

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 28 January 2012

Wokingham & Emmbrook 1-2 Slimbridge

Slimbridge returned from Berkshire with all three points in the bag thanks to an injury time winner from Mike Bryant.

After a goalless first half Wokingham took the lead in the 48th min through Jack Broome but the Swans responded well and they showed their true fighting spirit, goals from Marvyn Roberts in the 77th min and Bryant in stoppage time ensured a pleasant journey back home to Gloucestershire.

Wokingham started brightly and attacked the Swans from the start, Ritchie Whittingham was causing problems for the visitors with his pace down the right and he delivered several dangerous crosses which were well dealt with by the Swans defence.

Slimbridge took time to settle but they gradually started to test the home defence themselves, Alex Higgs fired a couple of shots just wide and Daniel Holloway looked certain to score in the 26th minute when Will Wellon's free kick was headed on by Roberts but Holloway's fierce volley was well saved by Garry Aulsbury in the Home goal.

Two minutes later Wokingham's Shane Cooper Clark found himself with just Dave Evans to beat but a superb last ditch tackle by Wellon denied him a shot on goal.

Slimbridge really should have taken the lead in the 40th minute, Karl Nash's throw in to the penalty area was chested down by Roberts who then fed Higgs with a great pass but the latter shot weakly wide.

In the final move of the half another superb cross from the right by Whittingham was headed inches wide by Matthew Jones ensuring that the first half remained goalless.

It took just 3 minutes of the second half for the home side to take the lead.

Jones ran into the box and was impeded by Ben Wood leaving referee Livingston with the easy option of pointing to the spot.

Jack Broome's penalty kick was superbly saved by Evans who dived to his right but the rebound fell nicely to Broome and he made no mistake the second time round.

This fired the Swans up and they upped the tempo, testing the home side with several good attacks.

Rob Hine had to leave the field with an ankle injury in the 50th minute so manager Leon Sterling brought himself on and played an important role at the heart of the Swans defence, rolling back the years with some astute tackling, Albeit earning himself a Yellow Card with one such Challenge.

In the 62nd minute Evans had to race out of his box to deny Whittington a chance on goal and his long kick upfield was headed back by Ashley Mitchell towards his keeper but Higgs was quick to sneak in and his looped shot over Aulsbury went agonisingly wide.

The game was really opening up now and Wokingham always looked likely to score with some swift attacking moves but they found the Swans defence, and Shane Anson in particular, in no mood to let them in.

In the 72nd minute Daniel Holloway gained possession of the ball inside his own half and went on a dazzling run, leaving several defenders in his wake, he then laid a good pass onto Higgs who chose to pass the ball across the box when the better option would have been to shoot, the ball was easily cleared.

Cooper-Clark had the ball in the net in the 75th minute but was ruled off-side.

Two minutes later the visitor's were level, Holloway fed Nash up the left wing, Nash cut inside and delivered a superb cross to Roberts who stabbed the ball home from close range via a defender and the post.

Dave Evans once again excelled in between the posts with some good stops, one in particular from Cooper-Clark in the 85th minute earned good applause from both sets of supporters.

Just when it looked like both sides would have to settle for a point each the Swans nicked all three.

A surging run from Higgs resulted in him setting up Mike Bryant with a loveley pass and Bryant hit a low left footed first time shot from 18 yards which left Aulsbury no chance, sending the visitor's into ecstatic celebrations and leaving the home side stunned.

Shane Anson was voted 'supporters' man of the match but the whole team can take pride from an excellent all-round performance.

The Swans return home to Wisloe Road next Saturday when Thame Utd are the visitor's. Kick off is 3pm.

Team: Evans, Anson, Cole, Wellon, Hine (Sterling 50), Wood, Holloway, Bryant, Roberts, Higgs, Nash

Goals: Roberts 77, Bryant 90