

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2006 F.A. Carlsberg VASE –Second Round Proper

## MEADOWS MAKES HAY AT THE FARM

### SWANS POWER TO IMPRESSIVE VASE WIN

#### **Bristol Manor Farm 0, Slimbridge 5**

**After Will Morford had given Slimbridge an early lead, a four goal burst in the five minutes before half-time that included two tremendous strikes from an effervescent Johnny Meadows, alongside goals for John Cant and Robbie Colwell, ensured the visitors passage into the third round of the F.A.Vase. Some fragile Farm discipline boiled over just past the hour mark that saw the home side reduced to nine men and it was left to former Gloucester City legend, skipper Gary Kemp, to successfully marshall his remaining troops to avoid an even heavier defeat.**

'Toolstation' Western Premier side Farm started confidently enough and for the first forty minutes went head to head with a confident looking Slimbridge side, even though they went 1-0 down on eleven minutes. Will Morford chased a clearance from Allton Axton down the left, checked back and drove low across goalkeeper Richard Fey into the far corner of the net.

Farm came back strongly and Kemp's long cross cum shot into the box, saw Custodian Ryan Chandler have to stretch to turn over his own bar. Chandler was soon in action again, spreading himself to divert a strong, low drive from Tony Cook.

Meadows and Tim Haddock in the mid-field were getting through a lot of work by then, both showing some quite delicious touches to prompt the visitors forward, and with Cant and Matt Green on the flanks taking every opportunity to test their markers, Slimbridge were seemingly getting on top.

After Colwell teed up an intruding Cant, who had his shot charged down after good anticipation from goalkeeper Fey, Slimbridge extended their lead on 40 minutes when Cant's cross was left by Green for Meadows, bursting into the box, to drive low past the off-balanced 'keeper.

With their tails up the football flowed from the visitors and two minutes later the third goal arrived when Morford came in from the right, Colwell side-stepped and passed to Cant, who hit firmly in from ten yards.

A minute later and the Farm defence was all at sea again when Cant's shot was parried away straight to Colwell on the right, who put a rising angular drive inside the far post with Fey grounded.

Just before the half-time whistle came the fifth goal, Fey slicing a clearance at Meadows forty yards out, unmarked, who drove back into the corner of the net for the most stunning of goals, to leave Farm looking shell-shocked.

With pride needing to be restored even if the match was as good as lost, Farm came out looking better organised, and nearly pulled a goal back when Troy Simpson turned in the area and saw his angled shot go just past Chandler's far post.

Generally the visitors held firm, and to such an extent that frustration started to mount in the home camp. Thomas pontificated strongly about a robust tackle on the hard-working Steve Badham and was subsequently shown yellow for a crude challenge a minute later. On 61 minutes, a mass brawl erupted in the middle of the pitch, resulting in the home side's strike pair of Cook and Simpson being sent off for violent conduct.

The game then calmed down, Farm were forced to defend in depth as Slimbridge dominated the closing phase of the game, one suspects, looking to keep out of trouble. Farm did well through a combination of stout play and profligacy in front of goal from the visitors, to keep the second half goalless. The story of the match though, has to be the five minutes before half-time that effectively decided the match.

**Bristol Manor Farm; R.Fey, M.Thorne, L.Marshall, G.Kemp, G.Saunders, L.White, M.Fey (T.Carter 86), M.Cherry, T.Simpson, A.Cook, A.Missiatto.**

**Slimbridge; R.Chandler, L.Sterling (Mike Green 57), S.Badham, T.Haddock, Ashley Thomas (J.Inch 64), A.Axton, Matt Green, J.Meadows (C.Cole 68), W.Morford, R.Colwell, J.Cant.**

**Referee; Mr. A.Matthews (Melksham)**