

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2006 F.A. Carlsberg VASE –Second Qualifying Round

## VASE PROGRESS FOR SLIMBRIDGE

### CONFIDENT WIN COMES AT A PRICE

**Bridgwater Town 0 , Slimbridge 3**

For the second year running, 'Toolstation' Western Premier Bridgwater Town tasted defeat at their Fairfax Park ground in the F.A.Vase at the hands of Slimbridge. Goals from Johnny Meadows, Kacey Johnstone and Fred Ward ensured an easier passage this time round, as against last season's narrow 1-0 scoreline in the Second Round Proper.

Both sides finished the game with ten men on this occasion though, as the late dismissal of town's Matt Shaxton and hero turned villain, Johnstone, saw red cards brandished at them.

The early play was fairly even, with John Cant in particular, looking lively for the visitors, and striker, Ryan King likewise at the other end. With Meadows rich mid-field form continuing, it was noticeable as the half progressed that the Town defence were having a lot more work to do than their opposite numbers.

Shortly after a Meadows cross from the right was turned over his own bar by defender Lee Nunn, Slimbridge took the lead on 38 minutes. Robbie Colwell kept his feet advancing into the area riding a rough challenge, then slipped the ball to Meadows bearing in from the right to hit a rising shot across 'keeper Sam Hutchings into the top corner of the net.

Slimbridge attacked vigorously as the end of the first half approached, but were kept at bay through some keen tackling and lively anticipation from Hutchings.

After the break, visiting 'keeper Adam Thomas was called upon to keep out a fierce close range header from Mike Mackay, but Slimbridge soon regained the upper hand and increased their lead on 50 minutes when a short Ward corner was flicked on by Cant into the six yard box where a hesitancy to clear saw Johnstone lift the ball effortlessly over the grounded Hutchings.

The hosts then came back and a good run down the right by Shaxton saw a pin-point cross to the head of an incoming Mackay, but Adam Thomas did well to hold on to the ball while falling, with King ready to pounce on any misjudgement.

However, Slimbridge sealed the game with a spectacular goal on 58 minutes. Meadows broke through down the left and put a defence splitting pass through to Ward to run on and hit a screamer from 14 yards into the top of the net, giving the exposed Hutchings no chance.

From this point on, Slimbridge dominated possession, but Town clung on and did well not to concede again, although Cant came closest to another goal when he bent a free-kick round the defensive wall to rap the bar from just outside the right of the area.

With just ten minutes to go, Shaxton was despatched from the fray after picking up a second caution, after fouling Axton. Unfortunately Johnstone got involved in the melee provoked by the incident, and after receiving a caution, was called back by the referee and given a red card for an off the ball incident spotted by the Assistant before play was resumed.

**Bridgwater Town; S Hutchings, P.Govier, L.Nunn (A.Deeks 54), D.Forward, M.Pitcher (C.Thomas 70), S.Sokol, B.Kirk, P.Monks, R.King, M.Mackay, M.Shaxton.**

**Slimbridge; Adam Thomas, L.Sterling, J.Cole (J.Embling 72), Mike Green, Ashley Thomas (J. Inch 67), A.Axton, E.Ward (W.Morford 70), J.Meadows, K.Johnstone, R.Colwell, J.Cant.**

**Referee; Mr. I. McGuffog (Exmouth)**

**Attendance; 200**