FA Trophy Preliminary Round

Sunday 4 October 2015

Slimbridge 0-1 Egham Town

Egham gained revenge for their FA Cup exit at Wisloe Road earlier in the season with a deserved victory yesterday, despite playing with ten men for the last half hour of the game. A largely uneventful game sprung into life ten minutes into the second half when Egham Keeper Jamie Norris saw red for taking out Sean Lawson, who was through on goal, resulting in Lawson leaving the pitch on a stretcher with a nasty looking ankle injury. Despite this setback, the ten men kept battling, and deserved a winning goal with 15 minutes remaining to progress to the next round of the competition.

The first half was notable only for it being virtually blank as far as chances were concerned - Egham had the better of the play, but Danny Bassett, Bajram Pahaj, Chris Henry and Ollie Jones were unable to trouble Adam Thomas in the Slimbridge goal, while Adam Mace made Norris work with a free kick on the half hour. With the game going to Extra Time and penalties on the day if required, this seemed the most likely option at the break.

The first decent goalmouth action came on 51 minutes, when Adam Thomas made a spectacular save to tip over Bassett's effort for Egham, before the game turned on an incident in the 56th minute.

Sam Blackie played a penetrating through ball to Sean Lawson, who was through one on one with Keeper Norris. The Egham Stopper clattered into Lawson and stopped him dead in his tracks, receiving a red card from Referee Chris Smith. It was immediately obvious Lawson was in trouble, and he was stretchered from the pitch, with Sam Turl coming on to replace him.

As the incident was outside the Egham box, so the Swans were awarded a free kick, and despite Adam Mace testing new Keeper Reece York, who

fumbled the initial shot, Jack Twyman was unable to take advantage and the scores remained level.

The visitors took the lead on 76 minutes - Slimbridge allowed Jake Cass far too much room on the right flank as he pressed forward, and his cross was converted by Henry to break the deadlock.

Bassett again went close from Egham with ten minutes remaining, but Thomas pulled off another good stop, while at the other end, Sam Blackie’s shot was fumbled by Brendan Matthew, who had taken over from York in the Egham goal, but Fahy was unable to convert the follow up.

The Swans are back to League action on Wednesday, when they entertain Burnham (7.45pm), before travelling to Taunton Town on Saturday (3.00pm)

Team: Thomas, Brown, Ry Thwaite, Hoyle, Greening, Turner, Twyman, Blackie, Martin (Bamford 69), Lawson (Turl 56), Mace (Fahy 63)

Supporters Man of the Match: Adam Thomas

The Slimbridge 'Predict the Score' competition was again without a winner this week (Surprisingly, no-one saw Manchester City scoring 6 against Newcastle), so the prize has now reached £600. See John Ashplant for your tickets to this week's competition.