

FA Cup Preliminary Round

Saturday 3 September 2011

Slimbridge 1-2 Cadbury Heath

Slimbridge ended their involvement in this seasons FA Cup with a disappointing defeat at home to Toolstation League 1 high fliers Cadbury Heath. The visitor deserved their victory as Slimbridge failed to stamp any authority on the game after coming back from an early Cadbury goal.

Both sides started brightly with most of the early exchanges between the sides being even, however Slimbridge won the first corner of the game in the 5th minute from which Alex Higgs tame header was easily caught by the visiting keeper. Two minutes later a tackle by the visitors Billy Fletcher stopped the advancing Alex Higgs from getting a last gasp shot on goal. The first goal of the game came in the 10th minute, when a Cadbury Heath free kick on the edge of the Slimbridge box was nodded home at the back post by defender Joe Chandler.

The game continued to flow with neither side taking any control in the game with Freddie Ward trying to pick out the Slimbridge strike duo of Higgs and Roberts with a couple of teasing crosses only for the visiting stopper Ricky Lebiecz to take the ball cleanly out of the air on each occasion. Cadbury then started to show some good passing moves especially down the right with the fast paced Will De-Witt and George Boon linking up well to cause the Slimbridge defence into make some timely interceptions.

On 21 minutes visiting striker Sacha Tong's overhead kick from 15 yards sailed wide of Dave Evans right hand post. Two minutes later a Cadbury Heath corner landed onto the top of the net as the visitors started to control the game. The resulting goal kick was fired back at Dave Evans in the Slimbridge goal by Jason Base with his effort sailing inches over the bar. This seemed to wake up the home side as on 27 minutes a teasing low Freddy Ward cross from the right was cut-out at the last moment by the visiting keeper just as Higgs arrived in the box.

This was shortly followed by a close effort from Shane Anson heading Paul Carters cross past the post.

Slimbridge got back into the game on 35 minutes when captain Mervyn Roberts was pulled down inside the Cadbury box while in a goal scoring position. Paul Carter stepped up placing the ball into the top left corner of the net to bring the home side level. Following a good run by Shane Anson on the right his cross was easily dealt with by the keeper with goal scorer Carter chasing into the box. Slimbridge continued to try and press, on 41 minutes a home free kick was flicked on by Roberts to Carter whose cross was scrambled away at the back post. A lively final five minutes before half time saw a huge throw from Chandler on the left landed straight in Dave Evans hands on the goal line, while at the other end Higgs miskicked when put into a good position by the advancing Ward on the right. The final action of the half saw the visitor's winger Boon put a tame free kick high over the bar.

Half Time 1-1

Cadbury Heath started the second half brightly with De-Wett, Tong and Boon all linking up well inside the Slimbridge box only to see the ball fall into the safe hands of Dave Evans in the home goal. At the other end Micky Bryant tried to lob the advanced visiting keeper, but the keeper made an easy catch a couple of yards from goal. On forty nine minutes a Carter header was turned away for a corner after good work from Ward, from the resulting corner Carter shot wide with the visitors unable to clear the initial danger.

A minute later a deflected cross by Fletcher looped into the air fortunately keeper Evans was first to react to make an easy catch. Evans was in action again shortly after saving at the feet of the advancing Boon after a teasing cross from the right. The visitors now bossing the game dealt the home team with what turned out to be the fatal blow on 54 minutes. Leon Cornwall failed to clear the ball on the edge of the box and was duly dispossessed by Tong who coolly slotted the ball into the bottom left corner past the stranded Evans.

Slimbridge tried to get back into the game and after some neat work from the midfield the resulting Roberts shot flashed wide. On 57 minutes a further spell of pressure from the visitors fails to come to anything of note. A free kick given away by Cornwall two minutes later is headed on by Reynolds but was saved by Evans as but the assistant's flag on the right was up for offside. Another dangerous free kick on the right for the visitors from Chandler had to be tipped onto the bar by Evans only for the assistant's flag to be raised again to the dismay of the visiting contingent.

On 64 minutes a flurry of activity from both benches saw both sides make a double substitution. For the visitors Will De-Wett and Dwain James were replaced by Liam Planter and Luke Corrish and for the home side Alex Higgs and Micky Bryant were replaced by Rob Hine and Ross Langworthy. Almost immediately Ward had a shot cleared from the line, at the other end good pressure from Cadbury resulted in an offside offence which again was not very popular with the visiting supporters.

Slimbridge made a third change on 69 minutes with Lewis Wilton replacing goal scorer Paul Carter. Evans was called on to make a close range save from Reynolds after some neat work down the visitor's right. Two minutes later a run down the Slimbridge right from Shane Anson who was now operating on the right wing resulted in a corner for the home side, the resultant corner was cleared. The home side now started to press hard in pursuit of an equalizer with Anson shot deflected just over the bar following a good passage of play from Hine and Roberts.

The visitor's third substitution was made on 73 minutes when James Cobbly replaced Jason Base. A minute later Ben Wood became the first name in the referee's notebook after a heavy challenge on the halfway line. Slimbridge were lucky not to concede a third goal on 76 minutes when a clearance by home keeper Evans from a back pass looped up into the air close to the penalty spot fortunately he was able to clear to safety under the challenge of Reynolds.

On 80 minutes the impressive Brad Martin made a great block after a close range shot from Reynolds following a well-placed cross from Planter. Two minutes later Slimbridge had a great chance to score from a Ward cross but Hine and Langworthy only managed to connect with the visiting keeper instead of the ball. With less than five minutes of normal time remaining Leon Cornwall added his name to the referee's notebook with a

clumsy challenge on substitute Luke Corrish. It was then the turn of Fletcher to become the first Cadbury player to earn himself a yellow card, the resulting free kick taken by Brad Martin sailed over at the far post.

Late in stoppage time the visitors gained a corner from an well taken free kick but failed to make any further impact as the referee ended Slimbridges hope of FA Cup success with the visitors taking a well-deserved victory and with it a place in the 1st qualifying round against the winners of the replayed tie between Shortwood United and Bishops Sutton.

Slimbridge: D Evans, S Anson, B Martin, L Cornwall, J Inch, B Wood, E Ward, M Bryant (Hine), M Roberts (c), A Higgs (R Langworthy), P Carter (Wilton)

Goals: Carter (pen) 35

Bookings: Wood 74, Cornwall 85

Cadbury Heath: R Lebiez, C Astley, D Hallett (c), B Fletcher, J Chandler, D James (L Planter), W De-Wett (L Corrish) J Base (J Cobbly), M Reynolds, S Tong, G Boon

Goals: Chandler 10, Tong 54

Bookings: Fletcher 88

Attendance: 81