

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 7 January 2012**

### **Flackwell Heath 2-2 Slimbridge**

For the second time in a week Slimbridge ended the game with ten men and had to defend for their lives to secure a well earned point at high flying Flackwell Heath.

After taking a 2-0 half time lead with two goals from skipper Marvyn Roberts, the swans found themselves having to battle against a rejuvenated home side once influential midfielder Fred Ward was dismissed for using his arm in the 73rd min.

The game started badly for the home side when Adam Paget had to be stretchered off to hospital in the 5th min, falling awkwardly on the heavy surface.

With just 12 mins on the clock the visitors went in front, Jamie Martins free-kick being bundled over the line by Roberts after a goal mouth scramble.

Flackwell had a loud penalty appeal turned down by referee Karl Tribe on 22 mins when Will Wellon appeared to push Danny Jordan in the back, one of several incidents that Tribe appeared to have a different opinion to than the majority of observers.

Flacwell threatened briefly with a couple of good attacks but found both Wellon and Jamie Inch in fine form with some solid defending.

On 36 mins Slimbridge nearly increased their lead when Roberts chested down Alex Higg's cross on the edge of the penalty area and volleyed the ball powerfully into the home keepers hands.

Two mins later the visitor's went even closer when Jamie Martin's right wing cross was headed against the cross bar by the unfortunate Higgs.

Slimbridge were pressing hard now as Karl Nash's corner was headed just over by the dangerous looking Roberts.

Four minutes before the break the swans increased their lead, Will Wellon's free-kick from the half way line was knocked on by Inch and Marvyn Roberts side-footed the ball high into the net to give the swans a two goal cushion.

The second half started well for the swans, a great move involving Leon Cornwall and Jamie Martin ended with Higgs shooting straight at the keeper when well placed.

At the other end Jordan's vicious shot from 18 yards just cleared the bar but with 55 mins gone the home side pulled a goal back.

James Pritchard laid a good ball through to Riccardo Cannon who gave Dave Evans no chance with a powerful shot.

The home side's tail's were now well and truly up and they relentlessly attacked the visitors but found the Swans defence in fine form.

In the 60th min Nathan Poulton nearly drew the home side level but his shot was well palmed away by the outstanding Evans and the rebound was fired over by Jordan.

Controversy arose in the 63rd min when Referee Kyle adjudged Jamie Martin's challenge on Cannon illegal and pointed to the penalty spot when it appeared to everyone else that Martin won the ball cleanly.

However Jordan's Spot kick was superbly saved by Evans, much to the delight of the visiting supporter's.

Just one minute later Jordan had a good chance to make amends when he found himself with just Evans to beat but once again the keeper made a great save.

On 68 mins Jamie Inch was penalised for what again looked like a ball winning challenge, the resulting free-kick was headed in by Jordan at the far post to leave the visitor's feeling very aggrieved.

Kyle issued several cautions to the visitor's as their frustration came out and things got worse for Slimbridge on 73 mins when Fred Ward was sent off for leading with his arm when challenging for the ball.

Flackwell upped the pace once again now and the visitor's had their backs to the wall, attack after attack was being superbly marshalled by the swans defence and another couple of outstanding saves by Evans allowed the visitor's to hold on and return home from their longest journey of the season with a very well earned point.