SPORT ITALIA HELLENIC LEAGUE –PREMIER DIVISION

(Played on Tuesday 29th August 2006)

SLIMBRIDGE KEEP WINNING RUN GOING

SLIMBRIDGE 3 , PEGASUS JUNIORS 0

Robbie Colwell, Kacey Johnstone and Craig Cole scored the goals as Slimbridge ran out comfortable winners against Pegasus Juniors, to make it five wins from their opening five Hellenic Premier games. This result puts the Wisloe Road club up to second place, behind the only other side still with a 100% record, Ardley United, who have played one more game.

Pegasus put in an early long distance effort on goal through Lewis Jones that had goalkeeper Adam Thomas on his knees, but it was the home side who got their noses ahead with a goal on ten minutes. Mid-fielder, Johnny Meadows, making his first start of the season in place of Jamie Inch who had to miss the match due to a family bereavement, floated a diagonal free-kick into the Pegasus box where Colwell jumped highest to head perfectly into the top corner of the net, giving diving goalkeeper Bryn Watkins no real chance of making a save.

The goal inspired Slimbridge to take the game by the scruff of the neck with a dominating period of play. Colwell had a shot deflected away, Mike Green got into a forward position twice to receive passes on goal, the first fired over and the second, brilliantly turned over his own bar by an acrobatic Watkins. Colwell and Johnstone saw shots go just wide as Pegasus looked to be rocking, but they held out until the second Slimbridge goal arrived on 39 minutes. Fred Ward cut in from the right but was brought down by Robert Aldrich on the edge of the box. Up stepped Mike Green to chip the ball into the box for Johnstone, showing good anticipation, to head smartly into the net.

Just before the half-time whistle, the visitors' Robert Laurie, turned on the edge of the box and his half-volley drifted past an unguarded back post in a rare threat to the home side.

The second half started brighter for Pegasus as they seriously pressed for the first time in the match, with Adam Thomas having to make a flying save from a softly conceded corner and defenders Ashley Thomas and skipper Leon Sterling having to put their bodies on the line to block fierce shots on goal from Dave Griffiths and Ben Price. Jon Embling in the Slimbridge starting line-up for the first time this season was also in the thick of the action at this point, combining well with Allton Axton to turn defence into attack on a number of occasions. The home side then stepped up the pressure by re-asserting themselves and for the last quarter dominated the game again.

Ashley Thomas went close with a header from a corner that was scrambled away. Steve Badham and Colwell, were causing all sorts of problems for a, by now, ruffled Pegasus defence, living dangerously.

However, it was Craig Cole who came off the bench for the second match running, who sealed the game with a goal on 73 minutes. Good work up the left between Badham and Colwell saw a low cross from the by-line reach the in-rushing Cole who tapped in and rounded off a fine team performance by the Wisloe Road team.

Slimbridge; Adam Thomas, L.Sterling, J.Embling, Mike Green (J.Cole 83), Ashley Thomas, A.Axton, E.Ward (J.Cant 77), J.Meadows, K.Johnstone (C.Cole 67), R.Colwell, S.Badham.

Pegasus Juniors; B.Watkins, Lewis Jones, R.Aldrich, M.Smith, M.Davies, R.Laurie, A.Robbins (S.Brotherwood 77), D.Hart, C.Mortlock, B.Price, D.Griffiths (Liam Jones 70).