

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 25 February 2012

Holyport 0-1 Slimbridge

For the second week running, Slimbridge skipper Marvyn Roberts scored the only goal of the game which allowed the Swans to move up to fourth spot in the Hellenic League Premier Division.

The long journey to Maidenhead proved worthwhile as the visitors continued their excellent away form, they have lost only once on their travels so far this season, at Thame Utd back in November, which in fact was also their last defeat.

On a beautiful sunny afternoon and with the Holyport pitch looking in fine condition, supporters from both sides could have expected a far more entertaining game than both sets of players served up.

After a couple of early Holyport attacks which were well dealt with by the Swans defence it was the visitors who nearly took the lead in the tenth minute.

Daniel Holloway went a a run from midfield, going past three defenders and as he got into a good shooting position in the penalty area referee Ernie Moore pulled play back and awarded Holloway a free kick when an advantage would have been much preferred.

Play was very scrappy with neither side being able to string a series of passes together.

With very little goalmouth action it was somewhat of a surprise when the Swans took a fortunate lead in the 24th minute.

Karl Nash crossed the ball from the left and Holyport defender Ross Crawford mis-cued his clearance and the ball fell nicely to Marvyn Roberts

who hit a soft shot from 6 yards that somehow eluded two covering defenders and went in off the post.

The hosts responded well and a good through ball from Ryan Britnell found Dan Rapley who charged down on goal but Slimbridge Keeper Dave Evans was quick off his line to safely clear the ball.

Mike Bryant had a good header saved by Carter in the home goal and just before the break Holyport nearly equalised when Lee Jerum's shot was well pushed round for a corner by Evans.

The second half saw the Swans dominate a little more as Holyport had very little to offer up front.

Nash threaded a good through ball to Holloway in the 50th minute but the latter just failed to get on the end of it.

Manager Leon Sterling replaced Rob Hine with Jamie Martin, who was returning from a three match ban, and the 'fiery' striker quickly earned himself a caution for speaking out of turn to the referee.

Slimbridge had a loud penalty appeal waved away in the 68th minute when Ross Crawford appeared to use his arm to control the ball.

On a rare Holyport attack Dan Rapley shot just wide and at the other end Alex Higgs found himself with just the keeper to beat but failed to control the ball well enough to enable him to have a shot.

Referee Moore played 8 minutes of stoppage time which did not prove enough for the home side to muster an equaliser and the Swans returned back home to Gloucestershire with another three points in the bag.