

Hellenic League Premier Division

Sunday 18 December 2011

Slimbridge 0-0 Holyport

A draw was probably a fair result after both teams cancelled each other out on a bitterly cold afternoon at Wisloe Road. After a nondescript first half, the game sprung to life in the second period, but neither team was able to break the deadlock and shared the points in the last game before Christmas.

The visitors had the first opportunity of the match after six minutes, when Will Wellon was penalised for handball by Referee Adrian Hunt, but Jamie Handscombe's free kick was easily saved by Dave Evans in the Swans' goal.

Jamie Martin was proving a tricky opponent and nearly got on the scoresheet when a cross-cum-shot drifted over after 11 minutes.

The game settled into a midfield battle with little goalmouth action, but Slimbridge created the next decent opportunity - After Martin was fouled, his free kick was headed on neatly by Marvin Roberts, but Rob Hine's challenge on Holyport Keeper Warren Carter was deemed a free kick, and the opportunity was lost for the home side.

Holyport created probably the best chance of the match on 33 minutes, when a surging run by Lee Ovens set up Lee Jerrum, but he was superbly tackled by Rob Hine as he shaped to pull the trigger, and the danger was averted.

Both teams had further chances to get on the scoresheet before the interval, but Martin for Slimbridge, following good work from Nash, Tom Cole and Roberts, and Ben Sturgess for the visitors both failed to take advantage, and we went into the break scoreless.

Holyport started the second half the brighter, but were unable to make their advantage pay - Jamie Inch and Will Wellon once again proved formidable opponents in a fine defensive display - and chances continued to be created and missed from both sides.

After Martin shot wide with another good chance on 51 minutes, Dan Rapley's miss four minutes later ensured we remained scoreless as the temperature dropped substantially.

The two best opportunities of the game came around the hour mark - firstly, Micky Bryant's turn and shot on the Holyport box brought a magnificent save from Carter, and then at the other end, a lovely piece of skill from Sturgess saw his shot, which beat Evans all ends up, drift over off the corner of the Slimbridge post and crossbar.

The introduction of Lewis Wilton for Karl Nash gave the Swans options down the left. but neither side could break the deadlock, and the game ended in a draw which was a fair reflection of the afternoon.

Team: Evans, Anson, Wellon, Hine, Inch, Wood, Bryant, T Cole, Roberts, Nash (Wilton 71) , J Martin