

Hellenic League Premier Division

Tuesday 27 December 2011

Slimbridge 4-2 Cheltenham Saracens

In an entertaining local derby at Wisloe Road on Tuesday, it was the swans who took all three league points against Cheltenham Saracens which keeps them in fifth place of the Hellenic League Premier Division.

The game started at a frantic pace, Slimbridge scoring in the 1st and 6th minutes but by the 16th minute it was all square at 2-2.

Slimbridge went into the break 3-2 up with a goal after 39 mins and secured all 3 points with another one on 70 mins.

After just 54 seconds Daniel Holloway burst down the left wing and his cross was met by Skipper Marvyn Roberts who who beat keeper Tim Griffiths with a perfectly placed shot.

Just two minutes later Jamie Martin nearly made it 2-0 but saw his fierce shot rebound back off the crossbar, however two minutes later the Swans did increase their lead when Martin's cross was volleyed home by Mike Bryant, the ball going in off the underside of the bar.

The visitors quickly hit back with two counter attacks and were soon level.

On 8 minutes a corner kick was headed home by Chris Pates and then on 16 minutes a good move involving several players resulted in Skipper Mike Rhodes shooting past the helpless Dave Evans in the home goal.

A pulsating opening quarter could never continue at such pace and the game soon settled into a midfield battle with both sides competing well for the ball.

Five minutes before the break the swans found themselves back in front, Holloway's corner kick was well headed past Griffiths by Jamie Martin to give the home side a half-time lead.

The second half was a much more tame but tense affair with either side looking capable of scoring.

Martin went close with a shot that just cleared the bar and at the other end a well-timed tackle by Rob Hine denied Jamie Hammond a shot on goal.

On 62 mins Evans in the home goal did well to punch the ball off the goal-line following a corner kick and then Rhodes volleyed just over from 18 yards.

Marvyn Roberts found himself clear on goal in the 64th minute after dispossessing Luke Tovey but Referee Sian Piret, who had an excellent game, penalised Roberts for a foul.

Slimbridge Manager Leon Sterling replaced Roberts with substitute Karl Nash on 70 minutes and with his first touch he had the ball in the net to give the home side a two goal cushion.

Further efforts from Holloway and Nash nearly increased their lead but the final whistle came to put an end to a fine spectacle, sending the fans home happy and leaving Slimbridge ending 2011 firmly in the top six.

Team: Evans, Cornwall (Wood 72), Wellon, Hine, Inch, Cole, Ward, Bryant, Roberts (Nash 70), Martin (Wilton 63), Holloway,

Subs Not Used- Sterling, James Cole.

Man Of The Match- Daniel Holloway.