

Floodlit Cup

Tuesday 4 October 2011

Slimbridge 0-1 Fairford Town

Slimbridge ended their interest in the AM Print and Copy sponsored floodlit cup tonight after dominating the second half with 10 men after the sending off of home keeper Dave Evans midway through the first half.

Both sides started brightly but neither team managing to get a shot on target. Slimbridge had their first real chance on 15 minutes when Alex Higgs shot was spilled by the visiting keeper only for him to gather at the second attempt. 7 minutes later another chance went begging when Brad Martin shot over from Dean Turners through ball.

Home keeper Evans was called into action on 27 minutes catching a high ball into the box whilst under pressure from a Fairford striker. Two minutes later the games major turning point occurred, Evans clumsily dived at the feet of the visitors Steve Hall pulling him down however the referee waved play on as the ball had ricocheted to Dan Bailey who shot wide of the empty goal. Fairford were then awarded a penalty for the foul with Evans receiving his marching orders as he was judged to have denied a goal scoring opportunity. Substitute Jamie Martin took over in between the posts at the expense of former swans manager James Cole making a cameo appearance. The resultant penalty was dispatched by Nathan Gambling to the delight of the visiting bench.

The remainder of the half was fairly even with neither side managing a shot on target.

The second half was dominated by the home side although a man down played some good passing football. On 57 minutes from a Slimbridge free kick close to the left corner flag Danny Chandler struck the top of the bar with the visitors managing to clear the ball to safety. Fairford were now under increasing pressure clearing off the line from a Karl Nash cross followed up by a goal bound shot blocked by the visiting defence. As

Slimbridge continued to pressurise Rob Hine headed over from a corner, then the hardworking Nash managed to get the ball in the net from 10 yards only to be judged offside.

Both Nash and the hardworking Mickey Bryant shaved the visitors post as Slimbridge camped inside the visitors half for much of the last 10 minutes of the game. In injury time visiting keeper Luke Adams pulled off a great driving save from a Hine header to put his team through to the 3rd round of the competition despite the visitors being unable to trouble stand in keeper Martin during most of the second period.

Both teams meet again in the league this coming Saturday at Fairford.