

SPORT ITALIA HELLENIC LEAGUE –PREMIER DIVISION

(Played on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007)

## **SWANS PILE ON AGONY FOR 'BORO**

**HOUNSLOW BOROUGH 0, SLIMBRIDGE 6**

**Crisis Club 'Boro's off –field problems manifested themselves again with another mauling, this time at their first home game as tenants of Bedfont F.C., against a Slimbridge side that controlled the game from the moment Tim Haddock gave them an 11<sup>th</sup> minute lead. Further goals from Matt Green, Joe Tustain, Kacey Johnstone, Steve Badham and Craig Cole completed the rout.**

The home side survived three early corners in succession before a Fred Ward cross from the right was drilled into the net through a packed area.

Two minutes later 'Boro's Junior Hickson skilfully worked his way into the visitors box but was denied by an interception from the alert Leon Sterling, before the home side were reduced to long-range efforts that did not disturb the composed Ryan Chandler.

Chandler's opposite number in the home goal, Dalles Barnes, had a busier time, with some good goalkeeping that undoubtedly saved his side from a bigger battering, turning over rising efforts from Ward and Johnstone before being beaten by a well-placed Matt Green header from a Tustain cross on 26 minutes.

Four minutes later and the third Slimbridge goal arrived when Johnstone was pushed off the ball in the penalty area. Tustain's resulting spot-kick beat the outstretched hands of Barnes, who went the right way to no avail.

Three further minutes elapsed before Johnstone got on the score-sheet himself, driving in from close range after good build up play involving Ward and Tustain enjoying some instinctive passing.

A couple of Hounslow players then saw yellow as the home frustration grew, but Hickson then made another useful foray into the Slimbridge area, only to lose his footing as the goal opened up in front of him.

Six minutes into the second half and goal number five arrived. An exquisite long diagonal cross from Matt Green found Steve Badham, on at half-time for the limping Mike Green, with Badham hitting a fine, rising volley into the corner of the net.

Barely a couple of minutes on and Cole drove in from 14 yards, after being teed up by Tustain to complete the scoring.

'Boro substitute Jack James came on after 61 minutes but then talked himself off the pitch 12 minutes later, picking up two yellows and subsequently a red card after disagreeing the outcome of the first caution with the Referee.

Back in the action was goalkeeper Barnes, who then twice saved goal-bound shots from the two Coles, Craig and James, and perhaps deserved the luck of seeing terrific strikes from Craig Cole and Tustain come back off the bar as the game wound down.

Another welcome three points for third-placed Slimbridge, but with 'Boro's present unstable situation, they might not count for much as rumours persist that they could become the second Hellenic Premier side to fold before the completion of the season, following Chipping Norton Town's demise last month!

**Hounslow Borough; D.Barnes, D.Hawksworth(J.James 61), G.Smith, D.Woolterton, G.Hedges, S.Malposa, K.Keane, D.St.John, J.Hickson, E.Mee, R.Fletcher.**

**Slimbridge; R.Chandler, L.Sterling, J.Cole, T.Haddock, Mike Green (S.Badham 45), A.Axton (J.Meadows 50), E.Ward, Matt Green (J.Cant55), K.Johnstone, J.Tustain, C.Cole.**

**Referee; Mr.S.Maynard (Reading)**