

## **GFA Challenge Trophy**

**Saturday 15 October 2011**

### **Elwood 0-2 Slimbridge**

A disputed Karl Nash goal put The Swans on the way to victory against a determined Ellwood side at Bromley Road yesterday, as the visitors progressed to the next round of The GFA Challenge Trophy. Jamie Martin's strike just before half time saw Slimbridge take a comfortable lead into the break, but Ellwood fought back in the second period and Dave Evans was forced into a string of good saves to keep the home side out. The Swans could have increased their advantage, but second half goals by Martin and Nash again were both ruled out for infringements.

After a cagey start by both sides, the game exploded into life with nine minutes on the clock - Jamie Martin's neat run down the left flank saw a good cross reach Nash on the edge of the Ellwood box. Nash controlled the ball, and turned to smash an unstoppable drive past Tim Yemm to put the visitors ahead. Ellwood felt that Nash had used his hand to control the ball as he brought it down, but Referee O' Sullivan disagreed and allowed the goal to stand, much to the frustration of the home fans and bench.

The goal settled Slimbridge down, and a continuous period of pressure ensued - Marvin Roberts saw his shot blocked after a Jamie Martin Free Kick on 16 minutes, and a couple of minutes later, Micky Bryant was very unlucky not to get on the end of a drilled Martin cross after good interplay with Roberts.

The first real opportunity for the home side arrived after 24 minutes, but Evans was alert and his dive at the feet of Lee Scotford saw him do enough to keep the ball out. This prompted a decent period of possession for Ellwood, and both Jamie Addis and Alex Brown could have done better with shooting opportunities, but failed to hit the target. The nearest the home side to an equaliser in this period was a cross which caught the wind from Gary Wildin, forcing Evans to make a catch over his head just under the Swans' crossbar.

Ellwood continued to press, and with Will Wellon having a superb game at centre half, they were only kept out two minutes before the half by another good save from Evans, who acrobatically pushed Wildin's header for a corner following a dangerous cross from Scotford.

Just before the interval, Slimbridge doubled their advantage - Brad Martin's initial corner had seen Rob Hine's header bring a superb stop by Yemm for another corner, but the home defence left Martin completely unmarked as Martin's second effort came over, and the striker netted with ease.

The first 15 minutes of the second period were dominated by Ellwood, with Evans being called into action to make two top class stops - firstly from Byron Ranford's header, and then from Wildin, who continued to look the most likely goal scorer for the hosts.

With 65 minutes on the clock, Jamie Martin's header from Bard Martin's cross was fumbled over the line by Yemm into the Ellwood goal, but on the instructions of the linesman, the goal was ruled out, much to the surprise of the visiting fans.

Slimbridge missed a gilt-edged chance to finally kill the game off on 77 minutes when Brad Martin broke into the box on the left flank, but elected to shoot rather than play the ball to the completely unmarked Roberts. Yemm's dive to his right saw him make a relatively comfortable save from the Youngster's shot.

With five minutes remaining, The Swans' saw another goal ruled out - this time Nash being pulled back for offside as he slid the ball past Yemm.

It was the final action of an entertaining encounter in which both teams played their part.

The Swans now turn their attention to next weekend, when they make the trip to Bath to play Larkhall Athletic in the FA Vase. At the time of writing, there are currently a handful of places still left on the Free Supporters' coach, which leaves Wisloe Road at midday. Call Colin Gay on 01453 548778 or 07702 070229 to book your place.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, B. Martin, Hine, Wellon, Wood, Bryant (Ward 66),  
T. Cole, Roberts, Nash, J. Martin

Goals: Nash 9, J. Martin 45