

## **Hellenic League Premier Division**

**Saturday 19 November 2011**

### **Thame United 3-2 Slimbridge**

A goal 11 minutes from full time swung an entertaining game Thame United's way this afternoon as they defeated the Swans 3-2. After taking the lead, Slimbridge fell behind and fought back, before being denied a point with a late score for the hosts.

Slimbridge had the best of the earlier exchanges, but were unable to turn their advantage into goals - it took 20 minutes before they got their first shot on target, but Jamie Martin's shot following a cross from Alex Higgs proved no problem for the Thame Keeper.

Higgs had an even better chance himself two minutes later, when Marvin Roberts' header saw him through on goal, but again his shot was weak and came to nothing.

On 28 minutes, the visiting fans felt that Rob Hine was elbowed in the face by Alex Stewart, but the referee missed the collision. Hine was booked for a subsequent tackle as the incident went unpunished.

The Swans took the lead on 34 minutes, when Higgs chased a ball and profited from a mix up between Goalkeeper and defender, which saw the Slimbridge striker able to stroke the ball into an empty net.

The lead was only to last 10 minutes however - Shane Anson failed to deal with a cross coming in from the right flank, and Stewart was left in space to fire the ball home to level the scores.

Four minutes into the second half, the hosts took the lead in controversial circumstances, when Ben Wood was deemed to have used his arms as players tussled for possession in the Swans' box, and Stewart drilled home the penalty for his second goal of the game.

Slimbridge Keeper Dave Evans was booked for halting a dangerous Thame move on 51 minutes, with a foul that was committed outside the box, but the referee deemed the offence only worthy of a yellow card.

Thame had an opportunity to increase their lead on the hour, but Luke Rickett's goal bound header was cleared off the line.

Slimbridge continued to press and nearly nicked an equaliser when Roberts' header saw Freddy Ward produce a superb volley which was well saved.

On 77 minutes, the scores were level - Brad Martin was fouled on the edge of the Thame Box, and debutant Daniel Holloway scored from the free kick to make the score 2-2.

Having seemed to retrieve the game, the Swans then let it slip again - two minutes later, Aaron Rogers fired the home side back in front from a free kick, after Ward was penalised for a foul on the edge of the Slimbridge box.

There was still time for Holloway to heave a header cleared off the line via the post in the dying seconds, but Thame hung on to record the victory.

The Swans travel to Witney United on Tuesday night for a League encounter, before making the short trip over the River to Lydney next Saturday for a Bluefin Insurance Challenge Cup Third Round tie.