Southern League Challenge Cup

Tuesday 4 October 2016

Bishops Cleeve 1 – 0 Slimbridge

Slimbridge exited the Southern League Challenge cup to a single James Baldwin goal midway through the second half.

Both sides started the game brightly with some neat passing, but it was Bishops Cleeve with the first chance of the game Jack Horrell forcing Adrian Kowalski into an early save from a free kick. Slimbridge responded well, in the 10th minute Adam Mace ran the ball down the left threading the ball to Marley Thomas whose dangerous cross was cleared off the line at the back post. Soon after the Swans defence did well to block a number of Cleeve chances with Olly Butler firing wide, back at the other end Thomas sent in another cross but was held well by home keeper Matt Wieczorek.

The first real chance came on 16 minutes, a Ieuan Crowe close range shot was spilled by the Swans keeper and fired back in only a goal line clearance by Sam Turl kept the game goalless. Two minutes later Jack Twyman won a corner for the visitors which was headed wide by Ryan Thwaite as the Swans started tried to press forward with some neat passing in the midfield. The game continued to flow back and forth with Jack Watts shooting wide from 5 yards on 25 minutes and Mace cross falling straight to Wieczorek.

On 30 minutes Watts broke through the Swans defence however Kowalski quickly smothered the ball before the Cleeve striker had chance to shoot. Slimbridge finished the half brightly with a Mace cross headed out for a corner, from which Ryan Thwaite headed wide. A Turl shot was deflected wide for another corner this time Rich Thwaite heading wide.

Playing with the wind in the second half, an early Thomas corner from the Swans was punched clear by the home keeper and a Mace shot was stopped easily by Wieczorek. On 53 minutes Watts latched onto a Butler

through ball again Kowalski made the save although fouled by Watts in the process. Shortly after James Baldwin shot over as Cleeve started to dominate proceedings although a number of firm tackles from both sides saw the referee pull out the Yellow card. Kowalski caused panic to the home keeper kicking up field, with the wind taking the ball only just wide and out for a goal kick at the opposite end.

Both Mace and Thomas continued to link up on the wing, but with the Swans strike force failing to get on the end of a number of probing crosses. At the other end Rich Thwaite did well on 67 minutes to block a Cleeve chance in the box from which a great ball to Thomas who's cross went out for a home goal kick. A minute later substitute Dean Turner gave the ball away in midfield which was picked up by Watts whose through ball to Baldwin was neatly slotted past Kowalski to give the home side the lead.

The last twenty minutes were dominated by the Swans however they failed to register a shot on target, on 71 minutes Ed Major blasted over from 10 yards having latched onto a Twyman through ball. Twyman had the last chance of the game shooting wide from close in.

Team: Kowalski, Turl, Mace, Ry Thwaite, Rich Twaite, Twyman, Green (Turner 53), Haskaine (Ward 60), Martin (Major 55), Cant, Thomas.

Supporters MOM: Rich Twaite