

Hellenic League Premier Division

Saturday 13 October 2012

Highmoor Ibis 2-3 Slimbridge

Slimbridge took all three points from this game thanks to two goals in the last two minutes

For the second game running the Swans put in a less than convincing performance but returned home with three vital points which lifted them to second place in the league, just one point behind leaders Marlow.

The first half was a very scrappy affair with very little action, the highlight being a caution for Tom Speers for once again talking out of turn to the referee, something which for the second time in a month cost the Swans centre half dear as once again he was sent off for a second yellow card offence in the second half

If the first half was non-descript, then the second period was anything but. Daniel Holloway nearly opened the scoring on 49 mins when he robbed Shaun Dyke of the ball and found himself clear but referee Daniel Simpson whistled for a free kick against Holloway. On 59 minutes Highmoor Ibis took the lead, Speers being guilty of a late challenge on Jordan Brown leaving the referee with no option but to point to the spot.

Ian Griffin's penalty kick was poor though as Dave Evans pushed his shot away. Slimbridge immediately counter attacked and Saul William's through ball to Holloway left the striker with a clear shot on goal but he shot straight at keeper Daniel Smith. Manager Sterling brought on substitute Gavin Lang on 62 minutes, replacing Chris Fower, a move that proved to pay dividends later in the game.

On 63 minutes Williams pass to Holloway allowed the latter to run into the Highmoor penalty area and Holloway was brought down for a penalty kick, he got to his feet to covert the spot kick, firing high into the net to give the Swans the lead. But just one minute later the hosts were level,

Speers once again bringing down Griffin in the penalty area for Highmoor's second penalty of the game, this time Griffin converted the spot kick to bring the scores level, but worse for the Swans was the referee showed Speers his second yellow card of the game, leaving Slimbridge to battle on with ten men.

With 70 minutes on the clock a superb ball from Shane Anson to Saul Williams resulted in William's rasping shot going inches wide of the post. Highmoor once again got their noses in front when on 83 minutes Ian Griffin cut in from the right and let fly from 25 yards, leaving Evans no chance in the visitor's goal. It was looking despairingly gloom for the Swans but with just two minutes left on the referee's watch all was to change.

Fred Ward's corner kick was headed neatly home by substitute Lang who was lurking on the far post and then just one minute later Lang ran down the left and put in a good cross to debutant Dominique Njoya and he made no mistake from 6 yards, firing high into the net which sparked off jubilant celebrations from players and spectators alike.

So the Swans returned home from Reading with three vital points, lifting them to second spot, but lessons must be learnt from certain players that back chatting to the referee is pointless and could prove to be costly in their attempt to stay with the leading bunch.

Leon Sterling will now be missing a vital player for several important matches, something which the Swans are far from happy with.

TEAM:

Evans, Anson, Njoya, Wellon, Speers, Bennett, Twyman, Harding (Ward 82), Fower (Lang 62), Holloway (O'Connor 73), Williams. Sub Not Used: Robinson.

Supporters Man of the Match: Saul Williams.