

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 18 February 2012**

### **Slimbridge 1-0 Flackwell Heath**

A first half Marvyn Roberts goal proved the difference between two sides who turned on an entertaining encounter at Wisloe Road this afternoon. Although Flackwell remain ahead of the Swans in the UHlsport Hellenic Premier League, the difference between the sides has been reduced to one point, as both remain firmly anchored in the top five. With Assistant Manager Freddy Ward still serving a suspension, Rob Hine's midfield performance anchored a solid display from the home side, which was, in the end, justly rewarded with the points.

With the game starting following driving rain and on a very heavy surface, it was the home side who settled first - Tom Cole's cross bringing an early save for Heath Keeper Ryan Webb from Hine's header, and then Micky Bryant flicking the ball wide after a Tom Cole Free Kick in the first five minutes.

On 11 minutes, Hine nearly put the home side ahead, his speculative drive from 25 yards drifting just over the corner of bar and post, in a bright start for the hosts. It was approaching the 15 minute mark when Heath had their first opportunity - after Marvyn Roberts' foul on Darren Crane outside the Swans' box, Marcus Mealing's free kick found it's way to Josh Bryne, who blasted the ball high and wide.

As the rain stopped and the sun appeared, the game went through a scrappy stage, and Heath had the next opportunity, when Hine made a rare mistake, and was dispossessed in midfield, but Crane couldn't take advantage of a decent cross, and the chance went begging.

The Swans then had an extended period of pressure - Hine played in Micky Bryant on 19 minutes, but Webb took the ball off his feet as the Swans man looked to shoot, and Bryant then forced Webb into another save two minutes later.

The Swans took the lead on 24 minutes - after Hine had set Roberts free down the left flank, his cross being cleared for a corner, Roberts met Holloway's delivery with a good header, which produced another corner. As Holloway's second corner fell loose in the box, Roberts seized his opportunity, finding himself in space after a knock down, and drilled the ball home to put the home side ahead.

Heath responded well to going behind, and created a couple of decent chances of their own - Riccardo Cannon chased a clever through ball, but was well held off by Jamie Inch allowing Dave Evans to gather the ball on 26 minutes. Three minutes later, the visitors missed their best chance of the half - Cannon was again involved, playing a neat one-two which put him through on goal with on;y Evans to beat. However the striker skewed his shot, and it drifted past the far post, much to the relief of the home side.

The Swans had a couple of chances of their own to increase the score before the break - Firstly, Hine played in Daniel Holloway, who brought a fine save from Webb, before Tom Cole's curled shot from Holloway's short corner drifted just over the Heath goal as Half Time approached.

Daniel Holloway, who had picked up a ball in the face, a ball in the stomach and and a knock on the ankle during the first period was replaced by Karl Nash on 50 minutes. The second half produced fewer opportunities, although it did see the most dangerous move of the match. On 66 minutes, Cannon played Matt Day down the right flank, and his cross was perfectly placed behind the Swans defence and in front of the oncoming attackers. Luckily for the home side, no-one managed to connect with the cross, and Slimbridge retained their one goal advantage.

Cannon was proving a constant danger to Slimbridge, and his next involvement saw him link up well with Day again, this time forcing a corner after a neat move down the right hand side. The corner was not of the quality of the move that produced it, unfortunately for the visitors, and Dave Evans gathered comfortably as the ball came over.

Slimbridge nearly doubled their advantage on 73 minutes, when Tom Cole and Marv Roberts fashioned a shooting opportunity on the Slimbridge left, but Roberts' shot was well beaten away by Webb, and the ball was cleared.

Heath had one final opportunity to nick a point with five minutes left on the clock, but Evans was equal to the task as Mealing sought to take advantage of a scramble in the box.

Man of the Match Rob Hine had a great opportunity to cap his display with a goal with three minutes remaining, but his header from Nash's corner drifted wide, and the game concluded as it had had started, with the home side on top and pressing.

Team: Evans, Anson, Cornwall, Wellon, Inch, Wood, Bryant, Hine, Roberts, Holloway (Nash 50), Cole Sub: Sterling

Goal: Roberts 24