

SPORT ITALIA HELLENIC LEAGUE –PREMIER DIVISION

(Played on Tuesday 10th October 2006)

CHIPPY END SWANS UNBEATEN RUN

CHIPPING NORTON TOWN 3, SLIMBRIDGE 2

Slimbridge tasted defeat for the first time this season in their fifteenth game, putting in a below par performance against a Town side that took full advantage with a spirited display. First half goals from skipper Tim Jenkins and Stewart Lamont gave them the springboard to resist some strong second half pressure. Steve Knight netted the decider between goals from Will Morford and Matt Green for Slimbridge, in a barn-storming finish to the match, which saw the visitors striker, Kacey Johnstone, sent off in the dying moments, his second dismissal in six games.

Both sides went into the game a little less than full strength, but after a lively opening from Slimbridge when Robbie Colwell shot wide and home 'keeper Mark Harris pulled off a good save from Johnstone, Town went ahead on 23 minutes. A free-kick awarded on the edge of the area in front of goal, struck forcefully by Jenkins, was sent crashing through the defensive wall with the aid of a slight deflection, into the net.

Ten minutes later it was 2-0 when a Knight corner was allowed to reach Stewart Lamont to head firmly home unchallenged.

Slimbridge looked shell-shocked, but bounced back with Johnstone heading wide a whipped cross from John Cant, before chipping a curled free-kick against the Town bar with Harris beaten.

The second half saw Slimbridge surge forward time after time, but sadly for them a combination of stout defending and missed chances kept them out until on 82 minutes they pulled a goal back. Town lost possession in mid-field and Morford surged clear to slot wide of a diving Harris from 14 yards.

Pressing hard as the game went into what proved to be an explosive eight minutes worth, Slimbridge pushed too far upfield and Knight ran nearly half the length of the pitch to easily beat an exposed Dave Evans in a one-on-one to surely wrap the game up for Chippy, with five minutes extra played!

Straight from the re-start the margin was back down to one goal when Matt Green poked in after confusion in the home goalmouth. The next action saw Johnstone and goalkeeper Harris at odds over the ball, the result being a red card for the former and a yellow for the latter. The incident was so untypical of the keenly fought game as a whole, and although a further TWO minutes were played the home side survived. A gritty win for Town, their first ever success over Slimbridge at their twelfth attempt.

Chipping Norton Town; M.Harris, W.Proverb, G.Morrison, S.Lamont, S. Olczak, T.Jenkins, N.Haisley, S.Knight, A.Varnam (W.Vincent 88), C.Busby (A.Akers 87), C.Holman.

Slimbridge; D.Evans, L.Sterling, J.Embling (Matt Green 62), T.Haddock, Ashley Thomas, A.Axton, C.Cole (W.Morford 56), J.Inch, K.Johnstone, R.Colwell, J.Cant (S.Badham 53).