

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 25 August 2012

Binfield 1-1 Slimbridge

Slimbridge were glad to return from Binfield with a point as they remain undefeated after 5 Hellenic League Premier division games. An own goal by centre half Jamie Inch after 20 mins was cancelled out when Stuart Gates levelled on 56 mins

With loud claps of thunder welcoming both teams onto the pitch it was the Swans who had the first chance on 2 mins when Stuart Gates put in an excellent cross from the right which was cleared for a corner

On 11 mins a good free-kick by Fred Ward found Shaun O'Connor whose low shot was well held by Adams in the home goal. As Slimbridge continued to press forward it was Liam Harding who had the next opportunity to open the scoring but his volley went high and wide. O'Connor robbed keeper Adams of the ball in the 17th min and laid it back to Karl Nash but the latter's shot was weak.

As Binfield started to settle the Swans appeared to take their foot off the Gas and allowed their hosts far too much time and space on the ball.

In the 20th min Binfield took the lead, Will Wellon lost possession of the ball and Jos Millar ran into the box he was superbly tackled by Jamie Inch who put the ball out for a corner.

From the resultant kick Inch and Speers both jumped for the ball and it was Inch's unfortunate header that flew past Dave Evans to give Binfield the lead. This seemed to inspire the hosts as the Swans were put under pressure, Carl Davies who was making a return to Binfield after a short spell at Hungerford Town, was guilty of missing three good opportunities to increase their lead but the swans defence held firm

A spectacular double save from Dave Evans was the highlight of the first half, Carl Davies was clear and looked certain to score but Evans parried his shot, Davies had a second bite of the cherry but Evans somehow managed to get an outstretched hand to the ball and it was cleared away by Wellon for a corner.

Karl Nash and Shaun Wanklyn were lucky not to find themselves in the referee's notebook right on half time when they tangled but the referee decided a stern lecture to both would suffice

The second half saw an improved performance from the Swans, Gates was causing the home side problems right from the off with his pace up the wing. Gates thought he was clear through on 52 mins but an offside flag brought play back.

However 4 mins later the Swans were level, Fred Ward threaded a superb defence splitting ball through to Gates who fired low past the keeper much to the delight of the following away supporters

The game was starting to get a little niggly now and Referee Oli Denne was struggling to keep control. After issuing 6 yellow cards, 3 for each side, the Home team found themselves down to ten men when on 65 mins Wanklyn brought down the pacey gates with a hefty challenge and the referee showed Wanklyn his second yellow card of the afternoon.

As the Swans continued to compete a superb tackle by full back Shane Anson, robbing Suarez of the ball when in a dangerous position, and the driving a lovely pass up the line to Inch brought warm applause from both sets of supporters.

As the game drew to a close both sides still had chances to take the three points, Gates fed Nash but his shot was straight at the keeper whilst at the other end Suarez played a good ball through to Withers who shot well over.

A welcome point for Slimbridge and manager Leon Sterling must be delighted with four wins and a draw from their opening five league matches.

Team: Evans, Anson, Wellon, Inch, Speers, Ward, Twyman, Harding, Nash, O'Connor, Gates

Goal: Gates (56)

Supporters man of the match Stuart Gates.