

SPORT ITALIA HELLENIC LEAGUE –PREMIER DIVISION

(Played on Tuesday 17th April 2007)

**SWANS PUT ANOTHER FIVE GOALS PAST TOWN
ABINGDON TOWN 0 , SLIMBRIDGE 5**

For the second time in three days a rampant Slimbridge put five goals past struggling Abingdon Town. There were five different names on the score-sheet, as the visitors went to the top of the Premier Division table, leap-frogging rivals North Leigh, whom they meet at Wisloe Road on Thursday.

Slimbridge went forward from the off and quickly went ahead on two minutes with an audacious lob from Craig Cole, who spotted 'keeper Gareth Tucker off his line and lifted a dipping ball straight into the net from 35 yards out in front of goal.

After surviving another couple of efforts from Cole and Ross Casey, Town's first attack on eleven minutes won them a corner, from which Mark Flanagan flighted a ball into the box and skipper Ian Smith headed over the bar.

Tim Haddock, who seems to be running into some good form of late, then forced a good save from Tucker as a bombardment of the Abingdon goal saw some brave, but at times, desperate home defending, only relieved by a foray to the other end as the mid-half point was reached. Another Flanagan corner was headed wide of the back post, again by Smith.

In a quick response, play moved to the other end and from a free-kick wide left, Joe Tustain found Ashley Thomas, who headed narrowly over. Shortly after, Tustain produced an almost identical ball into the home box, but this time Jamie Inch put his downward header into the net from close range to make it 0-2 after 23 minutes.

The rest of the half saw the visitors dominate with the best chances coming for Haddock, who shot over from twelve yards with only Tucker to beat, and Casey, who received a delicate flick-on from Haddock to bring another good save from the over-worked Tucker.

It was Tucker who kept his side in the game with his first half heroics that gave meaning to a determined second half start from the home side, looking for some way of getting back into the game. However, for all the good possession enjoyed, no opening was created as the visitors defence absorbed some keen attacking, Thomas leading from the front, getting in some powerful repelling headers, and the new rear-guard pairing on the flanks of Inch and John Cant looking particularly impressive.

Back came the visitors with Will Morford's pace taking him clear on the hour, but Tucker again stood up to force a shot off-target, before Morford rapped the bar with a snap-shot.

A good move out of defence by Town culminating in an effort on goal from Andy Hough that drifted wide, typified the battling qualities of the home team.

More chances fell the visitors way but were spurned, mixed with a growing frustration, mainly with the application of the off-side trap by the home back line. Kacey Johnstone replaced Morford on 75 minutes and two minutes later, with his first touch of the ball, set Tustain away down the right to put a low cross into the home box with Haddock firing in at the back post for the third goal of the game.

Then Ryan Chandler, in the visitors goal, was called upon to take the ball high above his head from a good effort by Danny Thomas, after a rare opening had been forged, but then Town conceded two late goals from good build-up play.

On 85 minutes Tustain got a goal his evening's endeavour had earned, by latching on to Thomas' through ball and chipping into the net from 16 yards, over the exposed Tucker.

Two minutes later and Fred Ward rounded off the scoring, running-on to slot past Tucker, after Johnstone's flick-on from a Tustain cross from the left, had put him in on goal.

Abingdon Town; G.Tucker, M.Lyford, M.Flanagan, I.Smith, A.Bartram, D.Thomas, O.Wright (M.Tutty 77), C.Antcliffe, P.Jezzard (R.Butler 60), T.Larman (J.Lester 70), A.Hough.

Slimbridge; R.Chandler, J.Inch, J.Cant, R.Casey, Ashley Thomas, A.Axton, J.Tustain, J.Meadows (Matt Green 80), C.Cole (E.Ward 58), W.Morford (K.Johnstone 75), T.Haddock.

Referee; Mr.K.Norris (Oxford)