davies in space at the far post, and although his first header and a subsequent follow up were blocked by Slimbridge defenders on the line, Davies nodded the ball home at the third attempt to give Binfield the lead.

This spurred Slimbridge into action, and two minutes later, they equalised with their first proper chance of the game. Marvin Roberts found himself in space on the right side of the Binfield box, and his cross-cum-shot was turned home by Brad Martin to level the scores.

Momentum briefly turned to the home side, and Roberts nearly notched up Slimbridge's second when he rounded Binfield Keeper Dan Weait, although the big man was driven very wide of the penalty box in doing so . His goalbound shot was cleared off the line. A minute later, Jamie Martin's smart turn and shot brought another save from Weait, in what proved to be The Swans' best spell of pressure in the match.

On 35 minutes, the action was down the other end again - After Shane Anson slipped and lost possession, Ian Davies brought an excellent save from Dave Evans, as the visitors pressed. Two minutes later, Binfield were back in front, when Ian Davies and Carl Davies orchestrated another pacey sweeping passing move from left to right, and Danny Wing finished in style, beating Evans from the edge of the box to make the score 2-1.

With four minutes remaining in the half, a miskicked clearance from Dave Evans reached Carl Withers 25 yards out, and gave him the chance to loft the ball back into an empty net, but he misjudged his shot, which drifted over the bar.

There was still time for one more opportunity, this time for the home side, and it was Roberts again who was involved - a strong run which saw him beat three men ended with a shot cleared off the line just before the half time whistle.

Binfield continued to look the sharper of the two sides after the interval, and continued to make the better chances for themselves. Some more neat passing saw Steve Nebbett in space on 47 minutes, but he shot wide. Carl Davies continued to taunt the Swans' defenders, with a run half the length of the pitch only being eventually stopped by a last ditch tackle from Will Wellon.

The Visitors were not to be denied though, and two goals in a five minute period killed off any hopes Slimbridge had of making their way back into the game. On 54 minutes, Ian Davies made a surging run at the backpeddaling Slimbridge defence, before laying the ball off to his right, where Carl Withers blasted the ball past Evans.

Five minutes later, Wing beat Will Wellon, and the same left to right passing move involving Ian Davies ended with the ball at the feet of Carl Davies, who gleefully netted Binfield's fourth goal of the afternoon.

With five minutes remaining, Paul Carter's cross saw Karl Nash, who was now on for Roberts, collide with Weait as he collected the ball, and pick up a yellow card for his troubles from Referee Mark Niemerski, which seemed to sum up the frustrating afternoon endured by the home side.

However, nothing should be taken away from a very impressive Binfield performance - the visitors thoroughly deserved the points they took with them back down the M4. Leon Sterling will be looking for a response from his players on Monday, when Highworth Town come to Wisloe Road (3.00pm).

Team: Evans, Anson, Cornwall, Wellon, Hine, Wood, Carter, Ward, Roberts (Nash 66), J. Martin (Langworthy 49), B. Martin (Wilton 52)

Goal: B. Martin 28