

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Tuesday 20 September 2011**

### **Slimbridge 1-4 Shortwood United**

In an entertaining encounter at a sodden Wisloe Road on Tuesday evening it was Shortwood United who ran out worthy winners by four goals to one despite going behind in the very first minute.

An afternoon and evening of continuous rain made for a smaller crowd than could normally be expected for this local derby but that did not deter both teams from putting on a good show for the brave 92 spectators.

It was Slimbridge who got off to a perfect start when after just 52 seconds a superb defence splitting ball from veteran Freddy Ward found Rob Hine in space and his low and hard shot from 18 yards left Shortwood keeper Martin Pearce no chance to put the Swans one up.

This gave Slimbridge confidence to move forward and Shortwood were on the back foot, Ryan Parker was causing the visitors problems with his pacy attacking runs as the Swans looked to increase their lead.

However, slightly against the run of play in the 16th minute, Shortwood equalised, and a scrappy goal it was too, three Swans defenders took it in turn trying to clear the ball from their own 6 yard box but in the end it fell to Shortwood's James Singh who knocked it in from 8 yards.

Now it was Shortwood's turn to show what a good passing side they are and they kept possession well, restricting the home side to playing long balls which were easily dealt with by the visitors defence.

Ryan Parker delivered an excellent cross from the left in the 25th min but Freddy Ward just failed to get on the end of it.

In the 27th minute Shortwood went in front when a good delivery from the right found Kevin Slack who headed home unchallenged past Evans in the Swans goal.

A minute later the visitors thought they had gone further ahead when James Singh fired home but he was thwarted by an off-side flag.

Five minutes later a stinging 18 yard shot from Swans Jamie Inch was well saved by Pearce and the ball fell nicely to Swans Skipper Marvyn Roberts but he fluffed his shot when it looked easier to score.

In the 35th minute the Swans really should have been level, manager Leon Sterling's stunning through ball left Roberts with only Pearce to beat but his deft lob over the keeper went agonisingly wide of the post.

As the fast pace of the game continued it was Slimbridge who picked up the first caution of the evening when Parker made a challenge from behind which referee Simon Wales took offence to.

Shortwood looked to increase their lead going into the break and a good shot by Joe Tustain was well pushed round for a corner by Evans.

The second half started as fast as the first as Slimbridge looked to draw level but it was shortwood who went further ahead when Stirling brought down Singh in the box and Alton Axton made no mistake from the spot kick.

Shortwood upped the pace now and looked in control, Tim Haddock shot just over and a good run from Singh was well saved by Evans.

The visitors showed their superiority on the evening and wrapped the game up when in the 84th minute Singh scored his second goal of the evening, shooting low past Evans.

A good game of football, played in a good spirit by two good sides, shortwood deserving the three points on the night but they by no means had things all their own way.

Slimbridge now look forward to the Visit on Merthyr Town on Saturday in the FA Vase (3pm), Merthyr have indicated that they will be bringing a large following to Wisloe Road so spectators are asked to arrive a little earlier than normal, extra car parking space will be available.