

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 3 March 2012

Slimbridge 5 - 1 Bracknell Town

The Swans moved up to third place in the Uhsport Hellenic Premier League with a 5-1 win this afternoon over Bracknell Town. A first half Karl Nash effort put the home side ahead, before Adam McNamara equalised for Bracknell on the stroke of half time. It took until the 68th minute for Slimbridge to re-establish the lead, but two goals each from both Rob Hine and Jamie Martin earned the points for the home side, who are now undefeated in 13 games.

With Centre Half Jamie Inch nursing a knee injury, and Captain Marvin Roberts rested because of a hamstring problem, the Swans welcomed back Assistant Manager Freddy Ward after suspension.

With the home side on top in the opening exchanges, Alex Higgs had a golden opportunity to open the scoring on 15 minutes, when he found himself through on goal, but Bracknell Keeper Chris Adams was equal to the task and made a good save. Nash was not to be denied though, and a minute later scored the opening goal, when the ball fell to him in the Bracknell box, and he netted with the help of a deflection to put Slimbridge ahead.

A nasty looking injury to Daniel Holloway held up play shortly afterwards, when the youngster went over awkwardly on his ankle in the Bracknell box, and had to be replaced by Jamie Martin. Holloway was obviously still in some discomfort after the game, and it is hoped that the injury will not turn out to be too serious.

Nash continued to cause problems for the visiting defence, forcing another good save from Adams on 22 minutes, before Swans Keeper Dave Evans was called into action for the first time, tipping a Bracknell free kick over the bar on 24 minutes.

Despite their lowly placing, Bracknell were certainly matching their hosts in midfield, where Ben Wood was beginning to influence matters for Slimbridge, and the visitors could have been level on 28 minutes, when Joe Richards' shot just slid past the post with Evans beaten.

Slimbridge missed another chance to extend their lead on 31 minutes, when Higgs' cross set up Nash for a shot, but he failed to connect when well placed.

As the first half went on and Slimbridge added to their list of missed chances, Bracknell grew in confidence and had their best spell of the match in the final period of the first half. After Micky Bryant had narrowly missed another good chance for the home side, a long throw into the Slimbridge box as the clock ticked past 45 minutes was not dealt with, and Adam McNamara made the most of the opportunity to level the scores, sending the teams in equal at the break.

Higgs was at the centre of the best two moves early in the second period, playing in Bryant, whose shot was blocked and then setting up Martin, who shot wide, before Manager Leon Sterling made two quick substitutions - Firstly Lewis Wilton replaced Nash on 54 minutes, and three minutes later, Tom Cole replaced Higgs.

After Hine's neat finish after being played in by Bryant was ruled offside on 60 minutes, the home side started to control the game. Ben Wood's right side shot from outside the box brought a superb save from Adams on 66 minutes, and the home side's pressure told two minutes later - Wood's cross being converted by Hine to restore the home side's advantage.

The second goal saw Bracknell heads go down, and it became one way traffic - Martin missed another great opportunity to extend the lead on 75 minutes, after another penetrating run from Wood, but Martin was on target a minute later to make the score 3-1. A lovely passing move involving Wilton and Wood saw the striker in space, and he made no mistake, although Bracknell felt that Wood had used his hand during the buildup to the goal. In the last five minutes of the game, Slimbridge scored two more - Wood and Martin again combined with Martin striking

home the fourth before Martin was brought down in the box with the clock on 90 minutes.

With his Hat Trick in his sights, Martin took the penalty, but Adams made a good diving save to his left. he then made another good stop to the follow up, before the ball fell to Hine, who netted to record his first brace of goals for Slimbridge since November 2009, and give the scoreline a look which was a little unfair on the visitors. However, as Hine pointed out later, if the home side had taken their first half chances, the game would have been over by half time.

The Swans are back at Wisloe Road next Saturday when Witney Town are the opposition. The game kicks off at 3pm.

Team: Evans, Anson, Cornwall, Wellon, Hine, Wood, Ward, Bryant, Higgs (Cole 57), Nash (Wilton 54), Holloway (Martin 17)

Goals: Nash 16, Hine 68, 90, Martin 76,85