# Western League Premier Division

# Saturday 7 September 2013

# Slimbridge 2-1 Hengrove Athletic

The Swans recorded their third win on the bounce after a stirring first half performance at Wisloe Road this afternoon. Aaron Nash and Will Wellon were both in the scoresheet in the first 45 minutes, which saw the late dismissal of Hengrove's Elliot Saunders reduce the visitors down to ten men.

The second half was a different affair, as a reshuffled Hengrove side put the home team under late pressure, and snatched a goal back in the dying stages courtesy of Javare Blackman. But Slimbridge held firm to record a victory which moves them six places up the Western Premier League table.

Slimbridge made a sensational start - from the kick off Aaron Nash picked the ball up in midfield and ran at the Hengrove defence down the left flank. As the visitors backed away, Nash drilled the ball into the far corner to register a goal with just ten second on the clock, a strike which sent the statisticians scratching their heads trying to find any records of a quicker goal in the Club's history. So far, they have been unsuccessful.

The Swans then had an extended period of pressure, which saw Rhys Denton go close following good work from Jack Twyman, and debutant Hartpury College student Harry Fenner hit the Hengrove bar after a great run from Will Wellon had sent him up.

Fenner also went close on 14 minutes when he created his own chance after a good run, only to see his strike drift just wide.

At the other end, Blackman had the best effort for the visitors, but shot wide in a rare opportunity for Hengrove.

With 27 minutes gone, Slimbridge doubled their advantage - Will Wellon was left unmarked on the right side of the Hengrove box, and he drilled the ball past Keeper Liam MacFarlane to record the second goal of the afternoon for the hosts.

After losing Dan Robinson in midweek to a hamstring injury, the Swans' injury jinx struck again with 34 minutes on the clock, when Rhys Denton turned his ankle and had to be replaced by Jamie Martin.

It was Martin, however, who was instrumental in the other crucial event of the first half - dispossessing Elliot Saunders in first half injury time, Martin was bearing down on goal when the defender pulled him back.

Although the offence was outside the Hengrove box, Referee Adam Matthews, after consulting with his linesman and confirming the defender was the last man, was left with only one option. The red card which followed was inevitable once the foul had been awarded, and was not contested by the visitors.

The second period saw a much more even affair, as Hengrove regrouped and their ten men set about trying to contain the home side, and started to create chances for themselves. Rhys Hickery and Blackman both went close before a superb Wellon tackle cleared the danger after Blackman had played the ball past Dave Evans.

With seven minutes remaining, Adam Hughes made a good break down the left, but his ball was just misplaced as Fenner looked to convert the opportunity, and Hengrove cleared.

Two minutes remained when Hengrove got a goal back - Blackman was left in too much space on the right of the Swans' box, and his shot gave Evans no chance.

Hengrove could have nicked an equaliser a minute later when Chaz Jest saw his effort hit the Slimbridge bar and go over, but the home side hung on to record their second League victory on the trot.

Slimbridge travel to Buckland Athletic next Saturday (14th) for a League encounter (3.00pm). They then travel to Farnham Town the folllowing Saturday (21st, 3.00pm) for an FA Vase Second Round tie. Farnham beat Ardley United 2-1 this afternoon to set up a meeting with the Swans.

Team: Evans, Wellon, Njoya, Halford, Bennett, Cole, Turner (Parrott 55), Twyman, Denton (Martin 34), Fenner, Nash (Hughes 56)

Supporters Man of the Match: Niall Halford