

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 10 March 2012

Slimbridge 1-2 Witney Town

A youthful Witney side placed one off the bottom of the Hellenic Premier league ended the home side's 13 match unbeaten league run with a well-deserved victory at Wisloe Road.

The visitors started brightly with Steve Bunting trying his luck with the games first shot in the 2nd minute going well wide of Dave Evans left post, with Slimbridge getting their first chance four minutes later when Marv Roberts shot high and wide on the left.

Jamie Martin was stopped by a last gasp tackle from the visitors Sean Webb when bearing down on goal and soon after Ben Wood fired just over the bar from 18 yards out. The next ten minutes was an even affair with neither side taking full control of the game, until the 21st minute when the lively Bunting's shot was spilled by Evans who managed to calmly recover the ball.

The first goal of the game came in the 23rd minute when Martin's pinpoint cross from the right picked out Micky Bryant at the far post to head home into the top left corner. This sparked the home side into life for a few minutes culminating in a Roberts miss kick as he appeared to be pushed inside the box after a great cross in from the left by Fred Ward. On 32 minutes a rare foray into the visitors box by Leon Cornwall following some neat interplay on the left resulting in his rasping shot being turned around the post by visiting keeper Daryl Simms.

After another spell of even play Witney should have equalised on 42 minutes when Bunting sliced his shot wide with only the home keeper Evans to beat.

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It was Witney who came out in the second half as the brighter side, home debutant Andy Sheppard in the centre of defence was on hand to make a last gasp tackle on Bunting when he seemed to be through on goal. Two minutes later Karl Nash conceded a free kick 20 yards from the Slimbridge goal, Tom Austin fired the free kick straight at Evans who spilled the ball at the feet of Bunting who somehow put the ball over the cross bar from less than 2 yards out with an empty net beckoning.

Witney got their reward in the 57th minute when Andy Younie picked up the ball in a crowded Swans penalty area and placed it into the top left corner past the static Evans to equalise. Shortly after the home sides Cornwall was booked for a heavy tackle on the halfway line. On 63 minutes Slimbridge were awarded a free kick out toward the left corner, the resulting kick was blocked and the follow up cleared to safety.

At the other end Witney gained a corner which came to nothing however on 68 minutes the visitors took the lead with a Messi-esque chip from 10 yards out by Austin beating the stranded Evans. Slimbridge now had to push forward to salvage a point gained a number of corners in a dominant 5 minute spell without reward.

Micky Bryant was unlucky not to get the equaliser and his second on 82 minutes when his shot was blocked on the line then shortly after Roberts headed over. One final last gasp chance fell to Nash whos fierce shot was pushed round the post by the visiting keeper.

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Slimbridge: Evans, Anson, Cornwall, Sheppard, Hine, Wood, Ward, Bryant, Roberts, Nash, J.Martin

Goals: Bryant 23

Witney Town: Simms, Sadler, Lonsdale, Moore, James, Webb, Allmond, Styles, Younie, Bunting (Thompson 84), Austin

Goals: Younie 57, Austin 68

Attendance: 37