

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006 F.A. CARLSBERG VASE –First Round Proper

## CLINICAL VASE WIN FOR SLIMBRIDGE COLWELL DOUBLE LEADS THE WAY

### **Slimbridge 4, Barnstaple Town 0**

**Robbie Colwell scored twice, and further goals from Tim Haddock and Will Morford, were more than enough for Slimbridge to complete a comfortable win over visitors Barnstaple Town, currently riding high in the 'Toolstation' Western Premier Division, in this F.A. Carlsberg Vase First Round Proper tie.**

Craig Cole came into the side for only his second start of the season and young Dave Evans, the former Gloucester City U'18's goalkeeper made his debut for Slimbridge as a replacement for Adam Thomas, out for possibly a couple of months after sustaining some broken bones in his hand during the previous game in the G.F.A.Trophy match against Taverners. Evans started with a clean sheet, dealing comfortably with what came his way, although in truth, not much in the first half, as Barnstaple were seemingly fighting a rearguard action almost from the off.

John Cant brought a good save out of visiting goalkeeper Steve Johns in the first minute and was causing all sorts of problems for an uneasy looking defence, particularly from a couple of in-swinging corners, and it came as no surprise when another, on eleven minutes put the home side ahead. The ball bobbed about in the six yard box as Johns failed to take cleanly and eventually Colwell stabbed it into the net.

Good possession failed to breach the battling Barnstaple defence again until yet another Cant corner on 35 minutes, brought almost a carbon copy of the first goal, only this time it was Haddock with the final touch to double the Slimbridge lead.

On the resumption Slimbridge again pressed, with Colwell outrunning the defence but Johns took the pace off his shot and there was time for the ball to be hooked away from under the bar by a late-arriving defender. Then a Cant free-kick was turned over by Johnny Meadows, before Barnstaple started to look a bit more positive, when after good build-up, Kevin Squire miss-hit his shot straight at Evans.

For a few minutes it seemed as if Barnstaple were on the verge of breaking out of their defensive mind-set, but any hopes they may have had of getting back into the game disappeared when Slimbridge extended their lead on 64 minutes. Meadows made ground through the mid-field and found Cole on the right who, after a shimmy and a turn, put a cross into Colwell who got in front of his marker and chested the ball into the net after Johns had failed to take.

Belatedly, Barnstaple did find some attacking energy and a good move involving Gavin Meecham and Steve Blurton saw Shaun Goff put a rising, first time shot the wrong side of the post from 12 yards. Squire then tried his luck from just outside the Slimbridge box, but the shot drifted away.

The nearest Barnstaple came to scoring however, was when substitute Steve Ebdy looped a cross cum shot from the right that smacked against the joint of bar and post, but Evans was alert to the danger and stretching, flicked the ball away comfortably.

At the other end, Haddock got forward to crash a 20 yard effort through a crowded box which Johns did well to block, but Will Morford, on for Kacey Johnstone, could not connect as the ball bobbed about before being cleared. However, in added-on time Morford had the last word by running through to beat Johns to the ball just outside the Barnstaple area. A deft flick round the committed 'keeper and Morford was able to run the ball into the net unchallenged for goal number four.

**Slimbridge; D.Evans, L.Sterling, J.Embling, T.Haddock, A.Thomas, A.Axton(J.Inch 52), C.Cole, J.Meadows, K.Johnstone(W.Morford 67), R.Colwell, J.Cant (S.Badham 77).**

**Barnstaple Town; S.Johns, D.Tapp, S.Avery(L.Langmead 52), G.Meecham, J.Parish, A.Harper-Penman(D.Parish 77), P.Carpenter, J.Turner, S.Goff, K.Squire, S.Blurton(S.Ebdy 77).**

**Referee; Mr.M.Amphlett (Kidderminster)**

**Assistants; Mr.J.Price (Stourbridge) & Mr.M.Pedley (Stourport-on-Severn)**

**Attendance; 103**