Les Philips Cup

Saturday 26 October 2013

Slimbridge 2-1 Warminster Town

The Swans negotiated this Les Phillips Cup Preliminary Round tie courtesy of two quick second half goals from Liam Harding and Jamie Martin. After both sides were reduced to ten men - Martin and Warminster's Jake Herd both seeing red in the same incident, Louis Sparey reduced the home sides advantage, but Slimbridge held on to book a home tie with Ilfracombe Town in the next round of the competition.

A scrappy start to the game saw opportunities for both sides, and the home side had the first decent chance, when Paul Carter and Martin combined to feed Jack Twyman, bit there was no-one on hand to meet his dangerous cross into the Warminster box.

At the other end, Sparey played a neat 1-2 with Jack Miluk, but was unable to guide his shot past Dave Evans and the Slimbridge Keeper gathered easily.

After ten minutes, Slimbridge thought they had a shout for a penalty when Stuart Gates was shoved off the ball as he went past his man, but Referee Mark Billingham disagreed, and awarded Warminster a Goal Kick.

On 22 minutes, the best opportunity of the half fell to the home side - Carter's corner was met by the head of Dominique Njoya, who saw his effort blocked on the Warminster line. As the ball came back out to Njoya, a last gasp tackle diverted his follow up shot over the bar for a Slimbridge corner, which was cleared to Liam Harding, but his shot was too high and the chance was lost.

With Carter, Harding and Twyman bossing the midfield, and Gates causing havoc with his runs down the flanks, it seemed only a matter of time before the home side took the lead, but as the game approached the

half hour, and despite some good deliveries from Carter, the game remained scoreless.

After Herd saw his long range effort go well wide in one of the visitors' rare forays forward, Martin was unlucky on 33 minutes, after a superb run, to see his shot deflected just past the post, with a goal kick surprisingly being awarded by the officials.

As Slimbridge pressed, Carter continued to look dangerous, and his neat turn on 38 minutes saw his play in Twyman, but the ball bobbled as he went to shoot and again the ball missed the target.

Njoya was involved in the other great opportunity of the first half, as Martin's cross saw him in open space in the Warminster box, but his header was aimed back across the goal when an effort on goal may well have reaped rewards, and the chance again was cleared.

Just before the half, two good efforts from Slimbridge went unrewarded - Twyman's shot brought a great save from Warminster Keeper Adam Collington, before Njoya hit the side netting after Harding's cross, but the scoresheets remained blank after 45 minutes.

Slimbridge continued their first half pressure after the break, with Njoya just failing to connect with Carter's dangerous free kick, and Martin having a lovely finish ruled out for offisde.

On 50 minutes, a rare Warminster effort from Shaun Shepherd sparked Evans into action, but it was all Slimbridge as the game progressed.

With 55 minutes on the clock, the home side finally broke the deadlock with the goal their play deserved - Harding's 35 yarder leaving Collington no chance to put Slimbridge 1 up.

Almost straight from the restart, the Swans' doubled their lead - Harding's cross was converted to Martin to give Slimbridge a two goal cushion.

Martin almost added a third before his late tackle on Warminster's Jake Herd sparked a tussle between the two on 63 minutes - The Referee had no hesitation in issuing red cards to both players, who had the good grace to shake hands and apologise to each other as they both made their way to their respective dressing rooms.

The last half of the game fizzled out after that incident - Louis Sparey reduced the deficit with a neat strike after 74 minutes after the ball was cleared to him on the edge of the Slimbridge box following Leon Sterling's header, and despite efforts from both sides, the scoreline remained untroubled at the final whistle.

The Swans are back in League action when they travel to Longwell Green Sports next Saturday (3.00pm) before returning to Wisloe Road on November 9th when Odd Down (Bath) are the visitors (3.00pm)

Team: Evans, Robinson, Njoya (Ward 76), Sterling, Wellon, Hughes (Cole 60), Twyman, Harding, Martin, Carter (Kennedy 53), Gates

Goals: Harding 55, Martin 56

Supporters' Man of the Match: Stuart Gates