

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 31 March 2012**

### **Slimbridge 1-0 Fairford Town**

The Swans recorded their second 1-0 victory on the bounce, defeating a hardworking and impressive Fairford Town at Wisloe Road this afternoon. The result means Slimbridge are now fourth in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier with their next two games coming against second placed Ardley United at Wisloe Road next Saturday, before a trip to Leaders Oxford City Nomads on Easter Monday.

After Swans' Captain Marvin Roberts had put the home side ahead in the 14th minute, both sides had further opportunities to get on the score sheet, but a combination of bad luck and sloppy finishing meant that Roberts' goal proved decisive at the final whistle.

The first real action of the first period produced the only goal of the game - a Fairford break saw the impressive Charlie Grabe cross to leave Joey Dorey with a simple chance, but Dorey inexplicably elected to cross the ball back rather than shooting himself, and Rob Hine was on hand for the home side to put the ball behind for a corner.

The corner kick was cleared out of the Swans' defence to Marv Roberts, who cleverly lobbed his marker, putting himself through on goal with only Fairford Keeper Luke Adams to beat. The Slimbridge captain slammed the ball home to put the home side ahead.

To their great credit, Fairford continued to battle, with no sign of their heads going down as a result of going behind, and Nathan Gambling's neat pass played in Grabe on 17 minutes, but he scuffed his shot and Slimbridge Keeper Dave Evans saved easily.

The next best chance of the first period fell to the home side on 23 minutes - Roberts' superb turn and cross on the right flank saw Lewis Wilton get ahead of his marker and head the ball just the wrong side of the Fairford post.

Fairford responded well, and had a good period of pressure around the half hour mark - Henry Trass' jinking run was only halted by a superb tackle from Liam Harding, before Dorey shot wide after Tom Cole allowed a ball to bounce over his head. As the visitors' confidence grew, both Ash Taylor and Richard Stubbs failed to convert a chance during a goalmouth scramble with 31 minutes on the clock.

On 35 minutes, Jamie Martin's break set Lewis Wilton away, but he was brought down outside the Fairford box. Martin's resulting free kick was blocked by the wall and went for a corner, but Harding's cross was again nodded the wrong side of the post by Wilton.

Still Fairford battled away and it took a superb defensive header from Micky Bryant to take the ball off the head of Trass as the visitors continued to give a good account of themselves.

At the interval, Roberts was replaced by Karl Nash, the Swans' talisman having picked up a knock on his foot during Thursday's win at Binfield, and having played through the pain in the first half.

Slimbridge nearly doubled their lead on 48 minutes, when Harding's cross was headed just over by Nash, but the Slimbridge man had already been ruled offside prior to the ball coming over to him.

Bryant was next to try and get on the scoresheet, his header from Martin's corner bringing a good save from Adams five minutes later.

As the game flowed from end to end, both sides were still in with chances to score, with Wilton and Martin missing chances for the home side, while Grabe and Trass pressed for the visitors without success.

The Swans had two good chances to clinch the tie - on 70 minutes Nash appeared to be felled in the Fairford box, but Referee Paul Collyer saw no foul, and then Martin missed the best chance of the second half on 73 minutes - Played in down the left flank by Wilton, Martin tried to lob Adams, but only succeeded in playing the ball safely into the Keeper's hands to keep the home side on edge waiting for the final whistle.

Team: Evans, Cornwall, Cole, Sheppard, Hine, Wood, Harding, Bryant (Ward 58), Roberts (Nash 45), Martin, Wilton

Supporters Man of the Match: (Joint) Liam Harding, Andy Sheppard