

Saturday 10th February 2007 F.A. CARLSBERG VASE –Fifth Round Proper

HOOPER DOUBLE ENDS SWANS VASE RUN

Slimbridge 0, Truro City 3

Two goals from ex-St Blazey talisman Glyn Hooper and a late header from former Plymouth Argyle striker Stewart Yetton, propelled the big-spending Western League First Division side, Truro City into the F.A.Carlsberg Vase Quarter-Finals. Slimbridge effectively were on the back foot for long periods of the game and there were no complaints from the Wisloe Road side that the visitors deserved their win on the evidence of the ninety minutes play.

The game was played in almost constant drizzle, on a heavy pitch, but the fact that it was played, was due in no small measure to some selfless volunteers who endured a hard morning's graft to get it playable at all, for which the Slimbridge club were very grateful.

An early Scott Walker corner saw Marcus Martin put a downward header through a packed area and slam against the base of the post as Truro made the brighter start. Pressure continued with another chance on ten minutes, Walker forcing a good save from Slimbridge goalkeeper, Ryan Chandler.

Yetton then spurned a couple of half chances, and it was 22 minutes gone before the first home shot on goal when Kacey Johnstone had a shot blocked.

Generally, Truro holding sway in mid-field was the root of the home side's problems, where Johnny Meadows and Tim Haddock had a busy, but unproductive afternoon against a side with skipper Tom Smith, the former Hereford and Northampton player in inspirational form.

The recently signed Walker from Weston-Super-Mare was enjoying himself on the left flank and finally escaped the attention of Leon Sterling to put in a low cross that Hooper turned into the net from close range on 29 minutes, to give the visitors a deserved lead.

Slimbridge then had a good spell with Will Morford making a couple of runs, before feeding Haddock who blazed over on the run. Slimbridge could have levelled on 41 minutes, a long diagonal cross from an industrious James Cole falling to John Cant at the back post, who miss-hit a good chance wide of an open goal.

Just before the interval Johnstone hit the post from a narrow angle but was penalised for pushing.

At the break there was a modicum of expectation that the Wisloe Road side could learn from their first half travails and turn the game around and silence some highly vocal visiting support, but hopes were dashed when Hooper slotted home from close range for his second goal of the game on 53 minutes.

More Truro pressure was absorbed before Johnstone was replaced by Joe Tustain, making his first appearance since returning from Gloucester City. The impressive Truro back-line were in no mood to give anything away however, but Slimbridge came close to reducing the two goal deficit on 68 minutes, when a pin-point cross from Fred Ward saw Haddock make ground to put a downward header too near the scrambling Dan Stevenson in the Truro goal from four yards out.

Shortly after, at the other end, Chandler took smartly from an angled rasping drive by Yetton and the result was put beyond any doubt eight minutes from time. Some good attacking movement down the Truro right saw the ball flicked across an open goal for Yetton to neatly net at the back post.

Five minutes from time the home side lost defender Ashley Thomas to a second yellow card when Truro substitute Andy Watkins was carelessly up-ended on a run, which somehow, seemed to sum up the day for Slimbridge, who suffered their first home defeat since Didcot Town beat them on the last Saturday of last season, bringing to an end a 17 match unbeaten home run.

Slimbridge Manager Doug Foxwell conceded Truro were the better side on the day, but was disappointed that they hadn't pushed Truro closer, especially in front of such an atmospheric crowd, the attendance of 433 being the biggest Wisloe Road attendance of the season to date.

Slimbridge; R.Chandler, L.Sterling, J.Cole, T.Haddock(C.Cole 73), Ashley Thomas, A. Axton, E.Ward, J.Meadows, K.Johnstone (J.Tustain 56), W.Morford, J.Cant (S.Badham 60).

Truro City; D.Stevenson, J.Ash, G.Power, T.Smith, M.Martin, J.Broad, K.Wills, I.Gosling, S.Yetton, G.Hooper (A.Watkins 80), S.Walker (J.Ludlam 88).

Referee; Mr.D.Rock (Hatfield)

Attendance; 433