

# **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 8 October 2011**

## **Fairford Town 1 Slimbridge 1**

The points were shared in a scrappy encounter at Cinder lane when Slimbridge met Fairford Town for the second time in five days. As in Tuesday evenings Floodlit cup encounter the Swans ended the game with ten men after Jamie Martin was sent off for showing dissent towards an Assistant after already being cautioned for an earlier similar offence.

The visitors started the stronger and took the game to their hosts from the off. Rob Hine and Brad Martin combined well with the latter's shot being deflected for a corner as early as the first minute. A second corner kick 5 minutes later ended with Mike Bryant's fierce volley from 18 yards being well saved by Luke Adams in the home goal.

After soaking up the early spell of pressure, Fairford responded when a good cross by Joey Dorey was headed just wide of the post by Dan Bailey. Slimbridge should have opened the scoring on 20 minutes when a superb cross by Jamie Martin left Brad Martin with a simple chance but the youngster fluffed his shot by tamely side footing it wide. There was a loud appeal from Fairford for a penalty kick in the 25th minute when swans skipper Jamie Inch appeared to push his opponent in the back but referee Rob Hey was having none of it.

Slimbridge broke straight away and Mickey Bryant's rasping drive from 20 yards was well palmed away by Adams. Right on the half time whistle a superb drive by Steve Hall looked certain to open the scoring until Dave Evans in the visitors goal somehow got a hand to the ball and pushed over the bar for a corner, ensuring that both teams went in for their half time cuppa all square.

It took just 50 seconds of the second half for the home side to open the scoring, Tom Cole, returning to the side after a long time on the side lines due to a suspension, lingered with the ball too long just outside his own penalty area and Charlie Grabe nicked it off him and placed a perfect shot past the helpless Evans.

This livened the Swans up and they nearly equalised straight away when a cheeky 'overhead kick' by Brad Martin came back off the post. Fairford's Nathan Gambling found himself clear in the 52nd min but with only Evans to beat he put his shot high and wide. Manager Leon Sterling replaced Rob Hine with young striker Alex Higgs in the 53rd min in an attempt to search for an equaliser and it came almost immediately when Brad Martin's right wing cross was headed in from close range by Jamie Martin.

Martin almost returned the compliment to his namesake but Brad's header from Jamie's cross in the 65th min went wide. Slimbridge found themselves down to ten men when in the 68th minute goal scorer Jamie Martin turned from hero to villain, receiving his second yellow card of the afternoon for voicing his opinion to the assistant, an unnecessary sending off which left his team mates with an uphill struggle.

Although a man short the visitors continued to press the home defence, the hosts felt the wrath of 'fussy' referee Hey who issued them with 5 yellow cards, 4 of which were for dissent. With 5 minutes remaining Charlie Grabe looked to be clear on goal but Evans did well to come out quickly to gather the ball. A couple of late efforts from Higgs came to nothing so both sides had to settle for a point each, probably a fair result on the day.

Slimbridge Team:

Evans, Anson; Cole; Sterling; Inch; Wood; Turner; Bryant ( Ward 58)  
J.Martin; Hine (Higgs 53); B. Martin;