

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 17 September 2011

Henley Town 1-2 Slimbridge

Slimbridge returned from Henley with all three points after struggling for long periods to overcome a mediocre home side.

Henley nearly took an early lead when Alex Allan ran through the swans defence but a well timed tackle from Will Wellon ended his run. Slimbridge players and supporters felt hard done by when in the 10th minute the home skipper Chris Dean side footed the ball back to keeper Sean Coker who duly picked the ball up but referee Barry Doudican waved their appeals away. Several half chances at both ends went unrewarded, the best came from Swan's Alex Higgs whose rasping drive was well pushed round for a corner by Coker in the Home goal.

Henley took the lead in the 26th minute when Alex Allan squeezed his way through two Slimbridge defenders and hit a low shot past Swans keeper Dave Evans. This should have been a 'wake-up call to the visitors but there was a lack of urgency in their play and far too many passes went astray.

Mike Bryant had a good shot well saved again by Coker who was performing well between the sticks for the home side. The swans had the ball in the net twice before half time but both Jamie Martin and Marvyn Roberts efforts were ruled out for off-side.

The second half started better for Slimbridge, Roberts nearly scoring straight from the kick off when the home defence got in a right muddle but Coker gathered safely in the end. Jamie Martin had a header Superbly saved by Coker who was certainly impressing the away supporters with his performance. In the 58th minute Slimbridge almost equalised but Mickey Bryants header rebounded back off the crossbar.

Manager Leon Sterling replaced Alex Higgs with Ross Langworthy and straight away the latter found himself clear on goal but Coker denied him with another good stop. Slimbridge were pressing hard now and they were rewarded in the 68th minute when Ben Wood's defence splittin ball found skipper Marvyn Roberts who with his back to goal turned and hit a low shot past Coker.

Henley really should have regained the lead when in the 80th minute keeper Evans slipped when coming out for the ball and it left Tranel Richardson with the easy task of shooting into an empty net but his under hit shot allowed Will Wellon to race back and clear the ball off the goal line.

With just 3 minutes left on the clock Ross Langworthy put in a superb cross that found Jamie Martin in space and his first time shot just squeezed past Coker, much to the delight of the away supporters. So relief at the final whistle that three points were gained although not very convincingly.

Slimbridge turn their attentions to the FA Vase on Saturday when Merthyr Town are the visitors to Wisloe Road, an improved performance will be required if they are to progress further in this competition.