Evo Stik Southern League South & West

Saturday 1 October 2016

Larkhall 2 - 0 Slimbridge

For the fourth game in a row the Swans failed to find the back of the net which resulted in another defeat at the hands of Larkhall Athletic who's manager Wayne Thorne decided to call it a day directly after the game.

Slimbridge started off brightly enough when a good through ball from Dean Turner sent Marley Thomas clear but his shot went wide.

Referee Neal Templey annoyed the visiting followers by allowing a few poor challenges to go unpunished, Sam Turl and Keeper Adrian Kowalski being the main receipients.

The Larks Kyle Tooze had a good header well saved by Kowalski which was shortly followed by a volley from Dean Griffiths which Ryan Thwaite did well to block.

The Swans continued to attack the home side as John Cants astute pass found Thomas who again shot over.

The visitors should have been ahead on 21 minutes when a superb left wing cross by Can't left Jack Twyman with the easy task of heading home from 6 yards out but he somehow managed to steer his header wide of the open goal.

Referee Templey came in for more criticism from the Swans faithful when a soft trip by Ryan Thwaite was punished with a caution which could have easily been avoided given the leniency shown to much worse challenges earlier.

Worse was to come as from the resulting free kick from 18 yards out the Larks star player Jamie Lyons delivered a sweet free kick into the top corner which left Kowalski with no chance.

Lyons went close again just before the interval with a good effort from 18 yards which went inches over.

The half finished with Adam Mace being cautioned for speaking out of turn to an assistant, something which Slimbridge do not condone but the referee could not have enjoyed his half time cuppa after the reception he received whilst leaving the field.

The Larks looked sharper after the break as Ollie Price fired over the bar after a corner by Joe Tumelty, whilst at the other end a good free kick by Mace was well met by the head of Rich Thwaite but Ben John in the home goal gathered it well.

On 55 minutes Larkhall increased their lead when a good through ball left Lyons and Kowalski facing each other, a sweet chip by the impressive Lyons made it 2-0.

A nice piece of football by the home side nearly resulted in a third goal on 65 minutes when Lyons fed Tooze and his pass left Rob Hobbs clear but his shot was too high.

Marley Thomas had a stunning volley well punched away by the home keeper as the Swans tried to get back into the game.

The last ten minutes summed up the afternoon for Slimbridge when first a good cross by Mace caused problems for the home defence and Jamie Martin looked destined to score but he failed to make contact with the ball as it went out for a goal kick.

With five minutes left Ed Major played a delightful ball into the box which Martin somehow managed to fire over the bar from 3 yards out with the goal at his mercy.

Manager Leon Sterling has some work to do ahead of a double header of Cup games this week, first up being a visit to Bishops Cleeve in the Southern League Cup on Tuesday, 7.45pm, followed by a home game with Swindon Supermarine in the Preliminary Round of the FA Trophy on Saturday, 3pm.

Kowalski, Turl, Mace, Ryan Thwaite, Rich Thwaite, Turner (Martin 63) Haskayne, Twyman, Major, Can't, Thomas. Unused subs Ward, Sterling.

Supporters Man of the Match...Ryan Thwaite.

Attendance...105.