

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 F.A.CUP –Preliminary Round

# SLIMBRIDGE WIN CUP TIE THE HARD WAY

## LAST GASP HADDOCK GOAL SEALS WIN

### Penryn Athletic 2 , Slimbridge 3

**Tim Haddock making a return from injury, came off the bench to score a stoppage time goal that booked his side through to a First Qualifying Round tie at Southern Premier, Yate Town in two weeks time. Before that though, Kacey Johnstone and Robbie Colwell had given Slimbridge the lead, after Richard Young had put Penryn ahead, and Ben Goldring had given his side a lifeline after being reduced to ten men.**

Penryn had taken a half time lead through Young, who prodded home at the back post in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute following a deep diagonal free-kick from the left by Dean Harris, in a first half notable mainly for enthusiastic running from both sides but led to very few clear chances being forged. For the visitors, Steve Badham had an early chip at goal from distance, catching goalkeeper Chris Symons off his line, but the ball dropped agonisingly on the roof of the net. At the other end, Young was unlucky to see his low drilled 14 yard effort, kicked off the line by Ashley Thomas following a half-cleared corner, this coming just before he scored.

In truth, the Slimbridge side looked a trifle jaded as the first half ended, perhaps due to the long journey into deepest Cornwall. Certainly compared to the hosts they were, who themselves were playing their own first ever F.A.Cup game, as the visitors had last season, and were very much up for it, as one would expect.

No doubt manager, Doug Foxwell's half time team talk had something to do with it, but Slimbridge took the field after the interval looking a different side. Penryn were on the back foot, and when Robbie Colwell pulled a ball back to Fred Ward for a long cross from the right into the box, perfectly flighted, for Kacey Johnstone to head home unchallenged from close in for a 51<sup>st</sup> minute equaliser, it was game on again.

Penryn took up the challenge, and Young went close after good work from Matt Drummond and Ben Goldring had prised an opening. Jon Embling then made a good run up the left and put a low cross in that dissected the home defence, but Colwell could not quite reach it in front of an empty net.

On the hour, Slimbridge went ahead for the first time in the match from the penalty spot, Colwell slotting with ease, after he was brought down on the run. The incident sparked off some ill-feeling between members of the Penryn defence and the Assistant Referee who had been instrumental in indicating the penalty. As a result, Dean Harris was sent off for two cautionable offences, one for the original tackle that brought Colwell down and a swift second for a further comment made after the original booking. Two other Penryn players also saw yellow before the penalty kick was taken.

With order restored, the ten men of Penryn then came back at Slimbridge and play switched ends frequently in this phase of the game. Goldring wasted a reasonable chance, blasting over a free-kick in front of the visitors area, before Darren Holsey drove strongly at Adam Thomas in the visitors goal from 12 yards, before Mike Green had a goalbound effort deflected away from the Penryn goal by the outstretched leg of a defender on 75 minutes, before making way for Haddock, who had missed the last four games through injury.

Goalkeeper Adam Thomas then made a couple of outstanding saves from Young, one from point blank range, but could do nothing to stop Goldring's flying header from 12 yards hitting the top corner of the net from a pin-point cross by Steve Kellow on 82 minutes that made the scoreline 2-2.

Neither side seemed content with a draw, but playing with a man short, which was hardly noticeable for most of the time, finally told on the hosts as the last five minutes showed. Slimbridge went close through a shot on the turn from Colwell, and John Cant had a couple of runs down the left after coming on for Badham, that looked to worry the home defence.

Deep into added-on time, Cant got the ball through to Johnstone who, with the most delicate of flicks over his marker, saw the ball drop in front of 'keeper Symons. Quick as a flash, Haddock pounced, drawing the ball away from the Symons and with neat footwork placed the ball into the open net, and Slimbridge could come home happy from their 400 mile round trip.

A good old fashioned exciting cup-tie indeed!

**Penryn Athletic; C.Symons, D.Band, B.Goldring, M.Moore (D.Richardson 56), L.Bradd, D.Harris, R.Young, M.Salman, M.Cain, M.Drummond, A.Trudgian (D.Holsey 66).**

**Slimbridge; Adam Thomas, L.Sterling, J.Embling (J.Cole 61), Mike Green (T.Haddock 75), Ashley Thomas, A.Axton, E.Ward, J.Meadows, K.Johnstone, R.Colwell, S.Badham (J.Cant 84).**